

NHMA Relies on its Members to Shape NHMA's Legislative Agenda

As many municipal officials already know, legislative work takes place year-round. It is an ongoing process and staff members have already been working on laying the foundation for the next legislative biennium. The success of NHMA's legislative efforts, in large part, depends on you. You work at the level of government that is closest to the citizens and you are uniquely situated to help legislators understand how pending legislation affects your city or town.

We are now recruiting volunteers to serve on our three legislative policy committees. These committees will review legislative policy proposals submitted by local officials and NHMA affiliate groups and make recommendations on those policies, which will go to the NHMA Legislative Policy Conference in September.

If you are a local official in an NHMA member municipality and are interested in serving on one of the policy committees, please contact the Government Affairs staff at 800-852-3358 or governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org.

Each of the committees deal with a different set of municipal issues. The committees and their subject areas are as follows:

- **Finance and Revenue** - budgeting, revenue, tax exemptions, current use, assessing, tax collection, retirement issues, education funding.
- **General Administration and Governance** - elections, Right-to-Know Law, labor, town meeting, charters, welfare, public safety.
- **Infrastructure, Development, and Land Use** - solid/hazardous waste, transportation, land use, environmental regulation, housing, utilities, code enforcement, economic development.

When you contact us, please indicate your first and second choices for a committee assignment. We will do our best to accommodate everyone's first choice, but we do need to achieve approximately equal membership among the committees. We hope to have 15-20 members on each committee.

There will be an organizational meeting for all committees on **April 6**. After that, each committee will meet separately as many times as necessary to review the policy proposals assigned to it-typically three to five meetings, all held on either a Monday or Friday, between early April and the end of May.

The committee process will allow for in-depth review and discussion of policy suggestions so all aspects of each proposal, both positive and negative, will be examined. Based on that review, each committee will make recommendations for the adoption of legislative policies.

Once the committees complete their work, their policy recommendations will be printed in *New Hampshire Town & City* magazine and sent to every municipal member of NHMA. Each municipality's governing body will be encouraged to review the recommendations and establish positions on them. At the Legislative Policy Conference, each member municipality is entitled to cast one vote on every policy recommendation submitted and on any floor proposals. Each policy proposal must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting in order to be adopted as an NHMA policy.

Every NHMA legislative policy begins with a proposal submitted by a local official, board, or committee. If there is a law affecting municipal government that you think needs to be fixed, or if you have an idea for how the functions of local government might be improved through legislation, this is your opportunity to make a change. A [legislative policy proposal form](#) that can be used to submit a proposal for consideration is [available here](#). **The deadline for submitting proposals is April 20**, although earlier submission is encouraged. Please follow the instructions on the form for submitting your proposal.