Policies and Goals

2020-2021

Adopted August 21, 2020, at the 86th Annual Virtual Convention
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 August 21, 2020, at the 86th Annual Virtual 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 believe that this year will be a good one for Arkansas cities and towns and their residents.

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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 498 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 interests 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 21st day of August 2020, 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 that are national in scope, such as relations with other nations and relations among the states. State government deals with those activities and services that are best supplied on a statewide level. County government is a service level of government and deals primarily with tax administration, jails, coroner services, courthouses, elections and roads. Municipal government is a service level of government and deals with those basic physical and social services desired by individuals residing in 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, and 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 that imposes additional local responsibilities without providing from the state or federal government the revenues to support the additional requirements. The League supports the law that 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’ 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 that 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 that 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 among 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 a 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 that 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. The League 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 U.S.C. § 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 that will permit residents of the city or town to select the form of government best suited to their individual needs and desires. Whether elected officials are elected at-large or by wards, and whether the municipality has a mayor-council, city manager or city administrator form of government must be an individual determination for the municipality’s residents. It is contrary to the best principles of home rule to dictate the form of local government from sources other than 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’ 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, among many things, regular reporting of their operations, their finances and their membership. Further, we ask the Legislature to hold improvement districts to the same level of accountability as local governmental entities and officials are held.

5-3. 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 that are of no direct benefit to residents of municipalities. Specifically, taxpayers within municipalities must not be taxed by county or state government for purposes of rendering municipal-type services such as fire, police, sanitation and solid waste pickup and disposal for rural residents.

Further, counties should refrain from embarking upon municipal-type services unless and until the services for which county government has primary responsibility and jurisdiction, 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 taxpayer 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 believes 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 that tend to supersed 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 Department of Transportation gives streets, roads and highways to Arkansas cities and towns. Those streets, roads and highways are not always in good condition and Arkansas’ cities and towns are financially unable to take over and maintain these streets, roads and highways if they are not tendered in the most pristine of condition. The League requests and encourages ArDOT to tender to Arkansas’ cities and towns only those streets, roads and highways that are in the best of physical condition.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY

The increasing mobility of our society gives adequate proof that new techniques are required to control crime. Old concepts need to be critically reexamined in light of U.S. 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’ cities and towns. Of particular concern is the need for local government to ensure that those benefits do not cause a loss in the provision of local services. State retirement benefits are typically better for employees and more cost effective for the employer when they are administered by one entity rather than by many. Therefore, the League endorses, where practical, the merging of state public retirement systems into one collective, more stable and more efficient system, and opposes the creation of any new and independent retirement systems.

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 that 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’ 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 cleanup 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.
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ISSUE 1, PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION TO CONTINUE A LEVY OF A ONE-HALF PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX FOR STATE HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES; COUNTY ROADS, BRIDGES, AND OTHER SURFACE TRANSPORTATION; AND CITY STREETS, BRIDGES, AND OTHER SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AFTER THE RETIREMENT OF THE BONDS AUTHORIZED IN ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 91, AS SPECIAL REVENUE TO BE DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE ARKANSAS HIGHWAY REVENUE DISTRIBUTION LAW.

WHEREAS, Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 91, levies a one-half percent sales and use tax to provide additional funding for the state’s four-lane highway system, county roads, and city streets; and,

WHEREAS, the one-half percent sales and use tax under Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 91, is due to expire unless a new constitutional amendment is passed; and,

WHEREAS, HJR 1018 of 2019 proposed that the sales and use tax levied under Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 91, be continued to provide special revenue for use of maintaining, repairing, and improving the state’s system of highways, county roads, and city streets; and,

WHEREAS, HJR 1018 is known as “Issue 1” for the 2020 General Election on November 3rd; and,

WHEREAS, without continuation of this sales and use tax the state will be unable to meet the severe and pressing needs to maintain and improve the state’s system of state highways, county roads, and city streets; and,

WHEREAS, the continuation of the one-half percent sales and use tax will ensure future investment in the state highway system, county roads, and city streets; and,

WHEREAS, this investment will create jobs, aid in economic development, improve quality of life, and provide additional transportation infrastructure, including specifically, a four-lane highway construction plan designed to connect all regions of the state, and;

WHEREAS, it is beneficial for all municipalities to support the passage of Issue 1 as a necessary funding mechanism for our travel infrastructure and will serve as an economic boon for the State.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the legal proposals found in Issue 1 as well as its adoption by the people of the State of Arkansas at the next general election.


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, the State, through Arkansas Legislative Audit, performed a comprehensive financial review of the Arkansas Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Circuit Court dated December 3, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the comprehensive financial review revealed an uneven burden placed on the counties; and,

WHEREAS, a new study of the district court system is necessary to reveal the growing financial burden placed on municipalities; 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 86th 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 TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS LOCAL OPTION WET/DRY LAWS, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MORE DECISION-MAKING POWER IN RESIDENTS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND TO ENSURE AN EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF ASSOCIATED SALES TAXES

WHEREAS, the Proceedings Pursuant to the 1935 Act have long barred communities from making decision in their best interest as it relates to local option elections; and,

WHEREAS, the statutory system allows for communities to vote to prohibit alcohol sales regardless of whether or not the county is wet or dry; and,

WHEREAS, the reciprocal option does not exist to allow for the local option to vote a community wet when the county is dry; and,

WHEREAS, this inequity should be resolved for these reasons, but the current law prohibits such; and,

WHEREAS, some municipalities cannot petition and call for a vote in certain circumstances when they are located in a wet county; and,

WHEREAS, decades old geographic “township” designations unnecessarily constrain municipalities from calling for a wet/dry vote as they must wait for the virtually defunct township to vote first; and,

WHEREAS, some counties still constrained by dry townships include Calhoun, Carroll, Cleveland, Conway, Crittenden, Cross, Dallas, Drew, Franklin, Garland, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Logan, Mississippi, Monroe, Ouachita, Poinsett, Pulaski, Union, and Washington Counties; and,

WHEREAS, allowing a city or town to vote on a local option matter empowers the citizens to exercise their rights of petition more freely.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the amendment of ACA § 3-8-305, et seq., and any other statutes necessary to allow all municipalities the option to vote on its status under the local option laws.

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1 Special Report, Arkansas Legislative Audit, Information Regarding the Arkansas Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Circuit Courts. www.arcounties.org/site/assets/files/3859/courtcosts.pdf
A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE SALES TAX CONFIDENTIALITY AND REBATE STATUTES ACA § 26-18-303 AND § 26-52-523, TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCURACY, SO MUNICIPALITIES MAY ACCURATELY PREDICT THEIR TAX REVENUES AND LOSSES.

WHEREAS, currently the Department of Finance and Administration cannot provide municipalities with detailed information regarding local sales tax collections due to various confidentiality statutes; and,

WHEREAS, municipalities are not able to accurately forecast their budgets in a timely manner without more details than what the statutes currently allow; and,

WHEREAS, sales tax revenues that are initially reported might ultimately be subject to a rebate; and,

WHEREAS, the current system allows for large sales tax rebates months after the initial purchase; and,

WHEREAS, these unpredictable rebates have resulted in municipalities receiving increased sales tax revenue one month, and then no sales tax revenue for several months once the rebate is claimed; and,

WHEREAS, these rebates are claimed up to one (1) year after the purchase, thus a significant amount of time after the collection and distribution of the tax, which could span more than one fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, more detailed information collected and dispersed to municipalities would help identify any errors in taxing and collecting sales taxes, which currently result in more unforeseen losses of sales tax revenues long after the taxes are initially remitted; and,

WHEREAS, more detail such as location of sales would greatly increase municipalities’ revenue forecasting capabilities; and,

WHEREAS, sales which occur at brick-and-mortar stores, large outdoor shopping centers, or online, all indicate different citizen trends, and if this information were available municipalities could better manage their budgets; and,

WHEREAS, fiscal responsibility is a keystone of Arkansas’s governance and detailed, but anonymous, tax data would greatly increase fiscal responsibility and budgeting across the state of Arkansas; and,

WHEREAS, this lack of information makes financial planning, budgeting, and proper governance of a municipality extremely difficult; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the amendment of any statute which interferes with the accurate and timely reporting of local sales tax collection numbers, so that municipalities may accurately predict their revenues and losses in a timely manner.

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE ARKANSAS CODE TO CLEAN UP ARCHAIC LANGUAGE, OBSOLETE STATUTES, AND PROVIDE CLARITY WHERE LONGSTANDING UNDEFINED TERMS EXIST, SO MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS MAY BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR STATUTORY DUTIES.

WHEREAS, many portions of Title 14 of the Arkansas Code were first implemented in 1875; and,

WHEREAS, some statutes have remained unchanged in the last 145 years; and,

WHEREAS, many of these statutes need clarification from updating archaic language, removing obsolete portions, or providing definitions where none existed; and,

WHEREAS, many other statutes leave many terms undefined; and

WHEREAS, municipal officials are left to research Attorney General’s opinions or request a formal opinion from legal counsel; and,

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Code would be more accessible to officials and citizens if many of the ambiguous terms were defined in accordance with the opinions our current officials rely upon.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the amendment of Title 14 of the Arkansas Code to clean up archaic language, obsolete statutes, and provide clarity where longstanding undefined terms exist.
A RESOLUTION TO AMEND BIDDING STATUTES ACA § 14-58-303 AND ACA § 22-9-203 TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY IN DOLLAR AMOUNTS PERTAINING TO BIDDING AS WELL AS ENSURING EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES DAMAGING MUNICIPAL PROPERTY MAY BE REPAIRED EXPEDITIOUSLY BEFORE FURTHER DAMAGE OCCURS.

WHEREAS, current law requires bids to be taken for general repairs or contracts above $20,000 pursuant to ACA § 14-58-303; and,

WHEREAS, for public improvement contracts and building the threshold monetary amount for bidding is $35,000; and,

WHEREAS, prior to the 2017 Arkansas legislative session the monetary requirements were the same for both types of bidding thereby ensuring consistent following of state law and preventing confusion; and,

WHEREAS, great confusion now exists with city officials as to when it is necessary to bid in light of the inconsistent monetary provisions of the statutes; and,

WHEREAS, to ensure consistency and the best use of taxpayer dollars both bidding statutes should have a threshold monetary bidding requirement of $35,000; and,

WHEREAS, ACA § 14-58-303 allows bidding to be waived by ordinance in exceptional circumstances where bidding isn’t feasible or practical, however ACA § 22-9-203 has no such provision; and,

WHEREAS, in times of emergency such as tornados, floods, fire and the like it is necessary for speedy and major repair or construction work to be done regarding public improvements, yet under ACA § 22-9-203 there is no ability to waive bids; and,

WHEREAS, allowing bids to be waived in times of emergency is necessary for the public good and the health, safety and welfare of municipal citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the amendment of ACA § 14-58-303 making the bidding threshold consistent at $35,000 and for ACA § 22-9-203 to be amended to include a bidding waiver provision like that found in ACA § 14-58-303.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING ACA § 26-75-222 TO INCREASE THE CAP REGARDING THE MAXIMUM SALES OR USE TAX LEVED AND COLLECTED ON CERTAIN PURCHASES SUCH AS A MOTOR VEHICLES, AIRCRAFT AND MANUFACTURED HOMES.

WHEREAS, cities and towns have been capped on levyng and collecting sales and use tax on certain items at twenty-five hundred dollars ($2,500.00) since 1983; and,

WHEREAS, in 1983 the average price of a new car was $10,607 and the average price of a used car was $5,738.

WHEREAS, in 2019 the average price of a new car was $37,285 and the average price of a used car was $20,200.

WHEREAS, the current cap is antiquated and should be raised to five thousand dollars ($5,000.00).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending ACA § 26-75-222 to raise the cap on levying and collecting sales and use tax on certain items listed in the statute to five thousand dollars ($5,000.00).

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING ACA § 26-73-105 TO REDUCE THE ADMINISTRATIVE FEE CHARGED BY THE STATE OF ARKANSAS TO COLLECT SALES TAX FROM 3% TO 1.5%.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, today computers and automatic accounting and collections procedures make the task of sales tax collection miniscule and 1.5% is a much more reasonable figure given today’s digital age.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending ACA § 26-73-105 to reduce the local sales tax collection fee to 1.5% thereby more accurately reflecting today’s automated society.
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT OF ACA § 14-20-108 TO ALLOW PROCESSES SIMILAR TO THOSE AVAILABLE TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO BE USED IN LIEU OF AN ELECTION FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF CITY OR TOWN FIRE DUES.

WHEREAS, current law directs any county collector where fire dues have been assessed by a county, city or town to list those dues annually on real property tax statements; and,

WHEREAS, current law allows either a county or municipal governing body to place fire dues on the ballot for approval; and,

WHEREAS, that same body of law allows county government to engage in a petition process to assess those dues rather than the more expensive and time-consuming process of a special election; and,

WHEREAS, cities and towns are not authorized to engage in the petition process or anything similar thereto; and,

WHEREAS, city and town fire departments, volunteer or paid, are unique and very different from their counterparts in the unincorporated areas of counties; and,

WHEREAS, municipalities are required to provide fire services to their citizenry but are only authorized to provide that service to those living outside the municipal limits where those areas are not a part of, or are not adequately serviced by, another fire department; and,

WHEREAS, the governing bodies of cities and towns must manage limited revenues to fund all public safety services in their city or town; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to an election for the assessment of fire dues, cities and towns be allowed to assess or raise fire dues via petition, or by ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support the amendment of ACA § 14-20-108 to provide that the governing bodies of cities and towns have the same power of assessment of fire dues as counties via a petition process as well as being given the full authority to assess or raise those dues by ordinance.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT OF THE ARKANSAS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) TO LIST ALL EXEMPTIONS TO THE MANDATES OF THE FOIA IN A SINGLE SECTION OF ACA § 25-19-101 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, in addition to the various exemptions specifically enumerated in the FOIA, ACA § 25-19-101 et seq, the Arkansas Code has many other restrictions and prohibitions regarding the release of what would otherwise be considered a public document pursuant to the provisions of the FOIA; and,

WHEREAS, researching the entire statutory scheme found in the Arkansas Code for other exemptions to the release of public information is time consuming and wastes precious governmental resources; and,

WHEREAS, this research is also very complicated because in many instances the FOIA isn’t mentioned in those independent code sections; and,

WHEREAS, because this research is so difficult it often leads to inconsistencies in the interpretation of the law thereby causing unnecessary confusion amongst taxpayers which in turn results in the public’s distrust of municipal government.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support an amendment to ACA § 25-19-101 et seq to list all statutory exemptions to the release of public documents in one section of the code within the FOIA and that any laws passed in the future prohibiting release of a public document be also included in this newly formed section of the code.
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT OF ACA § 25-19-101 ET SEQ TO ENSURE THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO LEGAL COUNSEL FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS IS EQUAL TO THAT OF PRIVATE CITIZENS AS WELL AS ENSURING FUNDAMENTAL FAIRNESS IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, a tried and true tenant of the American legal system is the sanctity of the attorney-client relationship; and,

WHEREAS, one of the primary foundations of that relationship is the privacy afforded clients regardless of social station, vocation or wealth regarding their communications with their attorneys; and,

WHEREAS, those communications ensure candid discussions and in turn provide the very basis of the representation including but not limited to legal advice, tactical decisions and work product; and,

WHEREAS, current Arkansas law provides virtually no attorney-client privilege for public officials regardless of the capacity they are sued in; and,

WHEREAS, the FOIA allows the public, the media and the opposing party and attorneys to review virtually every record in the litigation file regardless of its contents; and,

WHEREAS, essentially, that rule of law means that the private party to the suit has all the advantages of being in an attorney-client relationship, while a public official does not; and,

WHEREAS, this double standard is unfair, unlawful and without precedent in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, transparency of governmental action is also of paramount importance in our society thus these litigation records should be made available to the public upon the conclusion of the litigation; and,

WHEREAS, by protecting the sanctity of the attorney-client privilege during the pendency of litigation while being transparent upon the conclusion of the litigation means both laudable goals will be met.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending ACA § 14-235-223 to more closely reflect the procedures found in the water system law found at ACA § 14-234-214.
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT OF ACA § 25-19-106(D), TO PROVIDE FOR CLARIFICATION OF WHAT OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS MUST BERecorded AND WHICH MEETINGS MAY BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO SATISFY THE LAW.

WHEREAS, Act 1028 of 2019 mandated that all open public meetings must be recorded and maintained for at least one (1) year; and,

WHEREAS, the scope of this Act has had unintended impact on small departments and other arms of the municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, every meeting by a governing body of government in Arkansas must meet in open publicly available meetings to conduct business; and,

WHEREAS, this openness is a staple of Arkansas law and should remain unchanged; and,

WHEREAS, there is room to amend Act 1028 of 2019 to provide clarity and relief to departments, agencies, and other subsidiary arms of municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act to ensure that public entities know what meetings must be recorded and which ancillary boards, commissions, or agencies may simply meet in open public meetings without recording the meeting.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT OF ACA § 25-19-105, TO ALLOW EMPLOYEES' GROSS SALARIES TO BE RELEASED PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT WITHOUT NOTIFYING EVERY EMPLOYEE OF THE RECORD REQUEST.

WHEREAS, under ACA § 25-19-105 cities receive public records requests for all municipal employees' salaries; and,

WHEREAS, the municipalities have a statutory duty to notify the employees that a request has been made and that the employee has a right to seek an Attorney General’s opinion on the matter if they disagree with the request; and,

WHEREAS, the Attorney General has never opined that gross salary amounts should not be released by a municipality; and,

WHEREAS, providing a quicker response to record requests would help the public obtain more accurate and timely records; and,

WHEREAS, no harm would occur from removing the notification process because it only serves to delay responses and never actually prevent the release of the information.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act to allow the release of salary information without going through the mandatory notification process of the employees in question.
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT OF ACA § 25-19-106(c)(1)(A), TO ALLOW FOR DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN EXECUTIVE SESSIONS.

WHEREAS, under ACA § 25-19-106(c) governing bodies may meet in executive session for limited purposes; and,

WHEREAS, many economic development documents are by law shielded from public view knowing that the information could create an unfair disadvantage for businesses attempting to work with municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, usually these discussions involve confidential private business plans, strategies, and possible expansions; and,

WHEREAS, providing a mechanism to have these discussions with the governing body of a municipality will protect corporate interests and foster a better state of economic development in the state of Arkansas; and,

WHEREAS, decisions could not be made outside of a public meeting, so no harm will result to the public in allowing limited discussions in executive session to discuss economic development projects.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act to allow the discussions of economic development projects in executive session, but as with all executive sessions, no decisions may be made until returning to the public session and putting the matter to a public vote.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION KNOWN AS “HATE CRIME” LEGISLATION, AND/OR THE ENHANCEMENT OF CRIMINAL PENALTIES.

WHEREAS, Arkansas has no “hate crime” law; and,

WHEREAS, enhanced penalties to criminal acts are needed when they are committed “due to victim’s race, color, religion, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, or disability;” and,

WHEREAS, the public expression of condemning hate crimes is a bold step and shows the country that Arkansas does not tolerate discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, many states have already adopted such legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support passing “hate crime” legislation to ensure Arkansans are free from discriminatory acts of violence, and to further ensure that perpetrators of such crimes will be held accountable by the criminal justice system at the charging phase and/or the punishment phase of the case.
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOLISTIC CHANGES TO THE WATER LAW STATUTES, BY CREATING TOOLS TO ADDRESS FUNDING PROBLEMS, AVOIDING FISCAL DISTRESS, ESTABLISHING TRAINING PROTOCOLS AND OPPORTUNITIES, AND CREATING A BOARD TO EFFECTUATE THESE GOALS.

WHEREAS, clean, safe, affordable, and abundant drinking water should be available to all citizens of Arkansas; and,

WHEREAS, water capacity issues do at times delay or prohibit access to a public, private, or community water system; and,

WHEREAS, some Arkansas citizens and communities do not have the financial resources to pay the rates necessary to cover the full costs of water acquisition, production, distribution, and depreciation; and,

WHEREAS, decisions to maintain, grow, operate, and create these systems is currently decided by multiple jurisdictions with different entities being governed by various standards; and,

WHEREAS, many water systems are on the verge of disrepair from a lack funding, necessary rates to provide for maintenance and depreciation, and training for employees to keep these systems operating.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support passing legislation addressing these issues similar to the final version of Senate Bill 481 of 2019.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING THE LAWS REGARDING LEGAL PUBLICATION TO ALLOW FOR ONLINE PUBLICATION.

WHEREAS, increasingly newspaper circulation, publication, and reading has declined as the world moves toward digital means of gathering information; and,

WHEREAS, many newspapers have ceased operations or alternatively greatly reduced their print publication; and,

WHEREAS, as newspapers move toward digital formats our laws must shift to let legal publications occur online; and,

WHEREAS, without this change many municipalities will have to abandon newspaper publication; and,

WHEREAS, online availability will help increase efficiency and citizen notice because many no longer read print newspapers.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending the generic, and specific, statutes concerning legal notice to allow for notice to occur via electronic means in a method that is fair and efficient.
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING PURCHASING LAWS OF MUNICIPALITIES ALLOWING THEM THE SAME BIDDING EXEMPTIONS COUNTIES CURRENTLY HAVE CONTAINED WITHIN ACA § 14-22-106.

WHEREAS, for over fifty-five (55) years the Legislature has recognized the benefit of allowing certain local governments purchase particular commodities without soliciting bids; and,

WHEREAS, these exemptions include many provisions which would rarely require bidding in municipalities under ACA § 14-58-303; and,

WHEREAS, many of the exemptions already exist in state law and legislation would make the law clearer and easier for public officials to rapidly find the relevant code; and,

WHEREAS, easier to understand and locate law promotes public support and fosters good relations with the community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending the purchasing laws for municipalities to apply the exemptions found in ACA § 14-22-106 toward municipalities.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AMENDING THE CIGARETTE AND OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCT TAX LAWS TO REINSTATE THE BORDER MUNICIPALITY TAX RATES.

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Arkansas Legislature passed several tax cleanup acts; and,

WHEREAS, one such bill repealed what is known as the border tax zone rates on cigarettes; and,

WHEREAS, this special rate allowed border municipalities to offer cigarettes for sale while charging the same tax as the adjoining state; and,

WHEREAS, this system provided competitive rates where competition would otherwise suffer and flow only to other states; and,

WHEREAS, after reviewing the system for the 2019 and 2020 year, the border cities need relief from the 2019 legislative act; and,

WHEREAS, amending this legislation will drive consumers and competition to Arkansas’ communities along its borders.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN 86th ANNUAL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED:

That we do hereby support amending the cigarette tax laws for municipalities to allow for the bordering state’s tax rate to apply in limited scenarios and to otherwise reinstate the law prior to 2019. ⚠️
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’ 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 page 26.

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’ 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. Publications of the League include a biennial Directory of Arkansas Municipal Officials, 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 electronic communications (LawInquiry@arml.org), telephone, memorandum, referral, special survey or when appropriate, on-site consultation.

State Agency Liaison
As the relationship between levels of government becomes more complex, more of the League’s efforts have become devoted to intergovernmental relations. The role of the League as a representative for cities and towns in dealing with the various agencies of county, state and federal government has become increasingly significant in recent years and is expected to play a major part in the organization’s future activities.
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/recorders/treasurers, city directors, council members, department heads and key personnel. 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 six hours may be gained by attending three hours of continuing education courses offered at the Annual Convention and Winter Conference. The League has also implemented advanced level training for those who have achieved Level 1 certification.

Benefit Programs
The League’s Municipal Health Benefit Program provides medical, dental and vision benefits to employees and officials. The advantage of being a part of the large group has enabled 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 Program was established in 1985 to help cities and towns meet their statutory responsibilities for on-the-job employee injuries and loss-of-time claims. Premiums are billed annually at reasonable rates. Processing is done in house. The services of experienced adjusters are used, and the program 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’ 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.
1935—Mayor U.E. Moore ................................................ North Little Rock
1936—Mayor Jim Jordan .............................................. Fort Smith
1937—Mayor R.E. Overman .................................. Little Rock
1938—City Manager C.C. Mitchener ............... Marianna
1939—Mayor H.C. Stump ............................................ Stuttgart
1940—Mayor A.D. McAllister ...................... Fayetteville
1941—Mayor J.V. Satterfield ...................... Little Rock
1941—Mayor Tom Cashion ................................ Eudora
1942—Mayor H.O. Walker ................................... Newport
1943—Mayor Chester Holland ................. Fort Smith
1944—Alderman Sam M. Wassell ............. Little Rock
1945—Mayor Jim Dandridge ...................... Paris
1946—Mayor R.C. Bodenhamer ...................... El Dorado
1947—Mayor Don Harrell .................................. Camden
1948—Mayor James Hurley ................................ Warren
1949—Mayor Earl Hicks .......................... Hot Springs
1949—Mayor George Steed .......................... Pine Bluff
1950—Mayor B.R. McCarley .................... Texarkana
1951—Mayor Harney Chaney ................................ Batesville
1952—Mayor Harold Falls ................................ Wynne
1953—Mayor James T. Horner ......................... Helena
1954—City Clerk H.C. Graham .......... Little Rock
1955—Mayor William L. Ward Jr. ............. Marianna
1956—Mayor H.R. Hestand ................................ Fort Smith
1957—Mayor H.B. Price ................................ West Memphis
1958—Mayor Ben F. Butler ................................. Osceola
1959—Mayor William F. Laman .................. North Little Rock
1960—Mayor John Harsh ............................. Magnolia
1961—Commissioner Hugh Brewer .......... Fort Smith
1962—Mayor Roy Row ........................................ Batesville
1963—Mayor Billy Free ........................................ Dumas
1964—Mayor Allen Ray Toothaker ............. Van Buren
1965—Mayor Clyde Andrews ......................... Marianna
1966—Mayor Vaskell Carter ....................... Crossett
1967—Mayor John Bueker ....................... Stuttgart
1968—Mayor C.A. Hughes ........................... Russellville
1968/1969—Mayor Jesse Porter ..................... West Helena
1970—Mayor Flynn Chivers ......................... Clarendon
1971—Mayor Adrian White ......................... Pocahontas
1972—Mayor Ed M. Bautts ................................. Rogers
1973—Mayor Tom Little Jr. ..................... Blytheville
1974—Mayor Leslie Carmichael ............... Searcy
1975—Mayor Tom Ellsworth ..................... Hot Springs
1976—Mayor Neil Stallings ..................... Jonesboro
1977—Mayor Harry Kolb ................................. Magnolia
1978—Mayor James Jordan ......................... Monticello
1979—Mayor Charles Moore ....................... Pine Bluff
1980—Mayor R.E. (Dick) Prewitt ................. Osceola
1981—Mayor Jack R. Rhodes ..................... Lake Village
1982—Mayor John Schallhorn ..................... DeWitt
1983—Mayor Charles Partlow ..................... Paragould
1984—Mayor Thad Kelly Jr. ......................... Helena
1984/1985—Mayor Gene Bell ....................... Van Buren
1985/1986—Mayor Dean Boswell Jr. ......... Bryant
1986/1987—Mayor Larry Combs ................... El Dorado
1987/1988—Mayor Jim Shirrell ............... Batesville
1988—Mayor Marilyn Johnson ............... Fayetteville
1990/1991—Alderman Martin Gipson ......... North Little Rock
1991/1992—Mayor Bob Teeter .............. West Helena
1992/1993—Mayor Marvin Vinson ............... Clarksville
1993/1994—Mayor Bill Scrimshire ............ Malvern
1994/1995—Mayor Patrick Henry Hays ....... North Little Rock
1995/1996—Mayor Joann Smith ................ Helena
1996/1997—Mayor Arnold Feller .............. Mulberry
1997/1998—Mayor Gregg Reep ................. Warren
1998/1999—Mayor Tommy Swaim ................. Jacksonville
1999/2000—Alderman Tommy Baker ......... Osceola
2000/2001—Mayor Harold West ................. Monticello
2002/2003—Mayor Jim Dailey ....................... Little Rock
2003/2004—Mayor Robert Patrick ............. St. Charles
2004/2005—Mayor Gene Yarbrough .......... Star City
2005/2006—Mayor Terry Coberly .............. Bentonville
2006—Mayor Stewart Nelson ...................... Morrilton
2007—Mayor Tab Townsell ....................... Conway
2007/2008—Mayor Mike Gaskill ............... Paragould
2008/2009—Mayor JoAnne Bush ................. Lake Village
2009/2010—Vice Mayor Gary Campbell ....... Fort Smith
2010/2011—Alderman Murry Witcher ..... North Little Rock
2011/2012—Mayor Frank Fogleman .......... Marion
2012/2013—Mayor Chris Claybaker .......... Camden
2013/2014—Mayor Jackie Crabtree .......... Pea Ridge
2014/2015—Mayor Mark Stodola ................ Little Rock
2015/2016—Mayor Rick Elumbaugh .......... Batesville
2016/2017—Mayor Harry Brown ................ Stephens
2017/2018—Mayor Doug Sprouse ............... Springdale
2018/2019—Mayor Joe A. Smith ............... North Little Rock
2019/2020—Mayor Harold Perrin ............. Jonesboro
PAST PRESIDENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mayor Robert Patrick  
St. Charles  
2003-2004

Mayor Mike Gaskill  
Paragould  
2007-2008

Mayor Frank Fogleman  
Marion  
2011-2012

Mayor Jackie Crabtree  
Pea Ridge  
2013-2014

Mayor Rick Elumbaugh  
Batesville  
2015-2016

Mayor Harry Brown  
Stephens  
2016-2017

Mayor Doug Sprouse  
Springdale  
2017-2018

Mayor Joe Smith  
North Little Rock  
2018-2019

Mayor Harold Perrin  
Jonesboro  
2019-2020

ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRS

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

Mayor Jimmy Williams  
Marianna  
Cities of the First Class

Mayor Dennis Behling  
Lakeview, Incorporated Towns and Cities of the Second Class

Asst. City Manager/Police Chief  
J.R. Wilson, Hope  
Public Safety

City Administrator Phillip Patterson, Siloam Springs  
Economic Development

MUNICIPAL HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mayor David Stewart  
Newport—District 1

Finance Director Joy Black  
Bryant—District 2

Mayor Bill Edwards  
Centerton—District 3

Clerk/Treasurer Barbara Blackard, Clarksville—District 4

Mayor Denisa Pennington, Warren—At-Large

TRUSTEES OF MUNICIPAL LEAGUE WORKERS’ COMPENSATION TRUST

Human Resources Director  
Charlette Nelson  
Jacksonville—District 1

Human Resources Director  
Lisa Mabry-Williams  
Conway—District 2

Clerk/Treasurer Sharla Derry  
Greenwood—District 3

Mayor Paige Chase  
Monticello—District 4

Group Manager and City Attorney Howard Cain  
Huntsville—At-Large
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.
Arkansas Municipal League
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501-374-3484
www.arml.org

Policies and Goals