

Policies and Goals 2023-2024

Adopted June 16, 2023, at the
89th Annual Convention



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FOREWORD

This statement of policy of the Arkansas Municipal League is the vehicle through which the cities and towns of Arkansas make known their common aims and purposes and move together for the improvement of local government. It is designed to be revised and readopted each year at the League’s annual convention. This edition was officially adopted on June 16, 2023, at the 89th Annual Convention of the Arkansas Municipal League.

This policy statement represents the foundation upon which the League builds its programs. It attempts to set forth the principles used to guide specific action by League officers, committees and staff.

It is the League’s platform for building better municipal government and, consequently, better cities and towns for the municipal residents of Arkansas.

In addition, this publication contains an explanation of the activities and service programs of your Municipal League and the Municipal League Constitution.

We believe that this year will be a good one for Arkansas cities and towns and their residents.

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ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

PURPOSE AND GOALS

The creation of municipal leagues within each state has become an accepted part of American political life. Municipal leagues provide a forum through which local officials may assist each other in the solution of municipal problems and express their common concerns to state and federal officials. In Arkansas, municipal officials established the Arkansas Municipal League in 1934.

The Arkansas Municipal League is a voluntary, nonpartisan organization. Membership is open to any incorporated city or town in Arkansas. The League's basic operating funds are provided by its member cities through the payment of annual service charges, and it is governed by a board of municipal officials. The League is truly a creature of the cities and towns of Arkansas and is recognized in law as their instrumentality. Presently the League has 498 member cities and towns.

The League's Constitution sets forth the following objectives and purposes:

1. To perpetuate and develop the League as an agency for the cooperation of Arkansas cities and incorporated towns in the practical study of municipal affairs;
2. To promote the application of the best methods in all branches of municipal government;
3. To advocate the support of legislation beneficial to the proper administration of municipal government, and to oppose legislation injurious thereto;
4. To promote education in municipal government and to do any and all things necessary and proper for the benefit of municipalities in the administration of their affairs;
5. To safeguard the rights of local government and to oppose any encroachment thereon;
6. To promote the development and general welfare of Arkansas cities and towns;
7. To maintain a central bureau of information and research for the collection, analysis and dissemination of municipal information;
8. To hold annual conventions and other meetings, schools and short courses for the discussion of municipal problems;
9. To publish and circulate an official magazine and other publications, special reports, brochures and newsletters of interest to Arkansas municipal officials; and
10. To assist in the development and administration of optional service programs desired by municipalities.

The central purpose of the Arkansas Municipal League is to advance the interests and welfare of the people residing in the cities and towns in Arkansas. To accomplish this, the League carries on a broad program of research, information, technical assistance and legislative activity to increase the capability of local governments to meet complex municipal problems. This program is implemented through a variety of activities, including an annual convention, a quarterly magazine, an inquiry service, research publications, legislative analysis, field service and consultation.

The Arkansas Municipal League is both the actual and the proper common meeting ground for all cities and towns and municipal officials of the state, whatever the form of government of the municipality or the office of the municipal official.

It is the practice of the League to adopt a point of view only after extensive consideration and analysis of the alternatives has been made. Once a policy has been adopted by representatives of the assembled municipalities at the annual business meeting, the League should be regarded as the formal spokesman for Arkansas municipalities in matters involving common municipal interests consistent with the right of any municipality to express its individual viewpoint.

POLICIES AND GOALS

Statement of policy of the Arkansas Municipal League relating to the authority, responsibility and financing of municipal government and to federal and state laws and administrative regulations affecting local government.

The municipalities of the state of Arkansas, assembled in conference this 16th day of June, 2023, do affirm their belief in municipal government as that level which is closest to the people and most able to respond to their needs as members of a community, and do adopt the following statement of *Policies and Goals* in the advancement of effective and responsive local government.

1. THE ROLE OF CITIES

Municipal government is closest to the people and is the logical agency for the delivery of municipal services. People in their wisdom created various levels of government to serve various governmental needs. National government properly deals with those problems that are national in scope, such as relations with other nations and relations among the states. State government deals with those activities and services that are best supplied on a statewide level. County government is a service level of government and deals primarily with tax administration, jails, coroner services, courthouses, elections and roads. Municipal government is a service level of government and deals with those basic physical and social services desired by individuals residing in communities. Municipal government, being the closest to the people and being a creature of higher levels of government, must be provided with resources and authority from the other levels of government in order to carry out its vital role. Typical services include police, fire, streets, sanitation, water, wastewater, and parks and recreation.

1-1. Diversity Creates a Need for Flexibility

Diversity is one of the essential facts of contemporary American life. Just as few national programs may be uniformly applied to all situations in all parts of the country, very few state programs can be applied uniformly to all communities within a state. There is a need to provide sufficient flexibility at the local level to allow a recognition of the diverse needs and desires of citizens of various Arkansas cities and towns. Citizens of individual municipalities should have a major voice in determining the nature, scope and funding of various service programs offered at the local level.

1-2. The League's Role in Sharing Skill and Experience

In order to deliver local government services efficiently, cities must have the ability to share with one another their skills and experiences and should be encouraged to develop cooperative structures whereby the skills developed in one community may be applied to the solution of problems in similar communities across the state. The Arkansas Municipal League provides a logical and appropriate vehicle for transmitting information of this nature and should furnish and support technical assistance to the cities of the state.

2. SELF-GOVERNMENT

It is the right of the people in a democratic society to govern themselves, to create governmental agencies, to charge those agencies with such responsibilities and to grant to them such powers as the people may deem appropriate for their needs. The concept of municipal home rule is based on this premise and the observable fact of diversity among the various cities and towns. Municipal home rule is a grant of power, not to local governments, but to the people who reside in cities and towns to structure their city government as they so desire, to charge that government with the performance of those services they deem appropriate and to determine the means of funding those services. The Arkansas Municipal League endorses the concept of municipal home rule and urges the Legislature to examine all legislation affecting municipal government in light of this basic concept. Further, the League opposes efforts to preempt municipalities exercising their authority and discretion in any form by state or federal government.

2-1. Programs Mandated

Programs mandated on local governments by the state or federal government are viewed by municipal officials as incompatible with the principles and values embodied in the doctrine of home rule. The Arkansas Municipal League will oppose mandatory legislation that imposes additional local responsibilities without providing from the state or federal government the revenues to support the additional requirements. The League supports the law that requires a fiscal impact statement on all legislation imposing additional costs on municipal government and will seek strict compliance with its provisions. The League also supports the concept that legislative committees considering bills mandating costs on municipalities must first receive prior consent of the affected municipality or the League's executive committee, and that those costs should only be imposed for the most compelling reasons.

2-2. Interlocal Cooperation

The primary task of local government remains the provision of services to citizens in the most effective and economical manner practicable. In many cases, services can best be provided through contracts with other local agencies, thus eliminating the need for competing or duplicative services. Numerous municipalities and counties have found that the Interlocal Cooperation Act provides an excellent vehicle for such arrangements. The League urges the Legislature to regard the Interlocal Cooperation Act as the primary vehicle by which interlocal cooperation should be attained and, consistent with the principle of home rule, to avoid prescribing

specific details of interlocal cooperative arrangements. Such arrangements should be left to the discretion of local officials and the citizens of local communities for cooperative negotiation and implementation through the Interlocal Cooperation Act. The League encourages all cities and towns to organize associations of municipal officials in each county of the state in order that municipal officials will be able to determine the most feasible method of providing local services in a cooperative manner.

2-3. Providing and Franchising of Services

Cities and towns should be allowed to exercise local discretion, and to be free of unduly burdensome or restrictive state or federal regulation, in the provision of local services. Those services include, but are not limited to, public safety (police, fire and ambulance), streets, water, wastewater treatment, parks, etc. Further, when providing services or regulating various businesses or operations within their jurisdiction, cities and towns should be allowed local control to determine the need for, and the implementation of, exclusive or nonexclusive franchises, licenses, permits and other regulatory actions.

3. FINANCE AND TAXATION

The League supports an overall tax system that is balanced, well-apportioned and fair to all citizens of the state. A taxation system that relies solely, or too extensively, upon one type of tax is unfair and is likely to produce financial inequities upon the citizens who are subject to the tax. Property taxes have, in Arkansas' modern history, come under attack by small but outspoken groups of citizens. The Arkansas Municipal League opposes efforts to repeal property taxes in the state of Arkansas, and any like or similar measures are also opposed. Furthermore, we support the continuation of property taxes as the primary source of local funding for our public schools.

The League believes public finance problems are not solely state problems or city problems. State resources should be allocated in a manner commensurate with the responsibilities for the performance of basic services. We believe that such an allocation calls for a fair share of the general revenue of state to be returned to the cities and towns of Arkansas, which provide local government services to our state's population.

Further, we strongly urge the Governor and the General Assembly to modernize our state's sales tax base to encompass the type of services and transactions that are increasingly becoming a part of the way commerce is conducted in the 21st Century. We support a broadening of the sales tax base.

Additionally, federal and state government should provide municipal governments with the right to impose

local taxes for the support of local services of a type and at a level reflective of the desires of their citizens. We recommend that automatic referendum provisions for municipal taxes be removed in view of the fact that Amendment 7 of the Arkansas Constitution provides a workable method for referring municipal matters to a vote of the local citizens. We strongly support the city and county sales tax laws and urge that they be guarded and strengthened by the General Assembly.

The League commends administrations and legislatures that have supported the "turnback" programs. We believe Arkansas to have been one of the leaders in the nation in starting a program of this sort to get state tax funds back to the municipal and county levels to be spent according to the needs of the citizens of the counties, cities and towns as determined by their officials and citizens. The state turnback program ensures the people of our state that all municipalities and counties are able to provide at least a minimum level of local services. We pledge our support for the turnback program and encourage the General Assembly to see that it is maintained at a level commensurate with the responsibility of local government.

The League also commends administrations and legislatures that have supported the provision of general improvement funds to cities and towns. The League urges state government to continue that funding on an annual basis in order for local government to meet the needs of its citizenry. Because of the inconsistent funding of these monies, cities and towns have fallen behind in areas such as infrastructure and public safety. Thus it is critical that the state annually adopt budgets that include those monies as well as directing appropriate state agencies and departments to cooperate in dispersing those funds to cities and towns.

Further, we strongly recommend continued state funding for state-mandated municipal workers' compensation. Municipalities agreed to assume the responsibility for administering this coverage in 1985 in exchange for the state's good-faith agreement to continue funding to the same degree previously provided.

3-1. State and Federal Agencies Providing Technical Assistance

Arkansas municipal officials over the years have built a tremendous capacity for technical assistance and municipal information within their own Arkansas Municipal League. In past years, the federal and state governments have allocated substantial sums of money for the creation of new bureaus, agencies and departments to provide technical assistance to local governments. These organizations provide vital services, particularly in federal grant and loan programs. The League supports and will cooperate with such state and federal agencies so long as these types of agencies do

not duplicate the services of our own League and do not become so expensive as to siphon off funds that could otherwise be spent for additional general turnback funds and other grant programs for municipalities. If either of these problems should develop, the League will attempt to point out the problems and propose solutions.

3-2. Municipal Bonds—Tax Exempt Status

The immunity from federal taxation of the states and local governments and their agencies in the exercise of their legitimate functions is necessary for the preservation of our constitutionally delineated dual sovereignty form of government. The imposition of a tax burden on the indebtedness of local government would have the effect of increasing the cost of government in the same manner as a tax imposed on the operations of local government. Such an increase in the cost of government would have an adverse effect on Arkansas cities and towns and their citizens. Therefore, the League opposes any proposal that would have the effect of altering the tax exempt status of municipal bonds.

3-3. Exemptions to, and Rebates from, Local Sales Taxes

The Arkansas Municipal League believes that exemptions to the Arkansas Gross Receipts Act, as well as rebates of sales tax dollars, erode the tax base and make sales taxes less equitable. Further, such exemptions and rebates create economic inefficiencies and make the Arkansas Gross Receipts Act difficult to administer, thus driving up the public cost of administration.

Additionally, exemptions and rebates create discomfort and distrust among the public and foster inconsistent collection. These inaccuracies and inconsistencies make it difficult for local governments to generate the revenue necessary to provide needed services to their citizens. Because of these problems, the League opposes exemptions and rebates to local sales taxes.

In addition to the need for a broad-based tax system, the League also believes it is necessary that taxes be treated equally in all respects as related to any governmental entity unless public policy dictates to the contrary. Thus, with rare exceptions, laws affecting the remittance and collection of tax monies by and for the state of Arkansas and local government should be uniform.

4. BOUNDARY CHANGES

4-1. Annexation

Substantial population growth has occurred in recent years in areas adjacent to municipalities, often creating undesirable situations in matters such as: unfair and inequitable taxation; substandard commercial, residential and utility development; contamination of soil, water and air; and a general lack of appropriate regulations and facilities to protect and serve citizens in high density areas. Therefore, the Arkansas Municipal League will (1) work for and support the maintenance of reasonable annexation procedures that recognize that populous areas are not static and that the municipal jurisdiction for growing communities must expand, not only to protect municipal citizens from encircling development that is often a drain upon the resources of the city, but also to provide needed municipal services to high-density residences, and (2) oppose any proposals that are not conducive to orderly expansion and growth of municipalities.

Further, the League opposes actions of any state or federal agency that impair the abilities of a municipality to provide water and wastewater services to its citizens and to regulate within its jurisdiction. The League supports a joint effort between the League and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and any other necessary state or federal agency to promulgate meaningful rules that will allow for the appeal of Commission or other agency decisions in regard to water planning and water service jurisdictions, and supports the repeal or amendment of A.C.A. § 15-22-223 and 7 U.S.C. § 1926(b).

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

5-1. Form of Municipal Government

The Arkansas Municipal League does not advocate any particular form of municipal government. Rather, it is the policy of the League to favor a course of action that will permit residents of the city or town to select the form of government best suited to their individual needs and desires. Whether elected officials are elected at-large or by wards, and whether the municipality has a mayor-council, city manager or city administrator form of government must be an individual determination for the municipality's residents. It is contrary to the best principles of home rule to dictate the form of local government from sources other than people directly affected.

5-2. City or Town Government for Municipal Functions

As a matter of most basic policy, we believe the local city or town government can most effectively carry forward a program of municipal services for residents of a given area. The backbone of American government society lies in the nearly 19,000 incorporated cities and towns spread over the nation. This fact is increasingly true because of the growing urban nature of American society. Two of every three Americans live in and around cities, and an estimated 75 percent of Arkansas' residents live in and around Arkansas cities and towns. Without incorporated municipalities, the vast majority of the state's citizens would be lacking the local governmental services necessary to sustain any form of growth and development.

Other devices for incorporated municipalities have been proposed from time to time, both in Arkansas and in other parts of the United States. One of the most common approaches as a substitute for local government is the improvement district. The improvement district approach not only fractionates the problem of development, but it also leads to more and more government doing less and less, because of costly and duplicative administrative overhead. The improvement district approach is, in the main, a stopgap measure. Over-utilization of this method of providing local services is self-defeating. We urge the Legislature to refrain from providing financial aid to improvement districts for the provision of municipal-type services if such aid reduces the amount of funds that could otherwise be returned to municipal governments. The Municipal League supports the concept that the incorporated city and town governments are the best vehicles for providing the people with responsible local government and services. The League strongly endorses a municipal incorporation law, which provides, in pertinent part, that territory within five miles of an incorporated municipality shall not be allowed to incorporate unless permission is received from the existing municipality. By avoiding over-utilization of special districts and limiting needless municipal incorporations, the cities and towns of Arkansas can provide the best and most effective form of local government. Further, we urge the Legislature to narrow the opportunities to create or expand improvement districts as well as directing those districts to be fully transparent via, among many things, regular reporting of their operations, their finances and their membership. Further, we ask the Legislature to hold improvement districts to the same level of accountability as local governmental entities and officials are held.

5-3. Benefited Areas Must Finance Services Received

We urge the General Assembly and the county quorum courts to refrain from allocating taxes collected from within the municipalities into programs that are of no direct benefit to residents of municipalities. Specifically, taxpayers within municipalities must not be taxed by county or state government for purposes of rendering municipal-type services such as fire, police, sanitation, and solid waste pickup and disposal for rural residents.

Further, counties should refrain from embarking upon municipal-type services unless and until the services for which county government has primary responsibility and jurisdiction, such as the court and jail systems, the coroner's and prosecuting attorney's office and the tax assessment and collection systems, are properly funded and administered.

Also, municipalities should consider assisting counties in financing their jails by their agreeing to respond to calls within certain unincorporated areas of the county, thereby allowing the county to devote more county revenue toward meeting the requirements of providing a county jail.

We urge continuing cooperation between municipalities and counties in the provision of all governmental services. Such cooperation includes but is not limited to: formal and informal use of interlocal agreements and the concurrence at a local level of the best use of taxpayer dollars.

6. PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

The League recognizes the vital role of labor and the legitimate aspirations of public employees. The League also advocates the city's management responsibility to direct the efforts of public employees and the city's right to exercise traditional management prerogatives.

The League believes local employee relations should be governed as much as possible according to the will of the local citizenry as reflected through the elected municipal governing body. Specifically, we feel municipalities should be granted full authority over hours, wages, benefits and working conditions of municipal employees. Further, we urge the General Assembly and the Congress of the United States to refrain from mandating civil service, collective bargaining or any other type of procedures on municipalities that tend to supersede a municipality's right to govern itself.

Compulsory arbitration is wrong in theory; it has not worked out in practice, and it should not be forced upon cities and towns by the state or federal governments. It gives special privileges to selected employees, and it undermines the responsibility, authority and integrity

of local government. The Arkansas Municipal League opposes compulsory arbitration and urges that state and federal legislators resist the dangers inherent in this type of legislation.

The League recognizes the very difficult task of balancing the provision of city services with the limited funds available to local officials. Traditionally, the cost of providing a fair wage and benefit package to city employees is one of the most significant in the provision of city services. Thus, it is of utmost importance that all aspects of personnel costs, including health, workers' compensation and retirement benefits, be provided in the most efficient and fair way possible. Where the provision and administration of high quality health, retirement and other employment benefits can be pooled together, it makes sound fiscal sense to do so. Further, it is critical that administrators and governing boards of retirement programs reflect the proper and equitable balance of employer and employee needs in order that all aspects of local government services be met in the best manner possible. Providing retirement to city employees is one of the most important and expensive benefits a municipality incurs. It is critical that all revenue sources for these benefits be equitably divided and that employer contribution rates be subject to appropriate limitations to ensure that tax payer dollars are put to their optimum use and that municipal services are not jeopardized.

7. TRANSPORTATION AND STREET PROGRAMS

Transportation, the movement of people and goods within and between municipalities, is essential to the welfare of those communities and to the state as a whole. The problems of congestion and energy shortages have combined to make the need for adequate public transportation increasingly apparent. This need exists in small municipalities as well as the large cities of our state. The League feels that any new highway tax programs initiated at the state level should consider all segments of our transportation network, and municipalities should receive no less than 15 percent of all funds allocated for streets, roads and highways within the state of Arkansas. We feel the exemption of fuel from the state sales tax should be repealed with the additional revenues being allocated for streets, highways and roads.

Furthermore, we support the use of and additional funding for public transit due to its ability to move people in an efficient and environmentally friendly manner.

Periodically, the Arkansas Department of Transportation gives streets, roads and highways to Arkansas cities and towns. Those streets, roads and highways are not always in good condition and Arkansas'

cities and towns are financially unable to take over and maintain these streets, roads and highways if they are not tendered in the most pristine of condition. The League requests and encourages ArDOT to tender to Arkansas' cities and towns only those streets, roads and highways that are in the best of physical condition.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY

The increasing mobility of our society gives adequate proof that new techniques are required to control crime. Old concepts need to be critically reexamined in light of U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and outdated procedures must be replaced with imaginative and modern programs. The full weight of the city must be marshaled to action in controlling criminal activity. Individual citizens, civic organizations, churches, schools, and all other social and civic institutions are urged to take cognizance of the problem and join the police in lowering the incidence of crime in our cities. Primary responsibility, however, properly remains vested in local law enforcement authorities. The League supports all legislative measures providing the necessary authority to local law enforcement agencies for the enforcement of laws in cities and towns, as well as the provision of public safety therein. Additionally, every effort must be made to encourage citizen cooperation with law enforcement agencies, which will serve to reduce crime and develop a respect for law and order.

Further, when funds are extremely limited, we encourage municipal officials to evaluate the utilization of volunteer or part-paid fire departments, public safety departments, or other creative means to meet the fire protection needs of a community with greater efficiency and improved safety, both for firefighters and citizens.

The League opposes the weakening of the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code as well as efforts to lessen its enforcement statewide. The Code provides protection to Arkansans regardless of urban or rural setting. The Code's uniform application allows government, private businesses and citizens alike to be assured that building guidelines are standardized and citizen safety is of utmost importance.

Public safety officers are often required to face dangerous, fast paced and frightening situations. In some instances they are, quite literally, called to put their lives on the line. Tragically and all too often, those officers make the ultimate sacrifice in protecting us and our property. The League expresses its profound gratitude for those services and deepest sympathies to the families and friends who have lost one of these heroic men or women.

9. LAND USE

9-1. Legislation

We recommend that if the Arkansas General Assembly or the U.S. Congress decides to adopt and implement additional land-use legislation, such legislation should provide that all land-use decisions would be made by local citizens and officials utilizing the existing municipal planning commission structures.

We support the ability of local government to regulate the use of property in keeping with the 5th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and Article 2, Section 22 of the Arkansas Constitution, and therefore oppose any federal regulation, state statute or constitutional amendments that would place additional burdens on local government's ability to regulate private property.

9-2. Planning

The League supports the theory that local governing bodies, and the citizens of those cities and towns, are best equipped to make decisions regarding local land-use matters. Further, if cities and towns choose to engage in planning and zoning as part of their local land-use decision-making, they should have at their disposal the most up-to-date and progressive legal tools possible to accomplish their goals. Therefore, the League encourages the Legislature to pass planning and zoning laws that can be used by cities and towns of all sizes.

10. MANDATED COSTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF REVENUE

Mandates relate to unfunded state and federal requirements as well as various state imposed "add on" fees to municipal activities. As the federal budget deficit grows and as state budgets become more restrictive, unfunded mandates to local governments seem to be increasing at an alarming rate. The cost of complying with these mandates severely strains municipal budgets to the extent of forcing them to reduce or cut local priorities. While unfunded mandates continue to be imposed on local governments, proposals to reduce local revenue authority are also sometimes proposed. This places local government in the position of having to pay for mandates and other requirements with fewer available revenue options.

The Arkansas General Assembly is frequently asked to pass laws to provide additional pension benefits, court costs, fees on municipal utilities and other types of financial increases. Laws of this type, in effect, mandate additional unfunded expenses to Arkansas municipalities. The providing of employee benefits is of crucial importance to Arkansas' cities and towns. Of particular concern is the need for local government to ensure that those benefits do not cause a loss in the provision of local services. State retirement benefits are typically better for employees and more cost effective for the employer when they are administered by one entity rather than by many. Therefore, the League endorses, where practical, the merging of state public retirement systems into one collective, more stable and more efficient system, and opposes the creation of any new and independent retirement systems.

The Arkansas Municipal League believes that parties who propose bills that directly affect municipalities should inform the Arkansas Municipal League of the intent of these bills prior to each legislative session. The intended result of this procedure would be to provide all interested parties an opportunity to educate, discuss or reconcile potential differences in the proposed legislation in advance of the convening of the Arkansas General Assembly. The resolution process adopted by the Arkansas Municipal League provides a method for reviewing municipal-related legislative proposals as well as a format for resolving differences prior to the legislative session.

The Arkansas Municipal League's position on issues that affect the financial integrity of Arkansas municipal budgets will be to (1) oppose all additional district and city court costs for non-municipal purposes, (2) oppose additional pension benefits that increase municipal costs, (3) oppose additional fees placed on municipalities for state or federal agency purposes and (4) oppose restrictions or reductions of local revenue options. Opposition to these types of issues that directly threaten the financial integrity of Arkansas municipal budgets will be an official position of the Arkansas Municipal League unless the proposed legislation is approved by an Arkansas Municipal League resolution. There should be no variance from this policy during the year except for the most compelling reasons as determined by the Executive Committee of the Arkansas Municipal League and upon two-thirds vote of that body.

11. CLEAN, SAFE, PROSPEROUS MUNICIPALITIES IN THE NATURAL STATE

Arkansas must use its limited resources in the most efficient manner possible in order to achieve clean, safe and prosperous cities and towns. Preserving our beautiful natural areas where we have some of the best hunting and fishing in the world, supporting our thriving tourism industry, encouraging a strong agricultural economy and maintaining relatively low taxes are important goals for the future of Arkansas. To maintain this quality of life with low taxes, we must allocate our resources very carefully and recognize that city living and country living are different. Supporting rural growth by providing municipal services into unincorporated areas dilutes the quality of municipal services while at the same time encroaches on our state's natural areas, which more properly can be utilized by farmers, sports enthusiasts, tourists and naturalists. The Arkansas Municipal League will oppose legislation and programs that (1) encourage or finance urbanization of unincorporated areas, (2) unnecessarily infringe on the natural state of our countryside and (3) dilute the efficiency of municipal services for the cities and towns. The citizens of Arkansas deserve to have clean, safe, prosperous municipalities in which to reside and do business, while at the same time living in "the Natural State."

12. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Municipalities should endeavor to enact local policies and programs that will facilitate the provision of clean, safe and affordable housing for all citizens. Financial and technical assistance from state and federal agencies should be sought to support the locally determined housing strategy.

13. TECHNOLOGY

Today's society relies heavily on the use of computer technology and in particular the internet and electronic communications of many varieties. The Arkansas Municipal League believes that the use of these numerous and ever-changing tools makes government run more efficiently and ultimately provides better service to Arkansas' taxpayers. The League supports and encourages municipal governments to explore the use of these many technologies in their executive, legislative and judicial work.

14. DIVERSITY

The League recognizes and embraces the diversity of the people of the state of Arkansas. Further, the League encourages and promotes inclusion of a full range of diverse people in the League's organizational structure, leadership, committees, programming and staffing. The League also recognizes the necessity that municipal government include diverse people in all of its activities and services, so as to best serve the community it represents. The League rejects any and all illegal, historic, cultural or other artificial barrier that would impede any person's fair and equal consideration for and participation in any position or service provided by municipal government or the Arkansas Municipal League.

15. EDUCATION

The proper education of our young people is key to the long-term improvement of our state. All students should be provided an adequate and equitable opportunity for a good education in an efficient manner. The great majority of local property taxes and state general revenues are currently dedicated to this goal. The Arkansas Municipal League encourages the Governor and General Assembly to explore all options toward meeting the goals of adequate, equitable and efficient educational opportunities for all our young people, whether by utilizing our current structures or examining other means of providing education.

16. NATURAL DISASTERS

History has shown that municipalities play a key role in public assistance when natural disasters occur. Cities and towns provide police, fire and emergency medical services vital to the initial response to a natural disaster. Further, municipalities play a key role in post-disaster cleanup efforts, providing garbage and debris removal and, when called upon, work hand in hand with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Current FEMA regulations provide disaster benefits to municipalities only in the event the county in which the municipality is situated is declared a disaster area. Damage from natural disasters is sometimes not widespread enough to qualify an entire county for assistance, while the same disaster may have caused monumental damages within a particular city. Further, municipalities are often unable to afford the cost to repair or replace damaged infrastructure and facilities without assistance, often causing a loss of essential services necessary for the health and safety of their citizens. Therefore, the League encourages FEMA to amend or adopt regulations that would permit municipalities to qualify for disaster assistance when counties, as a whole, do not otherwise qualify. 🏠

INDEPENDENT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 89th ANNUAL CONVENTION

A RESOLUTION TO SHOW APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS AND THANK THEM FOR CONTINUOUSLY GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND TO ENSURE THE CITIZENS OF OUR COMMUNITIES ARE PROTECTED AND KEPT SAFE DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES AND TO SUPPORT MEASURES ENSURING THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF THESE VITAL EMPLOYEES.

WHEREAS, public safety employees and officials covers a wide spectrum of professionals to include law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical service providers, 911 telecommunicators, and all other first responders; and,

WHEREAS, the brave men and women in the field of public safety dedicate themselves daily to the public health and safety of Arkansas' citizens and do so with valor, dignity, and integrity; and,

WHEREAS, knowing help is only a phone call away and that public safety employees and officials are always here to help provides citizens with peace of mind and a feeling of personal security; and,

WHEREAS, the coronavirus pandemic has immeasurably impacted public safety employees and officials as they met the call of duty to ensure the security and safety of citizens and did so each day at great risk to their own personal health and safety; and,

WHEREAS, recent experiences around the country have shown that crime, civil unrest, property damage, overdose calls, and other emergencies continue and, in many ways, has increased; yet, the members of public safety continue to dedicate their lives and careers to serving their communities; and,

WHEREAS, it is vital that public safety employees and officials are provided with proper physical and mental health services; and,

WHEREAS, public safety employees and officials must have the backing of their community and elected leaders to do their job to the highest standard.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 89th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby express unwavering support and appreciation to our public safety employees and officials and thank each of them for their continued service. That we continue to make the safety of our citizens a priority by reinforcing our support of the men and women in public safety. That we continue to prioritize the physical and mental health of these public servants. That without their dedication to the service and protection of the citizens, Arkansas could not thrive.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING A.C.A. § 26-73-105 TO REDUCE THE ADMINISTRATIVE FEE CHARGED BY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS TO COLLECT SALES TAX.

WHEREAS, the state of Arkansas implemented a 3% fee to collect local sales tax in 1977; and,

WHEREAS, in 1977 computers were not used by most Americans other than those working at NASA or other such agencies; and,

WHEREAS, in 1977 most if not all procedures used to collect local sales taxes were done by hand with virtually no automation; and,

WHEREAS, today computers and automatic accounting and collections procedures make the task of sales tax collection and computation miniscule, thus a reduced collection fee is reasonable given today's digital age.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 89TH ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending A.C.A. § 26-73-105 to reduce the local sales tax collection fee thereby more accurately reflecting today's automated society.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT OF A.C.A. § 25-19-101 ET SEQ TO ENSURE THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO LEGAL COUNSEL FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS IS EQUAL TO THAT OF PRIVATE CITIZENS, AS WELL AS ENSURING FUNDAMENTAL FAIRNESS IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, a tried-and-true tenant of the American legal system is the sanctity of the attorney client relationship; and,

WHEREAS, one of the primary foundations of that relationship is the privacy afforded clients regardless of social station, vocation, or wealth regarding their communications with their attorneys; and,

WHEREAS, those communications ensure candid discussions and in turn provide the very basis of the representation including but not limited to legal advice, tactical decisions, and work product; and,

WHEREAS, current Arkansas law provides virtually no attorney client privilege for public officials regardless of the capacity they are sued in; and,

WHEREAS, the FOIA allows the public, the media and the opposing party and attorneys to review virtually every record in the litigation file regardless of its contents; and,

WHEREAS, essentially, that rule of law means the private party to the suit has all the advantages of being in an attorney client relationship, while a public official does not; and,

WHEREAS, this double standard is unfair, unlawful and without precedent in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, transparency of governmental action is also of paramount importance in our society thus these litigation records should be made available to the public upon the conclusion of the litigation; and,

WHEREAS, by protecting the sanctity of the attorney client privilege during the pendency of litigation while being transparent upon the conclusion of the litigation means both laudable goals will be met.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 89th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act to ensure that public entities and their officials and employees are provided the same rights and privileges as all other litigants are afforded but to also recognize the ultimate need for transparency by releasing litigation files upon the conclusion of the litigation.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING THE LAWS REGARDING LEGAL PUBLICATION IN A.C.A. § 16-3-105 TO ALLOW FOR ONLINE PUBLICATION TO QUALIFY AS LEGAL PUBLICATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF LEGAL NOTIFICATION.

WHEREAS, increasingly newspaper circulation, publication, and reading has declined as the world moves toward digital means of gathering and studying information; and,

WHEREAS, many newspapers have ceased operations or alternatively greatly reduced their print publication; and,

WHEREAS, as newspapers and most other media outlets move toward digital formats our laws must shift to let legal publications occur online; and,

WHEREAS, online availability will help increase efficiency and citizen notice because most taxpayers receive information regarding world, state, and local politics via online sources; and,

WHEREAS, A.C.A. § 16-3-101 et seq. sets out the requirements for legal publication, including who qualifies as a legal publication for purposes of complying with notice provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 89th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending the generic and specific statutes concerning legal notice, to allow for notice to occur via electronic means in a method that is fair and efficient.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING A.C.A. § 14-55-601 THROUGH 14-55-607 TO PROVIDE A BETTER PROCESS FOR ENFORCING MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES TO GET COMPLIANCE FROM FREQUENT NUISANCES, SPECIFICALLY DILAPIDATED PROPERTY.

WHEREAS, nuisance, dilapidated, and unsafe property plague many municipalities across the State; and,

WHEREAS, currently most municipalities have the choices of fining a municipal ordinance offender or seeking a lien after performing work on the property to ensure the property is safe for the public at-large; and,

WHEREAS, many times the offenders are able to avoid enforcement through the criminal process because of the ongoing timeframes and discretion of the district court; and,

WHEREAS, the lien process is involved and does not give priority to all municipal liens but only certain liens; and,

WHEREAS, additional remedies for the enforcement of property ordinances will give municipalities a more efficient ability to obtain compliance of their ordinances; and,

WHEREAS, a civil direct-action remedy would offer more flexibility to a municipality without the threat of criminal action against its own citizenry; and,

WHEREAS, this provides an option to fix issues regarding ownership, unknown heirs to property, and out-of-state property owners; and,

WHEREAS, this amendment will only offer more options to municipalities giving them the ability to tailor their long-term property plans to meet the needs of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 89th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the amendment of state law related nuisance properties and remedies for ordinance violations, to provide for a more straight-forward process such as a civil direct action for municipalities in abating nuisances. ☺

LEAGUE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

The Arkansas Municipal League is a voluntary, non-partisan organization of the incorporated cities and towns of Arkansas. The League is an instrumentality of Arkansas' cities and towns and is governed by them. It is financed by the municipalities partially through an annual service charge. An executive committee determines overall policy for the League and develops the service program of the organization. Officers and members of the committee serve one-year terms. Present officers and members of the executive committee are listed on page 18.

The day-to-day program of the League is administered by an executive director and staff who conduct the League service program. The major elements of this program are described briefly below.

Legislative Liaison and Information

Charged with the responsibility to act as spokesman for Arkansas' cities and towns during the legislative sessions, the League, in accordance with the legislative policy set forth in the policy statement, assists in developing legislation of interest to all municipal governments and in following other legislation that affects cities and towns.

An important activity during the legislative session is providing information to municipal officials regarding pending legislation through special reports and availability of the online *Legislative Bulletin*, designed to keep local officials informed on a regular basis of events taking place in the Legislature.

Annual Convention

Each year the League sponsors a convention for elected and appointed municipal officials from across the state. The convention is designed to provide these officials with the opportunity to discuss problems of common interest and to learn of new developments and techniques in local government and public administration.

An important part of the convention is the annual business meeting at which time the new officers are elected. The municipal policy statement is also developed and adopted by local officials at the annual business meeting. Each city or town is entitled to vote at the business meeting, making the policy statement broadly reflective of the needs and desires of communities throughout the state.

Winter Conference

Each year, the League conducts a conference designed to provide officials with information on current issues, duties, responsibilities and sources of aid.

Publications

A significant portion of the League's overall program is devoted to the development of print and digital publications in all areas of local government concern. Special reports, emails, texts, articles, research, web postings and other modern electronic documents are written or compiled when events and circumstances dictate the need for timely communications and solutions to ensure municipal services are not adversely affected by these events and circumstances.

The League publishes a magazine, *City & Town*, as well as a corresponding website, that provides municipal employees and officials, as well as the public in general, with critical, practical and immediate information thereby making certain Arkansas' cities and towns remain effective and efficient.

Inquiry Service

An inquiry answering service is provided for local officials on any subject involving municipal government. These questions are handled by the League staff, who provide answers to municipal officials' questions by electronic communications (LawInquiry@arml.org), telephone, memorandum, referral, special survey or when appropriate, on-site consultation.

State Agency Liaison

As the relationship between levels of government becomes more complex, more of the League's efforts have become devoted to intergovernmental relations. The role of the League as a representative for cities and towns in dealing with the various agencies of county, state and federal government has become increasingly significant in recent years and is expected to play a major part in the organization's future activities.

Ordinance and Code Assistance

Providing assistance to cities and towns in the development of municipal codes of ordinances is a significant aspect of the League's service program. This service involves a thorough study of all the ordinances of an individual city or town and the drafting of a code based on the ordinances. In addition, sample ordinances are available to League members on most subjects of municipal concern.

Voluntary Certification Program for Municipal Officials and Personnel

The League's Voluntary Certification Program for Municipal Officials and Personnel offers a series of workshops covering topics helpful to municipal leaders. Topics include finance, budgeting, human resources, municipal law, the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act and a host of other things pertinent to cities and towns. The program is embracing modern technology for delivery as well as receiving input from city employees and officials from across the state regarding curriculum.

Benefit Programs

The League's optional Municipal Health Benefit Program provides medical, dental and vision benefits to employees and officials. The advantage of being a part of the large group has enabled municipalities and limited service members over the years to maintain a relatively stable cost for this important fringe benefit for officials and employees in an era of soaring medical costs. Premium reports and claims are processed by the League staff.

The optional Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program was established in 1985 to help cities and towns meet their statutory responsibilities for on-the-job employee injuries and loss-of-time claims. Premiums are billed annually at reasonable rates. Processing is done in house. The services of experienced adjusters are used, and the program is fully protected in accordance with state law. A full-time loss control professional is dedicated to assist with injury prevention and the development of safety programs. Onsite training and safety inspections are available.

Other optional programs, such as the Firefighters Supplemental Income Plan and the Municipal Officials AD&D Plan, are available through the League at group rates.

The Municipal Legal Defense Program is an optional program whereby participating municipalities can pool their resources and provide limited protection for the personal assets of officials, board or commission members, and employees, including the defense of civil rights cases. Only by joining the MLDP are cities and towns entitled to legal advice from the League's staff.

The Municipal Property Program is an optional program whereby participating municipalities and limited service members can pool their resources and provide all-risks protection for their buildings and contents.

The Municipal Vehicle Program, Part I, is an optional program whereby participating municipalities and limited service members can pool their resources and provide liability protection on their vehicles. Part II allows municipalities and limited service members the option of carrying physical damage coverage on their vehicles on a pooled self-funded basis.

The Arkansas Local Government Pension Management Trust is an optional program that allows local plans to consolidate the management of pension assets and access competitively priced investment options and administrative services, while leaving control of local plans in the hands of the existing local pension boards.

The Municipal Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Trust is an optional program that provides municipalities an investment vehicle for funding the cost of accrued employee retirement benefits, other than regular retirement income payments. The most common other post employment benefit involves full or partial payment of retiree medical insurance premiums.

The Arkansas Municipal League has endorsed a Deferred Compensation Plan (457) (the “Arkansas Diamond Plan”) as a service to member cities and towns. The deferred compensation plan costs the municipalities nothing and is funded by employee contributions. The plan generally provides lower administrative fees for participants, greater diversity in investment options, and personal (one-on-one) advice and assistance.

Planning Services

The Arkansas Municipal League offers as a service to its member cities and towns the availability annually of a registered planner for teaching at seminars and for technical consultation with individual cities. The first visit each year by the planner to a city or town for advice and other information and consultation is a League complimentary service. The League also encourages members to read the planner’s columns in *City & Town*.

Field Representatives/District Meetings

Staff members of the League are “on call” to visit cities and towns desiring help with their managerial responsibilities when time permits. The League encourages member cities and towns to arrange for meetings and

invite the League staff to present helpful information at maximum convenience. The League provides field representatives in this capacity as well.

Safety and Wellness Services

The League has engaged public safety and loss control experts to help cities avoid vehicle accidents through driver safety classes and programs. Assistance is also available in the establishment of local wellness programs.

Summary

These areas of assistance to municipalities have developed in response to specific needs of Arkansas’ cities and towns. It is expected that as needs change, the type of service program the League provides will change to meet those needs. In this way, the League service program can be of maximum benefit to the cities and towns of Arkansas. ☰

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

1935—Mayor U.E. Moore.....	North Little Rock	1979—Mayor Charles Moore.....	Pine Bluff
1936—Mayor Jim Jordan.....	Fort Smith	1980—Mayor R.E. (Dick) Prewitt.....	Osceola
1937—Mayor R.E. Overman.....	Little Rock	1981—Mayor Jack R. Rhodes.....	Lake Village
1938—City Manager C.C. Mitchener.....	Marianna	1982—Mayor John Schallhorn.....	DeWitt
1939—Mayor H.C. Stump.....	Stuttgart	1983—Mayor Charles Partlow.....	Paragould
1940—Mayor A.D. McAllister.....	Fayetteville	1984—Mayor Thad Kelly Jr.....	Helena
1941—Mayor J.V. Satterfield.....	Little Rock	1984/1985—Mayor Gene Bell.....	Van Buren
1941—Mayor Tom Cashion.....	Eudora	1985/1986—Mayor Dean Boswell Jr.....	Bryant
1942—Mayor H.O. Walker.....	Newport	1986/1987—Mayor Larry Combs.....	El Dorado
1943—Mayor Chester Holland.....	Fort Smith	1987/1988—Mayor Jim Shirrell.....	Batesville
1944—Alderman Sam M. Wassell.....	Little Rock	1988—Mayor Marilyn Johnson.....	Fayetteville
1945—Mayor Jim Dandridge.....	Paris	1989/1990—Mayor Eugene Farrell.....	Dermott
1946—Mayor R.C. Bodenhamer.....	El Dorado	1990/1991—Alderman Martin Gipson.....	North Little Rock
1947—Mayor Don Harrell.....	Camden	1991/1992—Mayor Bob Teeter.....	West Helena
1948—Mayor James Hurley.....	Warren	1992/1993—Mayor Marvin Vinson.....	Clarksville
1949—Mayor Earl Ricks.....	Hot Springs	1993/1994—Mayor Bill Scrimshire.....	Malvern
1949—Mayor George Steed.....	Pine Bluff	1994/1995—Mayor Patrick Henry Hays...	North Little Rock
1950—Mayor B.R. McCarley.....	Texarkana	1995/1996—Mayor Joann Smith.....	Helena
1951—Mayor Harney Chaney.....	Batesville	1996/1997—Mayor Arnold Feller.....	Mulberry
1952—Mayor Harold Falls.....	Wynne	1997/1998—Mayor Gregg Reep.....	Warren
1953—Mayor James T. Horner.....	Helena	1998/1999—Mayor Tommy Swaim.....	Jacksonville
1954—City Clerk H.C. Graham.....	Little Rock	1999/2000—Alderman Tommy Baker.....	Osceola
1955—Mayor William L. Ward Jr.....	Marianna	2000/2001—Mayor Harold West.....	Monticello
1956—Mayor H.R. Hestand.....	Fort Smith	2001/2002—Mayor George Overbey Jr.....	Lamar
1957—Mayor H.B. Price.....	West Memphis	2002/2003—Mayor Jim Dailey.....	Little Rock
1958—Mayor Ben F. Butler.....	Osceola	2003/2004—Mayor Robert Patrick.....	St. Charles
1959—Mayor William F. Laman.....	North Little Rock	2004/2005—Mayor Gene Yarbrough.....	Star City
1960—Mayor John Harsh.....	Magnolia	2005/2006—Mayor Terry Coberly.....	Bentonville
1961—Commissioner Hugh Brewer.....	Fort Smith	2006—Mayor Stewart Nelson.....	Morrilton
1962—Mayor Roy Row.....	Batesville	2007—Mayor Tab Townsell.....	Conway
1963—Mayor Billy Free.....	Dumas	2007/2008—Mayor Mike Gaskill.....	Paragould
1964—Mayor Allen Ray Toothaker.....	Van Buren	2008/2009—Mayor JoAnne Bush.....	Lake Village
1965—Mayor Clyde Andrews.....	Marianna	2009/2010—Vice Mayor Gary Campbell.....	Fort Smith
1966—Mayor Vaskell Carter.....	Crossett	2010/2011—Alderman Murry Witcher	North Little Rock
1967—Mayor John Bueker.....	Stuttgart	2011/2012—Mayor Frank Fogleman.....	Marion
1968—Mayor C.A. Hughes.....	Russellville	2012/2013—Mayor Chris Claybaker.....	Camden
1968/1969—Mayor Jesse Porter.....	West Helena	2013/2014—Mayor Jackie Crabtree.....	Pea Ridge
1970—Mayor Flynn Chivers.....	Clarendon	2014/2015—Mayor Mark Stodola.....	Little Rock
1971—Mayor Adrian White.....	Pocahontas	2015/2016—Mayor Rick Elumbaugh.....	Batesville
1972—Mayor Ed M. Bautts.....	Rogers	2016/2017—Mayor Harry Brown.....	Stephens
1973—Mayor Tom Little Jr.....	Blytheville	2017/2018—Mayor Doug Sprouse.....	Springdale
1974—Mayor Leslie Carmichael.....	Searcy	2018/2019—Mayor Joe A. Smith.....	North Little Rock
1975—Mayor Tom Ellsworth.....	Hot Springs	2019/2020—Mayor Harold Perrin.....	Jonesboro
1976—Mayor Neil Stallings.....	Jonesboro	2020/2021—Mayor Gary Baxter.....	Mulberry
1977—Mayor Harry Kolb.....	Magnolia	2021/2022—Mayor Tim McKinney.....	Berryville
1978—Mayor James Jordan.....	Monticello	2022—Mayor Virginia Young.....	Sherwood

2023-2024 OFFICERS



Mayor Jonas Anderson
Cave City
President



Mayor Parnell Vann
Magnolia
First Vice President



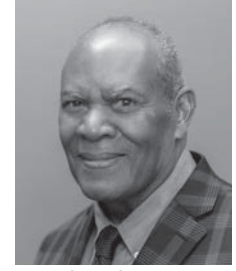
Mayor Kenneth Jones
Brookland
Vice President District 1



Mayor Richard McCormac
Clinton
Vice President District 2



Mayor
Robert "Butch" Berry
Eureka Springs
Vice President District 3



Council Member
C.T. Foster
Crossett
Vice President District 4

2023-2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Council Member
Gary Perry
Alma



Mayor Veronica Post
Altus



Clerk/Treasurer
Carol Westergren
Beebe



Mayor Ken Kincade
Cabot



Mayor Crystal Marshall
Crossett



City Director Kevin Settle
Fort Smith



Mayor Kevin Johnston
Gentry



Mayor Doug Kinslow
Greenwood



Mayor
Harold Copenhaver
Jonesboro



Mayor Dennis Behling
Lakeview



Council Member
Sam Angel, II
Lake Village



Mayor Jerry Boen
Lamar



City Clerk/Treasurer
Tina Timmons
Maumelle



Council Member
James Turner
Mena



Mayor Bob Blankenship
Monette



Mayor Allen Lipsmeyer
Morrilton



City Clerk/Treasurer
Diane Whitbey
North Little Rock



Council Member
Tyler Dunegan
Osceola



Mayor Josh Agee
Paragould



Mayor Shirley Washington
Pine Bluff



Mayor Greg Hines
Rogers



Council Member
Beverly Williams,
Sherwood



Mayor Charles Gastineau
Ward



Mayor Derrick Rainey
Wrightsville

PAST PRESIDENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL



Mayor Gregg Reep
Warren
1997-1998



Mayor Rick Elumbaugh
Batesville
2015-2016



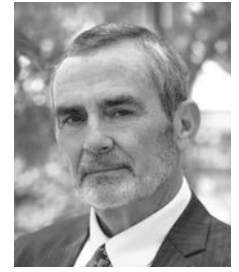
Mayor Harry Brown
Stephens
2016-2017



Mayor Doug Sprouse
Springdale
2017-2018



Mayor Gary Baxter
Mulberry
2020-2021



Mayor Tim McKinney
Berryville
2021-2022

ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRS



Mayor Pat McCabe
Hot Springs
Cities of the Large First Class



Mayor Jennifer Hobbs
Wynne
Cities of the First Class



Mayor Jeff Braim, Gassville
Incorporated Towns and
Cities of the Second Class



City Manager J.R. Wilson
Hope
Public Safety



Mayor Joe Hurst
Van Buren
Economic Development

MUNICIPAL HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Human Resources Director
Matthew Hood
Cabot—District 1



Finance Director Joy Black
Bryant—District 2



Mayor Bill Edwards
Centerton—District 3



Clerk/Treasurer Barbara
Blackard, Clarksville—District 4



Mayor Paul Choate
El Dorado—At-Large

MUNICIPAL LEAGUE WORKERS' COMPENSATION TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Human Resources Director
Charlette Nelson
Jacksonville—District 1



Human Resources Director
Lisa Mabry-Williams
Conway—District 2



Clerk/Treasurer
Sharla Derry
Greenwood—District 3



Recorder/Treasurer
Rick East
Smackover—District 4



City Clerk
Harmony Morrissey
Hot Springs—At-Large

CONSTITUTION OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

ARTICLE I. Name and Objectives

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Arkansas Municipal League and its objectives shall be:

- A. To perpetuate and develop the League as an agency for the cooperation of Arkansas cities and incorporated towns in the practical study of municipal affairs.
- B. To promote the application of the best methods in all branches of municipal government.
- C. To advocate the support of legislation beneficial to the proper administration of municipal government, and to oppose legislation injurious thereto.
- D. To promote education in municipal government, and to do any and all things necessary and proper for the benefit of municipalities in the administration of their affairs.
- E. To safeguard the rights of local government, and to oppose any encroachment thereon.
- F. To promote the development and general welfare of Arkansas cities and towns.
- G. To maintain a central bureau of information and research for the collection, analysis and dissemination of municipal information.
- H. To hold Annual Conventions and other meetings, schools and short courses for the discussion of municipal problems.
- I. To publish and circulate an official magazine and other publications, special reports, brochures and newsletters of interest to Arkansas municipal officials.
- J. To assist in the development and administration of optional service programs desired by municipalities.

ARTICLE II. Membership

Section 1. Membership of the League shall be composed entirely of municipalities in the State of Arkansas.

Section 2. Any such municipality may become a member by making an application to the Executive Director, and upon payment of dues hereinafter prescribed, such membership shall be in the name of the municipality.

ARTICLE III. Dues

Section 1. The dues for each municipality shall be based partially upon population as shown by the last Federal Census and other factors as determined by the Executive Committee, and such shall be payable

annually. Amount of annual dues shall be fixed by the Executive Committee, unless otherwise ordered by a majority vote of the municipalities in Convention assembled.

ARTICLE IV. Officers and Committees

Section 1. The Officers of the League shall consist of a President, First Vice President and District Vice Presidents for each of the Congressional Districts. All Officers shall be elective and shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee with full voting privileges.

Section 2. The President, First Vice President and District Vice Presidents shall be elected at the Annual Convention of the League. The President shall appoint an Executive Committee consisting of four (4) members from each Congressional District and eight (8) members at large from the state, with at least five (5) representing Incorporated towns or cities of the second class. Past Presidents shall be advisory to the Executive Committee and eligible to serve as board members of affiliated programs.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall appoint and employ an Executive Director and shall be authorized to enter into a contract with the Executive Director. The Executive Committee shall have the general supervision over the affairs of the League in the interim between Annual Conventions and meetings thereof shall be held on call of the President, Executive Director, or by any ten (10) Executive Committee members. The President shall have the power to appoint such standing or special committees as from time to time may be deemed necessary for the proper transaction of League business.

Section 4. All said officials shall hold office for one (1) year or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified, provided no elective officer, or member of the Executive Committee shall continue to hold office after he ceases to be an official of a member city or town or simultaneously serve on another League Program Board.

Section 5. Vacancies in any of the above offices, save that of President and Executive Director, shall be filled by presidential appointment. Vacancies in the office of President shall be filled by succession of First Vice President to the office of President with a First Vice President then selected by the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Officers of the League except the President shall be eligible to succeed themselves. The President may be eligible to succeed himself if he is serving in said position as a result of succeeding to the position to serve an unexpired term. He may also be elected

to President as long as he is not his own immediate successor.

Section 7. Subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, any group or class of municipal officials may organize a division within the League for the purpose of extending the usefulness of such group, and under such rules, regulations and bylaws said group, within its own province, may elect to any extent not inconsistent with the objects of the League.

Section 8. No officer or committee of the League shall be authorized to create any financial liability for the League, unless it shall have been approved both in nature and amount under the rules of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V. Elections

Section 1. The President, First Vice President and District Vice Presidents shall be elected on the last day of the Annual Convention. Nomination for such officers shall be made by a nominating committee chosen by the President on the first day of the Convention; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Section 2. No person shall be eligible to hold an elective office in the League unless he is an official of an active and qualified member city of the League.

Section 3. On all questions each municipality represented shall have one (1) vote, which shall be a majority expression of the delegates from that municipality; and no municipality shall be allowed to vote by proxy.

ARTICLE VI. Duties of Officers

Section 1. The duties of the President and Vice Presidents shall be such as are usually performed by officers holding these titles.

Section 2. The Executive Director shall have charge of the office of the League, shall perform such duties as are imposed upon him by the Executive Committee, and shall act under the direction of the said Executive Committee. The Executive Director shall also serve as Secretary/Treasurer of the League, and shall be required to furnish a corporate surety bond in such amount as may be fixed by the Executive Committee, premium of said bond to be paid by the League. He shall appoint the employees of the League to positions and at salaries approved in the most current budget. He shall cause accurate minutes to be kept of all meetings of the League and the Executive Committee and he shall mail notices of all meetings.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of each standing Committee to make a report to the Annual Convention.

ARTICLE VII. Finances

Section 1. The fiscal year of the League shall be from January 1 through December 31.

Section 2. During the last quarter of each year, the Executive Committee shall meet and adopt a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Prior to such budget meeting the Executive Director shall cause to be prepared a detailed budget setting forth the estimated revenues and expenditures for the following fiscal year and shall submit such proposed budget to the Executive Committee for its consideration and approval.

Section 3. The accounts of the League shall be audited each year by a certified public accountant to be selected by the Executive Committee. Such audit shall be presented at the Annual Convention of the League.

ARTICLE VIII. Meetings

Section 1. The Annual Convention of the League shall be held at the time and place as determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The program of the Annual Convention shall be arranged by the Executive Committee or any person or committee appointed for said purpose.

Section 3. The presence of a majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum in order to transact business at any meeting.

Section 4. *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern all proceedings.

ARTICLE IX. Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Convention of the League by a two-thirds vote of all municipalities voting and in attendance. Provided that such proposed amendment(s) shall have first been prepared in writing, read to the Convention on the first day of its meeting and made available for distribution at the Annual Convention, such amendment(s) shall go into effect immediately upon its adoption or as otherwise stipulated. ☹

2023 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER—CITIES AND TOWNS

Adona	Calico Rock	Etowah	Hickory Ridge	Malvern	Parkdale	Strawberry
Alexander	Calion	Eudora	Higden	Mammoth Spring	Parkin	Strong
Alicia	Camden	Eureka Springs	Higginson	Manila	Patmos	Stuttgart
Allport	Cammack Village	Evening Shade	Highfill	Mansfield	Patterson	Subiaco
Alma	Campbell Station	Everton	Highland	Marianna	Pea Ridge	Success
Almyra	Caraway	Fairfield Bay	Hindsville	Marie	Peach Orchard	Sulphur Rock
Alpena	Carlisle	*Fargo	Holland	Marion	Perla	Sulphur Springs
Altheimer	Carthage	Farmington	Holiday Island	Marked Tree	Perry	Summit
Altus	Casa	Fayetteville	Holly Grove	Marmaduke	Perrytown	Sunset
Amagon	Cash	Felsenthal	Hope	Marshall	Perryville	Swifton
Amity	Caulksville	Fifty-Six	Horatio	Marvell	Piggott	Taylor
Anthonyville	Cave City	Fisher	Horseshoe Bend	Maumelle	Pindall	Texarkana
Antoine	Cave Springs	Flippin	Horseshoe Lake	Mayflower	Pine Bluff	Thornton
Arkadelphia	Cedarville	Fordyce	Hot Springs	Maynard	Pineville	Tillar
Arkansas City	Centerton	Foreman	Houston	McCaskill	Plainview	Tinsman
Ash Flat	Central City	Forrest City	Hoxie	McCrary	Pleasant Plains	Tollette
Ashdown	Charleston	Fort Smith	Hughes	McDougal	Plumerville	Tontitown
Atkins	Cherokee Village	Fouke	Humnoke	McGehee	Pocahontas	Traskwood
Aubrey	Cherry Valley	Fountain Hill	Humphrey	McNab	Pollard	Trumann
Augusta	Chester	Fountain Lake	Hunter	McNeil	Portia	Tuckerman
Austin	Chidester	Fourche	Huntington	McRae	Portland	Tull
Avoca	Clarendon	Franklin	Huntsville	Melbourne	Pottsville	Tupelo
Bald Knob	Clarkedale	Friendship	Huttig	Mena	Powhatan	Turrell
Banks	Clarksville	Fulton	Imboden	Menifee	Poyen	Twin Groves
Barling	Clinton	Garfield	Jacksonport	Midland	Prairie Grove	Tyronza
Bassett	Coal Hill	Garland	Jacksonville	Midway	Prattsville	Ulm
Batesville	Colt	Garner	Jasper	Mineral Springs	Prescott	Valley Springs
Bauxite	Concord	Gassville	Jennette	Minturn	Pyatt	Van Buren
Bay	Conway	Gateway	Jericho	Mitchellville	Quitman	Vandervoort
Bearden	Corning	Gentry	Johnson	Monette	Ratcliff	Victoria
Beaver	Cotter	Georgetown	Joiner	Monticello	Ravenden	Vilonia
Beebe	Cotton Plant	Gilbert	Jonesboro	Montrose	Ravenden Springs	Viola
Beedeville	Cove	Gillett	Judsonia	Moorefield	Rector	Waldenburg
Bella Vista	Coy	Gillham	Junction City	Moro	Redfield	Waldo
Belleville	Crawfordsville	Gilmore	Keiser	Morrilton	Reed	Waldron
Belleville	Crossett	Glenwood	Kensett	Morrison Bluff	Reyno	Walnut Ridge
Ben Lomond	Cushman	Goshen	Keo	Mount Ida	Rison	Warren
Benton	Daisy	Gosnell	Kibler	Mount Pleasant	Rockport	Washington
Bentonville	Damascus	Gould	Kingsland	Mount Vernon	Roe	Watson
Bergman	Danville	Grady	Knobel	Mountain Home	Rogers	Weiner
Berryville	Dardanelle	Grannis	Knoxville	Mountain Pine	Rondo	Weldon
Big Flat	Datto	Gravette	Lafe	Mountain View	Rose Bud	West Fork
Bigelow	Decatur	Green Forest	LaGrange	Mountainburg	Rosston	West Memphis
Biggers	Delaplaine	Greenbrier	Lake City	Mulberry	Rudy	West Point
Birdsong	Delight	Greenland	Lake View	Murfreesboro	Russell	Western Grove
Biscoe	Dell	Greenway	Lake Village	Nashville	Russellville	Wheatley
Black Oak	Denning	Greenwood	Lakeview	Newark	Salem	Whelen Springs
Black Rock	De Queen	Greers Ferry	Lamar	Newport	Salesville	White Hall
Black Springs	Dermott	Griffithville	Lavaca	Nimmons	Scranton	Wickes
Blevins	Des Arc	Grubbs	Leachville	Norfolk	Searcy	Widener
Blue Eye	DeValls Bluff	Guion	Lead Hill	Norman	Sedgwick	Wiederkehr Village
Blue Mountain	DeWitt	Gum Springs	Leola	Norphlet	Shannon Hills	Williford
Bluff City	Diamond City	Gurdon	Lepanto	North Little Rock	Sheridan	Willisville
Blytheville	Diaz	Guy	Leslie	O'Kean	Sherrill	Wilmar
Bodcaw	Dierks	Hackett	Letona	Oak Grove	Sherwood	Wilmot
Bonanza	Donaldson	Hamburg	Lewisville	Oak Grove Heights	Shirley	Wilson
Bono	Dover	Hampton	Lexa	Oakhaven	Sidney	Wilton
Booneville	Dumas	Hardy	Lincoln	Oden	Siloam Springs	Winchester
Bradford	Dyer	Harrell	Little Flock	Ogden	Smackover	Winslow
Bradley	Dyess	Harrisburg	Little Rock	Oil Trough	Smithville	Winthrop
Branch	Earle	Harrison	Lockesburg	Okolona	South Lead Hill	Wooster
Briarcliff	East Camden	Hartford	London	Ola	Southside	Wrightsville
Brinkley	Edmondson	Hartman	Lonoke	Omaha	Sparkman	Wynne
Brookland	Egypt	Haskell	Lonsdale	Oppelo	Springdale	Yellville
Bryant	El Dorado	Hatfield	Louann	Osceola	Springtown	Zinc
Buckner	Elaine	Havana	Lowell	Oxford	St. Charles	
Bull Shoals	Elkins	Haynes	Luxora	Ozan	St. Francis	
Burdette	Elm Springs	Hazen	Lynn	Ozark	*St. Joe	
Cabot	Emerson	Heber Springs	Madison	Palestine	St. Paul	
Caddo Valley	Emmet	Hector	Magazine	Pangburn	Stamps	
Caldwell	England	Helena-West Helena	Magness	Paragould	Star City	
Cale	Enola	Hermitage	Magnolia	Paris	Stephens	

* = Non-Member



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Policies and Goals