



## **MAT Legislative and Research Committee Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Legislative & Research Committee?**

The Legislative & Research (L&R) Committee is charged with developing, reviewing, and making recommendations for legislative efforts on behalf of townships. The purposes of the L&R Committee is to aid MAT in representing townships and their officials and in supporting the township form of government. The L&R Committee as a whole is called the General L&R Committee.

The General L&R Committee currently has five subcommittees: (1) Environment; (2) Government Operation; (3) Taxes; (4) Transportation; and (5) Annexation. These five subcommittees review, research, and recommend possible solutions or resolutions for legislative action related to their assigned issues. No motions passed or recommendations made at the subcommittees shall become official legislative initiatives until they are passed by the General L&R Committee and adopted by the MAT Board of Directors.

### **Who makes up the L&R Committee?**

Each county with an organized township (a member of MAT) can appoint one voting member for each subcommittee (5 total). In any county in which there exists a county unit of townships, the appointed members are appointed by the county unit by the pre-registration deadline for the summer meeting. All appointments are for one year and there is no limit to the number of times a person may be appointed.

In addition to appointed members, any township official of a township that is a member of MAT may participate in any meeting of the General L&R Committee, or any of its subcommittees, and may vote on actions pending before the General L&R Committee. Only an appointed member to a subcommittee of the L&R or the appointed member's properly designated alternate shall be eligible to vote whenever a vote is taken at a meeting of a General L&R subcommittee.

### **How often does the L&R Committee meet?**

There are usually three meetings a year for the L&R Committee: A Spring/Winter Meeting, a Summer Meeting, and a Fall Meeting.

The Spring/Winter Meeting occurs during or immediately preceding the regular annual session of the State Legislature. This meeting is currently being held at the Best Western Kelly Inn in St Paul, MN. Holding this meeting near the State Capitol allows legislators to attend the meeting and Legislative Breakfast. This also provides L&R Committee members the opportunity to visit legislators at the Capitol to discuss issues Townships are concerned about.

The Summer Meeting takes place after the end of each regular session of the State Legislature. This location of this meeting changes, but usually is held in a central part of the state to provide similar travel distance for the members.

The Fall Meeting is the final meeting of the year and occurs during MAT's Annual Meeting held each November. This location changes each year, but locations such as Duluth, Alexandria, St Cloud have been repeatedly used.

Additional meetings may be called as determined necessary.

## **What is the process of the General L&R Committee and Subcommittees?**

Townships may suggest legislative action by MAT in two ways. The first method requires the township to submit their proposed legislative resolution to their County Unit of Townships. If the County Unit of Townships approves the proposed resolution, the resolution may be sent to the MAT office for consideration at the next L&R meeting. Each County Unit decides when their meetings will be held, with some having several meetings per year and others only one.

The second method requires the township to submit their proposed resolution to the members attending the MAT District Meeting for the district in which the township is located. District Meetings are usually held in August. If approved by the members attending the District Meeting, the resolutions is sent to the MAT Office to be included in the next L&R Meeting. All resolutions must be submitted on the official resolution documentation form provided by the MAT office. The deadline to submit a resolution to the MAT office is May 1 of each year.

Each properly submitted resolution is reviewed by the MAT attorneys to determine if it is germane to township governance. If found germane, the resolution is referred to the MAT Board's Legislative Committee, along with a recommendation as to which General L&R sub-committee(s) the resolution should be forwarded. If the Board L&R committee agrees with the attorney recommendations, the resolution(s) will then be forwarded to the recommended L&R subcommittee(s) for discussion at the summer General L&R Committee meeting.

At the summer meeting of the General L&R Committee, each General L&R subcommittee considers each resolution that has been submitted to it, and votes on whether to recommend that the resolution be forwarded for approval by the full General L&R Committee.

At a general session of the General L&R Committee following the subcommittee meetings, the MAT President or the President's designee presents each resolution, one at a time, which has been recommended for approval. After discussion is completed, the President or the President's designee will renew the motion to approve the resolution, as amended if so applicable. A vote is taken and the results announced.

The resolutions approved by the General L&R Committee are then drafted into final form by the MAT legal staff and then be reviewed by the MAT Board's Legislative Committee and the chairperson of each General L&R subcommittee.

After the final wording of each resolution has been agreed upon, the Board will review them and provide final approval or withdraw any which it determines should not be submitted to a vote of the MAT membership at MAT's Annual Meeting.

If the motion is approved by a majority of those voting on the resolution at the annual meeting, the resolution is then deemed adopted and made an official legislative initiative of MAT. If a majority of those voting on the resolution do not support the motion to adopt, the resolution does not become a legislative initiative.