

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE ACTION ON THE COVID-19 CRISIS

**ADOPTED BY THE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 30, 2020**

WHEREAS, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic presents an unprecedented threat to the economic wellbeing of Pennsylvania's municipalities; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump proclaimed that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency and on March 6, 2020 Governor Wolf declared an emergency in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is overwhelming the social safety net, public safety, health and medical infrastructure, education facilities, public institutions, local businesses, and the day to day business of Pennsylvania's municipalities; and

WHEREAS, countless community events have been cancelled and local governments are conducting meetings and business online in order to adhere to social distancing protocols as established by the Administration; and

WHEREAS, local governments are on the frontlines of our nation's public health emergency response and overall public safety efforts and need strong federal, state and local intergovernmental collaboration to address this crisis; and

WHEREAS, communities across the commonwealth are experiencing an economic crisis due to whole sectors of the economy coming to a halt at stunning speeds; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are experiencing unanticipated expenses due to the COVID-19 crisis as well as a loss of local revenue streams as the economy grinds to a halt; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania will be spending hundreds of millions in the next 6 months on COVID-19 related expenses; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the League calls on the PA General Assembly and Administration to take immediate, direct action to support pandemic response and recovery at the local level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that League urges the PA General Assembly and Administration to enact a local stabilization fund, with direct access provided to every unit of local government in order to help communities reopen fiscally strong when the time comes, and then be able to help sustain public services going forward; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that League calls on the PA General Assembly and Administration to provide substantial emergency appropriations to local governments that will help local governments protect residents and small businesses on the economic margins from financial or other hardships resulting from the extraordinary measures taken in response to COVID-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the League calls upon the PA General Assembly and Administration to refrain from any addition or expansion of mandates on local government without commensurate 100% funding.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the League calls upon the PA General Assembly and Administration to support and implement additional laws, policies and programs that will provide local government assistance, stimulate the economy and provide relief to residents and businesses, including but not limited to:

- funding to shore up local government employee pensions;
- supporting critical infrastructure services that are essential to economic recovery;
- providing a mix of grants and loans for local economic development assistance;
- ensuring the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency has enough resources to provide long-term technical, financial and procurement assistance to local governments to manage response and recovery efforts; and
- supporting local law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services; and
- relief from existing unfunded mandates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the League urges state government to respect local governance and local democracy during this unprecedented time.

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