Legislative Agenda 2018

1. Housing
2. Fees and Fines
3. Childcare
4. Anti-Bias Legislation
1. Bonding for Affordable and Supportive Housing -- $140M

• Housing Infrastructure Bonds -- $110 million

• General Obligation Bonds -- $30 million
What is Bonding?

Traditionally, the MN legislature passes a large capital investment, or bonding, bill on even numbered years. A bonding bill must pass the legislature with a three fifths majority and then be signed by the Governor. The Governor can then sign, veto, or veto by line (i.e. vetoing specific projects) the larger bonding bill.
Housing Infrastructure Bonds

Housing Infrastructure Bonds can be used to purchase land, pay for building costs, and can be targeted towards specific populations like seniors or manufactured homes.

Click this link to learn more about how HIBs work: https://tinyurl.com/y7o5dxj3
General Obligation Bonds

General Obligation Bonds are used to maintain existing affordable housing projects.

Click this link to learn more about how GO Bonds work: https://tinyurl.com/y7o5dxj3
Coalition Work

The JRLC works in tandem with the statewide group of housing advocates called Homes for All in order to coordinate legislative action around affordable and emergency housing. Homes for All assures that funds are allocated evenly between the 7 metro area counties and Greater Minnesota.

To learn more about Homes for All, go here: [http://www.homesforallmn.org/](http://www.homesforallmn.org/)
2. Fees and Fines

- Allows courts the discretion to reduce, waive and/or require community service in lieu of paying all or some portion state traffic surcharges

- Eliminates law that allows suspension of a driver’s license for unpaid traffic tickets
Under current law, a Minnesotan receiving a ticket for a moving violation is assessed both a local (city/county) fine and a state surcharge of $75. Currently, courts have the authority to waive or reduce the local portion of a fine or offer a community service alternative, but no authority to waive/reduce/order community service for the state portion. Prosecutors and defense attorneys strongly support change.

These fees and fines are a challenge for all low income Minnesotans and disproportionately affect communities of color.
Example

**Current Law**

- **Infraction Occurs**
  - Individual receives speeding ticket for $150. $75 are local fines, $75 are a state surcharge.
  - Courts may waive the entire $75 portion of the local fine but low-income individuals must pay $75 state surcharge, regardless of ability to pay.

- **Court Decisions**
  - Low-income resident is unable to pay $75 state surcharge. Unpaid fine is turned over to Department of Revenue for collection and license is suspended for inability to pay. Low-income resident is unable to drive to work or school and continues to lose ability to work towards economic stability.

- **Follow-up Effects**

**Proposed Changes**

- **Infraction Occurs**
  - Individual receives speeding ticket for $150. $75 are local fines, $75 are a state surcharge.
  - Courts may waive both local and state portions of the fine as is appropriate for the individual (possibly substituting community service in lieu of the fine). A minimum fine may still exist.

- **Court Decisions**
  - Regardless of the individual’s ability to pay any fines incurred, their license remains in place as long as the infraction(s) does not impact public safety, allowing the individual to maintain economic stability.

- **Follow-up Effects**
Coalition Work

The JRLC is working on this policy ask as a part of our membership in the Minnesota Asset Building Coalition (MABC). The MABC focuses specifically on policies that allow individuals and communities in Minnesota to build wealth and offer opportunities for the future. The JRLC joins over 130 organizations across the state in our work with the MABC.

Click this link to learn more about the MABC: http://www.mnassetbuilding.org/
3. Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP)

Increase access for families needing childcare by:

• Approving an expedited application process for families experiencing homelessness

• Allowing families experiencing homelessness to be eligible for assistance for 3 months w/o meeting work/education requirements
What is CCAP?

CCAP provides financial assistance to families with incomes below 47% of the State Median Income to pay for child care. Families must apply to participate in this program and children must meet certain age requirements. Most families using CCAP must pay a bi-weekly co-payment. Childcare providers who accept CCAP must attend state-required trainings on child safety issues. More than 30,000 children receive childcare through this program every month.
Work/Education Requirements

Currently, CCAP requires that all parents and legal guardians in an eligible child's household be working, looking for work, or attending school to maintain eligibility for the program.

Parents must work or attend school a minimum of 20 hours per week to maintain eligibility, and may only receive CCAP for 240 hours in a year to look for work.

For families experiencing homelessness, these requirements can be particularly burdensome and often come at the expense of the child losing stable childcare.
Coalition Work

JRLC joins 12 other organizations across Minnesota as endorsing members of the Kids Can't Wait Coalition to advocate for CCAP policy changes. Kids Can't Wait recognizes that child care helps children, families, and communities thrive. Child care is key to ensuring Minnesota’s robust economy in years to come. Child care needs to be affordable and accessible for all Minnesota families, but for too many families, it isn’t.
4. Enhanced Penalties for Property Crimes

Vandalism and other property crimes are unlawful. But current MN law fails to recognize that bias crimes involving property damage affect victims differently.
This bill would allow prosecutorial discretion to ask for increased penalties in cases of bias. For example, when a swastika is spray-painted on a synagogue.
Who is Covered?

The statute would apply to crimes in which the offender was motivated to commit the act by the victim or property owner's actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or national origin.