



POLICIES AND GOALS

2025-2026

Adopted June 20, 2025, at the 91st Annual Convention
of the Arkansas Municipal League

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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 20, 2025, at the 91st 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 and the state as a whole.

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

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

Municipal leagues within each state 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. The League and its Optional Programs (Trusts) are specifically authorized by Arkansas law. 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 as their instrumentality. Presently the League has 500 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, workshops 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 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 initiative 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 magazine, an inquiry service, research publications, legislative analysis, field service programs and consultation.

The League is both the actual and 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 have 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 spokesperson 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 20th day of June, 2025, 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 problems that are national in scope, such as relations with other nations and relations among the states. State government deals with 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 cities and towns. 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 first responders and public safety, streets, sanitation, water, wastewater, and parks and recreation. The League opposes all preemptions and

mandates of municipal services and laws as it believes in true local control by the governing body of the municipality and its residents.

1-1. The Need for Flexibility

There is a need for flexibility at the local level to allow recognition of the diverse and cultural needs and desires of residents of Arkansas' cities and towns. Residents of individual municipalities should have a major voice in determining the nature, scope and funding of various municipal services and programs offered at the local level. Local control, vested in locally elected officials and subject to the will of the voters, is essential for effective and efficient municipal government.

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

In order to deliver local government services efficiently, municipalities 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 League provides a logical and appropriate vehicle for transmitting information of this nature and should furnish and support technical assistance to the municipalities 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 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 differences 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 municipal 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 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 League will oppose mandatory legislation that imposes additional local responsibilities without the mandating entity providing revenues to support the additional requirements. The League supports laws requiring fiscal impact statements on all legislation imposing additional costs on municipal government and will seek strict compliance with the provisions of those laws. 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 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 residents 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 used the Arkansas Interlocal Cooperation Act to provide unique, efficient and cost-effective ways to meet the needs of their residents. The League urges the Legislature to regard the Interlocal Cooperation Act as the primary vehicle by which interlocal cooperation should be attained. That position is consistent with the principle of home rule. Such arrangements should be left to the discretion of local officials and the residents of local communities for cooperative negotiation and implementation through interlocal agreements. The League encourages all cities and towns to organize groups of municipal officials in each county to study and determine the most feasible method to provide services.

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, 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, groups and other regulatory actions.

3. FINANCE AND TAXATION

The League supports an overall tax system that is balanced, well-apportioned and fair to all residents 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 residents who are subject to the tax. Property taxes have, in Arkansas' modern history, come under attack by small but outspoken groups of residents. The 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.

3-1. Public Finance Issues

The League believes public finance problems are not solely state problems or municipal 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 the state to be returned to the cities and towns of Arkansas, which provide local government services to our state's population.

3-2. Modernization

Further, we support broadening of the sales tax base to ensure fair collection from all entities in the state. We encourage the Governor and the General Assembly to carefully study and stay abreast of the modernization of commerce to ensure sales taxes are equitably assessed and collected.

3-3. Local Control to Tax

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 residents. 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 residents. We strongly support the city and county sales tax laws and urge that they be guarded and strengthened by the General Assembly.

3-4. Turnback

The League commends administrations and legislatures that have supported "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 residents of those local communities as determined by their officials and residents. 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 turnback programs and encourage the General Assembly to see that they are maintained at a level

commensurate with the responsibilities of local government.

3-5. Workers Compensation

Further, we strongly recommend continued state funding for state-mandated municipal workers compensation benefits. 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.

3-6. 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 the 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 the League and do not become so expensive as to siphon off funds that could otherwise be spent for the direct benefit of Arkansas' municipalities.

3-7. 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' municipalities. Therefore, the League opposes any proposal that would have the effect of altering the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

3-8. 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.

Exemptions and rebates create discomfort and distrust among the public and foster inconsistent collection. These inconsistencies make it difficult for local

governments to generate the revenue necessary to provide needed services to their residents. 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 residents in high density areas. Therefore, the League will (1) work for and support the maintenance of reasonable annexation procedures that recognize that populous areas are not static and that municipal jurisdiction for growing communities must expand, not only to protect municipal residents from encircling development that is often a drain upon the resources of the municipality, 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.

4-2. Local Utilities

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 residents and to regulate within its jurisdiction. The League supports joint efforts between the League and state or federal agencies to promulgate meaningful rules that will allow for the appeal of 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 League does not advocate for 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 the people directly affected.

5-2. City or Town Government for Municipal Functions

As a matter of most basic policy, we believe 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 19,000-plus 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% of Arkansas' residents live in and around Arkansas' cities and towns. Without incorporated municipalities, the vast majority of the state's residents would be lacking the local governmental services necessary to sustain any form of growth and development.

5-3. Improvement Districts

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 divides the problem of development, but it also leads to more and more government doing 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 League supports the concept that 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 5 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.

5-4. Benefited Areas Must Finance Services Received

We urge the General Assembly and 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, including but not limited to circuit courts, jails, coroners, prosecuting attorneys, and tax assessment and collection, are properly funded and administered.

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 local governmental employees, managers and leaders in providing municipal services. It is imperative these groups work in unison to meet the needs of local taxpayers. In that regard, managerial prerogatives must be followed to ensure residents get the local services they expect and are entitled to.

The League believes local employee relations should be governed as much as possible according to the will of the local residents as reflected through the elected municipal governing body. Municipalities must have full authority over hours, wages, benefits and working conditions of municipal employees. If that authority is impinged, basic municipal services suffer. 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 parties, and undermines the responsibility, authority and integrity of local government. The League opposes compulsory arbitration and urges state and federal legislators to 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 government. Traditionally, the

cost of providing a fair wage and benefit package to municipal 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 coverage, workers' compensation and retirement benefits, be provided in the most efficient and fair way possible. Where the provision and administration of high-quality health coverage, 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 municipal 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 taxpayer dollars are put to their optimum use and that municipal services are not jeopardized.

7. TRANSPORTATION AND STREET PROGRAMS

7-1. Revenue and Exemptions

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. 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% 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.

7-2. Public Transit

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.

7-3. ARDOT

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 and outdated procedures must be replaced with imaginative and modern programs. The full weight of the municipality must be marshaled to action in controlling criminal activity. Individual residents, civic organizations, churches, schools and all other social and civic institutions are urged to become educated about and involved with law enforcement and the judicial system in lowering the incidence of crime in our cities and towns. 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. Every effort must be made to encourage resident cooperation with law enforcement agencies, which will serve to reduce crime and develop a respect for law and order.

8-1. Volunteer and Part-Paid

We encourage municipal officials to evaluate the utilization of volunteer or part-paid fire departments, public safety departments, interlocal agreements, public-private partnerships or other creative means to meet the fire protection and safety needs of a community with greater efficiency and improved safety, both for firefighters and residents.

8-2. Fire Prevention Code

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 residents alike to be assured that building guidelines are standardized, and resident safety is of utmost importance.

8-3. Gratitude

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 people.

The League supports efforts to ensure all public safety personnel have access to affordable mental and physical health care. Because of the stressful and

dangerous nature of public safety service, incidents of post-traumatic stress and physical injury are not uncommon. Thus, it is critical that appropriate preemployment health inquiries are made and counseling and examinations are readily available both before and after a critical incident.

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 residents and officials utilizing the existing 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, mandates or preemptions on local government's ability to regulate private property.

9-2. Planning

The League supports the theory that local governing bodies, and the residents 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

10-1. Mandates

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. 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.

10-2. Pensions

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. Providing 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.

10-3. Cooperative Communications

The League believes that parties who propose bills that directly affect municipalities should inform the 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 League provides a method for reviewing municipal-related legislative proposals as well as a format for resolving differences prior to the legislative session.

10-4. Financial Accountability

The League's position on issues that affect the financial integrity of Arkansas municipal budgets will be to (1) oppose all additional district 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. Cities and towns oppose these actions and others similar in nature and will do so through the League unless by resolution the League alters this position, and then only for the most compelling of reasons.

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

Arkansas must use its limited natural resources in the most efficient manner possible in order to achieve clean, safe and prosperous cities and towns. Preserving Arkansas' natural resources should be a top priority of all governmental entities in Arkansas. Doing so will ensure a continued thriving agricultural, industrial and tourism economy. Arkansas has some of the best hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, lakes, rivers and forests in the world. To maintain these, careful planning and the efficient use of limited revenues is critical to maintaining the uniqueness of urban or rural living. Providing traditional municipal services to unincorporated areas of the state dilutes the quality of those services while simultaneously overly encroaching on our natural resources. The League will oppose legislation and programs that (1) encourage or finance irresponsible urbanization of unincorporated areas, (2) unnecessarily infringe on the quality of our water, air, land and infrastructures, and (3) dilute the efficiency of municipal services for the cities and towns. The residents 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 residents. Financial and technical assistance from state and federal agencies should be sought to support locally determined housing strategies. Private-public partnerships, interlocal agreements and resident involvement at the municipal level can ensure safe, affordable housing for all.

13. TECHNOLOGY

Today's society relies heavily on the use of 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.

13-1. Local Regulation of Technology Use and Location

Data mining is a new industry nationwide. Those mining operations are economically substantial; however, they often create noise pollution and other nuisances. The League supports full local control over these operations as well as any other technological business currently in existence or those that may occur in the future.

14. DIVERSITY AND CIVILITY

The League recognizes and embraces the diversity of the people of the state of Arkansas. Further, the League encourages and promotes diversity and inclusion in the League's organizational structure, leadership, committees, programming and staffing. The League also recognizes the necessity that municipal government be representative of the entire 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 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. The great majority of local property taxes and state general revenues are currently dedicated to this goal. The 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 methods and programs.

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, emergency medical services and utility 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) and with the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management.

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 municipality. 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 residents. 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 91st ANNUAL CONVENTION

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SJR15 GRANTING MUNICIPALITIES INCREASED AUTHORITY TO FOSTER RETAIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ARKANSAS

WHEREAS, Amendment 97, titled Job Creation, Job Expansion, and Economic Development, was passed overwhelmingly by the citizens of Arkansas in the 2016 General Election with 65.34% of the voters voting in favor of the amendment; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 97 gave cities, towns, and counties the authority to finance economic development projects and provide economic development services; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 97 authorized these economic development tools to manufacturing, production, and industrial facilities, research, technology, and development facilities, recycling facilities, distribution centers, call centers, warehouse facilities, job training facilities, and regional or national corporate headquarter facilities but did not include retail businesses; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of Amendment 97, municipalities, counties, and the state of Arkansas are still losing business to surrounding states who have granted their local governments additional economic development authority; and

WHEREAS, SJR15 refers to the voters a constitutional amendment granting municipalities and counties additional authority for enticing retail economic development; and

WHEREAS, SJR15 will make the state of Arkansas competitive with our neighboring states and provide additional authority to cities, towns, and counties to incentivize retail businesses to come to our local communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 91st ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we support SJR15 as the means to provide cities and towns with additional authority to incentivize retail economic development in addition to those currently found in the Arkansas Constitution thereby directly competing with neighboring states to bring business and growth to Arkansas.

A RESOLUTION CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

WHEREAS, the mental health of first responders has always been an important, yet rarely discussed issue due to the stigma of mental health counseling; and

WHEREAS, we all recognize the importance of first responders and greatly value the difficult work they do every day, whether it is fighting fires, crime, or saving the lives of fellow Arkansans; and

WHEREAS, Act 537 of 2023 was an important step to help address the mental health needs of our first responders; and

WHEREAS, Act 398 of 2025 amended Act 537 of 2023 to address specific issues and further solidify municipalities' support for mental health counseling for first responders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 91st ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we continue to fight the stigma surrounding the need for mental health care and continue to support the work of all those dedicated to ensuring first responders receive the mental health help they deserve.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

WHEREAS, as cities and towns continue to grow, the need for housing affordability continues to grow as well; and

WHEREAS, Act 313 of 2025 established that municipalities must allow accessory dwelling units in single family zones and established limitations on municipalities' ability to regulate accessory dwelling units; and

WHEREAS, Act 314 of 2025 repealed municipal authority to effectuate a plan for future growth outside of the corporate limits of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, SB 456 was introduced, but not passed, which proposed to fundamentally alter single-family zoning, along with many other significant changes to the ways in which municipalities manage zoning and land use planning; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas municipalities supported Act 591 and Act 595 as a method to work with developers by providing increased efficiency in certain areas of the municipal planning process; and

WHEREAS, we all recognize the need to find solutions to the housing affordability problem in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, we support solutions that allow municipalities and their locally elected officials to continue to plan for their future growth with solutions designed for the unique challenges facing each municipality; and

WHEREAS, we oppose "one-size-fits-all" legislative approaches that repeal long-standing municipal authority as well as attempts to pass legislation that recharacterize our local communities at the state level; and

WHEREAS, despite our opposition to the types of legislation mentioned above, we are dedicated to joining together with state and local leaders and other interested stakeholders to determine ways to address the housing affordability crisis in a way that ensures all considerations are taken into account.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 91st ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we support the need to find solutions to the housing affordability crisis in Arkansas and look forward to working together with all stakeholders, public and private, to find solutions.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED STUDY OF ALL FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE DISTRICT COURT SYSTEM INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO OPERATIONAL FUNDING, THE FUNDING OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS' ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE FUND, AND THE ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF COURT COSTS, FEES, AND FINES

WHEREAS, with the passage of Amendment 80 to the Arkansas Constitution, municipal and city courts became a thing of the past; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 80 created a three-tiered state court system wherein district courts replaced municipal courts and provided access to the state-wide judicial system at a local level; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of Amendment 80, the Legislature has put in place a myriad of laws to redefine the jurisdiction and organization of the district court system in Arkansas; and,

WHEREAS, certain funding burdens under the newly created court system were not addressed during the passage of Amendment 80; and

WHEREAS, to better understand the district court system, the Arkansas Legislature passed Act 38 in 2023, which provided for a study of the funding and overall operations of the district court system; and

WHEREAS, during the 2025 legislative session, the Arkansas Legislature passed HB1661, now Act 371 of 2025, which provides much needed changes to the district court system including establishing all district court judges' salaries are to be paid by the state;

WHEREAS, the passage of Act 371 is an important step in working to ensure the district courts of Arkansas are organized and working as efficiently as possible; and

WHEREAS, further study and potential changes to the district court system may be necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 91st ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the continued efforts of the Arkansas Legislature to study and address all matters related to the district court system.

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; 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 91st 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 local governmental transparency by releasing litigation files upon the conclusion of the litigation.

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AMENDING ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING CLEANUP LIENS AND PURCHASES FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF STATE LANDS

WHEREAS, municipalities are currently authorized to clean up unsightly and unsanitary properties within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, when a municipality cleans up a property, the municipality is given a lien against the property for the costs of cleanup or razing, and must file the lien with the circuit court clerk within one hundred and twenty (120) days after completing the work; and

WHEREAS, more often than not, the cleanup lien goes unpaid by the owner; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are statutorily limited to the options of either foreclosing on the properties or certifying the lien amount plus ten percent (10%) to the county tax collector to be collected as delinquent taxes; and

WHEREAS, typically, these properties also end up in tax delinquency and the Commissioner of Lands ends up taking the property; and

WHEREAS, when the property gets sold by the Commissioner of Lands to another person or entity, the municipality's cleanup lien does not get paid; and

WHEREAS, municipalities should be able to recoup the cost of cleaning up the property when it is sold to another party.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 91st ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we support finding ways to amend Arkansas Code concerning cleanup liens to ensure municipalities recoup the costs of the cleanup when the property is transferred to a new owner.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ELIMINATING, REDUCING, OR FREEZING THE AMOUNT KEPT BY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS VIA THE 3% ADMINISTRATIVE FEE CHARGED BY THE STATE TO COLLECT MUNICIPAL SALES TAX

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

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

WHEREAS, in the last 48 years since this fee was implemented, innovation has led to a much more efficient system to collect local sales and use taxes while the percentage collected has remained intact; and

WHEREAS, since 2002, the amount of local sales and use tax collected and distributed back to the municipalities and counties has increased by over 210%; and

WHEREAS, today computers and automatic accounting and collections procedures make the task of sales tax collection and computation miniscule; and

WHEREAS, as the actual cost of collecting and distributing local sales and use taxes decreases, the amount of sales and use taxes collected continues to grow leading to the state collecting more and more local funds each year;

WHEREAS, in 2003, the amount of local sales tax kept by the state of Arkansas via the 3% administrative fee amounted to approximately \$20 million;

WHEREAS, in 2024, the amount of local sales tax kept by the State of Arkansas via the 3% administrative fee amounted to approximately \$54 million;

WHEREAS, the revenue collected by the State of Arkansas from the 3% fee could be best used by local governments to provide much needed services to the citizens of those municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 91st ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support to eliminate, reduce, or freeze the revenue generated by this 3% collection fee and kept by the state.

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS FOR MUNICIPAL WATER AND WASTEWATER PROVIDERS

WHEREAS, the Governor and General Assembly showed their support during the 2025 legislative session by addressing funding for municipal water systems; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Act 578 of 2025 ensures continued help through grants and loans for municipal water systems; and

WHEREAS, we supported Act 925 of 2025, which ensures our wastewater systems will continue to provide quality service to our customers; and

WHEREAS, the cost to maintain, expand, and upgrade municipal water and wastewater systems continues to grow year after year; and

WHEREAS, there is still a focus on support from the state to help ensure the quality and efficiency of water infrastructure in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, annual allocations of funds from the state will go toward funding capital projects including, but not limited to, water treatment, water transmission lines, water distribution lines, and water storage; and

WHEREAS, the allocated funds may also be used to incentivize regionalization of water suppliers; and

WHEREAS, we look forward to continuing to work with state leaders to determine additional ways to assist water and wastewater providers maintain quality services for the citizens of Arkansas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 91st ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we support additional funding from the State of Arkansas for municipal water and wastewater providers to be used for capital projects, and we encourage incentivizing such additional funding for regionalization efforts.

LEAGUE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

The Arkansas Municipal League is a voluntary, nonpartisan 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 service programs for the organization. Officers and members of the committee serve one-year terms. Present officers and members of the executive committee are listed on page 20.

The day-to-day operations of the League and its optional programs are administered by an executive director and staff. The major elements of League operations are described briefly below.

Legislative Liaison and Information

Charged with the responsibility to act as the voice of Arkansas' cities and towns during legislative sessions, the League, in accordance with its legislative policy, 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 online information, 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 and employees from across the state. The convention is designed to provide opportunities 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 new officers are elected. League policy is also developed and adopted at that time. Each city or town is entitled to vote at the business meeting, making the policies 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 and employees with information on current issues, duties, responsibilities and sources of aid.

Publications

The League produces educational materials in various formats on matters of municipal operations, law, regulation and best practices. These materials span the spectrum of printed hard copies to all forms of electronic communications including but not limited to podcasts, on-demand video, text and email. These educational materials and information are widely distributed among municipal officials and employees, state and county offices, and a variety of private parties. All publications and educational and informational communications of the League are available to the public as well.

Legal Inquiry Service

A legal inquiry service is provided for local officials whose city, town or entity is a member of the Municipal Legal Defense Program 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. The League believes strong partnerships with these entities is good for Arkansas.

Ordinance and Code Assistance

Providing assistance to cities and towns in the development of municipal codes of ordinances is a significant League service. 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 Employees

The League's voluntary certification program for municipal officials and employees 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 certification program is available on multiple platforms designed to take advantage of technology. Officials and employees may avail themselves of in-person or on-demand interactive training designed to provide up-to-date practical municipal education in an ever-changing world.

Optional Benefit Programs

The League's 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 in an era of soaring medical costs.

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

The Municipal Property Program allows participating municipalities and limited service members to pool their resources and provide risk protection for their buildings and contents.

The Municipal Vehicle Program, Part I, provides participating municipalities and limited service members 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 Municipal League has endorsed a Deferred Compensation Plan (457) 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 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 and towns. 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*.

Membership Engagement

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 meetings and invite the League staff to present helpful information at maximum convenience. The League will always seek to provide assistance to cities and towns on a daily basis including but not limited to education, site visits, accounting, audit, legal and all other matters critical to running an efficient city and superb municipal services and programs.

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.

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:

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.
10. 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. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to create limited or affiliate memberships for entities that provide public services consistent with municipal government in Arkansas.

Section 2. Any such municipality or entity 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 or entity.

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. The amount of annual dues for municipalities and limited or affiliate members 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 they cease 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. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to remove for cause a person from any of the above offices by a two-thirds vote.

Section 6. Officers of the League except the President shall be eligible to succeed themselves. Presidents may be eligible to succeed themselves if they are serving in said position as a result of succeeding to the position to serve an unexpired term. A person may also be elected to President as long as they are not their 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 of said group, within its own province, may elect to any extent not inconsistent with the objectives 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 they are 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.

Section 4. In the event the Annual Convention is held virtually or via an in-person and virtual hybrid event, virtual voting may be done electronically in a method approved by the Executive Director.

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 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 cause notices to be sent of all meetings. Notices may be sent by electronic means.

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 audits 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. Presence may be in-person or by electronic or virtual appearance pursuant to protocols set by the Executive Committee in conjunction with the Executive Director.

Section 4. The latest version of *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.

2025-2026 OFFICERS



Mayor Doug Winslow
Greenwood
President



City Clerk/Treasurer
Carol Westergren, Beebe
First Vice President



Mayor Jeff Braim
Wynne
Vice President District 1



Mayor Kasey Griffin
Heber Springs
Vice President District 2



Mayor Nathan See
Pea Ridge
Vice President District 3



Mayor Paul Choate
El Dorado
Vice President District 4

2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Council Member
Gary Perry
Alma



Mayor
Veronica Post
Altus



Mayor
Stephanie Orman
Bentonville



Mayor
Kenneth Jones
Brookland



Mayor
Ken Kincade
Cabot



Recorder/Treasurer
Stacey Bennett
Cherry Valley



Mayor
Richard McCormac
Clinton



Mayor
Crystal Marshall
Crossett



Mayor
Robert "Butch" Berry
Eureka Springs



City Director
Kevin Settle
Fort Smith



Mayor
Kevin Johnston
Gentry



Mayor
Pat McCabe
Hot Springs



Mayor
Dennis Behling
Lakeview



Council Member
Sam Angel, II
Lake Village



Mayor
Jerry Boen
Lamar



Council Member
James Jefferson
Magnolia



City Clerk/Treasurer
Tina Timmons
Maumelle



Mayor
Bob Blankenship
Monette



Mayor
Roxie Hall
Ozark



Mayor
Greg Hines
Rogers



Mayor
Mary Jo Heye-Townsell
Sherwood



Mayor
Charles E. Snapp
Walnut Ridge



Mayor
Derrick Rainey
Wrightsville



Mayor
Jennifer Hobbs
Wynne

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



Mayor Jonas Anderson
Cave City
2023-2024



Mayor Parnell Vann
Magnolia
2024-2025

ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRS



Mayor Tom Farmer
Benton
Cities of the Large First Class



Council Member
Dorothy Henderson, Warren
Cities of the First Class



Mayor Michael Marsh, Pangburn
Incorporated Towns and
Cities of the Second Class



Council Member
Tyler Dunegan, Osceola
Public Safety



Mayor Josh Agee
Paragould
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



Mayor Jeff Owyong
McGehee—District 4



Mayor Fred Teague
Russellville—At-Large

MUNICIPAL LEAGUE WORKERS COMPENSATION PROGRAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Human Resources Director
Charlette Nelson
Jacksonville—District 1



Human Resources Director
Lisa Mabry-Williams
Conway—District 2



City Clerk/Treasurer
Sharla Derry
Greenwood—District 3



City Clerk
Harmony Morrissey
Hot Springs—District 4



Mayor Hillrey Adams,
Mountain Home—At-Large

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

1935—Mayor U.E. Moore..... North Little Rock
 1936—Mayor Jim Jordan Fort Smith
 1937—Mayor R.E. Overman..... Little Rock
 1938—City Manager C.C. Mitchener Marianna
 1939—Mayor H.C. Stump Stuttgart
 1940—Mayor A.D. McAllister..... Fayetteville
 1941—Mayor J.V. Satterfield..... Little Rock
 1941—Mayor Tom Cashion..... Eudora
 1942—Mayor H.O. Walker..... Newport
 1943—Mayor Chester Holland..... Fort Smith
 1944—Alderman Sam M. Wassell Little Rock
 1945—Mayor Jim Dandridge Paris
 1946—Mayor R.C. Bodenhamer..... El Dorado
 1947—Mayor Don Harrell..... Camden
 1948—Mayor James Hurley Warren
 1949—Mayor Earl Ricks..... Hot Springs
 1949—Mayor George Steed..... Pine Bluff
 1950—Mayor B.R. McCarley Texarkana
 1951—Mayor Harney Chaney Batesville
 1952—Mayor Harold Falls Wynne
 1953—Mayor James T. Horner Helena
 1954—City Clerk H.C. Graham..... Little Rock
 1955—Mayor William L. Ward Jr. Marianna
 1956—Mayor H.R. Hestand Fort Smith
 1957—Mayor H.B. Price..... West Memphis
 1958—Mayor Ben F. Butler Osceola
 1959—Mayor William F. Laman North Little Rock
 1960—Mayor John Harsh..... Magnolia
 1961—Commissioner Hugh Brewer Fort Smith
 1962—Mayor Roy Row..... Batesville
 1963—Mayor Billy Free..... Dumas
 1964—Mayor Allen Ray Toothaker..... Van Buren
 1965—Mayor Clyde Andrews..... Marianna
 1966—Mayor Vaskell Carter Crossett
 1967—Mayor John Bueker Stuttgart
 1968—Mayor C.A. Hughes..... Russellville
 1968/1969—Mayor Jesse Porter West Helena
 1970—Mayor Flynn Chivers..... Clarendon
 1971—Mayor Adrian White..... Poca hontas
 1972—Mayor Ed M. Bautts Rogers
 1973—Mayor Tom Little Jr..... Blytheville
 1974—Mayor Leslie Carmichael..... Searcy
 1975—Mayor Tom Ellsworth..... Hot Springs
 1976—Mayor Neil Stallings Jonesboro
 1977—Mayor Harry Kolb..... Magnolia
 1978—Mayor James Jordan..... Monticello
 1979—Mayor Charles Moore Pine Bluff

1980—Mayor R.E. (Dick) Prewitt..... Osceola
 1981—Mayor Jack R. Rhodes..... Lake Village
 1982—Mayor John Schallhorn DeWitt
 1983—Mayor Charles Partlow Paragould
 1984—Mayor Thad Kelly Jr. Helena
 1984/1985—Mayor Gene Bell..... Van Buren
 1985/1986—Mayor Dean Boswell Jr. Bryant
 1986/1987—Mayor Larry Combs El Dorado
 1987/1988—Mayor Jim Shirrell..... Batesville
 1988—Mayor Marilyn Johnson..... Fayetteville
 1989/1990—Mayor Eugene Farrell Dermott
 1990/1991—Alderman Martin Gipson... North Little Rock
 1991/1992—Mayor Bob Teeter..... West Helena
 1992/1993—Mayor Marvin Vinson..... Clarksville
 1993/1994—Mayor Bill Scrimshire..... Malvern
 1994/1995—Mayor Patrick Henry Hays North Little Rock
 1995/1996—Mayor Joann Smith..... Helena
 1996/1997—Mayor Arnold Feller..... Mulberry
 1997/1998—Mayor Gregg Reep Warren
 1998/1999—Mayor Tommy Swaim Jacksonville
 1999/2000—Alderman Tommy Baker Osceola
 2000/2001—Mayor Harold West Monticello
 2001/2002—Mayor George Overbey Jr. Lamar
 2002/2003—Mayor Jim Dailey Little Rock
 2003/2004—Mayor Robert Patrick..... St. Charles
 2004/2005—Mayor Gene Yarbrough Star City
 2005/2006—Mayor Terry Coberly..... Bentonville
 2006—Mayor Stewart Nelson..... Morrilton
 2007—Mayor Tab Townsell..... Conway
 2007/2008—Mayor Mike Gaskill Paragould
 2008/2009—Mayor JoAnne Bush..... Lake Village
 2009/2010—Vice Mayor Gary Campbell Fort Smith
 2010/2011—Alderman Murry Witcher... North Little Rock
 2011/2012—Mayor Frank Fogleman Marion
 2012/2013—Mayor Chris Claybaker..... Camden
 2013/2014—Mayor Jackie Crabtree..... Pea Ridge
 2014/2015—Mayor Mark Stodola..... Little Rock
 2015/2016—Mayor Rick Elumbaugh Batesville
 2016/2017—Mayor Harry Brown Stephens
 2017/2018—Mayor Doug Sprouse Springdale
 2018/2019—Mayor Joe A. Smith North Little Rock
 2019/2020—Mayor Harold Perrin..... Jonesboro
 2020/2021—Mayor Gary Baxter Mulberry
 2021/2022—Mayor Tim McKinney Berryville
 2022—Mayor Virginia Young Sherwood
 2023-2024—Mayor Jonas Anderson..... Cave City
 2024-2025—Mayor Parnell Vann..... Magnolia

2025 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER—CITIES AND TOWNS

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



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Policies and Goals