


February 2010

# 2010

## Strategic Advocacy and the AUMA

Mayors Caucus

**TOGETHER.STRONGER.**



2010

## Outline

- AUMA's Role as Advocate
- Overview of Resolution Process
  - Municipal Governance Standing Committee
  - AUMA Board
  - Convention
- RFD Process and Mayors' Caucuses
- Action on Resolutions
- Action: Advocacy Follow-up
- Thank you

**TOGETHER.STRONGER.**



## AUMA's Role as Advocate

2010

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead

AUMA's advocacy activities mean that we take on a number of roles, including acting as a voice for municipalities, disseminating information, participating in networks, and supporting change.

How can your municipality benefit from this work?

How can your municipality influence AUMA's advocacy efforts?

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## AUMA's Role as Advocate

2010

- You are not alone!
- You can use the resolution process or you can submit an RFD to initiate action on a particular topic or issue.



TOGETHER.STRONGER.

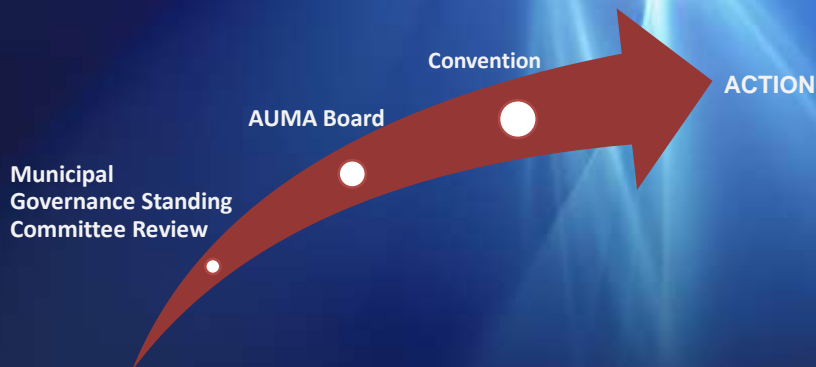
## Overview of Resolution Process

- It all starts when a Council debates a topic that is provincial in scope, municipal in nature
- AUMA members have access to a the Resolution policy and resolution writing guide on the AUMA website



TOGETHER.STRONGER.

## Overview of Resolution Process



TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## Municipal Governance Standing Committee

2010

- The AUMA Standing Committee on Municipal Governance reviews member resolutions, and recommends a category for each resolution to the Board of Directors
- The Standing Committee can also recommend that 2 or more resolutions on the same topic be combined
- The Standing Committee can also recommend that a resolution **NOT** be considered in the following situations:
  - if it contravenes the Resolutions Policy (for example, if the resolution does not address a topic that is municipal in nature)
  - If the same resolution has been adopted by the Convention within the last 3 years

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## AUMA Board

2010

- Standing Committee recommendations are forwarded to the AUMA Board of Directors
- Once adopted, AUMA contacts the sponsors of resolutions that are to be combined, to see if they are OK with combining their resolution with another municipality's resolution
- If resolutions are found to be in contravention of the AUMA Resolutions Policy, AUMA informs the member, and indicates how it contravenes the Policy

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## Convention

2010

- Resolution Book is published 6 weeks before Convention
- Extraordinary resolutions can be submitted up until the first day of the Convention, but they must be reviewed and approved as extraordinary by the Executive Committee
- Chair of Resolution session goes through the policy and procedures for the Sessions
- Resolutions that are adopted or adopted as amended are placed on the AUMA website in the Resolutions database

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## RFD Process and Mayors' Caucuses

2010

- While resolutions **cannot** be brought forward to Caucus meetings, a municipality may bring forward an RFD.
- Administration can bring RFDs forward to the AUMA Board, Executive Committee, AUMA Standing and other Committees, as well as to the Mayors' Caucuses.
- AUMA Members can use the standard AUMA format and submit RFDs on their own behalf only to the Caucus agendas.

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## RFD Process and Mayors' Caucuses 2010

- The RFD format consists of 10 headings, which include date, topic, recommendation, background, whether there are funding implications, comments, enclosures, and who prepared it.
- The bulk of information necessary for making an informed decision is usually found in the "Comments" section.

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## RFD Process and Mayors' Caucuses 2010

- The Municipality is given the opportunity to speak to their RFD during the appropriate Mayors Caucus meeting and there is time for discussion and debate.
- In many cases, the Recommendation which comes to the first decision-making body is framed as "That...be received for information."

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## RFD Process and Mayors' Caucuses 2010

- This is often done deliberately in cases where there are several action/policy alternatives available, so that after the information in the RFD is received and reviewed, an appropriate recommendation which is supported by the first decision-making body can be crafted and forwarded to the final decision-making body, which in all cases regarding Advocacy is the AUMA Board.
- All such RFDs which go to the AUMA Board, however, generally recommend an "action." If the Board approves the RFD, then the action or recommendation will be carried out.

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## Action on Resolutions 2010

- Each Standing Committee receives a package of resolutions that are relevant to their Committee.
- AUMA staff revises a Policy Statement, using the new resolutions to inform and add to the Policy Statement from the previous year.
- The Standing Committees review the Policy Statements, make changes and recommend a Policy Statement to the AUMA Board of Directors.
- Policy Statements are sent to appropriate Ministries, with a request that Ministers provide a response to the broad statement as well as the individual resolutions.

TOGETHER.STRONGER.



## Action: Advocacy Follow-up

# 2010

Resolutions and RFDs are used to:

1. develop AUMA's annual provincial budget submission
2. determine future initiatives and research
3. determine content for meetings between AUMA Executive Committee and all Cabinet Ministers, meetings between AUMA CEO and all Deputy Ministers

Relevant resolutions and RFDs are provided in all media briefing packages for the AUMA President

Relevant resolutions and RFDs are provided in briefing notes to AUMA Board members and staff that attend meetings where AUMA positions/input is requested

**TOGETHER.STRONGER.**



## Thank-you

# 2010

- AUMA has represented the interests of local government since 1905 and we rely on your input.
- Questions? Comments?

**TOGETHER.STRONGER.**