

March 4, 2024

CITY ISSUE FACT SHEET: ZONING AND LAND USE



Potential Consequences of “Missing Middle Housing” Bill:

- No financial support is provided for infrastructure upgrades/expansions needed for increased density, shifting the costs on taxpayers.
- Residents would no longer be able to voice concerns regarding developments at public hearings.
- Cities may need to buy new equipment and resize infrastructure if new residential buildings are taller than what their existing infrastructure can handle.
- Solar panels on homes and businesses may be blocked by buildings as tall as 150 feet.

Protecting Cities’ Zoning and Land Use Authority

Legislation has been introduced that would undermine the abilities of city officials and their residents to make their own decisions about zoning and land use. The “Missing Middle Housing” bill, HF 4009, SF 3964, and SF 3980, increases housing density and take away cities’ rights to make zoning and land use decisions that best fit their communities’ needs.

WHAT’S IN THE BILL:

- Forces administrative approvals of projects that meet standards and prohibits public input in the approval process.
- Limits minimum lot size requirements to no greater than 2,500 square feet for first class cities and 4,000 square feet for all other cities except for cities with populations less than 10,000.
- Requires all cities to accept Accessory Dwelling Units on all residential lots regardless of size and allows property owners to subdivide their lots by right.
- Sets a base level for density allowed on any residential lot by right—regardless of size—at 2 units statewide and 4 units in first class cities.



CITY ISSUE FACT SHEET

Protecting Cities' Zoning and Land Use Authority (Continued)

WHAT'S IN THE BILL (CONTINUED):

- Prohibits off-street parking from being required close to major transit stops and limits off-street parking minimum requirements to 1 spot per unit in other areas.
- Allows multi-family dwellings to be constructed in any zoning district that allows commercial activity as tall as the tallest commercial or residential structure within ¼ mile radius of the parcel up to 150 feet in height or the local height restriction, whichever is higher.
- Broadly prohibits design standards for residential development and eliminates minimum square footage and floor area ratio requirements.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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OUR ASKS/SOLUTIONS:

- **State framework around zoning and land use must allow for locally led reforms.**
- **Cities that have put in years of work to address zoning at the local level should not have to replace their locally led efforts with a state mandated framework.**
- **The state must provide tools and resources for cities to make progress toward housing targets based on real numbers and should not penalize cities for market forces outside their control.**
- **Framework should hold the developer community accountable to actually build units that are affordable.**
- **Projects for additional density must consider infrastructure capacity and provide cities with the ability to finance the infrastructure necessary to support new residential development without relying on the property tax base.**