



Policies and Goals

2017-2018

**Adopted at the 83rd Annual Convention
June 16, 2017**



FOREWORD

This Statement of Municipal Policy of the Arkansas Municipal League is the vehicle through which the cities and towns of Arkansas make known their common aims and purposes and move together for the improvement of local government. It is designed to be revised and readopted each year at the League's Annual Convention. This edition was officially adopted on June 16, 2017, at the 83rd Annual Convention of the Arkansas Municipal League.

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

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

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

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

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2017 Membership Roster

499 Cities and Towns

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

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

PURPOSE AND GOALS

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

The Arkansas Municipal League is a voluntary, non-partisan organization. Membership is open to any incorporated city or town in Arkansas. The League's basic operating funds are provided by its member cities through the payment of annual service charges, and it is governed by a board of municipal officials. The League is truly a creature of the cities and towns of Arkansas and is recognized in law as their instrumentality. Presently the League has 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, schools, and short courses for the discussion of municipal problems;
9. To publish and circulate an official magazine and other publications, special reports, brochures, and newsletters of interest to Arkansas municipal officials; and
10. To assist in the development and administration of optional service programs desired by municipalities.

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

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

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

POLICIES AND GOALS

Statement of Policy of the Arkansas Municipal League Relating to the Authority, Responsibility and Financing of Municipal Government and to Federal and State Laws and Administrative Regulations Affecting Local Government.

The municipalities of the state of Arkansas assembled in conference this 16th day of June 2017, do affirm their belief in municipal government as that level which is closest to the people and most able to respond to their needs as members of a community, and do adopt the following statement of *Policies and Goals* in the advancement of effective and responsive local government.

1. THE ROLE OF CITIES

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

1-1. Diversity Creates a Need for Flexibility

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

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

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

2. SELF-GOVERNMENT

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

2-1. Programs Mandated

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

2-2. Interlocal Cooperation

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

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

2-3. Providing and Franchising of Services

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

3. FINANCE AND TAXATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3-1. State and Federal Agencies Providing Technical Assistance

Arkansas municipal officials over the years have built a tremendous capacity for technical assistance and municipal information within their own Arkansas Municipal League. In past years, the federal and state governments have allocated substantial sums of money for the creation of new bureaus, agencies and departments to provide technical assistance to local governments. These organizations provide vital services, particularly in

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

3-2. Municipal Bonds—Tax Exempt Status

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

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

The Arkansas Municipal League believes that exemptions to the Arkansas Gross Receipts Act, as well as rebates of sales tax dollars, erode the tax base and make sales taxes less equitable. Further, such exemptions and rebates create economic inefficiencies, and make the Arkansas Gross Receipts Act difficult to administer, thus driving up the public cost of administration. Additionally, exemptions and rebates create discomfort and distrust amongst the public, and foster inconsistent collection. These inaccuracies and inconsistencies make it difficult for local governments to generate the revenue necessary to provide needed services to their citizens. Because of these problems, the League opposes exemptions and rebates to local sales taxes.

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

4. BOUNDARY CHANGES

4-1. Annexation

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

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

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

5-1. Form of Municipal Government

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

5-2. City or Town Government for Municipal Functions

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

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

5-3. Benefited Areas Must Finance Services Received

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

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

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

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

6. PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

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

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

Compulsory arbitration is wrong in theory; it has not worked out in practice, and it should not be forced upon cities and towns by the state or federal governments.

It gives special privileges to selected employees, and it undermines the responsibility, authority and integrity of local government. The Arkansas Municipal League opposes compulsory arbitration and urges that state and federal legislators resist the dangers inherent in this type of legislation.

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

7. TRANSPORTATION AND STREET PROGRAMS

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

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

Periodically, the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department gives streets, roadways and highways to Arkansas cities and towns. Those streets, roadways and highways are not always in good condition and Arkansas's cities and towns are financially unable to take over and maintain these streets, roadways and highways if they are not tendered in the most pristine of condition. The League requests and encourages the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department to tender to Arkansas's cities and towns only those streets, roadways and highways that are in the best of physical condition.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY

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

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

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

Public safety officers are often required to face dangerous, fast paced, and frightening situations. In some instances they are, quite literally, called to put their lives

on the line. Tragically and all too often, those officers make the ultimate sacrifice in protecting us and our property. The League expresses its profound gratitude for those services and deepest sympathies to the families and friends who have lost one of these heroic men or women.

9. LAND USE

9-1. Legislation

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

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

9-2. Planning

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

10. MANDATED COSTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF REVENUE

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

local government in the position of having to pay for mandates and other requirements with fewer available revenue options.

The Arkansas General Assembly is frequently asked to pass laws to provide additional pension benefits, court costs, fees on municipal utilities and other types of financial increases. Laws of this type, in effect, mandate additional unfunded expenses to Arkansas municipalities. The providing of employee benefits is of crucial importance to Arkansas's 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 as well as to oppose the creation of any new and independent retirement systems.

The Arkansas Municipal League believes that parties who propose bills that directly affect municipalities should inform the Arkansas Municipal League of the intent of these bills prior to each legislative session. The intended result of this procedure would be to provide all interested parties an opportunity to educate, discuss or reconcile potential differences in the proposed legislation in advance of the convening of the Arkansas General Assembly. The resolution process adopted by the Arkansas Municipal League provides a method for reviewing municipal-related legislative proposals as well as a format for resolving differences prior to the legislative session. The Arkansas Municipal League's position on issues that affect the financial integrity of Arkansas municipal budgets will be to (1) oppose all additional district and city court costs for non-municipal purposes, (2) oppose additional pension benefits that increase municipal costs, (3) oppose additional fees placed on municipalities for state or federal agency purposes, and (4) oppose restrictions or reductions of local revenue options. Opposition to these types of issues that directly threaten the financial integrity of Arkansas municipal budgets will be an official position of the Arkansas Municipal League unless the proposed legislation is approved by an Arkansas Municipal League resolution. There should be no variance from this policy during the year except for the most compelling reasons as determined by the Executive Committee of the Arkansas Municipal League and upon two-thirds vote of that body.

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

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

12. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

13. TECHNOLOGY

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

14. DIVERSITY

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

15. EDUCATION

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

16. NATURAL DISASTERS

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

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

INDEPENDENT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT 83RD ANNUAL CONVENTION

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THE PROPER ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF SALES TAX FROM ALL INTERNET/ON-LINE SALES THEREBY CREATING A FAIR AND FREE MARKET FOR ALL BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS REGARDLESS OF THE LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS FROM WHICH THE PURCHASE WAS MADE.

WHEREAS, legislation frequently referred to as the Marketplace Fairness and Remote Transactions Parity Act (“This Legislation”) are being considered by the United States Congress; and,

WHEREAS, similar legislation was considered by the Arkansas General Assembly during the 2017 regular legislative session¹; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation would give states the authority to enforce local and state taxes that are already in place and owed by out-of-state online retailers; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation would require retailers to collect and remit sales tax to state and local governments for out-of-state online sales; and,

WHEREAS, all businesses, regardless of their physical location, should be required to collect and remit state and local sales tax; and,

WHEREAS, the playing field, as it currently stands, favors out-of-state internet retailers that exploit a pre-internet loophole, allowing them to evade collecting state and local sales tax even though they sell the same products in the same communities as local merchants do; and,

WHEREAS, as it currently stands, stores with a local retailer must collect sales tax while online stores do not, thereby enabling online stores to undercut local retail prices; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation is not a new tax or a tax increase, but rather enables states to collect taxes that are already due; and,

WHEREAS, this legislation would generate more sales, pay more sales tax to the state treasury, encourage more local retailers, create jobs for local workers and infuse more money into local economies throughout the State of Arkansas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 83RD ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

Section 1: That we do hereby urge members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation and the Arkansas Legislature to work for passage and vote in favor of legislation requiring the collection and remittance of state and local sales tax by all retailers thus making for competition in a true free market and giving every business an equal opportunity to compete, innovate and create jobs.

Section 2: Moreover, we do hereby urge Governor Asa Hutchinson to call for a special session as quickly as possible to address this most important issue for the benefit of the state’s local retail businesses and its citizens.

¹ Senate Bill 140 of 2017; www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2017/2017R/Pages/BillInformation.aspx?measureno=SB140

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'S ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE FUND AND THE ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF COURT COSTS, FEES AND FINES; AND FOR THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE FINANCIAL AND JUDICIAL NEEDS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

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 with District Courts becoming the replacement for Municipal Courts and providing access to the 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, the Legislature has focused on the collection and distribution of court costs and other fines and fees to support a variety of state agencies and entities while discounting the need for, and the ability to, collect monies by the local government; and,

WHEREAS, historically cities and towns paid virtually all the costs related to the operation of Municipal and City Courts, while the state of Arkansas paid none and counties paid very little; that practice continues to this day in most District Courts; and,

WHEREAS, with District Courts now being an integral part of the state's three-tiered court system, and the state of Arkansas as well as many counties receiving significant revenue from that system but paying little or nothing to operate those courts, an inequity exists that should be studied and addressed by the Legislature; and,

WHEREAS a fair and equitable system to share the operational costs of a District Court is to divide on a pro rata basis the costs based on the use of a court by all branches of government; and,

WHEREAS, during the 2013 Legislative Session, the Legislature recognized the merit of such a system on a limited basis by passing Act 1346 now ACA 16-17-108 (a)(55)(B)(i and ii), wherein the pro rata computation is being used in Lonoke County; and,

WHEREAS, substantial amounts of money are collected by the District Court system in the form of court costs, fees and fines; and,

WHEREAS, the state of Arkansas via the state Administration of Justice Fund receives a significant percentage of those collected monies and pays nothing to local government to help with the operational costs of the District Court; and,

WHEREAS, these financial matters are inextricably linked to a fair and equitable local court system and ultimately should be addressed by the General Assembly.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 83RD ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the study of all financial matters related to the District Court system and the passage of legislation to make equitable the operational costs of District Courts and to address the inequitable receipt of substantial monies by the State of Arkansas's Administration of Justice Fund.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT OF ACA 26-74-401 ET SEQ. TO ENSURE A MORE FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF SALES TAX REVENUE AND TO BE CONSISTENT WITH OTHER SALES TAX STATUTES.

WHEREAS, under ACA 26-74-401 et seq. a municipality may be discriminated against by prohibiting that municipality from receiving revenue generated within that city or town, and,

WHEREAS, this failure to share in that revenue stream is contrary to the notion of basic fairness and is contradictory to other sales tax laws.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 83RD ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the amendment of ACA 26-74-401 et seq. to ensure that sales tax revenues are fairly shared with all local governmental entities.

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND ACA 14-44-115 AND ACA 14-45-108 CONCERNING ELECTION OF RECORDER, TREASURER OR RECORDER-TREASURER.

WHEREAS, ACA 14-44-115 requires “the qualified voters of cities of the second class shall elect a recorder, treasurer, or a recorder-treasurer, as the case may be, for a term of four (4) years” and ACA 14-45-108 requires similar actions for incorporated towns; and,

WHEREAS, cities of the second class and incorporated towns comprise better than 75% of the municipalities within the State of Arkansas; and,

WHEREAS, smaller cities of the second class and incorporated towns especially with small populations may experience difficulties finding qualified individuals, within the municipalities corporate limits, to fill said position; and,

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that small cities and towns have the option of hiring an individual or agency to perform the duties as required by ACA 14-59-115 but such action may not be viable based on budget constraints of the municipality; and,

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 138, Act 712 of the State of Arkansas’s 91st General Assembly, seeks to punish municipalities who do not conform to ACA 14-59-117 but failed to address the root cause as to why such actions would ultimately be necessitated; and,

WHEREAS, said Act appears to be directed towards small cities and/or incorporated towns which in and of itself could be viewed as a discriminating action; and

WHEREAS, said Act could be construed as an action by the State of Arkansas to allow larger municipalities to annex smaller municipalities abutting their borders which augments the sense that actions proposed under this act are discriminating if not unconstitutional; and,

WHEREAS, no evidence can be ascertained as to the number of individuals who have been charged under ACA 14-59-118 which demonstrates the inability or unwillingness of the Legislative Audit Committee to take actions as required by law; and,

WHEREAS, it is inconceivable and incomprehensible that the State of Arkansas mandates that the recorder, treasurer, or recorder-treasurer, as may be the case, be an elected position regardless of the size of the municipality.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 83RD ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending ACA 14-44-115 and ACA 14-45-108 such that cities of the second class and incorporated towns be allowed, by ordinance, to make the position non-elected but subject to the normal hiring practices of the municipality. In so doing, Mayors and City Councils, who are ultimately responsible for the actions of the recorder treasurer, have the flexibility to insure that the individual performing the required duties is qualified and dependable. Further, that we hereby support the Governor to be encouraged to initiate a task force to investigate the necessity of having the position of recorder, treasurer, or recorder-treasurer remain an elected position. 

LEAGUE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

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

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

Legislative Liaison and Information

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

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

Annual Convention

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

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

Winter Conference

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

Publications

A significant portion of the League's overall program is devoted to the development of publications in all areas of local government concern. Special reports or magazine articles are written when a substantial number of questions have been received on subjects that are of special concern to municipal officials. Generally, if the problem is a recurring one, a manual dealing with the subject in detail is prepared. Annual publications of the League include a *Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials* and a *Salary Survey*, as well as regular updates of publications dealing with rapidly changing subjects. *The Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials* is widely used by municipal officials and in demand by many other sources.

The League publishes a magazine, *City & Town*, which provides a forum for municipal officials to exchange ideas and compare notes on accomplishments and problems in Arkansas cities and towns. This magazine has a distribution of 7,000 copies. In addition to the elected officials, city administrators and managers, the magazine is sent to police chiefs, fire chiefs, and other department heads. Also included on the mailing list are state officials, local newspapers, chambers of commerce and other offices and persons who are interested in municipal affairs.

Inquiry Service

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

State Agency Liaison

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

Ordinance and Code Assistance

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

Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program

The League's Voluntary Certified Continuing Education Program offers a series of seminars covering topics helpful to municipal leaders. Topics including municipal finance and budgeting, personnel matters, and municipal operations are heavily emphasized in this curriculum. This program is offered to Arkansas mayors, city managers, city clerks/recorder/treasurers, city directors, and aldermen. The program is voluntary, approved by the Executive Committee, and consists of 21 hours of core topics. For those city officials who have completed the 21 hours of core curriculum, a minimum of six hours of annual, continuing education is required to maintain certification status. The required 6 hours may be gained by attending any combination of certification seminars offered at League headquarters, or the Annual Convention and Winter Conference.

Benefit Programs

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

Other programs, such as the Firefighters Supplemental Income Plan, the Municipal Officials AD&D Plan, and Life Benefit Plan for both officials and employees, are available through the League at group rates.

The Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust was established in 1985 to help cities and towns meet their statutory responsibilities for on-the-job employee injuries and loss-of-time claims. Premiums

are billed annually at reasonable rates. Processing is done in-house. The services of experienced adjusters are used, and the Trust is fully protected in accordance with state law.

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

Protection to municipalities from civil rights lawsuits is also available under the MLDP, as is drug testing for employees holding commercial drivers' licenses. Optional riders are available for drug testing other city employees.

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

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

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

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

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

Planning Services

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

Field Representatives/District Meetings

Staff members of the League are "on-call" to visit cities and towns desiring help with their managerial responsibilities when time permits. The League encourages member cities to arrange for meetings and invite the League staff to present helpful information at maximum convenience to the member cities.

Safety and Wellness Services

The League has engaged a former police officer to help cities avoid vehicle accidents through the utilization of a driving simulator system. 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's 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:

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

ARTICLE II. Membership

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

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

ARTICLE III. Dues

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

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

ARTICLE IV. Officers and Committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

to the position to serve an unexpired term. He may also be elected to President as long as he is not his own immediate successor.

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

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

ARTICLE V. Elections

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

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

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

ARTICLE VI. Duties of Officers

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

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

League and the Executive Committee and he shall mail notices of all meetings.

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

ARTICLE VII. Finances

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

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

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

ARTICLE VIII. Meetings

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE IX. Amendments

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



PAST PRESIDENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL



Mayor Robert Patrick
St. Charles 2003-2004



Mayor Mike Gaskill
Paragould 2007-2008



Mayor JoAnne Bush
Lake Village 2008-2009



Council Member Murry Witcher
North Little Rock 2010-2011



Mayor Frank Fogleman
Marion 2011-2012



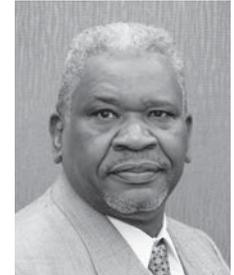
Mayor Jackie Crabtree
Pea Ridge 2013-2014



Mayor Mark Stodola
Little Rock 2014-2015



Mayor Rick Elumbaugh
Batesville 2015-2016



Mayor Harry Brown
Stephens 2016-2017

ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRS



David Morris
Searcy
Large First Class Cities



Mayor Billy Ray McKelvy
De Queen
First Class Cities



Mayor Bill Groom
Greenland
Second Class Cities



Mayor Dennis Behling
Lakeview
Small Cities and Towns



Council Member Sam
Angel, II, Lake Village
Public Safety



Mayor Harold Perrin
Jonesboro
Economic Development

MUNICIPAL HEALTH BENEFIT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Clerk/Treasurer Mitri Greenhill
Stuttgart—District 1



Mayor Gary Fletcher
Jacksonville—District 2



Mayor Randy Horton
Russellville—District 3



Mayor Marie Trisollini
Camden—District 4



Mayor Parnell Vann
Magnolia—At-Large

TRUSTEES OF MUNICIPAL LEAGUE WORKERS' COMPENSATION TRUST



Mayor William Johnson
West Memphis—District 1



Human Resources Director
Lisa Mabry-Williams
Conway—District 2



Clerk/Treasurer Sondra Smith
Fayetteville—District 3



Mayor Bryan Martin
Warren—District 4



Group Manager and City
Attorney Howard Cain
Huntsville—At-Large

2017-2018 OFFICERS



Mayor Doug Sprouse
Springdale
President



Mayor Joe Smith
North Little Rock
First Vice President



Mayor Joe Dillard
Mountain Home
Vice President District 1



Council Member Debi
Ross, North Little Rock
Vice President District 2



Mayor Lioneld Jordan
Fayetteville
Vice President District 3



Mayor Jerry Boen
Lamar
Vice President District 4

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Mayor Darrell Kirby
Bay



Mayor Bob McCaslin
Bentonville



Mayor Tim McKinney
Berryville



Mayor James Sanders
Blytheville



Clerk/Treasurer Barbara
Blackard, Clarksville



Mayor Scott McCormick
Crossett



Mayor Johnny Brigham
Dumas



Mayor Frank Hash
El Dorado



Mayor Paul Wellenberger
Fairfield Bay



Mayor Larry Bryant
Forrest City



Vice Mayor Kevin Settle
Fort Smith



Mayor Kevin Johnston
Gentry



City Manager
Catherine Cook
Hope



Council Member
Reedie Ray
Jacksonville



Council Member
James Moore
Magnolia



Mayor Jimmy Williams
Marianna



Mayor Mike Watson
Maumelle



Mayor Gary Baxter
Mulberry



Mayor Sonny Hudson
Prairie Grove



Mayor Greg Hines
Rogers



Mayor Mike Kemp
Shannon Hills



Mayor Virginia Young
Sherwood



Council Member
Dorothy Henderson
Warren



Mayor Bob Stacy
Wynne

PAST PRESIDENTS

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



Arkansas Municipal League
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Policies and Goals