



# 40 Years of Legislative Advocacy

**CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization that represents cities outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area. We advocate on behalf of our member cities in five core issue areas:**

## **Local Government Aid (LGA)/Property Tax Relief**

- Fight for a fair, rational, and sustainable LGA formula that gives Greater Minnesota cities their fair share
- Vigorously defend the LGA program from any cuts or harmful modifications
- Advocate for annual LGA increases and inflationary adjustments
- Inform legislators and the public about the importance of LGA and its impact on Greater Minnesota communities

## **Economic Development**

- CGMC is often the only organization advocating at the Capitol for the unique economic development needs of Greater Minnesota communities
- Tackle the issues that help Greater Minnesota thrive and knock down barriers to growth, with a focus on issues like child care, job training, housing, and broadband expansion
- Support the creation, enhancement, and expansion of tools for Greater Minnesota communities and businesses to grow their local economy, tax base and jobs

## **Environment & Energy**

- Advocate for funding for state grant and loan programs that help cities cover the costs of necessary facility upgrades and repairs
- Educate legislators and the public on environmental issues facing Greater Minnesota cities
- Support regulations that provide effective and measurable benefits to the environment

## **Transportation**

- Fight for consistent, dedicated funding for city streets in cities of all sizes
- Push for the creation and funding of programs to enhance the safety and capacity of highway connections that link Greater Minnesota to the global economy
- Advocate for fair distribution of funding between the metro area and Greater Minnesota
- Support efforts to adopt comprehensive transportation funding packages to sustainably finance highways, transit, and local needs

## **Annexation**

- Promote orderly municipal growth and land use policies that support the efficient provision of government services and infrastructure
- Promote better land use and zoning controls in areas surrounding cities



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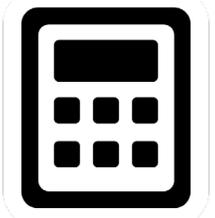
## Lobbying: Fending Off the Sharks

No one else stands up for Greater Minnesota cities. Minneapolis, St. Paul, Metro Cities, Metropolitan Council, Municipal Legislative Commission, and many suburbs have armies of paid lobbyists and advocacy organizations looking out for their interests at the Capitol. The only way Greater Minnesota can be fairly represented is by demanding a seat at the table and speaking with a unified voice. For more than 40 years, CGMC has been that voice.



## Members: The Keys to Success

CGMC is successful because of its members. Mayors, council members, city administrators and city staff members are involved in every aspect of CGMC's advocacy work, from policy formation to lobbying at the Capitol. City officials have an immeasurable impact on shaping public policy by attending lobby days at the Capitol, responding to "action alerts" from CGMC staff, testifying in front of committees, engaging in social media, and keeping in close contact with legislators.



## Policy Analysis: Knowing the Numbers

CGMC's advocacy is effective because it is based on policy, facts and analysis. CGMC has always operated under the philosophy that city officials, legislators and the public should know and understand legislation that is being considered and the impact of the legislation once it is passed. Because of this philosophy, CGMC has a policy analyst on staff who can run the numbers and analyze the impact of legislative proposals in real time.



## Staff: Close When You Can't Be

It is extremely difficult for city officials from Greater Minnesota, on their own, to have a constant presence at the Capitol simply due to the distance from St. Paul. It is far easier for a mayor from Edina or Minneapolis to visit the Capitol than a mayor from Worthington or Warroad. CGMC offices are located one block from the Capitol, and staff are there on a daily basis during the legislative session. This proximity has allowed CGMC staff to strengthen relationships with key lawmakers.



## Media: More Than Just a Press Release

CGMC understands that a crucial component of good lobbying strategy is a strong media presence that helps build public support and keeps members informed. CGMC is in regular contact with editors and journalists throughout the state. CGMC is very successful at getting our message out through guest columns, letters to the editor, radio and TV interviews, and on social media. Legislators pay attention to the news from back home and we make sure they hear our message loud and clear.