



RESOLUTION 2023-002

(A): Resolution on the importance of preserving the local authority of municipalities

(B) We, the members of the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT), find:

1. Whereas, Utah State law grants municipalities the authority to exercise municipal affairs, to provide local public services, and to adopt laws to regulate public safety and welfare within those municipalities' limits; and
2. Whereas, municipalities in Utah play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life of their residents, and in contributing to the greater success of the State of Utah; and
3. Whereas, pursuant to their legal authority, cities advance the unique needs of their residents, by adopting budgets and administering land use and zoning regulations that ensure delivery of essential services, public safety, well maintained parks and recreation facilities, thriving economic development, and reliable health and safety of residents; and
4. Whereas, local governments are essential components of independent governance, representing the diverse needs and values of their communities; and
5. Whereas, local governments possess a unique understanding of their communities' specific challenges and priorities, enabling them to craft policies that best address local needs; and
6. Whereas, federal or state preemption of local government authority refers to the practice of federal or state governments overriding or restricting the decision-making power of local governments on specific matters; and
7. Whereas, federal or state preemption undermines the principles of self-governance and local control; and
8. Whereas, federal or state preemption prevents local governments from enacting or enforcing laws that reflect the will of their constituents; and
9. Whereas, federal or state preemption can lead to the imposition of one-size-fits-all policies that ignore the unique circumstances and identity of individual communities; and
10. Whereas, federal or state preemption reduces or eliminates the ability of local governments to effectively address pressing local issues pertaining to public health, safety, and welfare of residents; and

11. Whereas, federal or state preemption hinders innovation and experimentation, impeding progress and inhibiting the development of creative solutions to complex problems; and
12. Whereas, the members of ULCT recognize and affirm the inherent value and importance of local governments in shaping policies that reflect both collaboration with state and federal leaders and the unique needs and aspirations of their communities; and
13. Whereas, decisions regarding local policy should rest primarily with local governments, allowing them to exercise their autonomy and respond to the concerns of their constituents.

(C) Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. The federal government and the State of Utah should respect and uphold the principles of local self-governance, refrain from unwarranted preemption actions, and engage in collaborative and constructive partnerships with local governments.
2. The ULCT encourages federal and state policymakers and community and civic leaders to recognize and advocate for the preservation and enhancement of local authority, fostering an environment where local governments can thrive and effectively serve their communities.
3. The ULCT fundamentally opposes mandates that unnecessarily create unelected boards, commissions, authorities, or any type of entity that preempts local governments by giving authority to unelected boards/commissions by removing that authority from local elected officials.
4. The ULCT fundamentally opposes mandates that remove revenue from local governments or transfer that revenue to a board, commission, or authority that is not comprised of local elected officials.
5. The ULCT fundamentally opposes mandates that eliminate land use and zoning authority from municipalities.

Adopted on this 8th day of September, 2023.

Submitted by

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