When discussing diversity and inclusion, include people with disabilities

BY AUDREY NELSEN

As the Minnesota Legislature wrapped up its special session last May, one state lawmaker spoke about the increase in Local Government Aid (LGA) and County Program Aid in the 2019 tax bill. Cities, counties, and special districts were going to see a $30 million boost in LGA, but city coffers are certainly not busting at the seams any more than they were in 2019. However, the cost of health insurance continues to rise for city employees and we are still forced to make difficult decisions. Let’s face it, we cannot cut the services and amenities on which our residents and visitors depend. One way to help ensure that the quality of city services is not determined by zip code would be a 20% increase in health insurance costs.

City of Minneapolis

Minneapolis has come a long way when it comes to diversity and inclusion in workplaces. We’ve learned that our differences are assets, and diversity of thought is key to meaningful work. A diverse workforce brings different cultures to the table – and a major piece to the puzzle.

But let’s be honest. People with disabilities are most certainly marginal in the diversity and inclusion conversation in the business world. From the edge of a glass with the rim of a cup – to drinking from the rim of a cup – the oceans and rivers all depend. The veins and arteries that carry the blood even needs the different colors of the rainbow.

We’ve talked about plastic bags and straws. Don’t waste your money - support the ban of single-use plastic.

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This is something municipal organizations like the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) have supported the past and which deserves renewed attention by the Legislature.

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