

## **DRAFT - 2026 Legislative Priorities**

### **General Priorities**

#### **Retain Local Control**

The City of Columbia opposes legislation that would limit or remove local authority, including legislation that would impact our tobacco enforcement, legislation that would result in new municipal expenses without offsetting revenue to the City of Columbia and/or our residents, impact our ability to adopt and/or enforce local building codes, or impact our local oversight over short-term rentals.

#### **Promote Safe and Healthy Communities**

The City of Columbia supports legislation that promotes community-centered public health and safety services and reduces violent crime, including maintaining current state funding levels for public health with a focus on prevention and treatment, identifying additional funding for wrap-around support and mental health services.

#### **Promote Fiscal Sustainability**

The City of Columbia supports legislation that protects municipal taxing authority. We oppose legislation that would limit local revenue, including by eliminating local sales tax on goods or services, replacing local lodging taxes with a statewide lodging tax, or setting user or license fees.

#### **Support Infrastructure Maintenance and Expansion**

The City of Columbia supports legislation that improves and expands State and local infrastructure. We support improving transportation systems, including roadways and pedestrian access, and policies that support the generation and transmission of electricity.

#### **Support Economic Growth**

The City of Columbia supports legislation that promotes economic growth and development, including policies that enhance education and workforce development, increase affordable housing, stimulate economic revitalization, and industrial site-readiness.

## **Specific Priorities**

### **Public Safety**

The City of Columbia supports:

- Amending the State law to match Federal law regarding the possession of handguns by minors.
- Increasing support for State emergency response agencies.

### **Community Mental Health Services**

The City of Columbia supports increasing investment in community mental health services at the State level to assist local governments who are often at the front lines of this issue.

### **Affordable Housing Initiatives**

The City of Columbia supports legislation aimed at increasing quality affordable housing statewide.

### **Short-Term Rentals (STRs)**

The City of Columbia opposes legislation that would limit or eliminate municipal authority to regulate short-term rentals and supports statewide policies to clarify and reinforce municipalities ability to collect lodging tax on short-term rentals through online based reservation management service providers.

### **Preserving Existing City Assets & Infrastructure**

The City of Columbia supports legislation that preserves local control over municipal-owned assets and infrastructure, including the right-of-way (ROW). Local taxpayers have invested substantial resources in the acquisition, construction and maintenance of streets and sidewalks in the ROW. The local regulation of activities of private companies within the public right of way that cause damage or disruption to the infrastructure funded by the taxpayers along with recoupment of associated costs for use and repair of public right of way should not be preempted by state legislation.

### **I-70 Expansion, Beautification, and Pedestrian Access**

The City of Columbia supports the I-70 expansion project. The City is supportive of funding that would enhance beautification efforts and increase safe pedestrian access crossing I-70.

### **Increasing State Funding for Transit Assistance**

The City of Columbia supports increasing State funding for transit assistance to public transit agencies. State funding for public transit agencies in Missouri is significantly lower than all surrounding states at \$0.28 in investment per capita. Public transit helps to reduce traffic congestion, as well as expand access to local businesses and employers.

### **Post-Consumer Paint Recycling Program**

The City of Columbia supports the creation of a post-consumer paint recycling program. Creating such a program would help reduce contamination from improper disposal and keep leftover paint out of landfills.