

Arkansas Municipal League

Great Cities Make a Great State





Introduction

The Arkansas Municipal League was established in 1934 and is an agency of the municipalities of Arkansas. The League was created to assist cities with information and representation in the public affairs of our state and nation.

Membership is voluntary, and all 500 cities and towns in the state have chosen to participate. The membership represents 100 percent of the population of the cities and towns, which are home to approximately 65 percent of the state's population. Cities and towns enjoy the League's services and facilities year-round.

The Executive Committee, the governing body of the League, is composed of 30 members. The annual League convention elects six officers; the newly elected president appoints 24 Executive Committee members. The Executive Committee chooses the Executive Director, who is responsible for administering the League's policies and programs. The Executive Director selects the staff, and they work together to provide Arkansas municipalities the best in League services and programs.

Legislation

One goal of the Arkansas Municipal League is to promote the mutual interests of Arkansas municipalities. The League has been highly successful through the years in securing legislation beneficial to Arkansas cities and towns. The local sales tax authority, as an example, was a League initiative.

The League proposed and successfully fought to restore tort immunity for Arkansas's local governments after the state Supreme Court had abolished it in 1968. Improved annexation procedures are products of League-proposed legislation.

The League seeks to provide Arkansas cities and towns with the laws that enable them to grow in an orderly manner without many of the problems that cities elsewhere encounter.

Through the League's efforts, Arkansas has emerged as a leader among the states in turning funds back to local governments, where local officials and residents determine how the funds are spent, thereby assuring at least a minimum level of local services.

The Arkansas General Assembly's annual sessions present a broad range of opportunities and challenges to municipalities and the League's leadership. The League's website, www.arml.org, is home to the Legislative Action Center, which consists of legislative information on both the state and federal levels that affects municipalities. One feature of the Legislative Action Center is the *Legislative Bulletin*, which allows members to view bills of interest to the League. The Center also features a bill-tracking tool, Legislative Committee information, as well as direct contacts for federal and state legislators.





Meetings and Seminars

Each year the League sponsors a Convention for municipal officials from across the state. The officials discuss mutual problems, discover the latest developments in local government and learn how they can govern more effectively and efficiently. Outstanding speakers—legislators, state and federal agency representatives and professionals from an array of fields—address topics of municipal concern. State and national legislative issues are discussed, and the League *Policies and Goals* statement for the coming year is adopted. No successful convention is all work, of course, and convention delegates, families and guests enjoy special activities, including banquets and live entertainment.

The League also conducts a Winter Conference along with periodical training meetings and seminars. It assists municipal officials and employees with current issues, technology and other developments and helps them gain expertise in dealing with municipal problems. The League partners with the Governor's Office and the Arkansas DHS Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support each year to recognize Arkansas's cities and towns as Volunteer Communities of the Year. The League and Main Street Arkansas also work together to honor winning Main Street Arkansas participants. The League also partners with the Arkansas Business Publishing Group each year to present the Trendsetter City awards, designed to honor cities across the state for outstanding contributions to better their cities. The winners are featured in a special supplement to *Arkansas Business*. Visit www.arml.org and click on the Calendar of Events page for a current listing of meetings.

The League offers a Voluntary Certification program for municipal officials to increase their basic knowledge of local governance. The program has proven popular with city and town leaders across the state. To become a Certified Municipal Official, participants must achieve 21 hours of coursework, including 15 hours of core courses held at League headquarters throughout the year, and six hours of continuing education held at the Winter Conference and annual Convention. Officials can then maintain their certification by taking six hours of continuing education courses each year.

League Services

The **Code Service** that codifies a municipality's ordinances into a single volume is an important League function. League-produced books of codified ordinances are valuable references for each participating city and town. Copies of the codified books of ordinances are made available to those needing a city or town's laws. The mayor, city manager or administrator, city clerk, council members or city directors, and others can have their own copies of this handy reference.

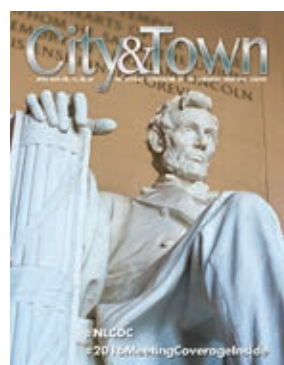
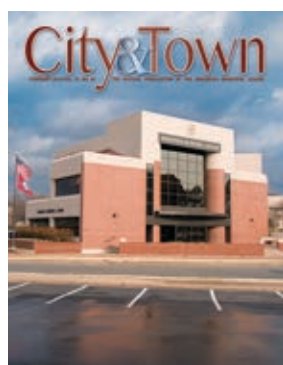
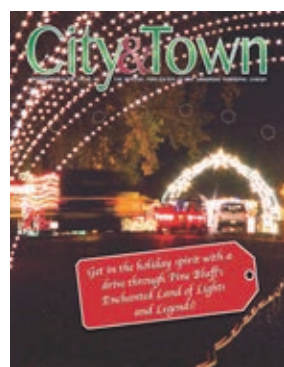
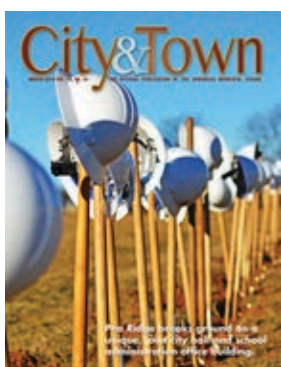
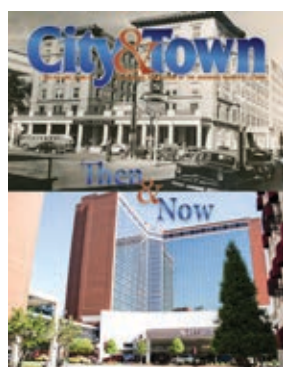
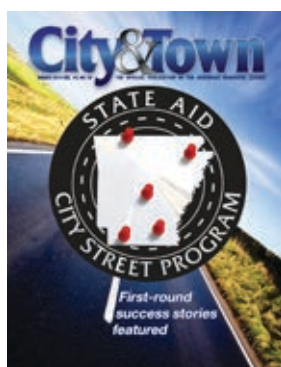
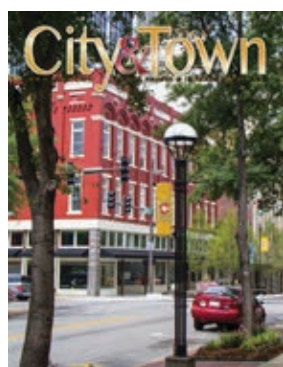
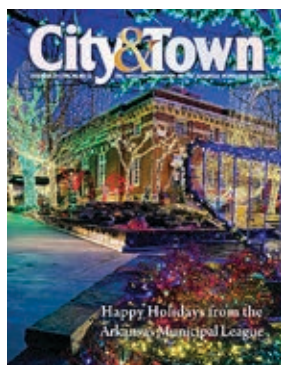
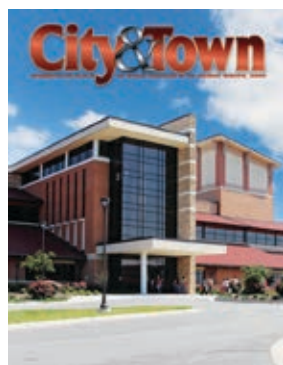
The codification service updates the code books periodically as new city laws are adopted. The League's staff of attorneys assists municipalities in drafting and revising municipal ordinances. The League keeps on hand sample ordinances on almost any subject of municipal concern. Municipal officials may use those samples as guides to write their own ordinances suitable for their particular needs.

The **Inquiry Service** allows League staff members to assist local officials with municipal problems. They answer questions concerning procedures for new officials and questions about League programs. The League staff is available by telephone, written correspondence, memoranda, email, and in person at League headquarters in North Little Rock. Staff members attend council meetings or meet officials locally, on request, as time permits.

Through **Planning Services**, the League offers to its member cities and towns the services of a registered city planner for teaching at seminars and for technical consultation. The first visit each year by the planner to a city for advice, information and consultation is a complimentary service. The League staff city planner writes a monthly *City & Town* column and also writes articles and book reviews.

The League's Wellness Program, **#AMLMoves**, is designed to promote fitness, health and well-being among member cities. The program seeks to reduce employee sick leave, health insurance claims and premiums for cities and towns. The program's aim is to create awareness, understanding and solutions for lifestyle risk factors that can contribute to health-related issues.





Publications and Website

The official publication of the Arkansas Municipal League, **City & Town**, is published monthly and disseminates legal advice, articles about cities and towns, sales tax data, state and federal laws and regulations, health, tree care, planning, engineering, animal control, classified advertising and other information to help cities and towns run more effectively and efficiently.

The **Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials** is published every other year after each regular Arkansas legislative session. Its codification of state laws that affect municipalities is a vital source of information for municipal officials.

Annual publications of the League include the *Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials* and the *Salary Survey*. The *Directory* lists all Arkansas cities and towns, their officials, department heads, city hall addresses, telephone and fax numbers, emails, and websites. City classification, population, meeting days of the city council or board, and the county in which each municipality is located are included.

The League website, www.arml.org, displays information about the League, its services and programs, an events calendar, a training calendar, history, leadership, classifieds, resources, links about Arkansas cities and towns, and whom to call at the League for assistance. Links connect members to local, state, and national resources. The League regularly updates its publications, and they may be ordered, downloaded, and purchased directly from the website.

Additionally, the League's microsite, www.greatcitiesgreatstate.com, offers deliverables to city officials wishing to educate their constituents on the vital services cities and towns provide. The materials available on the microsite help tell the story of the great work our hometowns are doing on a daily basis.

Optional Programs

The League provides the officials and employees of its cities and towns with many optional group programs.

- The **Municipal Health Benefit Fund** covers local officials and employees with an excellent benefit package.
- The **Municipal Officials Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan** also covers city officials and department heads.
- The **Municipal Vehicle Program** offers low-cost vehicle coverage to member cities and towns. In addition, this program offers members access to a state-of-the-art driving simulator designed to hone safe and defensive driving skills.
- The **Municipal Property Program** began in 1985 and covers municipal properties.
- The **Municipal League Workers' Compensation Trust** covers employees in more than 490 cities and towns. School districts also are eligible for coverage.
- The **Firefighters Supplemental Income Protection and Death Benefit Program** is a popular program available to cities and towns participating in the Workers' Compensation Trust.
- The **Municipal Legal Defense Program** provides municipalities, municipal officials and employees with limited protection against lawsuits involving their assets. Participating municipalities' annual program fees are based primarily on city population. A steering committee and the League Executive Director oversee the program.

- **Drug and alcohol testing** is available for municipal employees who hold commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) and who operate safety-sensitive equipment. The program, begun in 1996 in response to a federal law, helps cities and towns comply with the federal mandate at a group rate with an established testing service. It is available to cities enrolled in the Municipal Legal Defense Program.
- **Drug and alcohol testing of non-CDL employees** is a program begun in 1999. The service includes pre-employment tests, random tests, post-accident tests, and reasonable-suspicion tests.
- The **Pension Management Trust** provides professional investment management for local police, fire and non-uniformed employee pension plans in Arkansas. The Trust manages the assets and provides administrative services and obtains greater earnings than local pension boards could achieve on their own. Local pension boards retain full control.
- The **Municipal Other Post Employment Benefits Trust** is available to assist cities in meeting future funding obligations for retirees in areas other than pensions, particularly healthcare.

Collaborative Organizations

American Planning Association, Arkansas Chapter

American Public Works Association

Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police

Arkansas City Attorneys Association

Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association

Arkansas City Managers Association

Arkansas Emergency Management Association

Arkansas Municipal Power Association

Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association

Arkansas Water and Wastewater Manager's Association

Association of Arkansas Governmental Finance Officers

Main Street Arkansas

National Association of Fire Chiefs, Arkansas Chapter

National League of Cities

Purchasing Agents Association

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of the Arkansas Municipal League logo. Each logo is circular, featuring a stylized city hall with columns and a pediment. The text "CITY HALL" is written above the columns, and "ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE" is written around the top inner edge of the circle. Below the city hall, the phrase "GREAT CITIES MAKE A GREAT STATE" is written around the bottom inner edge. The logos are arranged in a grid, with some in blue and some in green.

Arkansas Municipal League

P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115

301 W. Second St.
North Little Rock, AR 72114

501-374-3484

www.arml.org
www.greatcitiesgreatstate.com

December 2016