

CITY OF GRAND FORKS **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

ADOPTED (November 19, 2018)

- A. **Infrastructure & Transportation Funding**
 - 1. Operation Prairie Dog
 - 2. Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund

- B. **Water Projects Support**
 - 1. Grand Forks Regional Water Treatment Plant
 - 2. Red River Valley Water Supply Project

- C. **Public Safety**
 - 1. Statewide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN)
 - 2. Behavioral Health & Opioid
 - 3. Tobacco Tax
 - 4. Insurance Premium Tax
 - 5. Non-criminal Moving Violation Fines

- D. **Grand Forks Regional Priorities**
 - 1. UND Support – Research, Governance Flexibility, Deferred Maintenance
 - 2. UAS – GF County – BRIC
 - 3. GFK Airport – Airfield Development Program

- E. **NDPERS/Benefits/Fiscal Solubility**
 - 1. NDPERS – Contributions/Final Avg. Salary

- F. **Economic Development**
 - 1. Tax Incentive Programs
 - 2. Highly Skilled Workforce

- G. **Home Rule Authority**

CITY OF GRAND FORKS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
PRIORITY POSITION STATEMENTS

A. **Infrastructure & Transportation Funding**

1. Grand Forks supports the "Operation Prairie Dog" bill as proposed as a critical and flexible funding mechanism for municipalities, counties and airports throughout the state.
2. Grand Forks supports continued funding for the Bank of ND Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund and amendments in the program policy to increase the impact and effectiveness.

B. **Water Projects Support**

1. Grand Forks supports securing a final appropriation (to reach a total state share of 50% of projected cost) for the Grand Forks Regional Water Treatment Plant.
2. Grand Forks supports the necessary funding allocations to move forward with the estimated \$1B Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

C. **Public Safety**

1. Grand Forks supports funding for the Statewide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN) to begin the acquisition and implementation of an Interoperable Radio Network.
2. Grand Forks supports ongoing funding and programs to address behavioral and mental health issues related to addiction care including combating the stigma of addiction, substance use disorders, and programs and operations supporting withdrawal management and harm reduction.
3. Grand Forks supports an increase in tobacco tax as an effective tobacco control intervention and a funding source for community tobacco prevention and cessation efforts.
4. Grand Forks supports the allocation of all Insurance Premium Tax funding that is collected and intended to support fire departments and the communities they serve within the state. Grand Forks supports the review of statewide moving violations and the ability for increase the fines and fees for non-criminal violations as a tool to promote community safety.

D. **Grand Forks Regional Priorities**

1. Grand Forks supports the main legislative priorities of the University of North Dakota, specifically to invest in UND/NDSU Research Seed funding, allow for necessary tuition and governance flexibility and provide funding to address deferred maintenance.
2. Grand Forks supports further research & commercialization efforts including operations of Northern Plains Unmanned Aerial Systems Test site and State of North Dakota and/or Grand Forks County-related commercialization and development in the UAS sector.
3. Grand Forks supports funding for the Grand Forks International Airport's Airfield Development Program that will allow for increased capacity, improved operational efficiency, and enhanced safety.

E. **NDPERS/Benefits/Fiscal Solubility**

1. Grand Forks supports a NDPERS Defined Benefit Hybrid Retirement Plan that secures long-term funding solubility with managed cost impact to employers and employees, as well as beneficial changes to Final Average Salary Calculations and related policies.

F. **Economic Development**

1. Grand Forks supports continuing to allow local subdivisions to use proven economic development tools such as the Renaissance Program and Tax Increment Financing to attract, leverage and maximize the benefit of private sector investments in North Dakota communities. The City supports review of policies and impact to ensure the programs are optimized.
2. Grand Forks supports efforts to help retain and attract a highly skilled workforce including ongoing internships, innovation and entrepreneurship with programs and policies that leverage federal/state/local public resources, including both the Bank of North Dakota and the Department of Commerce.

G. **Home Rule Authority**

1. Grand Forks does not support any legislative action to undermine home rule and thereby undermining the local response to issues such as local budgeting.