Conference Resolution No. 2011-1

Restoration of Shared Revenue Funding

Whereas, 2011 Wisconsin Act 32, cut shared revenue funding for municipalities by 7% ($47.7 million) effective 2012; and

Whereas, shared revenue funding for municipalities was cut twice due to the state’s fiscal difficulties, including cuts of $57.6 million in 2004 and $23.1 million in 2010; and

Whereas, for over ninety years the state shared revenue program has been a key component of Wisconsin’s state and local relationship and an important part of the state’s overall program of property tax relief; and

Whereas, Gov. Walker and legislative leaders have made job creation and economic growth a top priority; and

Whereas, to create jobs and economic growth, municipalities must invest in services that businesses demand, like police protection, fire suppression, road maintenance, and snowplowing; and

Whereas, to create jobs and economic growth, municipalities must invest in infrastructure that businesses demand, like sewer pipes, water mains, roads, culverts, and bridges; and

Whereas, to create jobs and economic growth, municipalities must invest significant funds in a variety of development tools, such as development incentives and grants, business incubators, recruitment and retention efforts, community branding, public/private partnerships, economic development networks, urban service area extensions, and tax incremental financing districts; and

Whereas, a strong infrastructure for economic growth, which includes an efficient and effective transportation system to serve the workers and business community, is vital and necessary to the future of our state; and

Whereas, job creation and economic growth in our communities will generate additional sales and income taxes for the state; and

Whereas, the state should reinvest a portion of its revenue growth in local communities to spur further job creation and economic growth and put Wisconsin on the road to permanent financial stability;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the League of Wisconsin Municipalities in conference assembled on October 20, 2011, urges the Governor and the Legislature to restore shared revenue funding to 2002 levels when the state’s future tax collections increase as a result of job creation and economic growth in our communities.

Attest: ____________

Dan Thompson, Executive Director

Strong Communities Make Wisconsin Work