

Enclave Annexation

Challenge

- Residents and businesses located in an unincorporated area completely surrounded by a municipality often face uncertain public safety response times and inefficient service delivery.

Solution

- Update the state's annexation laws to allow more flexibility in annexing property completely surrounded by a city or town. City residents will see increased efficiency of service delivery and effectiveness of public safety if cities and towns are able to annex unincorporated enclaves completely surrounded by the city.

Talking Points

- Enclaves lead to inefficient uses of government services. In addition to the questions over maintenance or zoning issues, enclaves provide an element of confusion over essential government services such as water, sewer, garbage, police and fire protection.
- Businesses and residents within the incorporated areas pay for enclave residents and businesses to enjoy the enhanced quality of life provided by municipal services such as parks, infrastructure and planning.
- Outdated annexation laws that prevent orderly and cost-effective growth patterns stunt the growth of South Carolina's cities and towns. Cities mean business.
- Cities that are able to grow within their boundaries find it easier to attract a higher quality workforce and more industry and business. Updated annexation laws can make it easier for cities to attract economic development by showing realistic evidence of local population numbers and growth patterns.

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Municipal Capital Projects Sales Tax

Challenge

- Funding municipal infrastructure improvements that city residents and business owners support is difficult if county councils have decided not to place the question of a countywide capital project sales tax on the ballot or if the majority of county residents have voted down such funding.

Solution

- Allow municipal residents to vote to impose a capital project sales tax for funding specific municipal infrastructure projects when the county has opted not to pursue this option or when county residents have voted down the ballot question. City residents can decide at the local level which infrastructure projects are important to them and how they want to pay for these projects.

Talking Points

- This is not a new tax – counties currently have this revenue source available to them. The bill would allow cities the same option in order to provide the level of services and facilities demanded by their residents.
- It provides an alternative method of funding for critical infrastructure needs that would be specifically designated on the ballot.
- The referendum would be held during a November general election.
- Voters are informed on the ballot the specific capital projects that will be funded (previous projects include infrastructure, road improvements and sewer systems)

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MASC Municipal Association
of South CarolinaSM

Advocacy Strategy Map



Rehabilitation of Abandoned and Dilapidated Buildings

Challenge

- Dilapidated and abandoned buildings are unsafe and create a dangerous environment often thwarting economic development opportunities for the surrounding area.
- Dilapidated buildings diminish the quality of life of a community.
- Dilapidated buildings create an economic and financial drain on community resources.
- Abandoned industrial properties can become an illegal dumping site.

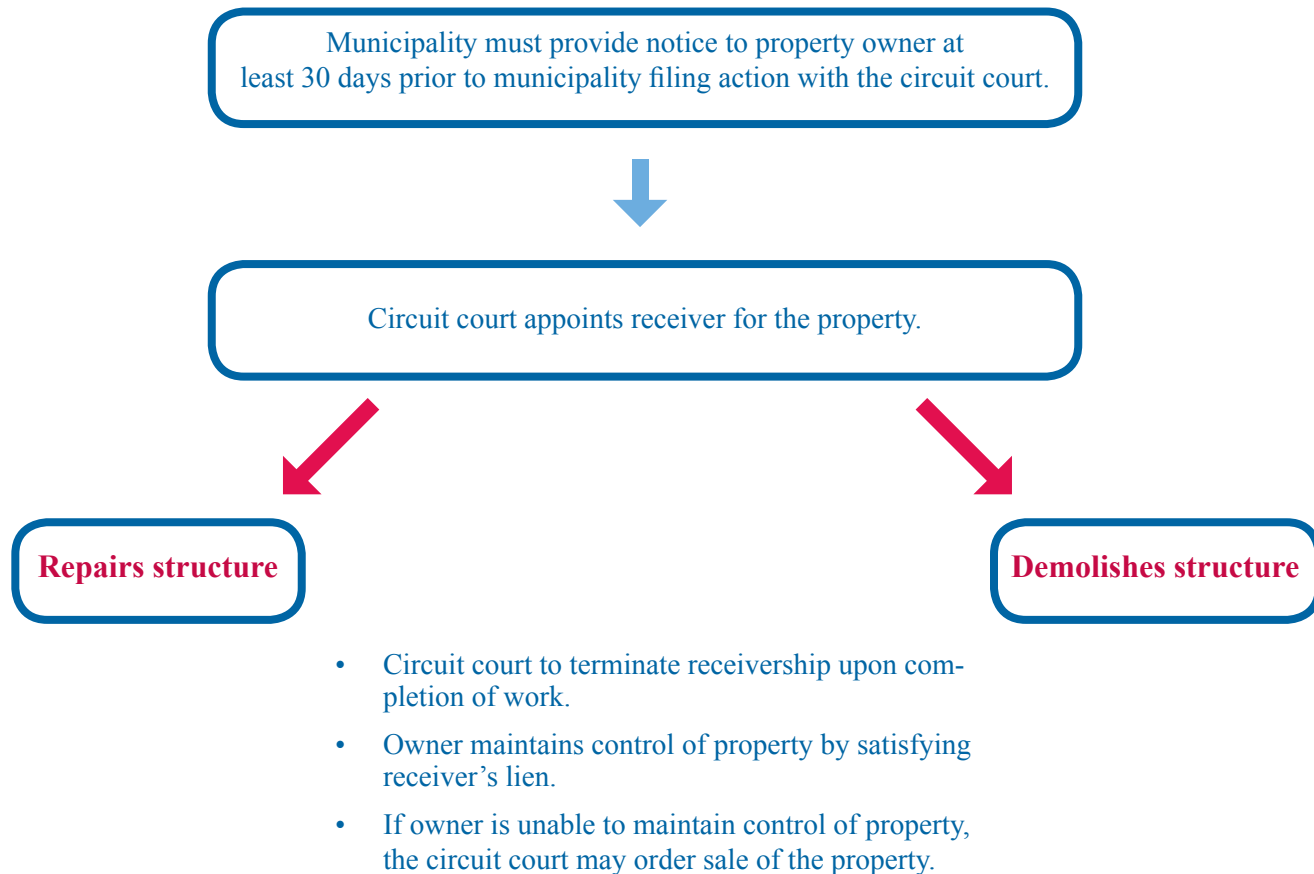
Solution

- Give South Carolina cities more flexibility in dealing with dilapidated and abandoned property by allowing local governments to partner with private sector and nonprofits to remedy problems, help to salvage property when the owner refuses or is unable to do so, and create opportunities to improve existing commercial and residential property.

Talking Points

- Receivership is an alternative to condemnation of the property by a public entity.
- Traditional methods of code enforcement have limitations.
- Receivership addresses properties with serious code violations which constitute major or imminent public hazard.
- Owner-occupied homes are excluded from receivership action.
- Owner of record and lien holders have opportunities to take responsibility during process.

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Statutory Funding of the Local Government Fund

Challenge

- In the current economic environment, cities and towns have prioritized projects and spending. However, with limited revenue options and increased service demands, cities and towns must increasingly rely on the Local Government Fund as a stable revenue source to meet local needs.

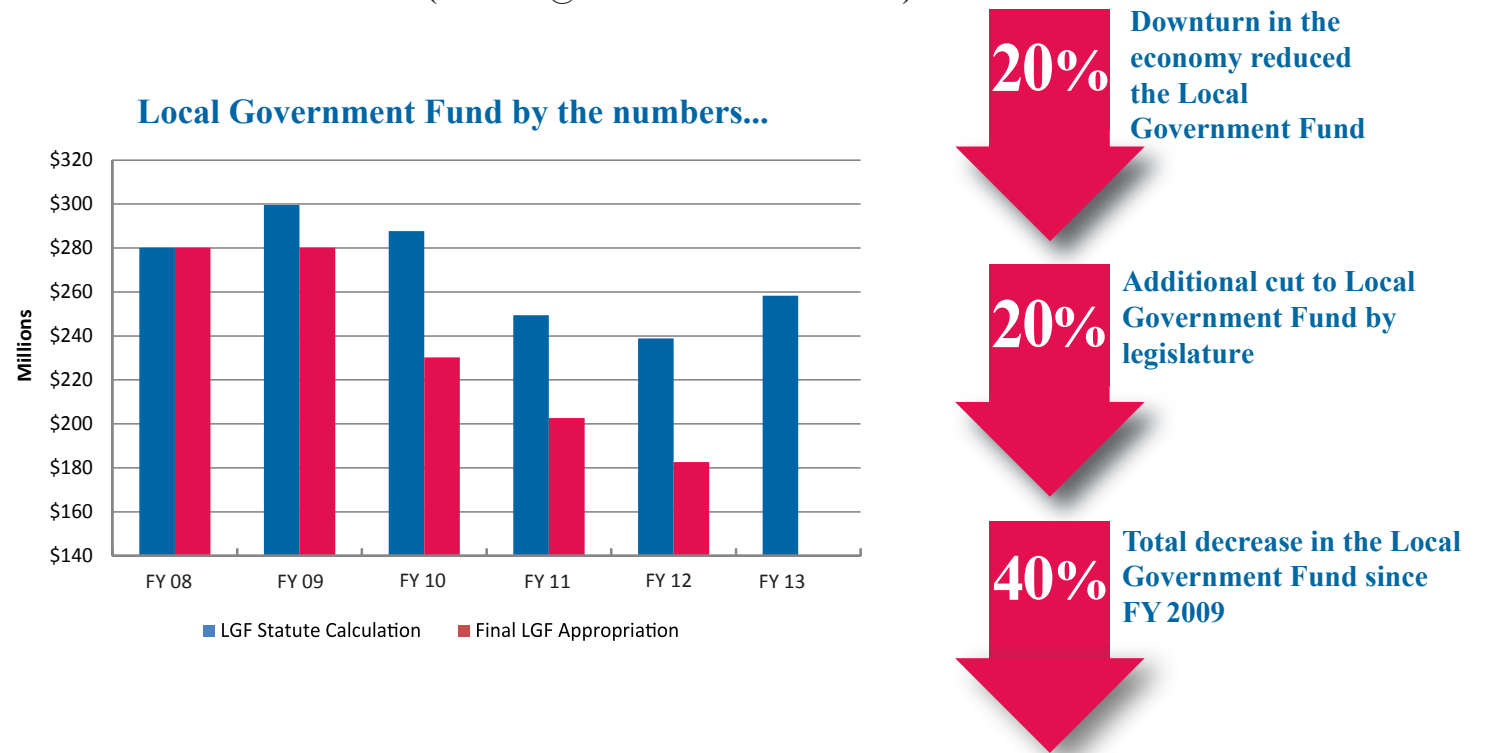
Solution

- Ensure all revenue collected by the state on behalf of local governments is returned to cities and towns through a statutorily funded Local Government Fund. Cities and towns depend on the Local Government Fund as a stable revenue source to provide the services, infrastructure and programs that spur economic growth in local economies.

Talking Points

- LGF naturally adjusts in down economies because it is a percentage of state General Fund revenues.
- Cities and counties have taken a 20 percent cut annually for the past three years on top of the natural decrease.
- State General Fund revenues decreased 21 percent from FY 09 to FY 12, while the LGF was cut by 40 percent.

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Percent Funded by Legislature

