



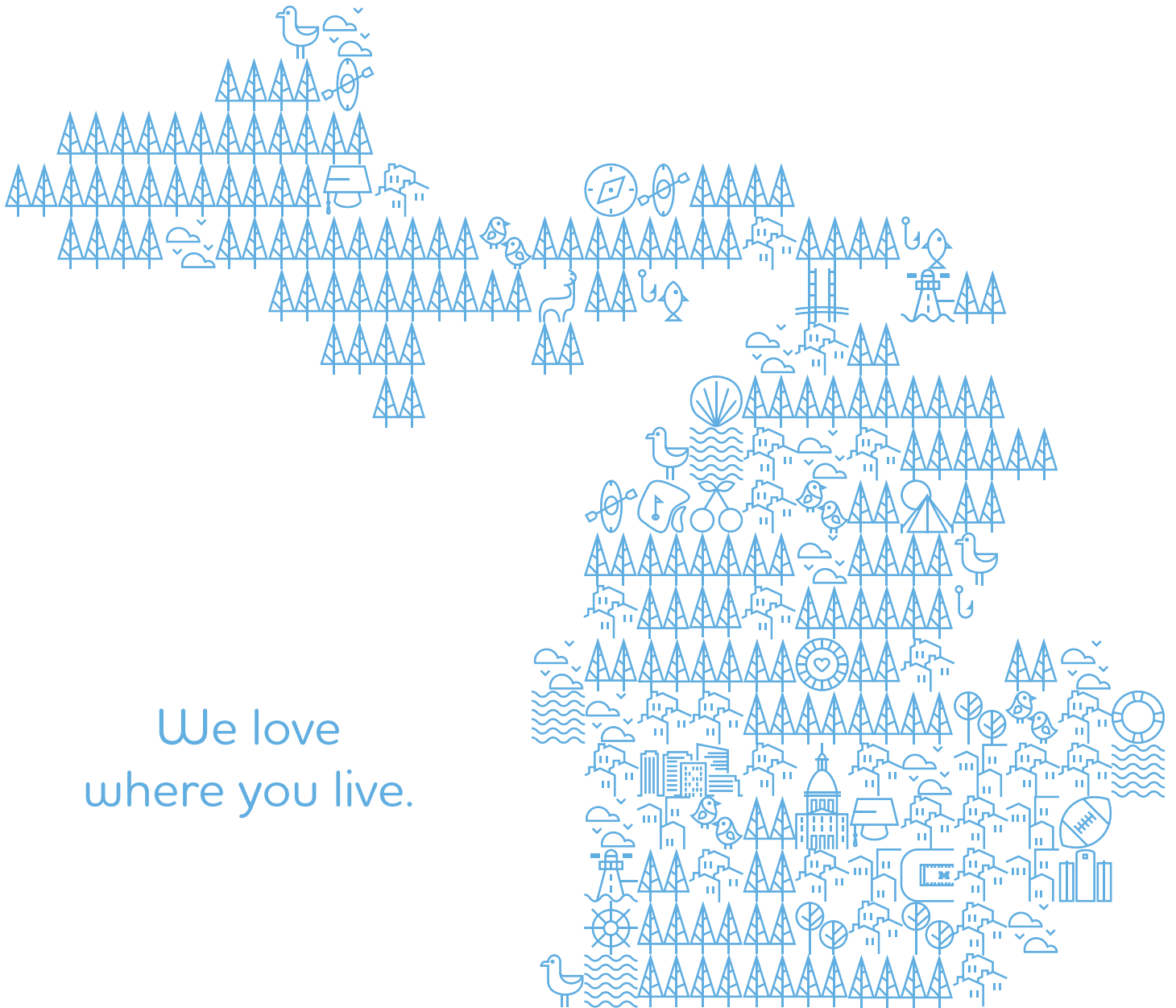
# YOUR LEAGUE

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## Programs and Services Guide



michigan municipal league



We love  
where you live.

The Michigan Municipal League is 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. Through advocacy at the state and federal level, we proactively represent municipalities in order to help them sustain highly livable, desirable, and unique places within the state. We create and offer services and events to our members to help educate and inspire them to remain focused on their passion for the areas they represent. Since the League's founding in 1899, our mission has been that of a nonprofit, but we act with the fervor of entrepreneurs to passionately push change for better communities and a better Michigan.

# Membership Benefits at a Glance

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND POLICY RESEARCH

Legislative Advocacy at State and Federal Level  
Original Policy Research on Emerging Issues

## LEGAL ADVOCACY

Legal Defense Fund  
Access to Municipal Law Liaisons and Inquiry Service

## PLACEMAKING AND REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Customized Project Assistance and Facilitation  
Crowdfunding  
Redevelopment Ready Communities  
Michigan Vacant Property Campaign  
Michigan Green Communities

## EDUCATION AND EVENTS

Elected Officials Academy  
Seminars/Workshops  
Annual Convention  
Capital Conference and Annual Expo

## INFORMATION, RESOURCES, AND CONSULTING SERVICES

E-Books  
Sample Documents  
One Pager Plus Fact Sheets  
Inquiry Service  
Directory of Municipal Officials  
The Review  
Wage/Salary Database  
Consulting Services  
Executive Search Service

## INSURANCE AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SERVICES

Workers' Compensation Fund  
Liability and Property Pool  
BCBSM Program  
Unemployment Compensation

## LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

League Leadership Positions  
Committees  
Elected Officials Academy Board  
Insurance Program Leadership  
Michigan Municipal Foundation Board  
Affiliate Organizations  
Voting Privileges (For Full Members Only)

## SAVINGS, VENDOR, AND ADDITIONAL LEAGUE SERVICES

Telecommunications  
U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance  
CDL Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium  
Classified Ads  
Business Alliance Program  
RFP Sharing Service

## LEAGUE FOUNDATION

John Barr Scholarship for Elected and Appointed Officials Training  
Tim Doyle Scholarship for Newly Elected Officials Training







# Legislative Advocacy and Policy Research

Through advocacy at the state and federal levels, the Michigan Municipal League proactively represents municipalities to help them sustain highly livable, desirable, and unique places within the state. From our Capital Office in Lansing, the League maintains a full-time advocacy presence at the state Capitol through our state and federal affairs department that communicates the municipal viewpoint on countless bills that are introduced during each two-year legislative session.

In addition, the League conducts policy research on current and emerging municipal issues. Our policy research supports our member services and advocacy work by evaluating the impacts of state and federal policies on local governments, identifying best practices, and providing related guidance to members on policy implementation.

## Contact

Chris Hackbarth, Director, State & Federal Affairs  
[chackbarth@mml.org](mailto:chackbarth@mml.org), (517) 908-0304

Shanna Draheim, Director, Policy Research  
[sdraheim@mml.org](mailto:sdraheim@mml.org), (517) 908-0307

# Core Legislative and Policy Principles

Vibrant 21st century communities are the economic engines of our state. Central to attracting the priceless commodity of knowledge-based workers is place. Successful communities achieve that sense of place by effectively leveraging the following key assets, which are at the forefront of our advocacy and policy research work.

- Physical Design and Walkability
- Multimodal Transportation Networks
- Environmental Sustainability
- Cultural Economic Development
- Entrepreneurship
- Welcoming and Diverse Communities
- Education
- Messaging & Technology

## MUNICIPAL FINANCE AND CHANGING THE FISCAL MODEL

Reforms to the municipal finance system are necessary for our survival. These reforms must provide fiscal stability and sufficient flexibility to allow for the necessary investments in attracting and retaining the talent that drives our economy.

**Cost Containment Measures:** Michigan's communities are burdened by a crushing level of debt from retiree health care obligations (OPEB) and to a lesser degree employee pensions, diverting money from current operations and service delivery. We need to move to a different service delivery model for providing reasonable benefits without burdening future budgets.

**Local Government Structure:** We should maximize investment in existing infrastructure rather than creating systems and infrastructure that reduce economies and efficiencies elsewhere. Evaluating the structure of local government in Michigan can reveal innovative ways to increase efficiency in how our communities meet the demands of residents and businesses.

**More Stability and Diversity for Local Revenue:** State laws and policies should support local revenue options and innovative investment financing tools for our communities to be competitive with the surrounding Midwestern states.

## EMERGING ISSUES AND POLICY GUIDANCE

The League conducts research on, and works with other state and federal partners to track emerging issues which might impact the quality, prosperity, and fiscal well-being of our member communities. As new policy and governance issues arise, the League provides information to members and policy-makers through our blog posts, case studies on best practices, reports, outreach events, and example policies.







# Legal Advocacy

Our legal affairs department is here to provide assistance to municipalities in matters of legal significance to your community. In addition to advocating for the interests of municipalities in the court system, the department also provides useful services and legal assistance to our members that help you face your legal challenges. Services available to members include legal assistance on issues affecting your community, and the Legal Defense Fund for those members that are also members of the Fund.

## Contact

Bill Mathewson, General Counsel  
umathewson@mml.org, (734) 669-6305

# Legal Advocacy

## LEGAL DEFENSE FUND (LDF)

The LDF is an advocacy program for municipalities in the state and federal appellate courts. Membership is open to communities for a modest annual fee. Resources of the Fund are extended in cases which would have a considerable impact on Michigan municipal law and would affect the organization, operation, powers, duties, or financing of Michigan's communities. Typical assistance provided is an amicus brief in support of your community's position in a case before the Michigan Supreme Court or Court of Appeals. Attorneys retained by the LDF to write the briefs are acknowledged experts in the particular aspect of municipal law.

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The League's general counsel is available to consult with your municipal attorney on topics affecting your community. Although the League does not issue formal opinions, the direction will strengthen your confidence to face challenging municipal legal issues head on. The Legal Affairs department works collaboratively with each League department, as well as the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys (MAMA), the Public Corporation Law Section of the Michigan State Bar (PCLS), and the International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA).

## LEADERS AND LIAISONS IN MUNICIPAL LAW

The League's general counsel and Inquiry Service staff are in constant contact with municipal attorneys and municipal specialists in law firms throughout the state, sharing information and expertise. The League is a clearinghouse for information on legal topics of most importance to elected officials and administrators, as well as attorneys. The League's general counsel serves as the secretary/treasurer of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys and is active in the State League Counsel Section of IMLA.





# Placemaking and Redevelopment Assistance

Our Civic Innovation Labs team is busy finding, researching, testing, and developing new approaches to civic engagement, placemaking, and redevelopment to share with community leaders. We focus on the latest trends in planning and community development with an eye on helping our members become more economically and environmentally sustainable. We have a track record of helping communities with transformative local projects and we would love to share what we've learned with you. Visit [placemaking.mml.org](http://placemaking.mml.org) for examples of past projects.

## Contact

Luke Forrest, Director, Civic Innovation Labs  
[lforrest@mml.org](mailto:lforrest@mml.org), (734) 669-6323

Richard Murphy, Program Coordinator  
[rmurphy@mml.org](mailto:rmurphy@mml.org), (734) 669-6329







# Placemaking and Redevelopment Assistance Programs

## CROWDFUNDING

The League partners with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and Patronicity to offer crowdfunding assistance for public space projects through the Public Spaces, Community Places program. Projects that meet program criteria can receive a funding match for the dollars raised through the Patronicity platform. In addition to this support for public projects, the League is also working to educate entrepreneurs and community leaders about the opportunities in Michigan for investment crowdfunding. Learn more about both types of funding at [crowdfundingmi.com](http://crowdfundingmi.com) and contact League staff to discuss how it might apply in your community.

## REDEVELOPMENT READY COMMUNITIES (RRC)

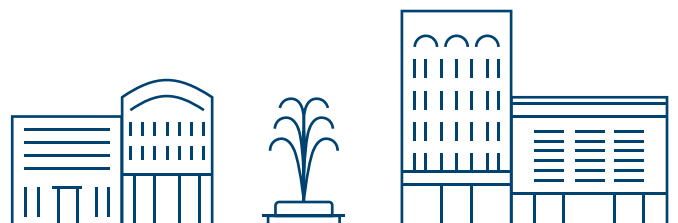
MEDC has established participation in the RRC program as baseline criteria for communities seeking to receive assistance for community development projects. League staff have an unparalleled depth of experience with RRC and, through support from MEDC, can offer our members assistance navigating the program. Please contact us for more details.

## MICHIGAN VACANT PROPERTY CAMPAIGN (MVPC)

MVPC is a partnership between the League and Center for Community Progress, Community Economic Development Association of Michigan, and Michigan Community Resources. Collectively, these entities work to assist local efforts to address the physical deterioration caused by vacant properties and preserve the places where people live, help struggling communities become stronger, and help people stay in the neighborhoods they love. MVPC offers pro bono education, technical resources, and customized site assessments. Learn more at [michiganvacantproperty.org](http://michiganvacantproperty.org) or contact League staff.

## MICHIGAN GREEN COMMUNITIES NETWORK (MGC)

MGC is a collaborative effort led by numerous local governments, statewide organizations and state agencies to share resources and knowledge around clean energy and environmental sustainability. Each year, participating communities have the opportunity to measure their progress and are recognized for their achievements via the MGC Challenge. Learn more and sign up at [migreencommunities.com](http://migreencommunities.com).







## Education and Events

League educational events provide up-to-date information on major issues and concerns relating to local government. From detailed practical information on day-to-day issues to the most complex topics, the League provides opportunities for new and experienced officials to become experts in their profession, contribute to the conversation, and to problem solve like never before.

### Contact

Kelly Warren, Director, Membership and Affiliate Engagement  
kwarren@mml.org, (734) 669-6310

Dene Westbrook, Director, Operations  
dwestbrook@mml.org, (734) 669-6314

# Education and Events

## ELECTED OFFICIALS ACADEMY

The League created the Elected Officials Academy to encourage local leaders to accept the challenge of learning on behalf of the community they serve. It is a four-level recognition program that offers expanded education and leadership opportunities for elected officials—mayors, presidents, council members, commissioners, trustees, and elected administrative officials such as clerks and treasurers. All elected city and village officials or urban township members are invited to participate.

## SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

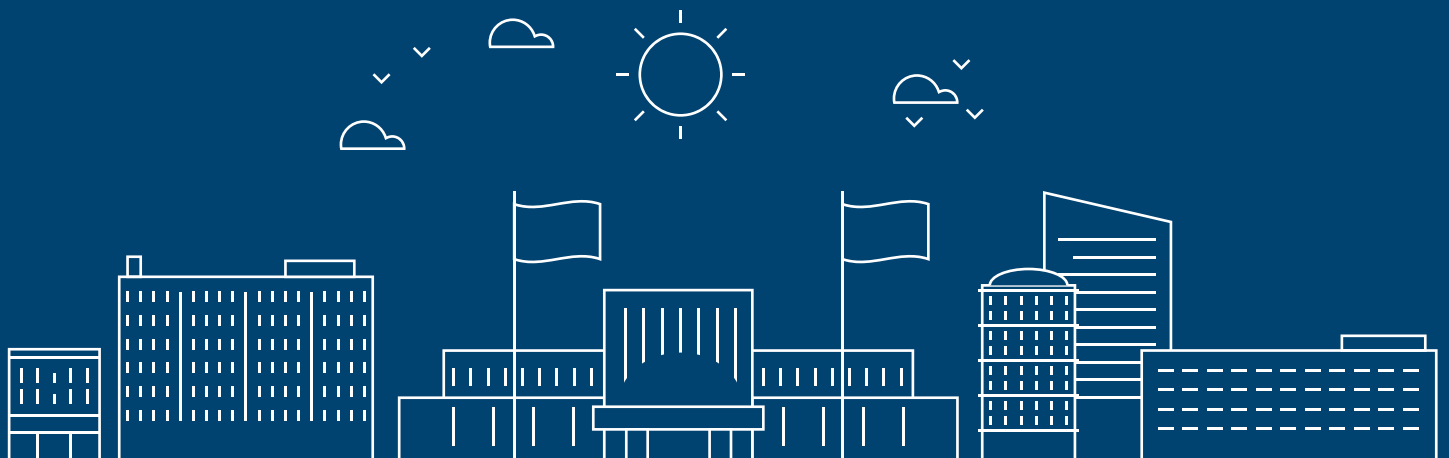
With a commitment to high-quality, lifelong learning, the League offers training programs throughout the state that include traditional offerings and programs on legislative hot topics. The League offers personalized, on-site training on a variety of topics brought directly to individual communities. For more on these or other League and municipal-related events, please visit [www.mml.org/events](http://www.mml.org/events).

## ANNUAL CONVENTION

This dynamic, must-attend convergence of national, state, and local municipal experts and community leaders is a meeting place where ideas are exchanged and relationships originate. It features pertinent keynote presenters, informative sessions, workshops, awards, and socially stimulating special events.

## CAPITAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL EXPO

Capital Conference offers intense keynotes and in-depth presentations on the day's hottest legislative topics for local officials serious about navigating the political landscape, as well as opportunities to meet and greet their state representatives and senators. This event also includes the Annual Expo, where local elected officials can meet and interact with representatives from companies servicing municipalities—the ideal opportunity for officials to connect with suppliers and consultants.







# Information, Resources, and Consulting Services

The League works hard to remain out in front of new developments in local government. We strive to proactively provide the information you'll need through our research support and resources like an online clearinghouse of sample ordinances and policies, and easy-to-read fact sheets on 70+ topics including the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act. Member officials may request information and/or material on any municipal issue.

We are also home to one-of-a-kind research databases like our searchable online wage and benefits survey, city charter database, and electronic labor contract library. From our magazine to our newsfeeds and listservs, we are your one-stop shop to stay connected and informed. We also offer a range of fee-based consulting services such as executive search, customized pay and benefits studies, job description development, and personnel manuals.

## Contact

[info@mml.org](mailto:info@mml.org), 1-800-653-2483

# Information, Resources, and Consulting Services

## PUBLICATIONS

The League's magazine, *The Review*, includes relevant features and interviews with Michigan's leaders. The Municipal Yellow Pages, a directory of suppliers to local governments featured in the League's biannual *Directory of Michigan Municipal Officials*, is one of the first places local officials look when they are ready to purchase products, services, consulting, and advice. The League's website also offers a host of e-books and resources, including the *Handbook for Municipal Officials*.

## SAMPLE DOCUMENTS

The League Resource Center houses an extensive collection of materials relating to local government which includes sample documents such as contracts, ordinances, policies, resolutions, and Request for Proposals (RFPs) for many municipal needs.

## FACT SHEETS

Tired of sifting through reams of paper for answers to your questions? Take a look at MML's Fact Sheets to get up to speed with quick summaries of common municipal topics.

## INQUIRY SERVICE

The Information Service provides answers to questions on a vast array of municipal topics. Information and custom research on your municipal questions are just a phone call or email away.

## CONSULTING SERVICES

The League offers a full range of human resources consulting services including classification and compensation studies, pay system design and administration, personnel manuals, performance evaluation systems, and human resources systems audits.

## EXECUTIVE SEARCH

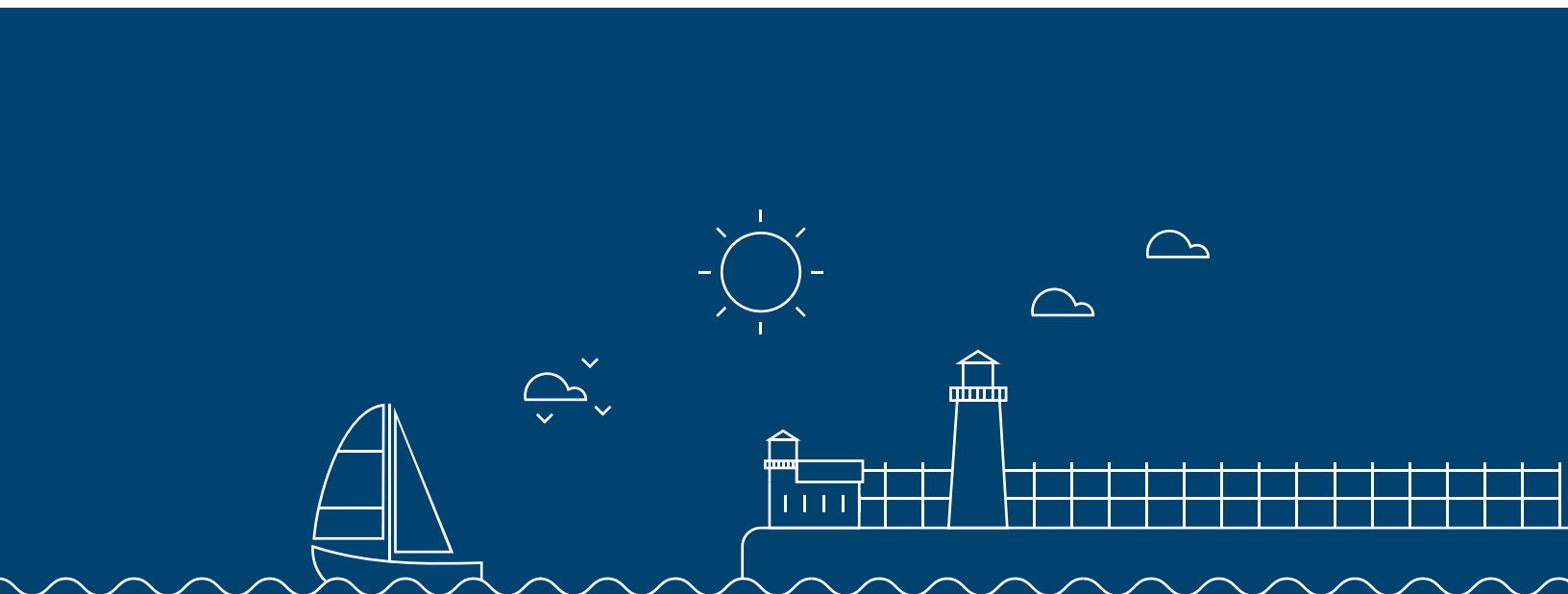
Our Executive Search services facilitates one of the most important processes undertaken by an elected body—selecting effective leadership for the organization. This service is a resource offered to strengthen the quality of municipal government and administration through successful placement of public leaders. A typical League search ranges from 120 days and is customized to the specific needs of the community.

## WAGE AND SALARY SURVEY

The results of the League's annual wage and salary survey are available to participating members, through an online searchable database. It also includes a benefits analysis and electronic labor contract library.

## MY LEAGUE

My League is the area on [www.mml.org](http://www.mml.org) that is your direct connection to the League! Accessible through the League home page, My League features online event registration and account management, as well as a comprehensive search of the League municipal directory.





# Insurance and Employment Benefits Services

The Risk Management Services Division administers two statewide municipal insurance programs: the Michigan Municipal League Workers' Compensation Fund and the Michigan Municipal League Liability and Property Pool. The mission of Risk Management Services is to provide a long-term, stable, cost-effective insurance alternative for members and associate members of the Michigan Municipal League, helping us fulfill our members' essential need for stability and security.

## Contact

Michael J. Forster, Director, Risk Management  
mforster@mml.org, (734) 669-6340







## Insurance and Employment Benefits Services

### MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND

This League group self-insurance fund offers affordable workers' compensation coverage to over 900 members. Unlike commercial insurance, the Fund is owned and controlled by its members and administered by the Michigan Municipal League. Since its inception, the Fund has returned more than \$220 million, or 30 percent of total premiums to its participating members in the form of dividends.

### MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE LIABILITY & PROPERTY POOL

The League also offers liability and property insurance protection. This group self-insurance pool is also owned and controlled by its members and administered by the Michigan Municipal League. The program covers community property and offers liability protection against most municipal exposures.

Excess member contributions are returned in the form of unrestricted cash dividends, improved coverage, better services, and rate stability not found with other insurance options. The Pool offers specialized coverages, educational programs, loss reduction services, and claims expertise. The Pool also invests in significant legislative and legal advocacy resources for the benefit of its members. Over 400 member communities currently participate in this program, which has served the League and its members since 1982.

### BCBSM GROUP SPONSORED PROGRAM

This program provides access to Blue Cross and Blue Shield health insurance for our member communities of under 100 employees. It currently has 386 member communities, covering 15,000 public employees and their families. This service costs members nothing to participate, but the fees generated by BCBSM support the League, and our goal of keeping member dues low.

### LEAGUE UNEMPLOYMENT FUND

The League's unemployment fund can help members deal more effectively with their unemployment claims. This program helps smooth out a community's unemployment funding obligations by amortizing them over a longer period of time. We also offer expertise through our third-party administrator, TALX Corporation, to guide participating members through the unemployment process. Part of the services includes representation in disputed cases and throughout the appeals process at no additional charge.





# Leadership and Professional Development Opportunities

We're committed to providing community leaders an opportunity to showcase their skills through a variety of engagement opportunities at the League. Volunteers are essential in maintaining a strong, vibrant League, and we encourage you to find the right pathway to engage with us.

## Contact

Kelly Warren, Director, Membership and Affiliate Engagement  
kwarren@mml.org, (734) 669-6310

Emily Kieliszewski, Membership Engagement Specialist  
emilyk@mml.org, (517) 908-0302

# Leadership and Professional Development Opportunities

The League looks to members to lead in a variety of ways from specific legislative issue committees, to serving on an affiliate board, to moderating a session at the League's Annual Convention. Here are just some of the ways in which you can take your leadership skills to the next level.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Legislative committees serve League members by providing general direction and legislative policy recommendations to the Board of Trustees and League staff on a variety of local government issues. Our advocacy efforts depend on input from the Legislative Governance Committee and five Policy Committees.

## ELECTED OFFICIALS ACADEMY LEADERSHIP

The Elected Officials Academy is committed to offering expanded educational programs for elected officials throughout the state to promote effective leadership in local government. The EOA board has powers as granted by the MML Board of Trustees to administer and oversee the Elected Officials Academy. To qualify for the eighteen-member board, a member must be an active participating member of the EOA.

## MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

The fundraising arm of the League, the Foundation is led by a strategic and passionate board of directors. Board members serve as ambassadors and partners as they support the Foundation's goal of educating local leaders and creating vibrant communities. Directors may serve three three-year terms. For more information, please visit [www.mmlfoundation.org](http://www.mmlfoundation.org).

## INSURANCE PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

The MML's two group self-insurance pools operate under the direction and control of their governing boards. The nominating committees of each program attempt to balance member representation between elected and appointed officials, geographically and by candidate qualifications. Insurance expertise is not required. Board members may serve up to twelve years, and commit to quarterly meetings around the state and an annual national pooling meeting. Expenses associated with service are reimbursed by the programs.

## AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

The League works with several tailored affiliate organizations that provide additional leadership, networking, and training to their members. These include organizations like the Michigan Association of Mayors, the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, the Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, Michigan Municipal Executives, and the Michigan Women in Municipal Government. There are also many other municipal affiliated organizations. For a full list of affiliates that members can get involved with, visit [www.mml.org/about/affiliates.htm](http://www.mml.org/about/affiliates.htm).

## VOTING PRIVILEGES

Full members enjoy voting privileges at the League's annual business meeting, held yearly during our Annual Convention.







# Savings, Vendor, and Additional Services

The benefits of membership with the Michigan Municipal League are endless and include access to crucial services at our member rates.

## Contact

Allison Gotelaere, Events and Vendor Engagement Coordinator  
agotelaere@mml.org, (734) 669-6331

# Savings, Vendor, and Additional Services

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The League has partnered with Abilita, a leader in telecommunications consulting, to provide a new cost-saving service designed to help you reduce your telecommunications costs. Best of all, you can save money without the hassle of dealing with the phone companies, and with no upfront costs or risk.

## U.S. COMMUNITIES GOVERNMENT PURCHASING ALLIANCE

All members of the Michigan Municipal League are eligible to utilize the US Communities Government Purchasing Alliance. The League, along with the National Association of Counties, the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, the National League of Cities, and the United States Conference of Mayors sponsors the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance which offers access to publicly bid competitive contracts for various products and services.

## CDL DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING CONSORTIUM

The Michigan Municipal League has established a consortium of local governments in Michigan and has contracted with First Advantage Corporation to provide CDL drug and alcohol testing services for local governments.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

The "Municipal Classified Ads" section at [www.mml.org](http://www.mml.org) includes employment opportunities, items for sale or wanted, and occasionally, requests for proposals. Members have access to posting ads at a reduced membership rate.

## BUSINESS ALLIANCE PROGRAM (BAP)

One of the Michigan Municipal League's primary goals—as outlined by our founders back in 1899 and still a priority today—is to educate elected and appointed officials in Michigan. Every bit of education we provide helps our cities and villages provide better, more effective, more efficient service to citizens. We strive to provide our members with up-to-date information on issues, programs, technology—and vendor products and services. The Alliance was established to encourage companies serving local government to forge a stronger partnership with the League to meet these goals.

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) SHARING SERVICE

League members can use the League's Business Alliance Program (BAP) to help get their community's RFPs to more prospective bidders. The League's BAP is a collection of companies that specialize in serving the municipal marketplace, and they can all be accessed through the League. We'll help get your RFP distributed to the right companies in our BAP program offering the service you need.







# League Foundation

## Contact

Gisgise Gendreau, President, MML Foundation  
ggendreau@mml.org, (517) 908-0306

## League Foundation

The Foundation helps create and maintain vibrant communities in Michigan by funding placemaking projects and educating community leaders and advocates. We recognize that communities are economic drivers, so we play a key role in connecting communities to opportunities to help them grow and thrive.

The Foundation raises funds to support key League initiatives and scholarships, including:

- John Barr Scholarship, helps local elected and appointed officials get training with a leadership component and practical application to the individual's role as a public official.
- Tim Doyle Scholarship, helps newly elected officials attend the Elected Officials Academy Core Weekender seminar.
- George D. Goodman Scholarship, encourages high school and college students to pursue careers in public service.
- Youth Scholarship Fund, covers expenses for young people to attend the National League of Cities City Summit.

For more information, please visit [www.mmlfoundation.org](http://www.mmlfoundation.org).



With municipalities facing such budget crunches, things like professional development and education are some of the programs they are cutting. Having a scholarship like this is crucial. It's worth its weight in gold if a community has had to cut these items from their budget."

*Jon Emaus, Councilmember, City of Brighton*



I believe in good government and the mission of the Michigan Municipal League – to help improve the individuals who are responsible for good government. You can't do that without continually educating those in the role to make good policy decisions."

*Carla Gribbs, Regional Manager, DTE Energy*



The League is a unique operation and it's outstanding at what it does. Investing in the Foundation allows the League to offer better educational programs and try new things. Communities will benefit from getting elected officials better informed."

*Jeff Jenks, Commissioner, City of Huntington Woods*





We would  
love to hear  
from you.

**We're dedicated to the success of your community.** No matter what the issue or opportunity, the League is your partner along the way. Make sure you're taking advantage of all the League has to offer, and check out how you can be an active participant with us along the way by calling your membership engagement team:

Summer Minnick,  
Deputy Executive Director /CMO, Membership Engagement  
sminnick@mml.org (517) 908-0301

Kelly Warren, Director, Membership and Affiliate Engagement  
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Emily Kieliszewski, Membership Engagement Specialist  
emilyk@mml.org (517) 908-0302











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