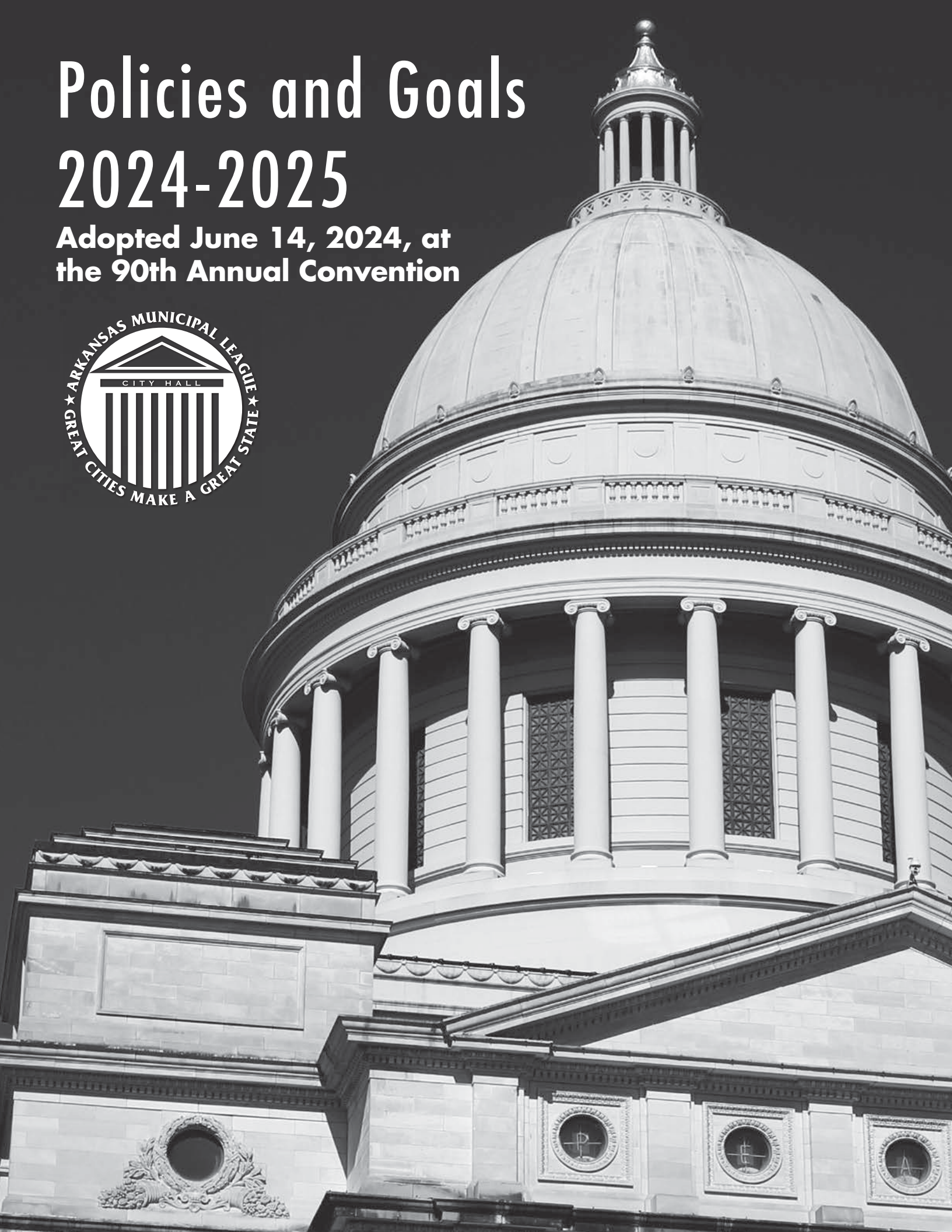


# Policies and Goals 2024-2025

Adopted June 14, 2024, at  
the 90th Annual Convention





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## FOREWORD

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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 14, 2024, at the 90th 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 Municipal League and the Municipal League Constitution.

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

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## ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE—PURPOSE AND GOALS

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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 499 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 has been made. Once a policy has been adopted by representatives of the assembled municipalities at the annual business meeting, the League should be regarded as the formal 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 14th day of June, 2024, 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 percent 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 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION**

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### **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 statewide 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 system; and

WHEREAS, we agree with Act 38 that “substantial amounts of money are assessed on defendants by the court system in the form of court costs, fees, and fines”; and

WHEREAS, we agree with Act 38 that “the defendant paying the court costs, fees, and fines” assessed by the court system is often unable to do so in light of the substantial increase of those court costs, fees and fines over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, we agree with Act 38 that “[m]any of the court costs, fees, and fines assessed by the court system have little or nothing to do with the operations of an individual court or the court system in its entirety”; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Legislative Audit is currently completing that study; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Judiciary Committee of the Arkansas Legislature has conducted meetings to discuss the Act 38 study and to better understand the complex nature of the district court system and the Administration of Justice Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Judiciary Committee has identified, discussed with or heard from others about potential areas for improvement of the district court system including implementing a universal case management system, changing the retained share amount, establishing criteria for departments of district court, eliminating the installment fee found in A.C.A. § 16-13-704, and other changes to the funding stream of the Administration of Justice Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the continued efforts of the Division of Legislative Audit and the efforts of the Joint Judiciary Committee to study all financial and operational 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 Arkansas Freedom of Information Act 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 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

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

**A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING THE ATTENDANCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT.**

WHEREAS, citizens entrust municipal affairs to the council members elected to govern the municipality; and

WHEREAS, under the Arkansas Code, there are currently no provisions providing for the required attendance of council members at council meetings in the mayor-council form of government; and

WHEREAS, A.C.A. § 6-13-611 creates an automatic vacancy for school board directors if the director fails to physically attend three consecutive regular meetings of the school district board or fails to physically attend six regularly scheduled board meetings of the school board of directors in a calendar year except in certain circumstances as provided under that law; and

WHEREAS, A.C.A. § 14-48-120(k) provides that any director who fails to attend five consecutive regular meetings of the board or who fails to attend 50% of the regular meetings of the board held during a calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned and a vacancy will be created; and

WHEREAS, municipalities operating under the mayor-council form of government rely on council members attending regularly scheduled meetings in order to conduct business in a timely and efficient manner.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the amendment of the Arkansas Code to provide an attendance requirement in order to hold office as a council member in a mayor-council form of government similar to the provisions found in A.C.A. § 14-48-120(k).

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STUDYING POSSIBLE METHODS TO USE THE 3% ADMINISTRATIVE FEE CHARGED BY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS TO COLLECT MUNICIPAL SALES TAX, VIA A.C.A. § 26-73-105 IN WAYS TO ASSIST THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ARKANSAS.**

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the revenue collected by the State of Arkansas from the 3% fee can be used by the state to assist municipalities in other ways.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the study of potential legislative actions that could allow the state to utilize the revenue generated by this 3% collection fee to assist municipalities in other ways.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING A.C.A. § 26-52-523 GOVERNING LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX REBATES TO INCREASE THE THRESHOLD IN WHICH A CREDIT OR REBATE MAY BE APPLIED FOR FROM \$2,500 TO \$5,000**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support legislation amending the law to raise the minimum for the sales tax rebate from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and to keep the rebate time limit at one year.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING ARTICLE 12, SECTION 5, SUBSECTION (b) OF THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO ADD “RETAIL” TO THE DEFINITION OF “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.”**

WHEREAS, Article 12, Section 5 of the Arkansas Constitution was amended in the 2016 General Election by a vote of 689,980 for amendment and 366,020 against amendment; and

WHEREAS, the amendment to Article 12, Section 5 of the Arkansas Constitution authorized local governments to obtain or appropriate money for a corporation, association, institution or individual for the purpose of financing economic development projects or providing economic development services; and

WHEREAS, subsection (b) of Article 12, Section 5 may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Arkansas Legislature amended A.C.A. § 14-176-102 and Article 12, Section 5 of the Arkansas Constitution with the passage of Act 1072 of 2019 to add “sports complexes designed to host local, state, regional, and national competitions, including without limitation baseball, softball, and other sports tournaments” to the definition of “economic development project”; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Arkansas Legislature amended A.C.A. § 14-176-102 with the passage of Act 798 of 2019 to add “facilities for the retail sale of goods” to the definition of “economic development project,” however that same act did not amend Article 12, Section 5 of the Arkansas Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly amended Article 12, Section 5 of the Arkansas Constitution to include sports complexes to the list of economic development projects, but did not add facilities for the retail sale of goods; and

WHEREAS, now the statutes governing economic development projects (A.C.A. § 14-176-101 *et seq.*) do not coincide with Article 12, Section 5 of the Arkansas Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending Article 12, Section 5 of the Arkansas Constitution through a three-fourths vote of the General Assembly to be consistent with A.C.A. § 14-176-102.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING THE STATUTES GOVERNING HIGHWAY REVENUE DISTRIBUTION TO AUTHORIZE MUNICIPALITIES TO SPEND DEDICATED STREET FUND REVENUES FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, municipalities receive 15% of all highway revenues that are available for distribution during each fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, these street fund revenues are currently dedicated and may only be used in accordance with A.C.A. § 27-70-207(c); and

WHEREAS, oftentimes emergencies occur and municipalities find themselves with insufficient general revenue to deal with the emergency, and the only readily available revenue to help with the emergency are the street fund revenues; and

WHEREAS, after using street fund revenues for purposes not authorized by the Arkansas Code, municipalities will likely have negative audit findings for the misuse of those funds; and

WHEREAS, the allowance of surplus street funds to be used for other municipal purposes is consistent with the allowed use of surplus funds of municipal water providers when surplus funds exceed estimated expenditures for the current and next ensuing fiscal year, as described by A.C.A. § 14-234-214(e); and

WHEREAS, expanding the use of street fund revenues to cover emergency situations will allow municipalities to utilize available funds for emergency purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the amendment of A.C.A. § 27-70-207 to expand the use of street funds in the event of an emergency, which must be established by a two-thirds vote of the governing body.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING THE STATUTES CONCERNING VACANCIES IN MUNICIPAL OFFICES IN THE MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT TO CLARIFY THAT THE MAYOR HAS NO VETO POWER OVER THE GOVERNING BODY'S APPOINTMENT TO FILL A VACANT COUNCIL POSITION.**

WHEREAS, there is currently inconsistency among the statutes governing vacancies in municipal offices in the mayor-council form of government; and

WHEREAS, certain vacancy statutes, such as A.C.A. §§ 14-43-411 and 14-44-104, expressly prohibit the mayor from vetoing an appointment made by the governing body to fill a vacancy on the council; and

WHEREAS, the other vacancy statutes in the Arkansas Code governing council member vacancies in mayor-council forms of government do not expressly prohibit the mayor from vetoing an appointment to the position of council member by the city council; and

WHEREAS, to further clarify and provide consistency among the vacancy statutes in the Arkansas Code, we hereby support amending the vacancy statutes to clarify that the mayor has no veto power over an appointment made by the governing body to fill a vacant council position.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the amendment to the vacancy statutes to make consistent across all municipalities in the mayor-council form of government that the mayor has no veto power over the governing body's appointment to fill a vacant council position.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING THE STATUTES CONCERNING VACANCIES IN MUNICIPAL OFFICES IN THE MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE CLARIFICATION ON THE PROPER PROCEDURE TO DECLARE A VACANCY AND TO ALLOW THE GOVERNING BODY TO APPOINT SOMEONE TO FILL THE VACANCY ON AN INTERIM BASIS WHILE AWAITING THE RESULTS OF A SPECIAL OR GENERAL ELECTION TO FILL THE VACANCY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM.**

WHEREAS, A.C.A. §§ 14-43-304, 14-43-401, 14-43-411, 14-44-106 and 14-45-103 authorize the governing body to call for a special election to fill a vacancy under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, currently the law is not clear on the proper procedure and time frame to declare and a fill a vacancy; and

WHEREAS, clarification is needed to avoid government operations being adversely impacted due to a vacancy and the procedure necessary to fill that vacancy; and

WHEREAS, only A.C.A. § 14-43-401 authorizes the governing body, after calling a special election to fill a vacancy, to appoint someone to fill the vacancy while awaiting the results of the election; and

WHEREAS, to ensure consistency among all municipalities and provide for an interim appointee to fill the vacancy until the results of the special or general election are final, all municipalities should be given the option to appoint someone to fill the vacancy for the interim period.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending the vacancy statutes to provide uniformity among all municipalities by authorizing the governing body, after calling for a special election or waiting for the next general election, to fill a vacancy for the remainder of the term, to appoint someone to fill said vacancy on an interim basis until the results of the special or general election are final, and to clarify the proper procedure and time frame for declaring a vacancy.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING THE RECALL STATUTE FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, A.C.A. § 14-42-119, TO MIRROR THE RECALL STATUTES FOR THE CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT, A.C.A. § 14-47-112, AND THE RECALL STATUTE FOR THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT, A.C.A. § 14-48-114.**

WHEREAS, A.C.A. § 14-42-119 provides for a procedure for removal of a municipal officer who holds a position with a four-year term; and

WHEREAS, a petition signed by 25% of the qualified electors in the municipality must be filed with the county clerk by noon not more than 105 days and no less than 91 days before the next general election following the election at which the officer was elected; and

WHEREAS, this is the only opportunity citizens have to recall an official with a four year term under the mayor-council form of government; and

WHEREAS, A.C.A. §§ 14-47-112 and 14-48-114 require a petition to be signed by the qualified electors of the municipality equal to 35% of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for that office at the preceding general election; and

WHEREAS, once the petition is filed with the county clerk, the county board of election commissioners will call a special election; and

WHEREAS, A.C.A. § 14-42-119 is an impractical method for residents to remove elected officials that are not performing in a manner the electorate deems appropriate, accountable and responsible; and

WHEREAS, to provide consistency among the recall statutes pertaining to municipal office, and to ensure an efficient and effective removal methodology, we support amending A.C.A. § 14-42-119 to be broadened.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending the recall statute for the mayor-council form of government, A.C.A. § 14-42-119, to be more consistent with the other recall statutes pertaining to municipal offices by: (1) allowing the petition to be filed at any time during the officeholder's term of office after the first six months of the official taking office and (2) ensuring that an official may only be subject to no more than one recall proceeding between biennial elections.



**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION CONSOLIDATING THE STATUTES REGARDING THE METHOD TO ELECT, APPOINT AND/OR CONTRACT WITH A CITY ATTORNEY AND AMENDING A.C.A. § 14-43-315 TO APPLY TO ALL MUNICIPALITIES OPERATING UNDER THE MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN ARKANSAS.**

WHEREAS, city attorneys have a critical role in municipal government; and

WHEREAS, to be elected or appointed as an official of any political subdivision in the State of Arkansas, an individual must be a qualified elector of the political subdivision, including the constitutional requirement to reside within the political subdivision; and

WHEREAS, many Arkansas municipalities do not have a licensed attorney residing within the political boundaries of the municipality who is willing to serve as city attorney; and

WHEREAS, there are multiple statutes regarding the election, appointment or method of contracting with an individual to hold the office of city attorney; and

WHEREAS, the statutory differences in the laws that apply to the election, appointment or contracting of a city attorney differ unnecessarily based on municipal classification, and

WHEREAS, these differences create undue confusion for municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the consolidation of the laws governing the election, appointment and/or contracting of an individual to hold the office of city attorney by amending A.C.A. § 14-43-315 to make said statute and the provisions therein applicable to all Arkansas municipalities operating under the mayor-council form of government.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING THE LAW TO REQUIRE ARDOT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING ALL TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS IN MUNICIPALITIES WITH A POPULATION OF 20,000 OR UNDER, WHEN SAID TRAFFIC SIGNAL LIGHTS ARE ON A STATE HIGHWAY.**

WHEREAS, municipalities located on state highways often require ARDOT to install traffic control signals on state highways for the benefit of the public safety of citizens; and

WHEREAS, while ARDOT will help cover some of the cost for the initial installation of the traffic control signals on the state highway, once installed, municipalities are burdened with the entire cost of maintaining the traffic control signals; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the traffic control signals requires resources that many smaller municipalities do not have, such as bucket trucks and skilled labor to perform electrical work; and

WHEREAS, purchasing the necessary equipment and contracting or employing the labor necessary to perform maintenance on traffic control signals puts a financial burden on smaller municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support legislation amending the law to require ARDOT to be responsible for maintaining traffic control signals in cities with a population of 20,000 or under, when said traffic signal lights are on a state highway.

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AMENDING A.C.A. § 14-200-101 REGARDING NOTIFICATION OF MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY CHANGES TO A PUBLIC UTILITY'S REGISTERED AGENT.**

WHEREAS, A.C.A. § 14-200-101(c)(4) provides, “[i]n the event the municipal boundaries of a city or town are altered or amended by annexation or otherwise, the city or town shall notify the utility’s registered agent for service of process of the alteration or amendment, and the utility shall not be liable for any additional franchise fees for the right to furnish utility service or occupy the streets, highways, or public places in newly added or annexed areas unless the notice shall have been given”; and

WHEREAS, municipalities from time to time find out that the public utility did not receive notification from the municipality regarding annexations; and

WHEREAS, under A.C.A. § 14-40-101, municipalities are already required to coordinate with the Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Office (GIS) for preparation of legal descriptions and digital mapping for the relevant annexation, consolidation and detachment areas; and

WHEREAS, GIS keeps updated maps of municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS, most smaller towns and cities do not have the staff or background to find this statute or work within it.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support legislation amending A.C.A. § 14-200-101 to require public utilities to utilize GIS mapping in determining municipal boundaries.

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AMENDING THE ARKANSAS CODE TO AUTHORIZE MUNICIPALITIES TO USE RED LIGHT AND SPEED CAMERAS TO CURTAIL DRIVERS IGNORING RED LIGHTS.**

WHEREAS, municipalities are charged with providing protection for the health and safety of their residents; and

WHEREAS, one problem municipalities face is drivers ignoring or being unaware of red lights; and

WHEREAS, when drivers ignore or are unaware of red lights, accidents occur, sometimes fatal, that could have been avoided if the driver had not run the red light; and

WHEREAS, authorizing municipalities to install red light and speed cameras will extend a municipal police department’s ability to protect residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the cameras will not take a picture of the driver, only the vehicle’s license plate; and

WHEREAS, when the camera takes a photo of the vehicle’s license plate, the owner of the vehicle will be assessed a fine; and

WHEREAS, this will reduce the need for municipal police departments to assign officers to traffic duty.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending the Arkansas Code to authorize municipalities to utilize red light and speed cameras in order to keep residents and visitors safe and to allow municipal police departments to focus their time and energy on other issues than traffic duty.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION STATUTES TO PASS A "MADE WHOLE DOCTRINE" BILL.**

WHEREAS, a "Made Whole Doctrine" bill would allow the liability associated with payment of medical or indemnity costs to be shifted to a third party who caused the injury; and

WHEREAS, a "Made Whole Doctrine" bill would have a positive impact on the Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program, which in turn would help lower workers' compensation premiums for cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, a "Made Whole Doctrine" bill would create an opportunity for employers and insurers to recoup costs when a third party is at fault for a workplace injury, but only once a settlement or judgment is paid out by an at-fault third party; and

WHEREAS, this would permit the injured worker to receive at least one-half of any net proceeds from the settlement or judgment, while still placing the fault and ongoing losses on the responsible party.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support an amendment to the workers' compensation statutes to pass a "Made Whole Doctrine" bill in Arkansas.

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AMENDING ACT 537 OF 2023 CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.**

WHEREAS, Act 537 of 2023 was very important to help address the mental health needs of our first responders following their response to a traumatic call; and

WHEREAS, the League has been working diligently on a means to meet the requirements of Act 537 of 2023, while keeping in mind the cost to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Act 537 of 2023 shifted the cost of mental health care from the insured to the municipality.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we support the League in finding ways to amend Act 537 of 2023 to address the financial impact Act 537 of 2023 has had and will have on municipalities.

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE STATE TAKING UP TO 1% OF ITS SALES TAX AND TURNING IT BACK TO THE COUNTIES TO BE SPLIT 50% FOR THE COUNTY AND 50% PER CAPITA TO THE CITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support legislation wherein the state takes up to 1% of its sales tax and turns it back to the counties to be split 50% for the county and 50% per capita to the cities within the county.

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AMENDING THE 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 required to place a cleanup lien for the amount it cost the municipality to clean the property; and

WHEREAS, more often than not, the cleanup lien goes unpaid by the owner; 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 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we support finding ways to amend the 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 TO SUPPORT FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS FOR MUNICIPAL WATER PROVIDERS.**

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

WHEREAS, there will also be a need for support from the state to help ensure the quality and efficiency of the 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.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

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

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING A.C.A. § 14-58-104(17)(B) CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF SPECIFIC COMMODITIES TO BE CONSISTENT WITH A.C.A. § 14-22-106(17)(B).**

WHEREAS, Act 435 of 2021 enacted uniform changes among the bidding and purchasing statutes for counties and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Act 435 of 2021 amended the county purchasing statute, A.C.A. § 14-22-106(17)(B), by raising the bid limit for aftermarket equipment on vehicles from \$600 to \$1,200 dollars over the fleet price awarded; and

WHEREAS, Act 435 of 2021 did not amend the purchasing statute for municipalities, A.C.A. § 14-58-104(17)(B); and

WHEREAS, A.C.A. § 14-58-104(17)(B) should be amended to be consistent with the county purchasing statute.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending A.C.A. § 14-58-104(17)(B) to raise the bid limit for aftermarket equipment on vehicles from \$600 to \$1,200 dollars over the fleet price awarded.

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING A.C.A. § 24-4-303 GOVERNING A MUNICIPALITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM (APERS) TO EXTEND THE PERIOD IN WHICH A MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL MAY OPT OUT OF APERS.**

WHEREAS, A.C.A. § 24-4-303 authorizes a municipal official to opt out of the Arkansas Public Employee Retirement System (APERS) by written notice to the system no later than 90 calendar days after first assuming office; and

WHEREAS, once that decision is made, the official cannot later change their decision; and

WHEREAS, if a municipal official decides not to opt out of APERS within their first 90 days of office, they will not have another opportunity to opt out of APERS for the rest of their tenure in office; and

WHEREAS, it is impossible for an official to know how long they will be in office and to make an informed decision on such an important issue within the first 90 days after assuming office; and

WHEREAS, municipal officials should be able to opt out of the APERS at a later time than the first 90 days of office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending A.C.A. § 24-4-303 to provide further opportunities for a municipal official to opt out of APERS. ☞

## LEAGUE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

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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 26.

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](mailto: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 MLDP 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. 🍷

## 2024-2025 OFFICERS



Mayor Parnell Vann  
Magnolia  
President



Mayor Doug Kinslow  
Greenwood  
First Vice President



Mayor Jennifer Hobbs  
Wynne  
Vice President District 1



Mayor Derrick Rainey  
Wrightsville  
Vice President District 2



Council Member Gary Perry  
Alma  
Vice President District 3



Mayor Pat McCabe  
Hot Springs  
Vice President District 4

## 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Mayor  
Veronica Post  
Altus



City Clerk/Treasurer  
Carol Westergren  
Beebe



Mayor  
Kenneth Jones  
Brookland



Mayor  
Ken Kincade  
Cabot



Recorder/Treasurer  
Dena Malone  
Clinton



City Clerk  
Heather McVay  
El Dorado



Mayor  
Robert "Butch" Berry  
Eureka Springs



City Director  
Kevin Settle  
Fort Smith



Mayor  
Jeff Braim  
Gassville



Mayor  
Kevin Johnston  
Gentry



City Manager  
J.R. Wilson  
Hope



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



Council Member  
James Earl Turner  
Mena



Mayor  
Bob Blankenship  
Monette



Mayor  
Roxie Hall  
Ozark



Mayor  
Greg Hines  
Rogers



Mayor  
Mary Jo Heye-Townsell  
Sherwood



Recorder/Treasurer  
Rick East  
Smackover



Mayor  
Charles E. Snapp  
Walnut Ridge



Council Member  
Dorothy Henderson  
Warren

## 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

## ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRS



City Administrator Carl Geffken  
Fort Smith  
Cities of the Large First Class



Mayor Crystal Marshall,  
Crossett  
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  
Centeron—District 3



Clerk/Treasurer Barbara Blackard,  
Clarksville—District 4



Mayor Paul Choate  
El Dorado—At-Large

## MUNICIPAL LEAGUE WORKERS' COMPENSATION TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Human Resources Director  
Charlette Nelson  
Jacksonville—District 1



Human Resources Director  
Lisa Mabry-Williams  
Conway—District 2



Clerk/Treasurer  
Sharla Derry  
Greenwood—District 3



City Clerk  
Harmony Morrissey  
Hot Springs—District 4



Mayor  
Lioneld Jordan  
Fayetteville—At-Large

## PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

1935—Mayor U.E. Moore.....	North Little Rock	1980—Mayor R.E. (Dick) Prewitt.....	Osceola
1936—Mayor Jim Jordan.....	Fort Smith	1981—Mayor Jack R. Rhodes.....	Lake Village
1937—Mayor R.E. Overman.....	Little Rock	1982—Mayor John Schallhorn.....	DeWitt
1938—City Manager C.C. Mitchener.....	Marianna	1983—Mayor Charles Partlow.....	Paragould
1939—Mayor H.C. Stump.....	Stuttgart	1984—Mayor Thad Kelly Jr.....	Helena
1940—Mayor A.D. McAllister.....	Fayetteville	1984/1985—Mayor Gene Bell.....	Van Buren
1941—Mayor J.V. Satterfield.....	Little Rock	1985/1986—Mayor Dean Boswell Jr.....	Bryant
1941—Mayor Tom Cashion.....	Eudora	1986/1987—Mayor Larry Combs.....	El Dorado
1942—Mayor H.O. Walker.....	Newport	1987/1988—Mayor Jim Shirrell.....	Batesville
1943—Mayor Chester Holland.....	Fort Smith	1988—Mayor Marilyn Johnson.....	Fayetteville
1944—Alderman Sam M. Wassell.....	Little Rock	1989/1990—Mayor Eugene Farrell.....	Dermott
1945—Mayor Jim Dandridge.....	Paris	1990/1991—Alderman Martin Gipson.....	North Little Rock
1946—Mayor R.C. Bodenhamer.....	El Dorado	1991/1992—Mayor Bob Teeter.....	West Helena
1947—Mayor Don Harrell.....	Camden	1992/1993—Mayor Marvin Vinson.....	Clarksville
1948—Mayor James Hurley.....	Warren	1993/1994—Mayor Bill Scrimshire.....	Malvern
1949—Mayor Earl Ricks.....	Hot Springs	1994/1995—Mayor Patrick Henry Hays...	North Little Rock
1949—Mayor George Steed.....	Pine Bluff	1995/1996—Mayor Joann Smith.....	Helena
1950—Mayor B.R. McCarley.....	Texarkana	1996/1997—Mayor Arnold Feller.....	Mulberry
1951—Mayor Harney Chaney.....	Batesville	1997/1998—Mayor Gregg Reep.....	Warren
1952—Mayor Harold Falls.....	Wynne	1998/1999—Mayor Tommy Swaim.....	Jacksonville
1953—Mayor James T. Horner.....	Helena	1999/2000—Alderman Tommy Baker.....	Osceola
1954—City Clerk H.C. Graham.....	Little Rock	2000/2001—Mayor Harold West.....	Monticello
1955—Mayor William L. Ward Jr.....	Marianna	2001/2002—Mayor George Overbey Jr.....	Lamar
1956—Mayor H.R. Hestand.....	Fort Smith	2002/2003—Mayor Jim Dailey.....	Little Rock
1957—Mayor H.B. Price.....	West Memphis	2003/2004—Mayor Robert Patrick.....	St. Charles
1958—Mayor Ben F. Butler.....	Osceola	2004/2005—Mayor Gene Yarbrough.....	Star City
1959—Mayor William F. Laman.....	North Little Rock	2005/2006—Mayor Terry Coberly.....	Bentonville
1960—Mayor John Harsh.....	Magnolia	2006—Mayor Stewart Nelson.....	Morrilton
1961—Commissioner Hugh Brewer.....	Fort Smith	2007—Mayor Tab Townsell.....	Conway
1962—Mayor Roy Row.....	Batesville	2007/2008—Mayor Mike Gaskill.....	Paragould
1963—Mayor Billy Free.....	Dumas	2008/2009—Mayor JoAnne Bush.....	Lake Village
1964—Mayor Allen Ray Toothaker.....	Van Buren	2009/2010—Vice Mayor Gary Campbell.....	Fort Smith
1965—Mayor Clyde Andrews.....	Marianna	2010/2011—Alderman Murry Witcher ....	North Little Rock
1966—Mayor Vaskell Carter.....	Crossett	2011/2012—Mayor Frank Fogleman.....	Marion
1967—Mayor John Bueker.....	Stuttgart	2012/2013—Mayor Chris Claybaker.....	Camden
1968—Mayor C.A. Hughes.....	Russellville	2013/2014—Mayor Jackie Crabtree.....	Pea Ridge
1968/1969—Mayor Jesse Porter.....	West Helena	2014/2015—Mayor Mark Stodola.....	Little Rock
1970—Mayor Flynn Chivers.....	Clarendon	2015/2016—Mayor Rick Elumbaugh.....	Batesville
1971—Mayor Adrian White.....	Pocahontas	2016/2017—Mayor Harry Brown.....	Stephens
1972—Mayor Ed M. Bautts.....	Rogers	2017/2018—Mayor Doug Sprouse.....	Springdale
1973—Mayor Tom Little Jr.....	Blytheville	2018/2019—Mayor Joe A. Smith.....	North Little Rock
1974—Mayor Leslie Carmichael.....	Searcy	2019/2020—Mayor Harold Perrin.....	Jonesboro
1975—Mayor Tom Ellsworth.....	Hot Springs	2020/2021—Mayor Gary Baxter.....	Mulberry
1976—Mayor Neil Stallings.....	Jonesboro	2021/2022—Mayor Tim McKinney.....	Berryville
1977—Mayor Harry Kolb.....	Magnolia	2022—Mayor Virginia Young.....	Sherwood
1978—Mayor James Jordan.....	Monticello	2023-2024—Mayor Jonas Anderson.....	Cave City
1979—Mayor Charles Moore.....	Pine Bluff		

# 2024 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER—CITIES AND TOWNS

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







Arkansas Municipal League  
P.O. Box 38  
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038  
501-374-3484  
[www.arml.org](http://www.arml.org)

Policies and Goals