

We here at the Michigan Municipal League—alongside our energetic and active member base—continued our forward movement in fostering thriving local communities throughout 2025.

This year, we made our crucial training for elected officials even more accessible through the development of an asynchronous online learning platform. We refined initiatives designed to help municipalities reinvigorate their local economies. We welcomed a rising generation of local leaders at CapCon and Convention. We made the voices of our communities heard in Lansing.

And, of course, we're excited about our bold, comprehensive new approach to closing the attainable housing gap: the MI Home Program and its guiding principle of "partnership over preemption."

As the League concludes its 126th year, I continue to find myself amazed at the spirit, creativity, and dedication of everyone that makes this organization the force that it is: our member communities, elected officials, the Board of Trustees, and staff. We are here to support Michigan's greatest asset—its residents—every step of the way.



Daniel P. Gilmartin

League Executive Director and CEO

2025

Board of Trustees

President

Don Gerrie,
Mayor, Sault Ste. Marie

Vice President

Joshua Atwood,
Mayor Pro Tem, Lapeer

Executive Director & CEO

Daniel P. Gilmartin

Board of Trustees

Jennifer Antel,
Mayor, Wayland

George M. Bosanic,
City Manager, Greenville

Rebecca Chamberlain-
Creangă, Councilmember, Troy

Juan E. Ganum,
City Manager, Bridgman

Dennis Hennen,
Councilmember, Berkley

Stephen Kepley,
Mayor, Kentwood

Valerie Kindle,
Mayor, Harper Woods

Kevin Klynstra,
Mayor, Zeeland

Karen Kovacs,
City Manager, Marquette

Joe LaRussa,
Mayor, Farmington

Raylon Leaks-May,
Mayor, Ferndale

Scott McLennan,
Mayor, Rogers City

Joshua Meringa,
Councilmember, Grandville

Khalfani Stephens,
Deputy Mayor, Pontiac

David J. Tossava,
Mayor, Hastings

Mark Washington,
City Manager, Grand Rapids

Stephanie Grimes,
Washington, Director of
Government Affairs, Detroit

Tim Wolff, Village Manager,
Lake Isabella

Who Makes Up the League?

525

Total
Members

279

Cities

241

Villages

5

Urban Townships

50

Full Associate Members

30

Affiliate Organizations

55

BAP Participants

The League in Numbers

11

Executive Searches

474

Member Inquiries

112

Average
Live with the
League viewers

22

Level 1 Education Award

2

Level 2 Leadership Award

4

Level 3
Governance
Award

4

Level 4
Ambassador
Award

The Elected Officials Academy graduated:

The League on Location

Communities that worked with the League on-site in 2025.



Follow Us:



1,730 followers



6,577 followers



5,673 followers



4,695 followers



764 downloads
633 listeners

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 new sustainable, long-term funding for the state’s transportation network that will put hundreds of millions of dollars into local roads, bridges, and transit annually. On one of the most critical issues facing our members, housing, the League protected \$50 million for the Housing and Community Development Fund and held off preemption of local zoning. Additionally, we continue to engage proactively with legislators to create the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund and have secured additional resources for public safety in our communities.

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.



MI Home Program

In response to the state’s housing crisis, the League has proposed creating the MI Home Program to support investment to accelerate housing construction and rehabilitation, while also promoting updates to local zoning regulations that will help cultivate thriving communities and stimulate economic vitality.

The MI Home Program will invest \$160 million annually for five years, resulting in over 10,000 homes being built or rehabbed. It rewards communities that adopt housing-friendly zoning changes and ensures housing solutions are tailored to community specific needs by retaining local control while

collaborating with the state and private sector to expand housing opportunities. This is a transformative housing proposal that has received support from elected officials, local leaders, businesses, statewide organizations, builders, developers, and a bipartisan group of legislators.

Launch of League Online Learning

The League launched our new online learning platform in summer 2025 to give members access to learning anytime, anywhere. Course offerings include foundational topics like lobbying, finance, ethics, housing, and *Local Government 101*.

In addition to on-demand offerings, the platform also serves as the headquarters for cohort-based learning, like this year’s Women’s Elected Leadership Intensive—providing a central space for participants to access the sessions, tap into resources, and connect between sessions. New offerings in early 2026 include *Local Economies: Microbusiness Best Practices*, and *Housing TIF Highlights with Allen Edwin Homes*, and the platform will continue to expand with fresh, on-demand content that meets members where they are.



Thriving Michigan Series

Since unveiling the thriving communities framework to members at the 2024 Convention, the League has been building upon this vision of local leadership as foundational to community well-being and economic prosperity. We kicked off the year with our Legislative Priorities to Foster Thriving Communities, a statement of our proactive policy agenda that connects our priorities to Michigan’s economic future. Over the course of the year, we have followed this with several Thriving Michigan briefs that offer a high-level survey of additional opportunities to improve the state’s position across our focus areas.

We have also offered members and partners opportunities to learn about and engage with this work through presentations and facilitated work sessions. Over 350 people have engaged in these sessions, and we have also begun recording versions for the League’s online learning so that additional members can start their thriving communities journey.

Legal Defense Fund

- 2 Cases this year for which the Supreme Court specifically requested a Municipal League amicus brief
- 6 Amicus briefs filed in the Michigan Supreme Court and Court of Appeals this year

Legal Defense Fund Members





Youth Engagement

This year, the League welcomed several attendees from Michigan universities at our flagship events. CapCon saw four student attendees from Grand Valley State University (GVSU); at Convention, we hosted nine attendees from GVSU, Central Michigan University, and the University of Michigan, as well as one CEDAM Fellow. Additionally, at CapCon, the League hosted eight high school student representatives from the Petoskey Youth Advisory Council, thanks to funding from the City of Petoskey and a local nonprofit. These younger leaders were able to participate in all general and breakout sessions and had the opportunity to meet, network, and learn from established public servants.

"I cannot begin to express how great of an experience CapCon proved to be for me, as both a student and a woman," wrote one Petoskey High School senior. "CapCon taught me that bipartisanship can and does exist within governments. The main goal of any public official should be to help people. The conference gave me so many new ideas on how to better my community."

Foundation Update

The MML Foundation's mission is to create and cultivate resources, partnerships, and opportunities that Michigan communities need to thrive. As we looked back at the impact of our work in 2024–25, we found that MI Water Navigator had unlocked \$67 million in state and federal funding for League members.

The Foundation has managed \$5,593,600 in grants for work in housing, local economies, and infrastructure. We support 55 companies who participate in BAP and have brought in a total of \$538,225 in sponsorship revenue for events like CapCon, Convention, and more.

We have onboarded four new board members this year, and we continue to look for new additions to our fundraising committee! If you're interested, please contact Helen D. Johnson at hjohnson@mml.org.

Local Economies

The League and Foundation have partnered with the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation for more than four years to help communities advance equitable access to entrepreneurship and small business success. Over the last year and a half, we completed "deep dive" site visits in six communities to provide community-specific assistance and recommendations on how the municipality and local partners can better support small businesses and entrepreneurs. After a site visit, we provided an Opportunity Report outlining recommendations

and gave them small microgrants to help implement one of those recommendations. We've also worked with our original pilot communities—Monroe, Howell, and Brighton—on site redevelopment plans and small business marketing strategies.

We created a toolkit that provides strategies and examples of how communities can better support local small businesses and entrepreneurs. The toolkit was based on input we received during regional roundtables with communities, developers, and small businesses. Find the playbook here:

mml.org/resources-research/local-economies

With an additional \$1.45 million from the Wilson Foundation, we will continue this work through 2028.

Events

1,214

Number of local leaders trained in person and virtually by the League

Risk Management Programs

Liability & Property Pool
member contributions:

\$27.8 million

Workers' Compensation
Fund contributions:

\$37.5 million

Unemployment Fund
contributions:

\$800,000

Dividends returned to
members since 1978:

**Almost
\$370 million**

Pool annual
new claims:

1,120

Workers' Comp Fund
annual new claims:

2,100

Unemployment Fund
annual claims:

540

Pool assets:
\$100.7 million

Workers' Comp
Fund assets:

\$207 million

Unemployment
Fund assets:

\$7.70 million

Pool member
equity:

\$51.7 million

Workers' Comp Fund
member equity

\$133 million

Unemployment Fund
member equity:

\$51.7 million

Dividend distribution on
the Workers'
Compensation Fund

**Record
\$17 million**