



ARKANSAS
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE



State of the League 2026

GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE

Our Programs & Services

MUNICIPAL
HEALTH

MUNICIPAL
**VEHICLE &
PROPERTY**

MUNICIPAL
**WORKERS
COMP**

MUNICIPAL
**LEGAL
DEFENSE**

MEMBERSHIP
ENGAGEMENT

EDUCATION
& **TRAINING**

FIELD
REPS

LEGISLATIVE
ADVOCACY

MUNICIPAL
TECHNOLOGY

A Message from the Executive Director

Every year, I have the privilege of reflecting on what the Arkansas Municipal League has accomplished alongside the 500 cities and towns we are honored to serve. This report highlights many of those achievements, but the truth is, it only scratches the surface.

What the numbers on the following pages cannot fully capture is the heart behind the League. They cannot show the weekend phone calls answered by our program directors, the miles our field representatives travel as they crisscross the state, or the hours our staff spends strengthening our services, developing trainings, working with legislators, and supporting cities and towns of every size. They do this work because they believe in local government and in the people who have dedicated themselves to public service.

The League has never been about a building, a program or even our staff. Its greatest strength has always been the unity of our membership. When 500 cities and towns come together to share ideas, support one another and work toward common goals, we all become stronger. Great Cities Make a Great State.

Thank you for the trust you place in the League and for the opportunity to serve you.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark".

Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director



2025-2026 LEADERSHIP



Mayor Doug Kinslow
Greenwood
PRESIDENT



Clerk/Treasurer
Carol Westergren, Beebe
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



Mayor Jeff Braim
Gassville
VICE PRESIDENT, DIST. 1



Mayor Kasey Griffin
Heber Springs
VICE PRESIDENT, DIST. 2



Mayor Nathan See
Pea Ridge
VICE PRESIDENT, DIST. 3



Mayor Paul Choate
El Dorado
VICE PRESIDENT, DIST. 4

The League & Our Mission

The Arkansas Municipal League, founded in 1934, serves three primary purposes: to represent Arkansas cities and towns before state and federal governments; to provide a central source of information, guidance and answers; and to offer a forum for discussion and the exchange of shared municipal concerns.

ARML

BY THE NUMBERS



1934
YEAR
FOUNDED

MUNICIPAL HEALTH

215 MEMBERS
+96 LIMITED
SERVICE MEMBERS (LSMs)

KATIE BODENHAMER
DIRECTOR & LEGAL COUNSEL
kbodenhamer@arml.org | 501.978.6126

MUNICIPAL VEHICLE

439 MEMBERS + **54** LSMs
29,208 UNITS

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

393 MEMBERS + **24** LSMs
14,212 LOCATIONS

JOHN WELLS
DIRECTOR
jwells@arml.org | 501.978.6104

MUNICIPAL WORKERS COMP

486 MEMBERS
+129 GOVERNMENTAL
ENTITIES
3,155 LOSS CONTROL SAFETY
TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

ELI SINGER
DIRECTOR & LEGAL COUNSEL
esinger@arml.org | 501.978.6133

MUNICIPAL LEGAL DEFENSE

477 DEFENSE &
INQUIRY MEMBERS
+20 LSMs

JOHN WILKERSON
GENERAL COUNSEL &
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
jwilkinson@arml.org | 501.978.6136

181

FIREFIGHTERS
SUPPLEMENTAL
INCOME PROTECTION
& DEATH BENEFITS

95

ORDINANCE
CODIFICATION
MEMBERS

260

ACCIDENTAL DEATH
& DISMEMBERMENT
MEMBERS

125

CITIES OF THE
FIRST CLASS

201

CITIES OF THE
SECOND CLASS

174

INCORPORATED
TOWNS

24

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEMBERS

117

AML FULL- & PART-TIME
STAFFERS MAKING IT HAPPEN

EDUCATION & TRAINING



ARKANSAS **CIVIC EDUCATION**

The Arkansas Civic Education Program (ACE) continues to expand its online educational opportunities ranging from foundational government education to advanced coursework that includes HIPAA training, leadership development, grant writing certification and other professional learning tracks. This year, ACE SafeTrack further strengthened workforce readiness by providing on-demand workplace safety training tailored for frontline employees. In cooperation with Arkansas Legislative Audit, the League also launched the eight-hour Mandatory Treasurer Training program, now required for every municipality's primary financial officer.

2,308 ACTIVE ACCOUNTS

4 LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION

Level 1: Civilpedia-Certified
Level 2: ACE-Certified
Level 3: ACE-Advanced
Level 4: ACE Master

46 BASIC GRANT WRITING CERTIFICATIONS

56 MUNICIPAL CLERKS INSTITUTE & ACADEMY ATTENDEES

CARAN CURRY
SENIOR GRANTS COUNSEL
& INTERIM DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
ccurry@arml.org | 501.517.0416

MUNICIPAL TECHNOLOGY

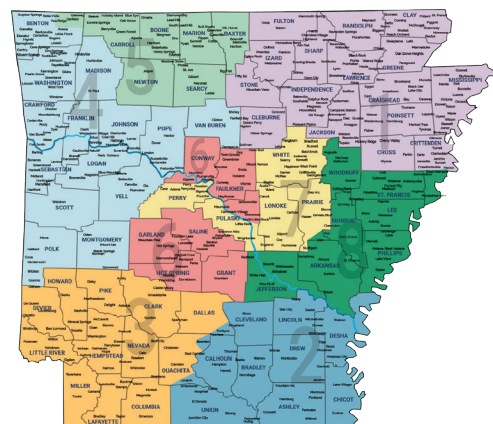
A knowledgeable workforce is the foundation of a secure municipal technology infrastructure, and Municipal Technology offers training and education on current trends and best practices in the municipal information technology space, provides guidance and support to help members increase their cybersecurity posture, and serves as a resource for municipal information technology professionals.

APPROX. 200 REGISTRANTS PER MONTHLY TRAINING SESSION

JEFF MELTON
DIRECTOR, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
jmelton@arml.org | 501.978.6106

FIELD REPS

A team of former city and town officials serve eight districts across the state offering experienced guidance on a wide range of issues from legislative audits to opioid settlement funds. Member municipalities are encouraged to contact your field rep to learn more about the programs and services listed in this report, as well as the new Trauma Assistance Program, which provides first responders up to 12 confidential counseling sessions after a traumatic on-the-job event.



70,000 MILES DRIVEN

750 IN-PERSON VISITS

5,400 TEXTS & EMAILS

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

814 MEMBERS | 1,401 ATTENDEES AT CONVENTION 92

Each June, the League hosts a statewide gathering to set policies, establish goals and elect new officers. *Rooted, Resilient and Rising* reflects the realities facing Arkansas cities and towns, rooted in strong planning, infrastructure and policy; resilient amid legislative change and economic pressures; and ready to rise to new opportunities. Convention 93 is scheduled for June 16-18, 2027.

799 MEMBERS | 1,345 ATTENDEES AT CALLED TO SERVE 26

Each January, the League presents *Called to Serve*, a leadership- and governance-focused conference that emphasizes the importance of public service and encourages active participation during the upcoming legislative session. *Called to Serve 27* is scheduled for January 13-15, 2027.

436 REGIONAL MEETING ATTENDEES

Throughout the year, League staff partners with host mayors to bring certification training and networking opportunities directly to cities and towns. We welcome community leaders, county officials, economic development districts, chamber representatives and other stakeholders who want to engage in conversations about moving Arkansas forward.

Stay Connected

In addition to *City & Town*, the official quarterly magazine and website, the League offers a library of publications that support municipal officials with essential information on governance, finance, HR, legal requirements, planning and more, available for free at armuni.org/publications. Key publications include *The Civilpedia Handbook: A Guide to Municipal Government in Arkansas*, a comprehensive resource that also serves as the educational foundation of the ACE Program, and the *Arkansas Municipal Bulletin*, an annual guide to essential deadlines, statutory reminders, best practices and compliance.

City & Town
CITYANDTOWN.ORG

Podcasts
CITYTOWNPOD.BUZZSPROUT.COM

AML Events
EVENTS.ARML.ORG

AML Communities
AMLCOMMUNITY.ARML.ORG

VALERIE SHIVELY
DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT
vshively@arml.org | 501.978.6121



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

The League is the unified voice of Arkansas' 500 cities and towns at the capitol. Guided by the *Policies and Goals* statement as well as resolutions adopted during the Annual Convention, the advocacy team serves as the liaison to legislative leadership, state agencies and the federal delegation and encourages active participation from city officials on behalf of their communities. The team is focused on preserving local authority while protecting key municipal priorities, including planning and zoning, housing policies, FOIA, economic development and local sales taxes.

JOHN WILKERSON
GENERAL COUNSEL &
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
jwilkerson@arml.org | 501.978.6136



Arkansas
Opioid
Recovery
Partnership

**\$45M FUNDED
\$3M CLAWBACK**