

Message from Dan Gilmartin

In the Michigan Municipal League's 125th year, the heart and spirit of our work hasn't changed. And despite a year of national election apprehension, concerns over state population growth, clean energy and solar development debates, and questions about our future with AI, we saw our members haven't lost their energy or grit to do good, hard work for their residents.

I'm proud to say the League matched that energy in our training and services. This Impact Report spotlights the evolution of our programs and the new spaces the League entered to meet members where they are.

We showed up to learn about and make connections with the local business economies of smaller communities; we took the *Live with the League* show on the road; we launched the online League Portal; and we transitioned and expanded our funding helpdesk services, among many other things.

League Board of Trustees and staff led the charge in spaces old and new, whether that was forging cross-sector partnerships or advocating in Lansing. Every year I'm proud of their ingenuity, and 2024 was no different. I look forward to Michigan continuing to be the host of the party when it comes to championing a strong sense of place and trust and belonging in communities, inviting others to partake in the placemaking movement and then showing them the way.



Daniel F. Gilmartin

League Executive Director and CEO

Who Makes Up the League?

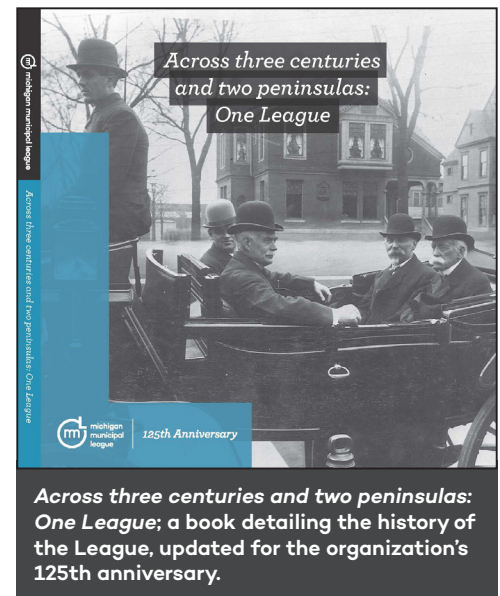
- 524** Total Members
- 280** Cities
- 239** Villages
- 5** Townships
- 52** Full Associate Members
- 29** Affiliate Organizations
- 52** Business Alliance Program Participants

Commemorative Senate Resolution for Our 125th Anniversary!

The Michigan Senate created a commemorative resolution to honor our organization's founding—Senate Resolution 125 of 2024.



Scan to view the resolution.



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Executive Director & CEO

Daniel P. Gilmartin

League Staff Around the State

Policy Research Labs and State & Federal Affairs

League staff has presented or will present at more than 40 conferences on a variety of topics in 2024, including:

- Pattern Book Homes
- Michigan Housing Data Portal
- MI Funding Hub
- Michigan Green Communities
- Climate Catalyst Communities
- State Housing Policy
- Green Infrastructure
- Sustainability Planning
- Redevelopment Ready Communities Pre-Development Assistance
- Retrofitting Existing Buildings
- Thriving Communities
- Microbusiness Ready Communities

Live with the League

We took *Live with the League* on the road to visit communities around the state: Alpena, Bay City, Grand Ledge, and Pontiac.



Elected Officials Academy

“Being an effective leader means being a lifelong learner,” said Dennis Hennen, Elected Officials Academy Advisory Board Vice President and Berkley Councilmember.

“There’s always something new to discover. The Elected Officials Academy has been instrumental in providing a robust framework upon which I can build to gain the essential knowledge and skills I need to best serve my constituents.”

The Elected Officials Academy presented:

10

Level 1
Education Awards

5

Level 2
Leadership Awards

6

Level 3
Governance Awards

3

Level 4
Ambassador Awards (most ever)

Foundation

The MML Foundation, along with its Board of Directors, has continued to develop the LIFT campaign, focused on empowering local leaders to position communities for the future. The MML Foundation is currently handling 16 grants totaling \$5,706,600.

LIFT funds support pilots and programs that focus on strengthening community collaboration, resourcing local leaders, and laying the foundation for repeatable, reliable, and equitable approaches to community development. These initiatives include a focus on new approaches to building local economies, funding for water quality issues, subnational diplomacy, and the connection between housing, placemaking, and population growth.

Through pilots, the MML Foundation seeks to design and execute collaborative processes that position municipalities, residents, and other engaged partners to inform and build place-based successes that can then be replicated elsewhere. The work strives to identify and test new approaches to the persistent barriers that municipalities face when dealing with complex and systemic issues.

Global Partnerships & State Diplomacy Initiative

As a part of their ongoing work in global partnerships, led by Senior Fellow Julie Egan, the MML Foundation invited the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, Jose W. Fernandez, to take part in the 2024 Mackinac Policy Conference. During this trip, Under Secretary Fernandez signed a Letter of Cooperation on behalf of the State Department for the MML Foundation's "Michigan City State Diplomacy Initiative" and spoke with Governor Whitmer and Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist about the initiative and global partnerships in Michigan.

Additionally, the MML Foundation hosted a Michigan Subnational Diplomacy roundtable discussion with Under Secretary Fernandez and a group of Michigan leaders to learn more about subnational diplomacy and share efforts and challenges with global engagement.

Advocacy

The League's legislative work in Lansing continues to successfully advocate on behalf of our members, helping secure new resources and pass proactive policies for local governments, while continuing to hold off attempts to preempt local control. This has resulted in double digit increases in revenue sharing and over \$100 million in funding for placemaking projects. Housing is one of the most critical issues facing our members, and we secured the passage of legislation and hundreds of millions in funding to help address our workforce housing needs. Additionally, we have held off attempts to reduce local tax revenue and erode local control of short-term rentals and aggregate mining.

Outside of our direct advocacy efforts at the Capitol, our State and Federal Affairs team continues to deliver important and timely information to our members through our virtual *Live with the League* show. Whether it is a discussion on the state budget, highlighting the latest shift in political winds, or breaking down newly introduced legislation, we utilize this platform to communicate the latest news to members in every corner of the state. This year, we've taken the show on the road, recording live and on location in several member communities in celebration of the League's 125th anniversary.



Women's Elected Leadership Intensive (WELI)

The Women's Elected Leadership Intensive (WELI) is a new, groundbreaking program dedicated to equipping elected women with the essential resources, tools, and skills needed for impactful leadership. Over five weeks, participants foster a supportive environment and build a robust network that ensures they will excel in their local elected positions. The inaugural class of 30 completed the program in August and was recognized at Convention 2024.

Engagement by the Numbers

Number of people trained in person and virtually at conferences and trainings:	1,450
Inquires assisted:	312
Communities in attendance virtually or in person:	232
Onsite trainings completed in communities:	23
Executive Searches completed this year:	10
Average <i>Live with the League</i> viewers:	102



The League Portal

The League Portal was launched in April 2024, allowing members to quickly access directories, register for events, update their municipal rosters, and more, all in one place. This improved, efficient self-service model gives members more time to focus on their communities.

Risk Management Programs

Pool member contributions:
\$27.5 million

Workers' Compensation Fund contributions:
\$37 million

Unemployment Fund contributions:
\$300,000

Dividends returned to members since 1978:
Almost \$300 million

Pool annual new claims:
1,170

Workers' Comp Fund annual new claims:
1,500

Unemployment Fund annual claims:
1,500

Pool assets:
\$93 million

Workers' Comp Fund assets:
\$192 million

Unemployment Fund assets:
\$7.75 million

Pool member equity:
\$55 million

Workers' Comp Fund member equity:
\$103 million

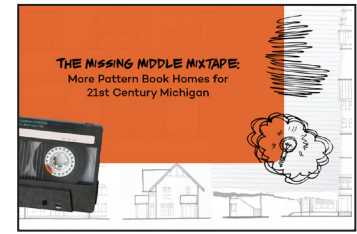
Unemployment Fund member equity:
\$7.1 million

League Focus Areas



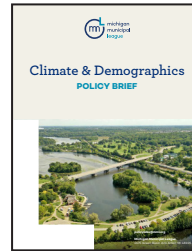
Housing

- Michigan Housing Data Portal
- Pattern Book Homes for 21st Century Michigan 2.0



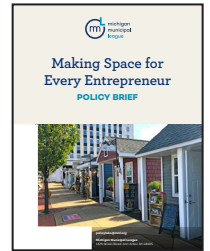
Sustainability

- MI Green Communities
- Creating Better Futures Policy Brief Series: Climate and Demographics



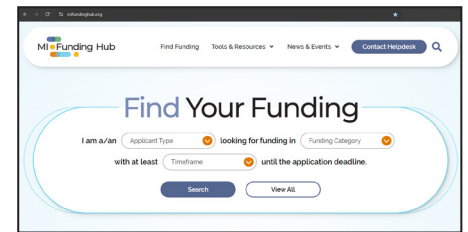
Small Business

- Creating Better Futures Policy Brief Series: Making Space for Every Entrepreneur



Infrastructure

- MI Funding Hub
- MI Water Navigator



ServeMICity to MIFunding Hub

ServeMICity, the League's program connecting member communities with federal and state funding sources through the CARES Act and other federal programs, transformed into the larger initiative MIFunding Hub. Through the Hub, members can access free technical assistance from the Help Desk, track and apply for funding, and find other tools to become more grant savvy, all with support from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

Legal Defense Fund (LDF)

- 41** Active Years
- 82** Percent participation among League members (from 2021)
- 7** Cases this year for which the Supreme Court specifically requested a Municipal League amicus brief
- 12** Amicus briefs filed in the Michigan Supreme Court and Court of Appeals this year



1,518 Followers



6,293 Followers



6,019 Followers



3,946 Followers

