MESSAGE FROM DAN GILMARTIN
Welcome to our 2018/19 Annual State of the League Report

Several years ago, we decided to present an Annual Report to our members that would deliver a quick read yet highlight the important features of our work and progress. With the glut of information that we are exposed to every day, it is sometimes difficult to prioritize what gets our attention. For more in-depth information, you can always visit our website (mml.org) or feel free to personally contact us and a staff member would be only too happy to further discuss our work with you.

Our mission statement stands at the forefront of everything that we do: “...dedicated to making Michigan’s communities better by thoughtfully innovating programs, energetically connecting ideas and people, actively serving members with resources and services, and passionately inspiring positive change for Michigan’s greatest centers of potential: its communities.” I have a diligent staff that brings their expertise to the table every day and work hard on behalf of our members.

Assembling this report is an important exercise, requiring myself and staff to take a step back to reflect and re-evaluate our work over the course of the past fiscal year. It is essential to identify those pivotal events and projects that either continue to point us in the right direction or demand a change of course.

The Lansing team, through our SaveMlCity initiative, continues to focus on advocating for structural reforms in our municipal finance system so that our communities can remain viable and deliver cost-effective services. The League’s education and inquiry services provide up-to-date training and deliver the latest information on breaking issues. Many of our initiatives are supported by the success of the League’s Foundation fundraising.

Our insurance programs are continually growing, and to-date, more than $260 million have been returned to members in dividends. The Legal Defense Fund repeatedly receives requests for briefings from the Michigan Supreme Court on important legal issues affecting municipalities.

Engaging with our members is the foundation of everything we do. Through your support and partnership, Michigan communities continue to make great progress toward providing thriving places where people want to live. We are proud to work with you and look forward to another productive year!

Daniel P. Gilmartin
League Executive Director and CEO
WHO MAKES UP
THE LEAGUE?

521 Total Members:
279 Cities, 239 Villages,
3 Townships, No Grant/
Non-Voting Members,
31 Affiliate Organizations,
54 Business Alliance
Program Participants

EDUCATING AND ENGAGING OUR MEMBERS

The League’s 16/50 Project
aims to bring gender balance
to local government offices by
increasing the number of women
serving as local government
managers. Last year, 16/50
kicked off its inaugural Women’s
Municipal Leadership Program, a
complimentary 4-month training
opportunity that empowered
24 women (selected from over
100 applicants) to take the next
step in their municipal careers by
providing leadership development
and education on critical topics.
Since completing the program,
three women have been hired
as managers, and one has been
promoted to assistant city
manager. Find out more about
how we’re tackling the gender
balance challenge and get more
information on our Women’s
Municipal Leadership Program at
1650project.org.

We have also introduced two
new Advanced Weekenders
through the Elected Officials
Academy (EOA). One Weekender
focuses on leadership and the
other covers budgeting and
finance for elected officials. Get
the details at eoa.mml.org

ADVOCACY:
The League’s legislative advocacy efforts on behalf of our members
continue to be a core function of the organization. Throughout last fall’s
vigorous Lame Duck session and into the current legislative term, our
work has remained focused on municipal finance reform, from protecting
existing revenues and tax base to finding ways to restore revenue
sharing and providing communities with tools to control costs. The
League continues to implement programming and develop ideas that will
drive economic development, building the kind of places that residents
demand, attracting and retaining a talented, 21st century work force.

The League is heavily invested in working with the new Legislature and
Administration on long-term, comprehensive solutions to fix our state’s
broken municipal finance system. We are doing this by raising awareness
of the fiscal problems that communities of all sizes are facing, educating
the media and public about this critical issue, and promoting legislative
solutions to reduce costs, diversify revenue options, and promote struc-
tural reforms that deliver services more efficiently.

While working to promote investment in local communities, we are also
defending against continuous efforts to strip local control, preempt local
decision-making, and reduce local taxing authority. Despite this adver-
sity, we continue to achieve significant victories for local governments.

During 2018, we maintained our aggressive work throughout the bud-
get process, preserving prior year gains in statutory revenue sharing and
ensuring that Personal Property Tax reimbursements were not reduced by
the Legislature. We expanded access to bond financing for retirement
legacy costs and negotiated full funding for the first time for communi-
ties receiving Fire Protection Grant dollars. We also secured positive
reforms within the state’s fireworks law for local units, preserved local
governmental immunity, and succeeded in amending FOIA in response
to a statewide ballot FOIA request. We also worked to mobilize mem-
bers to defeat proposals like the “tree bill” that would have preempted
vegetation ordinances, a devastating utility equipment personal property
tax exemption, and numerous other local preemption bills and cuts to
local taxing authority.

During the current legislative session, we are working to blunt a
renewed attempt to preempt local zoning over short-term rentals, and
other special interest attacks on zoning. We are leveraging our expertise
and credibility as a leading advocate for local government in Lansing
to convince leaders to reinvest in revenue sharing, and improve spending
on local road networks and transit, underground infrastructure, public
safety, and other vital supports for local communities.

“The League is such a valuable tool for every community. They
are our eyes and ears in Lansing and D.C. and provide answers
on numerous local government issues. The education we receive
from them is priceless.”

BRENDA F. MOORE,
2019-20 LEAGUE PRESIDENT, SAGINAW MAYOR PRO TEM

saveMIcity
Now in its third year, the
SaveMIcity initiative is starting
to see success toward our
goal of reforming Michigan’s
broken system for funding
its communities. We’ve seen
this success in words. We’ve
seen it in legislative action.
And we feel it behind the
scenes. Sometimes the change
is clear, such as changes to
assessing laus and OPEB
reform and extensions.
Sometimes it’s subtle, like
when the state House at
the start of 2019 renamed
the House Committee on
Local Government to the
House Committee on Local
Government and Municipal
Finance. Other times, it’s the
words people use, such as
when Senate Majority Leader
Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake,
told the Detroit News in
March 2019 that he would
consider reviewing Proposal
A and its impact on Michigan
communities. All along, the
SaveMIcity effort has been a
marathon, not a sprint. Change
is hard and it takes time. But
it is happening. With your
continued help, SaveMIcity
can show the public and
decision makers how the
local programs everyone
values are funded and what
steps are needed to fix the
current issues caused by
the state’s broken municipal
finance system.

Join the effort and learn more
at SaveMIcity.org.

1,368,932 page views
360 followers
4,334 Followers
DEVELOPING GREAT PLACES

Communities around the state have embraced placemaking approaches to their downtowns and neighborhoods. But without participation from private developers and other investors, the impact of public placemaking efforts is limited. The League’s Policy Research Labs team has been working to improve communities’ engagement of private developers in the “placemaking implementation” process, with financial support from MSHDA and MEDC.

In this effort, we are working with local partners that are certified through the Redevelopment Ready Communities® program. Our goal is to identify the community’s priority sites, understand their potential to support local goals through development, focus on the critical path from site to development, and connect the community to expertise and resources that help them down that path. Learn from our successes (and failures!) and access how-to guides, case studies, and other assistance at placemaking.mml.org.

LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

The League’s Legal Defense Fund has continued to participate in cases affecting our members. Among many important cases, the LDF participated in Taxpayers United, which is addressing the formula calculation used by the State of Michigan to determine whether a tax is local or state for purposes of the Headlee Amendment. In addition, the LDF filed a brief in OCWRC v. MDEQ, which is a legal challenge to the State’s recent lead and copper rules which were adopted last year.

The LDF has served member’s interests since 1983. Our advocacy has resulted in requests from the Michigan Supreme Court to provide briefs on key legal issues affecting municipalities. These briefs explain the importance of a case from the municipal perspective. The briefs often provide the court with the practical effects of their rulings. Your support of these efforts continues to make legal advocacy for cities and villages more effective.

For more information on the LDF, please visit mml.org/legal/legal_defense_fund.htm.

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Did you know that our Membership Engagement department has created a guide to League benefits so you can learn all that we have to offer? We can also do a presentation at your next council meeting, so reach out and get connected. For more information, contact Kelly Warren, director of membership and affiliate engagement, at kwarren@mml.org or 734.669.6310.

“The EOA Weekenders are awesome! The League gives us the equipment and tools needed to get our jobs done.”

MONICA GALLOWAY
COUNCILMEMBER, FLINT
INQUIRY SERVICE/RESOURCES

Our Inquiry Service provides customized research assistance and critical information to members on core topics. We serve as an information clearinghouse, helping to steer communities through the complexities of local governance. We have built an extensive library of sample ordinances, policies, contracts, handbooks, and Fact Sheets on core municipal topics. This year we created Fact Sheets on these breaking issues: the new Fireworks Safety Act, Rental Housing Inspections, and comparing the voter-initiated Recreational Marihuana law and the MMFLA. Let us know what you need: 1.800.653.2483 or info@mml.org.

RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

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<th>Liability &amp; Property Pool, Workers’ Compensation Fund, Unemployment Fund</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pool member contributions</td>
<td>$21 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workers’ Compensation Fund</td>
<td>$34 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment Fund Contributions</td>
<td>$520,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Since 1978, more than $260 million returned to members in dividends</td>
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| Pool annual new claims | 1,000 |
| Workers’ Comp Fund Annual New Claims | 2,300 |
| Unemployment Fund Annual Claims | 700 |

| Pool assets | $82 million |
| Workers’ Comp Fund Assets | $157 million |
| Unemployment Fund Assets | $12 million |

| Pool member equity | $50 million |
| UUC Fund Member Equity | $68 million |
| Unemployment Fund Member Equity | $11 million |

Stable, cost-effective risk management programs

MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE 2018/2019 Board of Trustees

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO
Daniel P. Gilmartin

CROWDFUNDING

The League has continued its work with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Patronicity, and other partners to advance crowdfunding efforts in Michigan. This year, we unveiled a new report, Community Investment, Community Growth: A Retrospective in Michigan Crowdfunding. This report tells the story of crowdfunding, including the high fives, the hard work, and the hits and misses. It also shares case studies of community capital in action. The report lays out case studies of community capital in action. It lays out the origins of the movement in Adrian, Michigan, the passage of the Michigan Invests Locally Exemption (MILE) Act in 2013, and then details specific crowdfunding projects in Detroit, Traverse City, Lansing, Tecumseh, Calumet Township, and Portland.

The hope is that this report becomes a learning tool that every state can use to activate a previously dormant network of community investors. League staff presented findings from the report at the annual conference of the National Coalition for Community Capital (NC3) in Detroit in June 2019. Check out the crowdfundingmi.com website for more information on how you can support crowdfunding efforts in your community!

“As someone who started in local government, I understand and appreciate the important work being done every day in our communities. Our local governments regularly provide residents with vital services that enable them to grow and thrive. I am pleased to be able to work with the League to support Michigan’s municipalities and look forward to continuing to work with them to make our state the best place in the country for families, workers, and job creators.”

SENATOR JIM STAMAS (R-MIDLAND)

INQUIRY SERVICE/RESOURCES

Our Inquiry Service provides customized research assistance and critical information to members on core topics. We serve as an information clearinghouse, helping to steer communities through the complexities of local governance. We are home to a one-of-a-kind, searchable, city charter database, pay and benefits survey, and electronic labor contract library. We have also built an extensive library of sample ordinances, policies, contracts, handbooks, and Fact Sheets on core municipal topics. This year we created Fact Sheets on these breaking issues: the new Fireworks Safety Act, Rental Housing Inspections, and comparing the voter-initiated Recreational Marihuana law and the MMFLA. Let us know what you need: 1.800.653.2483 or info@mml.org.

We love where you live.

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