

Metro Cities (Association of Metropolitan Municipalities) Organizational Structure and Background Information

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- Metro Cities (Association of Metropolitan Municipalities) was established in 1974 to represent the shared interests of cities in the metropolitan area at the Legislature, Executive Branch and Metropolitan Council. Membership in Metro Cities is open to cities in the seven-county metropolitan region.
- Metro Cities is governed by a 19-member Board of Directors. The Board sets the organization's strategic plan, budget and legislative priorities. The Board is made up of elected and appointed city officials and is balanced for geographic location and city size.
- Metro Cities operates with a four person staff, including its Executive Director, two Government Relations Specialist, and an Office Manager.
- Legislative policies are adopted by the membership and cover issues of significance to metropolitan cities including taxes, aids, fiscal disparities, transportation, housing, economic development, local authority, and state and regional programs, among others.
- The association's policies are comprehensive with respect to the activity of the Metropolitan Council, and include established policies on regional governance, livable communities' programs, transit, housing policy and requirements, comprehensive planning requirements and processes, density, inflow and infiltration, water supply and regional fee structures.
- Metro Cities plays a unique role among local government organizations in its representation of the shared interests of cities at the Metropolitan Council. Cities are responsible for the implementation of many regional policies and programs and are a primary constituency of the Metropolitan Council.
- Metro Cities is often called the 'watchdog' of the Metropolitan Council and works to ensure that city needs are accounted for across all aspects of regional decision making. Metro Cities staff closely monitors Metropolitan Council policy and funding decisions and responds to its actions in a manner consistent with the association's policies.
- Metro Cities has statutory appointing authority for municipal officials on the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and a statutory consulting role for municipal members appointed to the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC). Metro Cities also appoints municipal officials to the regional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Board.

