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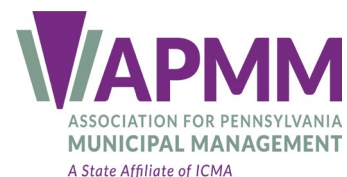
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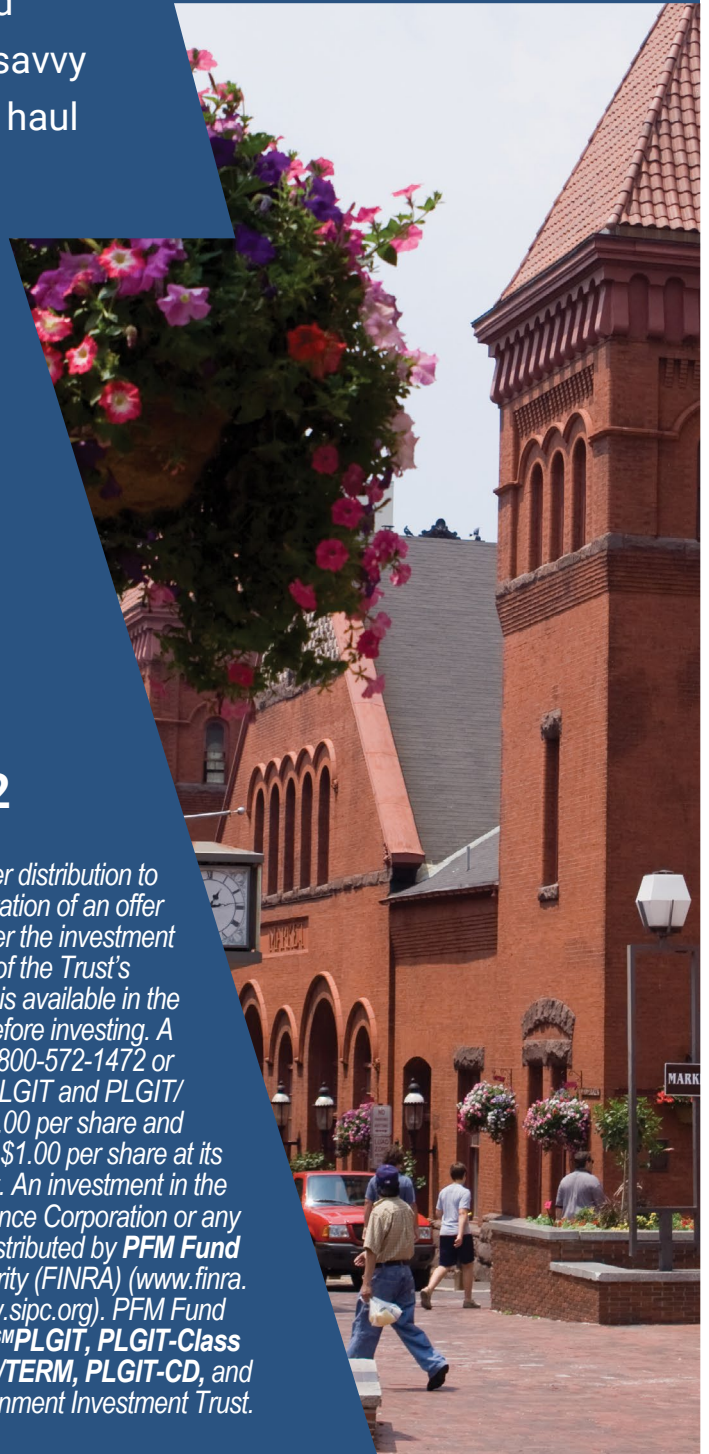
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Our Mission

The Pennsylvania Municipal League strengthens and empowers effective local government through advocacy, education, and support for our members.

The League is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1900 as an advocate for Pennsylvania's 3rd class cities. Today, The League represents participating Pennsylvania cities, boroughs, townships and home rule communities that all share The League's municipal policy interests. Our Board of Directors oversees the administration of a wide array of municipal services including legislative advocacy (on both the state and federal levels), publications designed to educate and inform, education and training certification programs, membership research and inquiries, programs, and group insurance trusts.

We are continually monitoring the needs of our members and are committed to providing the commonwealth's municipalities with cost-effective programs and services required to meet the distinct needs of their communities.

The *Municipal Reporter* is a publication of the Pennsylvania Municipal League, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners and the Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management. It is published six times a year on a bimonthly basis. Opinions expressed by authors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the officers, members and staff of The League.

Original articles on subjects of interest to municipal officials are welcome, but subject to review by editorial staff. The publisher has the right to reject unsuitable advertising.

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Annual subscription rate for The League's Municipal Reporter — \$60.

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The League President's Message



CENTRICE MARTIN
MANAGER
FERGUSON TOWNSHIP



It is a profound honor to begin my service as President of the Pennsylvania Municipal League. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent our member municipalities, and I do so with a deep sense of responsibility and respect for the important role local government plays in people's lives every day.

Municipal leadership is both a privilege and a calling. We are closest to our residents, entrusted to ensure that their streets are safe, their infrastructure is reliable, and their communities are places where families and businesses can thrive. In times of change and uncertainty, it is at the local level where resilience is tested — and where innovation and collaboration offer the strongest path forward.

As I begin this term, my priorities are rooted in several guiding principles:

- *Resilient Leadership. Municipal officials are called upon to manage adversity with steadiness and vision. Whether confronting fiscal challenges, natural disasters, or the evolving needs of our communities, resilience ensures that we not only respond but adapt and grow stronger.*
- *Inclusive Service. Our communities are diverse, and the League will continue fostering leadership that reflects and respects the voices of all Pennsylvanians. By building inclusive practices, we strengthen trust and unlock the full potential of our communities.*
- *Innovation and Growth. Local government must continue to embrace new tools, data, and partnerships that drive efficiency and economic vitality. The work we do today to plan, innovate, and invest in our communities will define the opportunities available for generations to come.*
- *Collaboration and Advocacy. No municipality stands alone. The League is at its best when we unite our members, amplify local voices at the state and federal level, and ensure that the interests of our communities are represented and protected.*

I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead. Together, we will continue advancing policies and practices that allow our municipalities to remain resilient, vibrant, and future-ready. The Pennsylvania Municipal League has always been a powerful force for good government, and I am committed to building on that legacy with energy, integrity, and a spirit of partnership.

The League Executive Director's Message

"We are more fulfilled when we are involved in something bigger than ourselves." Former astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glenn's words are a poignant reminder of why organizations like ours are important.

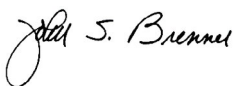
One hundred and twenty five years ago in 1900, during their first convening, The League of Third Class Cities was organized with the adoption of bylaws and the election of the first League President, York Mayor Frank Geise. This meeting came off the heels of a conversation about a year earlier in 1899, as the Mayors of Erie and Bradford talked about the need for a statewide organization to advocate for similar sized cities. The Mayors understood then, as city, borough and township leaders understand today, that by speaking with one voice in our state capitol, we have a far better chance of success.

By the 1950s, The League of Cities, fought for all cities in our Commonwealth. In the 1980's the Board of Directors voted to allow any municipality, regardless of classification, to join the organization. The League of Cities and Municipalities (PLCM) forged ahead. Participation in League programs like PennPRIME and UCOMP grew and so did League membership. Into the 21st century, the membership voted to change the name to the Pennsylvania Municipal League. Branded as "The League" today, we continue to grow with 148 municipal members, an array of cost savings programs and a stellar training program for municipal officials across the state.

This past year, we celebrated our 125th Anniversary by changing our District Meetings to the Member Appreciation Tour. We welcomed Wells Fargo as our 125th Anniversary Presenting Sponsor. We presented commemorative anniversary slates to every member (only a few to go). Our communications team has hit it out of the park during our Municipal Leadership Summit by preparing large and professional story boards highlighting each decade of progress and outstanding League leaders throughout our century and a quarter of service to local government.

However, I think the greatest change from 125th years ago in local government here in our Commonwealth are the faces and backgrounds of our local leaders. The pictures of our conventions from the 1920's and the photo we just took in Erie during our Municipal Leadership Summit speak volumes. Diversity of every form including, far more female elected and appointed leaders along with many persons of color, show the dramatic difference that the faces of local government have indeed changed and are more reflective of the populations we serve. It's far from perfect and much more remains for us to do, but its great progress we should all celebrate during this 125th anniversary year.

Sincerely,



John S. Brenner



JOHN BRENNER



Executive Director's Video Report





Mark Your Calendar



Guiding Municipalities Through Risk and Uncertainty Webinar Presented by Wells Fargo

October 22

Virtual

PELRAS Fall Workshop – West

November 5

Pittsburgh Marriott North

League Learning Academy – Municipal HR Best Practices

November 18-19

Virtual

League Learning Academy – Elected Auditors Masterclass: From Fundamentals to Excellence

December 9-10

Virtual

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March 25 - 27, 2026

Hershey Lodge and Convention Center



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League Learning Academy courses](#)



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PCCA courses](#)

Inside The League

The League is thrilled with the recent success of its 126th Annual Municipal Leadership Summit in Erie and acknowledges the hard work rendered by our entire team with special kudos to Membership and Training along with Communications. The quality of sessions and panel discussions were appreciated by participants who also shared how extremely practical they were. With more than 365 participants, we received overwhelmingly positive feedback and look forward to planning our next Summit in Hershey for the beginning of another successful 125 years in providing advocacy, training and education for our members.



ABE AMORÓS
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -
OPERATIONS – CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

We are also pleased to announce that Lori Heenan has been named as Director of Trusts, thus removing “Interim” from her title. She has been working diligently over the past several months and continues to excel in this role. We look forward to greater success with PennPRIME and U•COMP while taking this opportunity to thank all of our board members in the respective trusts for their volunteer service and dedication to our insurance programs.

As all of you are aware, political violence has hit a crescendo in our nation. For this reason, The League has ramped up its efforts to provide resources and information on how local government officials can do their part in lowering the temperature, not just with words but with actions. Civility is more than just being polite. It’s a comprehensive effort that requires patience, listening, respect and self-awareness. We continue to team with Search for Common Ground and are also collaborating with the Strong Cities Network on a Prevention Academy that provides research and strategies. The League also hosted a webinar with Search for Common Ground along with Tom Knights, Manager of Butler Township, in mid October that was well attended by municipal leaders wanting to learn more about how the assassination attempt was handled last year along with peacebuilding measures.

With recent events dominating the national spotlight, let us turn to the words of Jane Goodall, the world-famous anthropologist who recently passed away, who said “We’re going through dark times: socially, politically and especially environmentally. If you think globally, you get really depressed, so act locally. Each one of us makes some impact...every single day.”

Thanks to all of you for acting locally: Every. Single. Day.

From Inside The League,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abe Amorós".

Abe Amorós



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Gloria Daudier, SVP,
Government Banking
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from League President
and Williamsport
Mayor Derek Slaughter



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PA Auditor General Timothy DeFoor gave an inspiring speech at our Municipal Leadership Summit. We published his remarks so all of our members can read it and benefit from his words.



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TIMOTHY L. DEFOOR
AUDITOR GENERAL

Pennsylvania Auditor General Timothy L. DeFoor shared the remarks below at the 2025 Municipal Leadership Summit in Erie on October 1.

Good afternoon. Thank you, Mayor Derek Slaughter. It is an honor to be here during the 125th anniversary of the Municipal League and celebrate you and your communities. Normally when I come to speak with you, we talk about the importance of the work you do to ensure that your municipal pension plans are fully funded. That work is still important, but, today I wanted to speak with you about something a little different.

In less than a year, the eyes of the world will be on Pennsylvania as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Visitors from around the world will be going to places that are symbolic of our nation's independence – like Philadelphia and Valley Forge – and they will also be visiting your communities.

And when they come to visit us, my question to you is: what are they going to see?

What are they going to hear?

Are they going to see and hear a Commonwealth that is divided and intolerant?

Or are they going to see communities where two people can disagree with one another but still be civil towards one another and work towards a common cause?

I believe they are going to see the latter.

We are all here today because we believe in public service. I believe public service is an honorable profession, but I feel like that very honor is being challenged. I know you feel it too. I know your restraint and patience has been tested at your monthly municipal meetings. And I know that sometimes you leave those meetings not saying what you want because you could be the next viral sensation or canceled because you expressed your thoughts.

So, let me speak plainly – not as an elected official, not as a part of a political party, but as a member of your community. None of this matters if we lose our humanity. I've always believed that government, at its very core, is a mirror – a reflection of the people that it serves. And when I look across this room, I see people who show up every day to serve their community. People who believe that public service is still a noble calling. And I truly believe when the eyes of the



world are on Pennsylvania next year to celebrate the birthplace of modern democracy, they will see communities where people are different, have civil discourse, and can move forward and prosper.

Because that is who we are, and that's why people want to come here. And it starts with local government.

We are better than anything negative said about government. We are better than any negative headline and we are better than any negative social media posts. There are a lot of people out there who consider themselves social media superstars and have an opinion on everything, but they don't know how to lead. So, don't worry about them. I've been called a lot on social media. I've been called the worst Auditor General in the history of Pennsylvania and know nothing about auditing – even though I am the first Auditor General in recent history that's actually and auditor. Let that sink in and I think you will see my point.

So, let's lead. Let's inspire. Let's be the kind of leaders who don't just tolerate differences but respect them. The future of our democracy doesn't live in marble halls or national headlines, or on Facebook, X, or Instagram. It lives right here – in rooms like this one, in small towns and in big cities, in the quiet conversations between neighbors who still believe in each other and in their communities.

Every time we interact with a person it is a chance to say: we may not agree, but we still want what's best for our community, we can still be friends, and we can work together.

I'll work with you to carry these messages into the places that don't make the news – county fairs, the grocery store, the gas station, the school pickup line, the Friday night high school football game.

It starts with you and me. It's how we treat each other when no one's watching. And more importantly, when everyone is watching.

Thank you for having me.



Timothy L. DeFoor
Pennsylvania Auditor General

Municipal Leadership Summit In Erie and Celebrating 125 years!





Leaders Unite in Erie: 2025 Municipal Leadership Summit Marks Milestone Anniversaries and Unprecedented Success

We are thrilled to share that the 2025 Annual Municipal Leadership Summit was a resounding success! Held from Wednesday, October 1 to Saturday, October 4, the event drew an impressive total of over 400 attendees. This year's summit promoted The League's 125th Anniversary and Pennsylvania State Association Township Commissioner's 100th Anniversary, proving to be a notable gathering of municipal leaders, professionals, and innovators ready to share insights and strategies to enhance local governance. The Pennsylvania Career Fire Chiefs' Association also participated with over 40 participants representing the interest and needs of career fire service in Pennsylvania.

The Summit featured a fantastic lineup of 76 speakers, bringing together wisdom and expertise from various fields. Among the most distinguished speakers were Mike Hingson, the visionary President & CEO of The Michael Hingson Group and New York Times Best Selling Author; Joe Schember, the dynamic Mayor of Erie, who provided attendees with his insights on local government; and Lysa Ratliff, CEO of KABOOM!, who brought passion and energy around community-driven projects. Their engaging presentations ensured attendees left with a wealth of knowledge and inspiration.

The event hosted a total of 58 exhibitors and walk around vendors, all aimed at generating leads and exploring business opportunities with potential clients.

With [46 organizations sponsoring the event](#), we received tremendous support from industry leaders. Notable sponsors included the 125th Anniversary Presenting Sponsor Wells Fargo. The contributions of our sponsors made a substantial impact on the event.

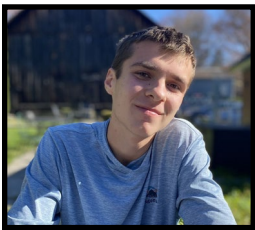
This year, we offered an exciting array of sessions covering valuable content for municipal leaders. Among the most popular sessions were "Business Leaders Network Speed Session," the "Opening Ceremony," and "Keynote General Session: Is This the Choice That Will Change Your Life?". The diverse topics sparked discussions and interactions that truly enriched the Summit experience.

In closing, the 2025 Annual Municipal Leadership Summit was not just an event—it was an extraordinary experience that united municipal leaders and professionals. With an impressive roster of speakers, diverse exhibitors, robust sponsor engagement, and high attendee satisfaction, we have raised the bar for next year's Summit in Hershey – Wednesday, October 7 – Saturday, October 10. Thank you to everyone—especially our hosts, the City of Erie and Erie Bayfront Landing—for helping make this event a tremendous success!



The 42nd Annual John A. Garner, Jr. Civic Engagement Scholarship Contest

High School students from State College, Upper Chichester, and Duryea all won scholarships for their essays on civic engagement from the Pennsylvania Municipal League at this year's Municipal Leadership Summit in Erie.



The **\$2,000 first prize** scholarship went to **Stephen Fowler** of State College Area High School. Fowler wrote about the benefits he received through others' civic engagement as well as the lessons he learned by attending school board and city council meetings. You can [read his full essay here](#).

Helen Flis of Chichester High School in Upper Chichester Township, accepted the **\$1,000 second prize** scholarship. Flis wrote about the importance of civic engagement through community service work. You can [read her full essay here](#).



The **\$500 third prize** scholarship went to **Brooke Kroptavich** of Holy Rosary School in Duryea, near Pittston. Kroptavich described her work on the Student Leadership Council as well as her commitment to volunteer work in the community. You can [read her full essay here](#).

Con't from pg 6

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me to serve. I am excited for the journey ahead – and inspired by the shared vision of strong, thriving communities across our Commonwealth.

On a personal note, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to The League's dedicated staff, my colleagues in Ferguson Township, and the many mentors and peers across the Commonwealth who have shaped and supported my journey in public service. Your guidance, encouragement, and example remind me daily why this work matters so deeply. It is because of that collective strength and shared commitment that I step into this role with confidence and optimism.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me to serve. I am excited for the journey ahead – and inspired by the shared vision of strong, thriving communities across our Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Centrice Martin

*Centrice Martin
Manager, Ferguson Township*

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PML.org/programs-and-services/municipal-job-junction-mjj

It is well to remember that local government, itself, is the most important expression of community enterprise. It should not be too much to ask that every citizen take an active interest in and maintain a balanced attitude toward his local government.

- Harold Smith, Federal Budget Director (1941)

- Harold Smith, Federal Budget Director (1941)

The League was concerned with issues such as:

- [illegible]



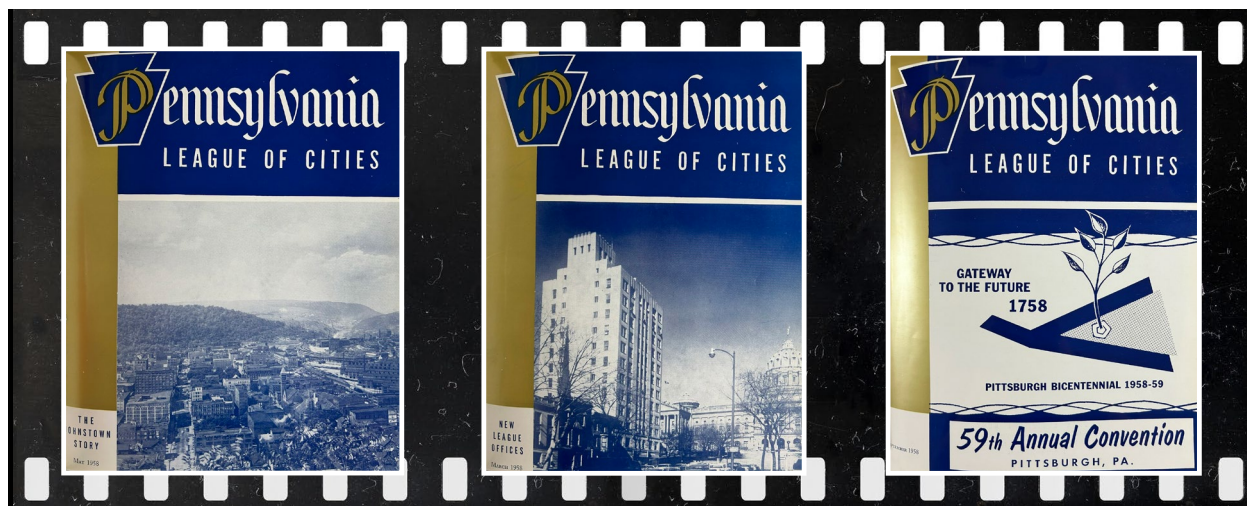
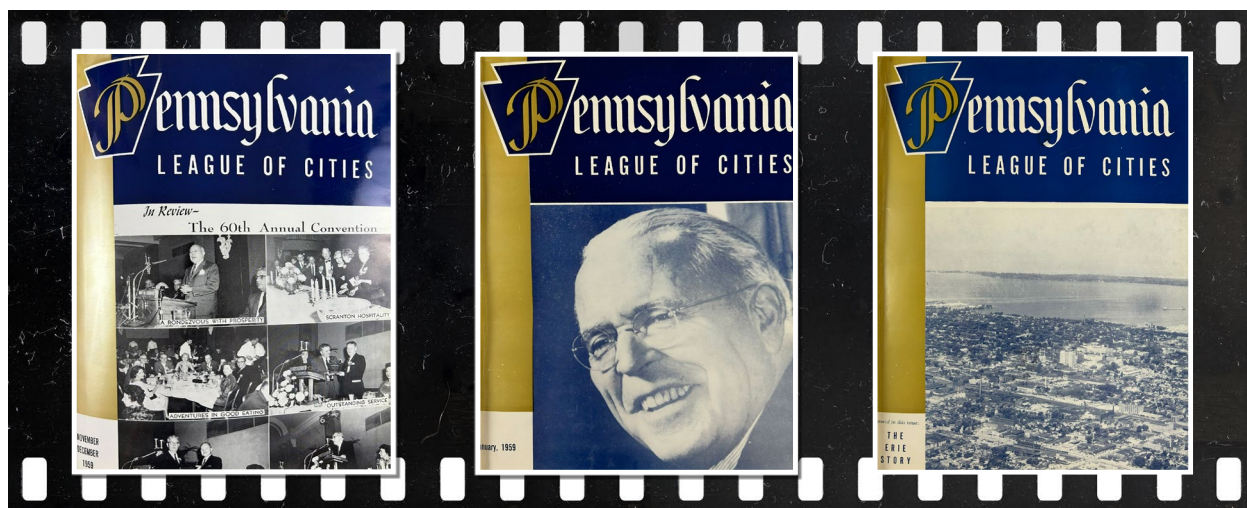
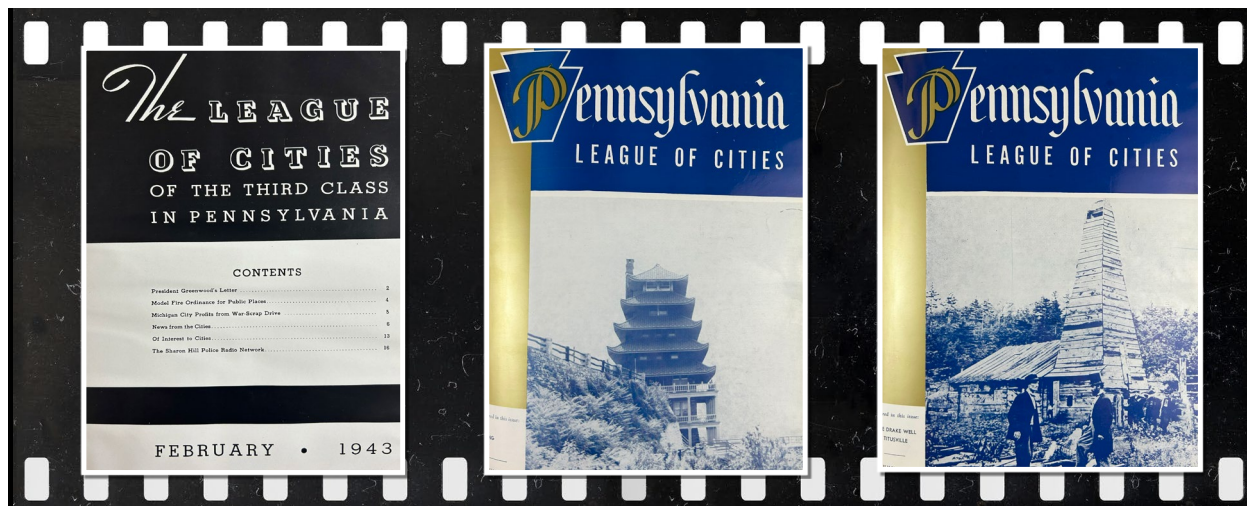
-Walter E Greenwood
President, League of Cities (1941)

-City of Reading, 1945

-Guy Greer, *Municipal Authorities Assoc.* (1944)

Municipal Reporter Covers

The 1940s & 1950s



The 1950s

I believe that local problems should be tackled locally and with the benefit of local knowledge.

-George Leader, Governor of PA (1955), regarding the issue of Home Rule

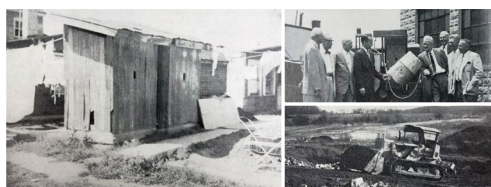
The 1950s had local governments in Pennsylvania discussing the issues of Home Rule, atomic energy, flood insurance, federal aid for libraries, as well as the “fringe problem.” Fringe was known as residents moving out of the city into the surrounding countryside. This created problems for city officials trying to regulate sewer and water, building codes, and fire protection.

PA opened a new fire school in Lewistown. The endeavor took six years of careful planning and construction and incorporated the most advanced design and technology of its time. The new fire school cost \$750,000 and opened to great fanfare and celebration on April 30th, 1955.



The federal government is spending little on the private sector of the economy, and precious little of what it does spend goes to help our cities.

-David Lawrence, Governor of PA (1959)



Lebanon teamed up with the PA and U.S. Health Departments to study sanitation needs and solutions. The city formed a Refuse Authority and created a sanitary landfill.

No community exists which is measuring up to its traffic and transportation needs.

-Eugene L Simm, Traffic Engineering Bureau (1959)

Harrisburg Mayor Nolan Ziegler focused on traffic improvements with updated signal controls and crossing guards. The parking meter system was redesigned with fees of 10 cents per hour. The revamped system brought in more than \$200,000 a year in revenue.



We became the PA League of Cities in 1955

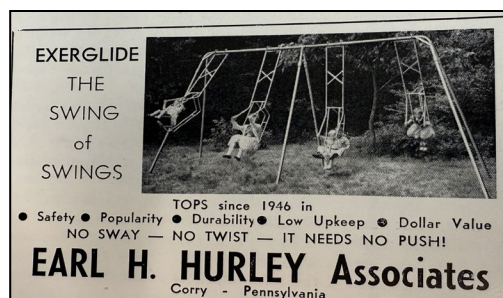


Advertising with The League



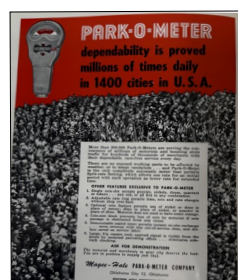
In the 1950s, advertisements in The League's magazine consisted mainly of ads about practical services to cities, primarily concrete and road improvement equipment.

The Penn Harris was a main advertiser and appeared in most issues



Hurley Associates promoted their Exerglide Swingsets

Parking was another popular ad



The “school of hard knocks” is always in session, but there is an **organization** that **helped me** in my term as mayor—**The Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities**. I have **taken** from **The League** much **more than** I have been **able to give back**, but that is what **The League** does.



-Robert Anspach

Mayor of Lebanon (2008)

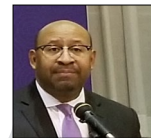


The things we have in **common** are the **problems** we all face together: **infrastructure, transportation, pension, healthcare and worker's compensation**. **The League** is diligently working on all fronts to help each of us every day. It is each of us working together with **The League** that will lead to results, tackling these huge issues.

-Rick Vilello, Jr.

Mayor of Lock Haven (2013)

The Pennsylvania Municipal League is **vital**ly **important to** each of us; it gives **local government** officials a much-needed **microphone** to **amplify** our **needs** to the **state and federal government**.



-Michael Nutter

Mayor of the City of Philadelphia (2014)

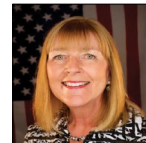


My personal experiences with **The League** have **broadened my horizons** and have made me a better administrator. Being **engaged** with **The League** has introduced me to a **network** of people, the **value** of which is **priceless**.

-Dennis Scarpiniti

New Kensington Clerk (2014)

Beneficial to our community is **The League's Community-University Network**. This program provides **valuable information** and program that can be used in our **community** and university relations.



-Sandra Green

Mayor of Kutztown (2014)



The League keeps local officials up to date on **key legislation of importance** to municipalities and is a **strong advocate** in Harrisburg **for local government**. Through my **involvement with The League**, I am afforded the **opportunity** to foster and **enhance relationships** with **General Assembly** members and **advocate** on behalf of the **City of Altoona**.

-Matthew Pacifico

Mayor of Altoona (2018)

— Community — **Heart & Soul**[®]

A Path to Build Thriving Communities

Get a plan to engage your whole community
and take action toward a brighter future.



Learn more about
our \$10K seed grants.



Image: Rustbelt Mayberry Photography

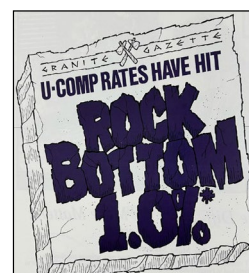
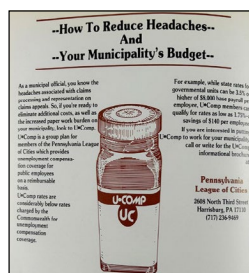
“Involving the entire community to get their opinions, their heart thoughts, and their values gave us a structure to take all of that into consideration when we’re making decisions.”

—Heather Cass, *Heart & Soul* Volunteer, Tidioute, Pennsylvania

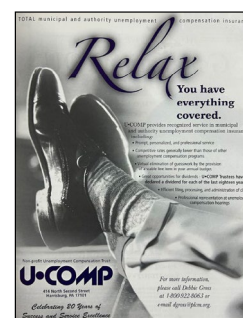
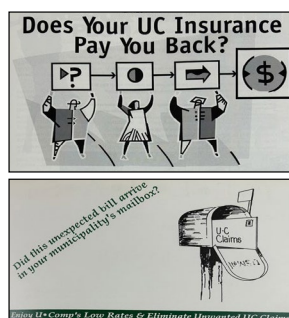
Visit our website at www.communityheartandsoul.org
or call us at 802.495.0864 to learn more.

Advertising with The League

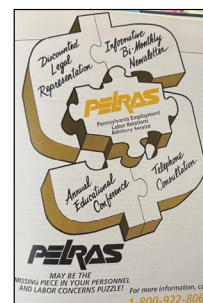
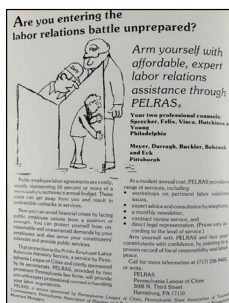
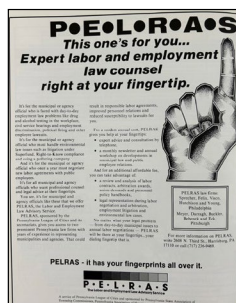
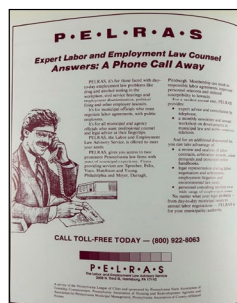
The League established **U-COMP** in 1985.



U-COMP is a group plan for *members*, providing unemployment compensation coverage.



PELRAS – the Public Employer Labor Relations Advisory Service – was created to help local governments address the complex issues of workforce management.



It aims to help municipalities avoid lawsuits, mitigate labor/management tensions, and improve service delivery.

The 1980s & 1990s

Through **The League** we can speak with one voice—in the State Capitol—in the Halls of Congress—and in the White House.

- W. Wilson Goode, Mayor Philadelphia, PLC President 1985-86

The '80s and '90s brought concerns about city survival, economic development, and efficiency in our cities and municipalities. **The League** adopted computers to help with events management, subscriptions, and membership dues. There were three terminals in the office, shared by the staff.



Harrisburg earned a national All-America City Award for its revival efforts, going from the brink of financial collapse to a AAA credit rating.

Act 47 was instituted to help distressed cities

Act 101 of 1988 required statewide recycling

The war on drugs defined the 1990s, along with recycling programs.

The League changed its name to **The Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities** (1992) and instituted several new programs.



"I have seen **The League** grow in membership and programs and services. Perhaps most importantly, the membership has supported the evolution of our association into a municipal league- positioned to represent the communities of the Commonwealth, regardless of their municipal classification."

- Warren Haggerty, Jr. Mayor of Reading (1995)

Gramm-Rudman Acts

“At no other time in history have we been faced with such a great challenge.”

-John A. “Jack” Garner Jr., League Executive Director (1986)



The Acts aimed to cut the U.S. federal budget deficit by calling for \$25 billion worth of automatic spending cuts in domestic programs. Pennsylvania would lose \$300 million in annual funding from terminating General Revenue Sharing, plus it faced a 26% reduction in the Community Development Block Grant program.

“The state General Assembly has to give us local tax reform. We’ve been preaching it for 20 years and now the time has come.”

-Sal Panto, Mayor of Easton (1986)

The League held a series of press conferences to inform the public of the **impacts of Gramm-Rudman and federal budget cuts** on municipalities’ budgets. They expressed the **need for tax reform** at the state level.

City leaders said they would need to find ways to make up for the shortfall:

- **Reading** - turning off all street & bridge lighting, disconnecting traffic signals, & no heat or phone service in city-owned buildings
- **New Kensington** - raise taxes by 3 mills
- **Arnold** - raise taxes by 3 mills
- **Jeannette** - raise taxes by 4 mills
- **Patton Township** - raise property tax rate by 40%
- **Sharon** - lay off 12 policemen
- **Hermitage** - lay off 10 city workers
- **Meadville** - eliminate 15 jobs
- **Franklin** - increase taxes by 20%

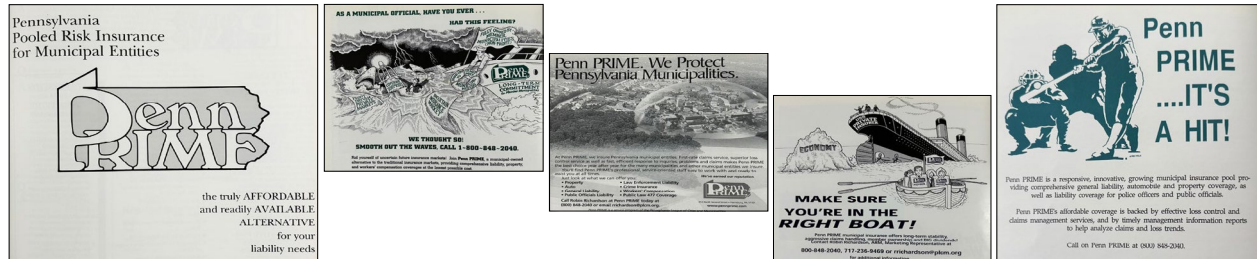


“Local government and local tax payers will be largely responsible for meeting the federal government’s deficit reduction goals.”

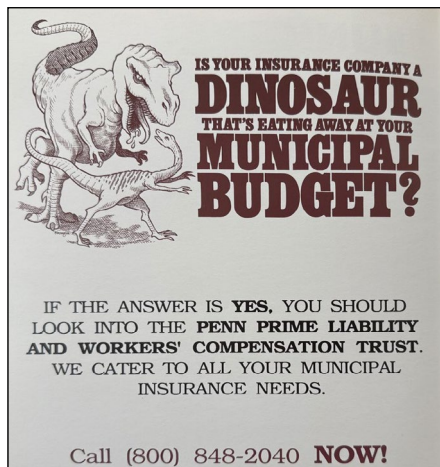
-Karen Miller, Mayor of Reading (1986)

Advertising with The League

The League introduced **PennPRIME** in 1987 as a
“solution to the liability dilemma.”

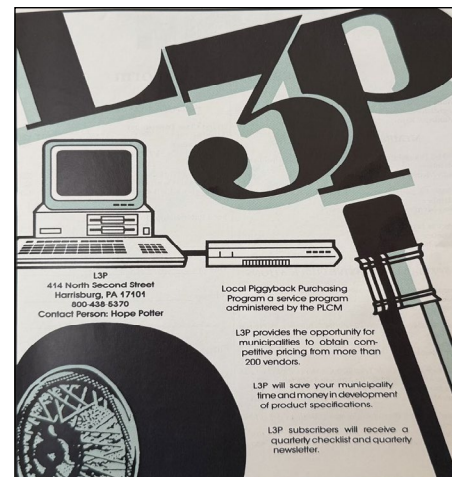


It was a *pooled risk insurance* for municipalities that provided broader coverage at *lower rates* with risk management & loss control programs.



The **PennPRIME Workers' Compensation Trust** came along in 1993 to offer an additional option for workers' compensation.

The *Local Piggyback Purchasing Program*, known as the **L3P**, enabled municipalities to obtain competitive pricing from *hundreds of vendors*.



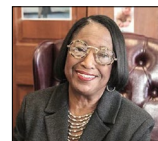


Pottsville has been a long-time member of **The League**...**lobbying** and **services** have **helped our city**. No city can do it themselves.

-John Reiley

Pottsville Mayor (2013)

Having **relationships** with people **throughout Pennsylvania** and the nation has made me a **better official**, helped me **share our successes**, and helped me **learn about** how **other communities** are dealing with the **same challenges**. Get involved, it is **well worth it**.



-Marian Tasco

Philadelphia Councilmember (2013)



I **attribute** many of my **successes** to the **training received** and the **networking** made available at **PML conventions** and **other League functions**.

-Clifford "Kip" Allen

Edinboro Councilmember (2014)

The feds can kick it down to the state, the state can kick it to the local- the **local level, we have to get things done**.



-Derek Slaughter

Williamsport Mayor and League President (2024-25)

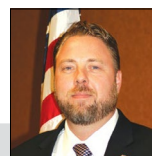


We find it a **great benefit**, especially the **Business Leaders Program** because it gives us **good access** to the **elected officials**, the **decision-makers**. **It's a win-win for everybody**.

-Patrick Geary

Cornerstone Wealth Advisory & Insurance Services, LLC (2024)

I am proud that **The League** is a respected organization that **garners attention** in the **Pennsylvania Legislature**. **League members** and staff should feel **proud of this organization**.



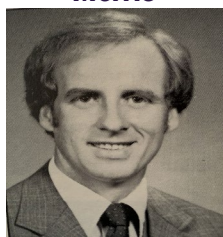
-Erik Cagle

Altoona Councilmember (2018)

Leadership in The League

The League has seen a lot of **excellent leaders** in its **125-year history**. Here are just a few of the people who've helped to **grow** and **shape** The League into what it is today.

**Arthur
Morris**



Lancaster

**Wilson
Goode**



Philadelphia

**Karen
Miller**



Reading

**Matthew
Pacifico**



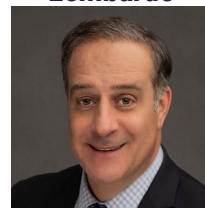
Altoona

**Louis
Tullio**



Erie

**Michael
Lombardo**



Pittston

**Joyce
Savoccio**



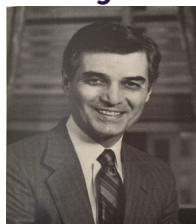
Erie

**Thomas
McMahon**



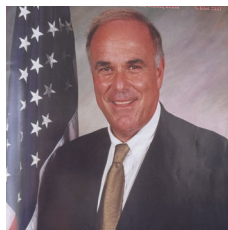
Reading

**Richard
Caliguiri**



Pittsburgh

**Ed
Rendell**



Philadelphia

**Brian
O'Neill**



Philadelphia

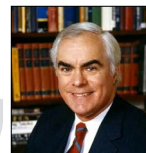


-Paige Cognetti

Scranton Mayor (2024)

Local government is where it happens. Local leaders have to deliver, if that is solid, you have better continuity, better trust in institutions all across the board. That is good for our country, good for economic security and good for democracy.

Providing valuable services and making significant contributions to communities throughout our state, **the League of Cities** and its **staff** have **worked hard** to build a better Pennsylvania and a better nation.



-Robert P Casey

Governor, Pennsylvania (1991)



The Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities is an **invaluable link** in the chain connecting the **state** and its **municipalities**.

-Ivan Itkin

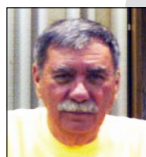
PA House Democratic Whip (1996)

Together the **PLC membership** possess the **political clout** and **public recognition** to make **things better** for our **citizens**.



-Karen Miller

Reading Mayor (1986)

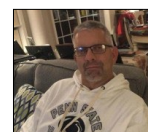


Perhaps in **no other association** can the **Mayor of Farrell** sit **side by side** with the **Mayor** of our state's largest city, **Philadelphia**. The **key** to our **success** is **access** and **shared information** with **fellow colleagues** regardless of size and sophistication.

-Eugene Pacsi

Farrell Mayor (1997)

This organization **provides** our staff with a wide array of **training opportunities**. In addition, **The League** is a **great resource** regarding **state legislation** that can **impact municipalities**.



-Scot Fodi

Oakmont Borough Manager (2025)

Leadership in The League

The League has seen a lot of **excellent leaders** in its 125-year history. Here are just a few of the people who've helped to **grow** and **shape** The League into what it is today.

**Salvatore
Panto**



Easton

**Jesse
Bloom**



Williamsport

**Derek
Green**



Philadelphia

**Rick
Vilello**



Lock Haven

**Sophie
Masloff**



Pittsburgh

**Kirk
Wilson**



Carlisle

**Dennis
Scarpintiti**



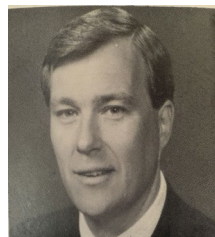
New Kensington

**Richard
Gray**



Lancaster

**William
Althaus**



York

**DiAnn
Stuempfle**



Lock Haven

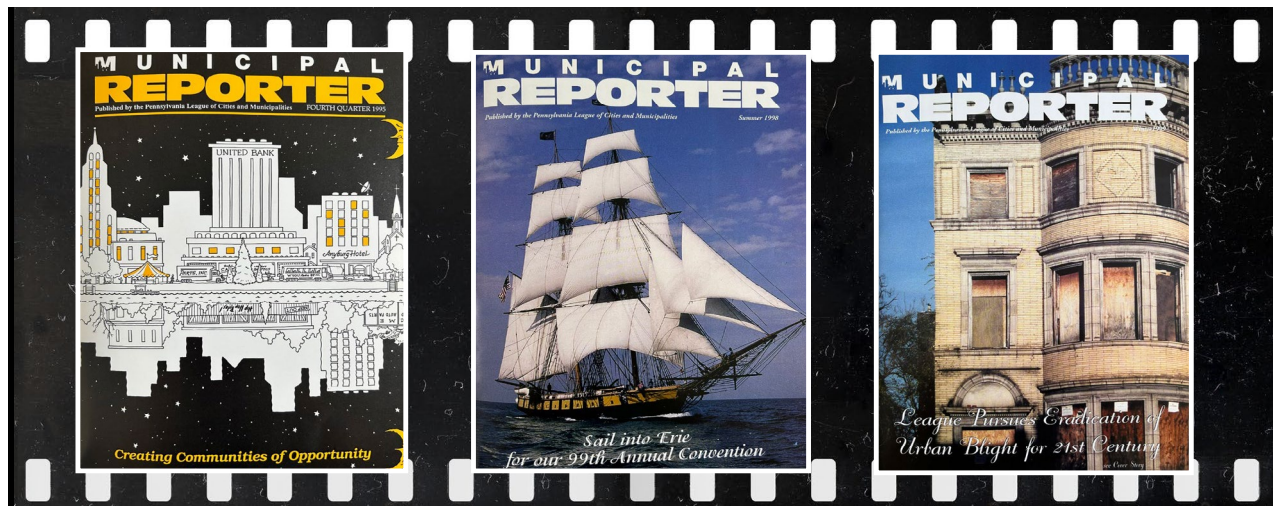
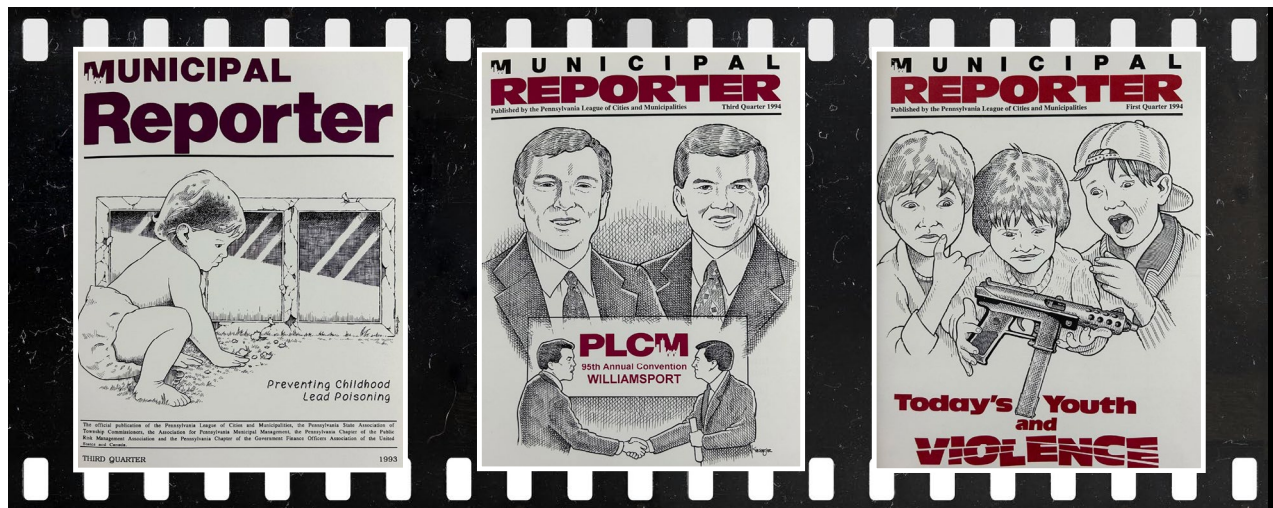
**Douglas
Baker**



Franklin

Municipal Reporter Covers

The 1990s



Leadership in The League

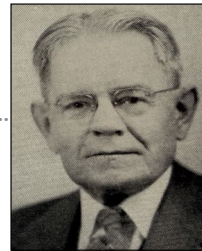
The League has seen a lot of **excellent leaders** in its 125-year history. Here are just a few of the people who've helped to **grow** and **shape** The League into what it is today.



Frank Geise, Mayor of York
First League President, 1900

Mayor Geise started it all by hosting the first meeting of third class cities in York.

Walter Greenwood, Coatesville
First League Executive Director,
1927-1951



They called him
"Mr. League of Pennsylvania"
and it was a title well deserved



William Hansell, Allentown
Executive Director, 1982-83

Bill's 52-year career was devoted to public service and to building communities where people could live and flourish.



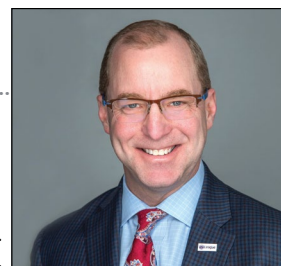
John A. "Jack" Garner Jr.
Executive Director, 1984-2013

"Jack Garner did more than anyone to advance the cause of urban Pennsylvania in his 35-plus years of service."



Richard J. Schuettler, Pottsville
Executive Director, 2013-2021

The League has enhanced municipal training & leadership under Rick, and he has an unwavering commitment to local government.



John Brenner, York
Executive Director, 2022-present

The League is on a journey with John Brenner at the helm. He's has long been a public servant for local government through the city of York, NLC and The League.



“Thank you **Pennsylvania Municipal League** for your **continued support** to the **communities** in which we **live and serve**. ”

-Amy Rockwell

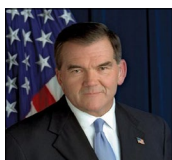
Harrison Township Manager (2025)

“City of **Lower Burrell** is a **proud member** of the **Pennsylvania Municipal League** and **appreciates** all of the **services** **The League** provides to its **member municipalities**. ”



-Greg Primm

City of Lower Burrell Manager (2025)



“**Pennsylvania's municipal officials** have come to trust and depend on the **professional guidance** and **responsiveness** of **The League's leadership**. **The League** is a **respected** and **knowledgeable** organization with a vision that will help **advance** our **Commonwealth's agenda**. ”

-Tom Ridge

Governor of PA (1996)

“**The League** and its members have **played** a **constructive** and **active role** in **detailing urgent urban problems** and in **promoting** an agenda of **legislative** and **police solutions**. ”



-Robert Jubelier

PA Senate President Pro Tempore (1996)

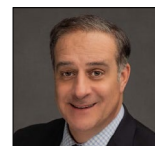


“It has given us a way to discuss different approaches and solutions. In addition, **The League** has **coordinated** our efforts for **change** on the **statewide level**. ”

-Rick Gray

Mayor of Lancaster (2017)

“One of the things that I **enjoy** most about **The League** is that **every time we gather**; whether a **board meeting**, **training** or the **annual summit**, I come away **energized** and **full of new ideas** and these ideas **don't** possess a **label** of **political party**, they **represent** **positive policy** and **action/s** for my constituents. ”

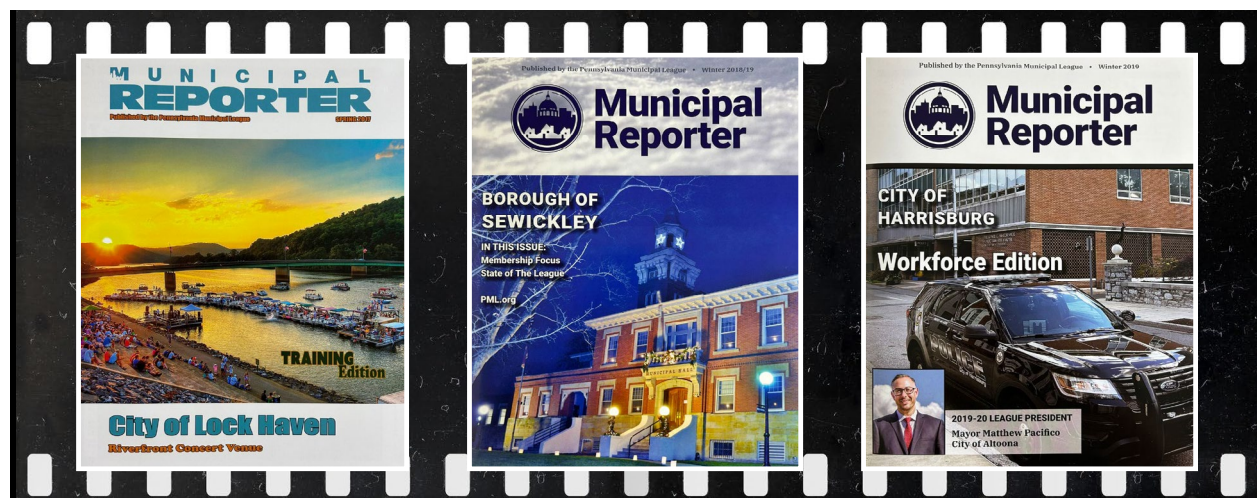


-Michael Lombardo

Mayor of Pittston (2025)

Municipal Reporter Covers

The 2000s



The 2000s

All of the action takes place at the local level.

-Centrice Martin

Ferguson Township, League 1st Vice President (2025)

The new century brought new concerns and new approaches to long-standing concerns for local government. Local Use of Radar was a topic of discussion, as well as West Nile Virus, and fears of Smallpox as a biological weapon.

Local governments watched New Orleans' response to Hurricane Katrina's devastation. Carlisle Mayor Kirk Wilson volunteered with the Red Cross.



"We, as elected officials, would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to review our local emergency preparedness and response procedures and determine how NOT to make the mistakes of New Orleans."

-Kirk Wilson, Carlisle Mayor (2005)



Municipalities were concerned with cable franchising & broadband coverage, health & wellness, and urban blight.

Act 44 of 2009 assisted with pension funding

The Opioid Crisis devastated communities large and small. Governor Wolf signed 4 bills to help deter and combat opioid use in PA. The League offered guidance on Naloxone liability.



The League began offering online training, and built its first playground in Bethlehem, the 2010 convention host city.

The League offered sustainability credentials and a Civics and You program. We also started the Business Leaders Network.



We become the Pennsylvania Municipal League (2012)



Pennsylvania Municipal League

"I am as excited as everyone else regarding the name change of the organization. I believe that the new name encompasses a wider and broader range of all the municipalities that are involved in this organization. I also believe that the new name denotes how all of the member municipalities stand together as a whole, for the best interests of each other."

-John Lucas, Commissioner, Marple Twp. PSATC President.



Leadership in The League

2024-25 Board of Directors

President



Derek Slaughter

Mayor
City of Williamsport

First Vice President



Centrice Martin

Manager
Ferguson Township

Second Vice President



J. William Reynolds

Mayor
City of Bethlehem

Legislative Committee Co-Chairs



Doug Tusing

Council President, Ebensburg Borough



Peter Urscheler

Mayor, Phoenixville Borough

Directors-at-Large



Kendy Alvarez

Mayor, Lewisburg Borough



Jason Bobst

Manager, West Norriton Township



Christopher Christman

Manager, Abington Township



Amy Farkas

Manager, Patton Township



Joe Fleming

City Manager, City of Saint Marys



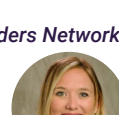
Rita Frealing

Mayor, Borough of Gettysburg



Ezra Nanes

Mayor, State College Borough



Ashley Shiwarski

Director, Business Development
NLC Service Line Warranty Program by Homeserve



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Our offices are located in suburban Baltimore, Maryland. We have been serving our clients' needs for seventy-five years. Our services include pooled risk and group purchase feasibility studies for property and liability and employee benefits programs, RFP's, and continuous advisory services.

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Memorable Moments at The League

BY SUSAN SCHRACK WOOD, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, THE LEAGUE

Rick Schuettler - Schuettler Center for Municipal Development

**Serving the League since
2001**

A Memorable and Challenging Evening...

Travel was a necessary component of League employment and at times presented some unique challenges. I recall myself and two other staff were conducting newly elected official training in Cranberry Township on a Saturday. We were aware of an impending snowstorm and sure enough as we concluded the session, at 4 p.m., the snow started. We thought the turnpike is typically well maintained so let's give it a try. Unfortunately, we never drove on a non-snow-covered road. It seemed like a scene out of Wiley Coyote where the storm clouds were above our car the entire time. We crawled across the state taking double the time of a normal trip. I dropped my colleagues off in Harrisburg and embarked to Pottsville. I encountered a tractor trailer across Rte. 81 near Hershey but was barely able to go around on the shoulder. Finally made the turn up the hill to my home feeling relief when I got stuck. I had to back down a treacherous hill go a few more blocks out of my way but finally made it. I could not believe after traveling across the state I would get stuck with my house in sight.

John Brenner- League Executive Director

**Serving the League since
2010**

An Inspiring Experience...

2007 National League of Cities conference in New Orleans. NLC was the first national convention back after Katrina. They coordinated a special project with conference attendees to help build a new playground that had been completely destroyed in the flood. Mary Costik and I volunteered, and we dug holes and planted trees all day. Every tree in the park had been destroyed by the storm. It was a fantastic project organized and managed by the National non-profit

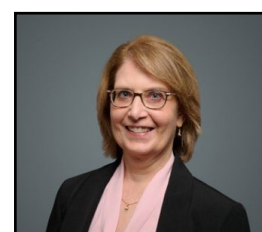


group KABOOM! It was this project and similar ones in San Antonio and Orlando that led our League to partner with KABOOM! to help build new playgrounds all over our Commonwealth since 2010.

Never forget the mentorship of Jack Garner and Rick Schuettler. Both leaders helped guide us with a steady hand by supporting our staff, respecting local officials and growing League programs, membership and services.

Amy Sturges – League Executive Director of Advocacy

Serving The League since March of 1997



An Extraordinary Career...

Working for The League has given me the opportunity to meet, work with, and learn from many local officials who are so proud of their communities and work tirelessly to make them better. I have also worked with many very dedicated League staff and colleagues in the other local government associations.

Some memories from my 28 years:

1997 – My first convention was in State College. The staff dress was strictly professional and there were few options then for comfortable dress shoes. My feet would never be the same!

1998 – My second convention was in Erie. At that time, the staff drove a truck to and from the conference location with all of our supplies. I was so ready to go home on departure day and was in the vehicle following the truck out of Erie. While turning at a stop sign, the truck hit a curb and got a flat tire. I wanted to cry. My boss, Chris Moonis, made the best of the situation - he ordered pizza, and we had a picnic in the median while we waited for the tire to be repaired.

1997 – When I started working at The League, I was the Member Relations Representative. One of my first membership recruits was Indiana Borough. The fact that IUP is my alma mater made our new member extra special for me.

1998 - During the spring district meeting circuit, we were in western PA on a Friday morning during Lent. Not being Catholic or from western PA, I did not understand the importance of fish sandwiches. Jack Garner and Chris Moonis were set on getting these sandwiches. So, at 10 a.m., we stopped at DeLallo's Market in Jeannette for fish sandwiches. The fillets were at least twice the size of the rolls!

2000 - I recall months of speculation and anxiety about what would happen with the world's computers when the calendar turned to the year 2000 - thankfully nothing.

Over the years, League staff has celebrated many milestones - birthdays, weddings, retirements, and babies. In 2001, Mary Costik and I were expecting at the same time. The League staff had a surprise double baby shower for us.

2003 - Attending Governor Rendell's Inaugural Ball was memorable as he had been The League president just a couple years before being elected Governor. The temperature that day was brutally cold and we welcomed local officials attending the festivities into the office to get warm.

2004 - The stars aligned, and passage of the \$52 Local Services Tax took place after many months of active lobbying.

Other Legislative Issues and Initiatives:

- Updates to the Third Class City Code and the First Class Township Code
- Local Use of Radar - attempt after attempt after attempt...
- 2010 Core Communities in Crisis Task Force and the resulting report
- 2012 Sustainable Communities - effort with local chambers to control municipal personnel mandates
- 2014 - Fix the Numbers.com - campaign for public safety pension reform
- Consumer Fireworks Law updates

Jack Garner opened his home in Harrisburg to League staff many times over the years for holiday gatherings and staff picnics. He was a gracious host, and it was always a lovely time.

For many years The League and PSATC held separate conferences in late June, often back to back or overlapping. At the same time, the state budget was being debated in Harrisburg. I was glad when we moved our conference to October and then combined with PSATC in 2020.

Yvonne Garner- Wife of Executive Director Emeritus Jack Garner

Active with The League since 1989



Wonderful Memories with Dear Friends...

My first introduction to The League was when my eldest daughter was an intern for the Mayor of York while in high school in the late 80s, early 90s. The League held their annual conference in York during this time. Her first job after college was with The League. We learned a lot about The League listening to her sharing all the exciting experiences she encountered at The League.

Years later, my daughter introduced me to Jack Garner, the Executive Director of The League and I began to attend various events with Jack, as his date, fiancée and then his wife.

The first event I attended was a Board of Directors Dinner at the Hershey Hotel. I met Mayors and Councilmen and their spouses from across the commonwealth, along with Legal Council and other vendors who supported The League in various roles. I remember how very kind, warm and welcoming everyone was to me.

I met the entire League staff a month later at their annual Christmas Dinner. Again, I immediately felt welcomed. It was impressive, over the years, to see how many of the staff made The League a lifetime career.

Throughout the ensuing months, I met members and their spouses of the U•Comp Board and PennPRIME Board, both of which provide important support to members of The League. I also met the members and their spouses of the Township Commissioners Association.

My first League conference was in Wilkes-Barre. It was there that I got to meet so many members of The League and their spouses from across the commonwealth. Every year we traveled to a different city or municipality for the conference. The Host City or municipality worked tirelessly to showcase their

beloved town. I loved touring each one and especially loved listening to the Mayors and their counterparts sharing ideas that worked for their city or town with their peers and seeing the wheels turning as their peers tucked ideas away to take back home to their own city or town.

Because Jack was the Executive Director, we also traveled across the United States to meet up with his 48 counterparts, as part of the National League of Cities. Again, I enjoyed watching the directors of state leagues sharing what worked for their state or commonwealth with their peers.

It has been almost 25 years since I met many of these folks and I am humbled to say that all these years later a number of these folks remain some of my closest, dearest friends. There are even more with whom I still hear from on occasion, across the miles, and across the country. My life has been so enriched by meeting those who were members, vendors and staff of The League.

Jack always said, “We love all of our cities.” And yes, I look back now and see a host of people who love our cities and work tirelessly to continue to breathe new life and hope into them.

Mary Costik- League Meeting Manager

Serving The League since October of 1983



Meeting Incredibly Inspiring People...

I had the privilege of being introduced to some of the most remarkable women in municipal government.

I fondly remember sitting with Mayor Diane Stuempfle of Lock Haven at Board of Directors meetings, listening intently as she spoke about the local issues and construction of the levees along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. There was Mayor Joyce Savocchio, the first woman elected to Erie City Council and, to date, the only woman who served as the Mayor of Erie.

She showed her pride for her city by always wearing an “Erie” pin on her lapel...way before it was fashionable.

Mayor Karen Miller of Reading went on to break new ground at the state level when she was appointed Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs—a significant achievement and a testament to her capability and vision.

And, of course, Mayor Sophie Masloff, the first woman elected Mayor of Pittsburgh and, to this day, the only woman to have held that office. She led the city through two impactful terms with her unique blend of wisdom, wit, and unwavering commitment.

To all the incredible and influential women who have followed in the footsteps of these trailblazers and served as local leaders — congratulations and thank you for continuing their legacy of leadership!

When asked to reflect on a memorable moment in my career at The League, which was the original assignment, two events stand out:

The first was the election of Councilmember Brian O’Neill of Philadelphia as the 72nd President of the National League of Cities in 1997. From the early stages of his campaign to the President’s Reception in Kansas City, Missouri, the following year, it was one of the most valuable learning experiences of my career.

Undoubtedly, the most personally meaningful moment will always be the day I was hired by then-Executive Director Jack Garner. I will always remember Jack’s love of every community in Pennsylvania, but he held a special place in his heart for his hometown—the Borough of State College.

Congratulations to The League on the 125th anniversary! This remarkable milestone is a testament to the organization’s enduring commitment to strengthening Pennsylvania’s municipalities and supporting local government leaders across the commonwealth. Here’s to 125 years of service, advocacy, and impact—and to many more to come!

Vintage Editorials from League History

BY SUSAN SCHRACK WOOD, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, THE LEAGUE

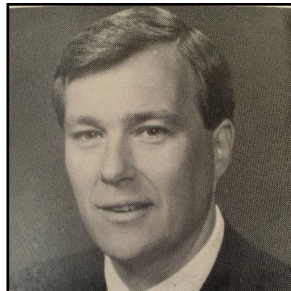
Reflecting on 125 years of service to Pennsylvania municipalities means paging through more than 100 years of dusty archives looking for the important issues and opinions of the decades. This includes editorials and opinion pieces. We found some real gems, including a lament about suburbanization in “The Problems with Cities” from 1945, a warning about preparations for the impending doom of Y2K, a highly humorous and entertaining read from Mayor William Althaus about the Mysteries of Mayoralty, and a Vision for the New Millennium by our Executive Director Emeritus, Jack Garner, Jr.

We hope you enjoy these historical gems as much as we did!

“What Fun”

William Althaus, Mayor of York, 1991

Years ago, I found myself in an argument with a citizen (who didn't recognize me) over whether I really was the mayor. After I finally convinced her that I was, in fact, her mayor her explanation was “Oh, I'm sorry, I expected somebody important.” Presumably, anyone in this line of work possesses a certain amount of ego, but we certainly get enough help keeping it in check.



When I became mayor, I was the youngest mayor ever elected by the people of York. I am now the oldest living man in America. I have uncovered a set of unarguable and immutable conclusions about the Office of Mayor. Travel with me then, through the Mysteries of Mayoralty.

1. It is the worst job in the world.

Let's face it, this job doesn't even have the advantage that Bob Dole cited when asked about the Vice-Presidency (“indoor work, no heavy lifting”). We venture out in weather that the Minnesota Vikings couldn't play in, across terrain that would stumble Neil Armstrong, to preside at the groundbreaking for a telephone booth. Our never-ending quest for “jobs and a tax base” juxtaposes us with nature's worst. I have sometimes wondered why a physical exam is not a requisite for the office. But at least the

respect we receive from our constituents is some recompense. People will cross busy streets just to greet us and shake us warmly by the throat. I, myself, am affectionately referred to by many as “sweet old Bill” (usually just the initials.) In my first months in office, I was invited on short notice to address the area board of realtors. When I arrived at the hotel, I asked the program chairman, “How did you happen to pick me, and on such short notice?” He looked at me with unflinching honesty and said, “Mayor, we just couldn't get anyone else.” Need I say more.

2. No one understands you but another mayor.

When a mayor travels, as he or she sometimes does, on behalf of the United States Conference of Mayors or some other organization or some other public purpose, the press and constituency await upon arrival with a variety of questions consisting primarily of “How much did it cost?” and “What's in it for us?” At functions of various state and national organizations, certainly, the events are of enormous value. We exchange information on critical issues, drugs, the environment, budgeting, and the whole range of municipal responsibilities. We develop lobbying strategies for matters of concern to us on the Hill in Harrisburg and Washington. We promulgate policy on the great issues of the day as they relate to urban America. But in this panoply of important reasons for mayors to get together, let us not overlook what is one of the most important: commiseration. Face it folks: there ain't nobody like us. Sometimes I think we are the last of the gunslingers. We take on all comers, recklessly endangering our own well-being to pursue causes that others simply may not care about. Look at the spectrum of city services. Some folks pick up the garbage, some patrol the streets, some fight the fires, some manage the income and expenses, and many others do various different jobs. One person and one person only is accountable for each and every one of those functions and that is the mayor. You fix the potholes, you fight the fires, you arrest the bad guys, you manage the money, and, at the same time, you conduct a full-time job of ceremonially representing your city. Of all God's creatures, who else would understand all that you do and how little thanks you get for it?

Who among you has not heard, from the private businessperson, “Why don't you run the city more like a business?” Unfortunately, they don't stick

around for the answer when you start to enumerate the myriad federal and state regulations and mandates under which you operate. Businesspeople think we are inefficient, but when was the last time you saw the CEO of a business conduct a 3-hour public hearing on a land use issue? Does their state government dictate the products they may produce or whom they may charge, or how much? They seem to overlook one simple fact: we are not a business, we're your government and by the way, we are you. Similarly, legislators don't understand us. They are, of course, a strange breed. They mandate; we pay. Their penchant for leading boldly from the rear serves them well at election time but somehow does not translate into a general public understanding of who has ordered whom to do what and with which to whom. Result: We pay; we get blamed.

3. The mayor's duty is to lower taxes and increase services

Frankly, I don't know why we haven't caught on to this. It's so obvious. We are elected, presumably, to carry out the will of the people. At countless neighborhood meetings, public hearings, budget meetings, and in correspondence and phone calls and chance encounters, the public has made it perfectly clear to us what they want. They want lower taxes. Fine. There is no problem in doing that, we simply lower the tax rate. They want more services. This is also quite simple to accomplish. We increase expenditures in all departments of city government. Well, okay, some nerd will come along and tell you that you are operating in a "deficit posture" which is prohibited by state law. Ok, so we'll raise the tax rate (ever try lowering taxes and then raising them again?) well if that doesn't work, we'll just eliminate some services we have just instituted (this works well too, providing a new service and then trying to take it away.) What is really needed here is a new system of mathematics. The federal government has one that works just fine for THEM. States have it in the sense that they can shuffle off to us all costs which they find inconvenient. Clearly the problem is that we are the only unit of government with no one below us to whom we can pass the cost or the responsibility. We are the level of government and the individuals most responsible to the people. We have no one to whom we can or choose to pass responsibility.

4. Newton missed the most important law of physics

Fire stations cannot be closed. Ever try? For those of you who have, I don't need to recreate the gory scene, the long hot council meeting at which grotesque pictures are circulated. For those of you that have not yet tried to attenuate this burden on the municipal

budget, take the advice of many mayors who have tried: don't.

5. Mayors confront the imponderable mysteries of the universe

Why is it that on election night the tally board shows votes cast for your opponent, when after the elections everyone within 100 miles of your city swears that he or she voted for you? Why is it that so many people when travelling will brag chauvinistically about their cities and yet when they return home refuse to live in them or do anything to support them? Why do all city boundaries appear to have been drawn by a drunk who hated cities? Why did Julie's trunk have to emerge? (Note of explanation- York had a visiting circus with a lovely young female elephant named Julie. During the course of their stay, Julie saw fit to die. This leads to the kind of question mayor's ought to expect: What does one do with a dead pachyderm in the middle of July? Well, of course, one takes her to the landfill. So Julie was dutifully, and may I say reverently, loaded up on a municipal dump truck and covered with a most respectful canvas to be taken to the local landfill. Unfortunately, as she trucked down the interstate at, I am sure, a legal speed, the load shifted somewhat, and Julie's trunk saw fit to flop over the back of the truck and swing freely in the breeze. I am told that this caused a stunning number of near accidents and cases of fright which may never be cured. The question is: Why does this open happen to mayors?)

6. All hell breaks loose when the mayor leaves town

It's a simple fact, if you leave town for one day something will happen which requires your presence in town that day. It could be a snowstorm, it could be an inquiry from "60 Minutes," it could be a major police episode, or simply a member of City Council who suffered a hangnail that day. It doesn't matter that you have done everything possible to keep expenses at a minimum. It doesn't matter what you were doing for the good of your city and the cities of America. It doesn't matter that they never notice the days that you go to work at 5:00 a.m., or go home at 11:30 p.m. or the Saturdays and Sundays you work. What matters is that for one or two days, you were not there. You should be ashamed. I had the great honor of traveling to Poland to train newly elected non-Communist mayors of that country. During my absence, the newspaper took a poll of city workers. What they found was a resounding sentiment that they are quite happy when I leave town. I am still digesting that one. After I returned home and scheduled a press conference to discuss the trip. I spent an hour describing the historic developments in Poland the rest of central Europe and the hope and fears of the newly elected mayors with whom we met.

The next day, the morning newspaper contained a front-page story discussing my travel budget.

I doubt that anyone who has served more than briefly as a mayor would identify it as anything less than the most meaningful experience of his or her life. It is a constant rollercoaster, exhilarating and depressing. But we are the public officials closest to the people, with our hands on the operation of government on a daily basis. We can set policy and effect changes more rapidly and fully than officials at any other level. We are the most fundamental custodians of the public trust elected to any office in this country. In addition to the professional satisfaction of this job, let's face it: on a good day, it's just plain fun. Mayors wring their hands, pull their hair out, sweat, moan, and pout, but on a good day a mayor should laugh, needs to laugh, and does laugh. As Jimmy Buffet put it, "if we weren't all crazy, we would go insane." Service as mayor of my city, together with the opportunity to serve in various roles with state and national organizations has been the highest honor and greatest experience of my life. I wouldn't have missed one minute of it.

The Problem of Pennsylvania Cities

Charlie Barber, Mayor of Erie, 1945

For many years the demands for a solution to the problems of our cities went unheeded. There seemed none to hear-and little if any response from anyone. There is an awakened interest in the problems of cities, not only of Pennsylvania cities, but of all cities throughout our nation. It is now universally recognized by political economists that our cities are confronted with grave problems, the solution to which will have a profound bearing on our future national economy.

The first World War brought a heavy influx of population to our cities. Many of those people decided to remain with us. So came about one of the principal reasons for the era of expansion in the 20s. New sewage disposal and incinerator plants built to meet health needs and standards found necessary as a result of war experiences - schools to adequately serve this expanding population. Enlarged modernized sewer systems, pavements, street lighting, police and fire equipment to service the actual increase in population and provide for reasonably anticipated increases. Most of these financed by bond issues, all to be paid for, of course, by increased tax collection - by increased property values - both as to the individual property unit as well as the gross increase.

Then came the 30s, bringing a depression the scope of which was greater than any ever experienced by or anticipated for our country. As a result, not only did tax collections decline alarmingly but there was a marked decrease in the value of improved property.

We all looked forward hopefully to the 40s bringing with them war prosperity, war problems, and the knowledge of even greater post-war problems.

I spoke of reasonably anticipated increase in our city populations. They just haven't come about as we all know. On the contrary, most of our populations remained constant or decreased prior to the war. No, they didn't go back to the farm, they moved from the cities out to the immediately adjacent areas with the result that today all of our cities have, depending upon their size, hundreds or thousands of vacant lots with sewers installed, fronting on miles of little-used paved streets and sidewalks. This matter of having vacant city property while the urban or suburban area immediately adjacent to contiguous increases in population is, perhaps, our most serious problem, and it is certain to continue to develop.

These suburbanites boast of enjoying all of the advantages of city life at a greatly reduced cost, and this is often so, at least in the early stages of the new suburban division. Most of these non-city taxpayers depend upon the central city and its services for their livelihood. They work or have their businesses in the city, take part in civic affairs, attempt to mold public opinion and are frequently critical of the administration of the city's affairs. They seem to forget that lower cost to them means higher cost to the family that stays, because real estate taxation is the revenue on which cities must mainly subsist.

It is well to remember at this point that a constantly increasing number of people from without requires more police, more firemen, more public health facilities, and personnel. These people are therefore increasing our governmental worries, adding to its cost but contributing nothing to the cities' financial resources or the solution of its problems.

Since federal and state governments have appropriated most, if not all, of the good revenue tax sources, it becomes their obligation to help us find a way to diminish our load, either by turning over to us some of these tax sources or by diverting revenues which they collect in order to relieve our already too heavily burdened real estate. Cities are creatures of the legislature we are constantly reminded, and hence must operate strictly within the limits laid down by that body. It is up to us to see that our people are treated justly; to see that they are not discriminated against in favor of some other group. I feel that this



realization is making headway. It is not just a matter of dividing the taxpayers' dollars among us. It is a matter of seeing that each taxpayer gets just as much for his tax dollar as any other taxpayer. Specifically, that the people we represent get their just share of the tax dollar. No one taxing authority should strive to take advantage of the other. All officials, whether city, county, or school must work in closer harmony and strive to eliminate some of the overlapping that we know increases the cost of government.

I have touched upon some of our problems and duties, and I say as one city official to another, May God help you solve them - God help you if you don't.

There is Still Time for Year 2000 Contingency Planning by Local Government

Charles Means, Esq. Campbell, Durrant, & Beatty, PC, 1999

This article asks the question - Are Pennsylvania's municipalities and municipal authorities preparing themselves for Year 2000 disruptions?

The question is whether a municipality which has successfully identified, corrected, and tested every one of its Year 2000 sensitive components, has also made contingency plans for disruptions that could occur in outside systems such as electric power, natural gas, telecommunications, banking, etc.

Is there really a serious threat of such disruptions? Consider the following:

The Environmental Protection Agency advises water and wastewater treatment operations to finalize contingency plans for major Year 2000 disruptions stating:

Most drinking water and wastewater treatment plants have contingency plans for operating during natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes. The Year 2000 problem may be similar to these emergencies, since it represents a potential disruption and operation of local utilities, but the plans should still be adapted for the Y2K situation. In particular, the plans should address internal failures, and the failure of service and supply chains external to the facility. Since the Year 2000 begins on a Saturday, the need to have additional operating personnel available to handle any problems that might occur at the plant or in the collection or distribution system should be considered. Staff should have two-way radios to allow communications between location if telecommunication systems are down.

The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, William E Kennard, testified before Congress on April 28, 1999 about his Year 2000 concerns for communications systems, stating:

Radios for police, fire, and other emergency services could fail due to Year 2000 problems. Many of these systems are quite old and manufacturers may not be able to provide fixes for all of them. Wireless systems could fail, just when they might be needed as a backup to wireline telephones.

In the face of such warnings, municipalities and municipal authorities would be wise to reduce their legal, operational, and political risk by giving early consideration to contingency planning steps such as the following:

1. Direct that no vacations be scheduled for all governing body members, police, fire, public works, and other essential personnel from December 31, 1999 through January 30, 2000. Likewise, requests should be made to local volunteer fire departments, ambulances, and rescue companies to likewise direct that all members be in town and available for duty during this time. Such restrictions on vacation should be implemented immediately before employees have fixed vacation plans for the January 2000 period. Lest you think that such a step is overkill, be advised that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have directed over 16,000 officers to cancel any vacation plans from December 27, 1999 to March 15, 2000.
2. Direct that the municipal consulting engineer, solicitor, and other key professional consultants be in town and available at this time.
3. Municipalities and authorities should be working with their police chief, fire chief, and emergency management coordinators to review emergency preparedness plans for dealing with loss of electrical power, natural gas, drinking water etc. in the event that telecommunications are disrupted and/or overburdened so that calls are not getting through, police, fire, rescue, public works, and key authority personnel should be prepared in advance to communicate by two-way radio.
4. Municipalities and authorities should make arrangements for their buildings to be open and operational at this time, including testing in advance any security system to make sure that the building can be entered at all times and arranging for auxiliary power and additional generator fuel to be available to power essential building functions. It is possible that generators and fuel will be hard to get and/or more expensive in the months immediately prior to January 2000. Consideration should be given to advance stockpiling of critical parts and supplies.
5. Arrange for major financings to be closed and proceeds issued by December 1999. Polls indicate that the majority of citizens do not foresee serious disruption resulting at the Year 2000. Hopefully they are right. On the other hand, consider that in Canada,

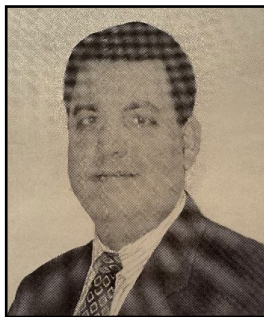
during August 1998, military commanders, regional headquarter and reserve units were issued a warning order advising of “a potential for disruption of major infrastructure systems...that may require Canadian Forces support to civil authorities.” Canadian military commanders are to draft contingency plans for providing assistance to municipal police and fire authorities in the event of Year 2000 related disruptions. If any similar plan is being implemented to assist municipalities in Pennsylvania, it has yet to be made known to local government.

Are Pennsylvania's municipalities and municipal authorities prepared for Year 2000 disruptions? On January 1, 2000 we will know the answer. Prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

The Blueprint for the Millennium:

John A Garner, Jr. Executive Director, PA League of Cities & Municipalities, 1999

A Prescription for Pennsylvania's Cities and Urban Centers



In concert with the planning for the League's Centennial, the Board of Directors undertook the preparation of a landmark publication. With the leadership of Mayor Edward Rendell, Philadelphia, President of the League at that time, the Board and Past President's Committee began the work of conceptualizing the “scope and breadth” of the publication at a special meeting in April of 1999.

The preparation of the report was guided by a strategic vision of what the future for our cities and urban communities should be for the 21st century. The vision encompasses a set of three overriding themes.

These themes include, “Livable Cities and Urban Centers,” “Communities of Opportunity,” and “Preserving Local Autonomy.” Within the context of these strategic themes, over 180 specific recommendations are made to address issues at the three levels of government.

Under the theme “Livable Cities and Urban Centers,” The League believes the issues of diversity, educational opportunity, crime and violence, an inequitable tax burden, and viable standards of public health and welfare must be addressed in a coordinated effort with the federal and state governments.

The “Communities of Opportunity” theme focuses on the reality that a prosperous economy is the key to health communities. “Communities of Opportunity” require the adoption of federal/state tax credits, growth management and land use policies, and economic development/community development programs that encourage investment, as well as environmental and transportation programs.

“Preserving Local Autonomy,” the final theme of the report, points out the need to address and alleviate the fiscal inequity at the local level. The League believes attempts to preempt local rights and responsibilities or impose mandates without funding need to be rejected. Additionally, state laws pertaining to government and finance must be updated to provide adequate revenue streams to fund delivery of services.

Our cities and urban centers do not survive in a vacuum. They promote public safety, as well as public welfare, by providing police, fire, and ambulance services. They guard the public's health through development and maintenance of water/sewer systems and sanitary collection and disposal of garbage and trash. They contribute to the mental and physical health of residents through support of cultural, religious and medical institutions, as well as through the maintenance of parks, recreational facilities and open space. They define the economic development potential for jobs and commerce through maintenance of the infrastructure and roadways.

In short, our cities and urban centers are the very foundation of the Commonwealth. Historically creatures of the states, cities and urban centers must function, now more than ever, in partnership with the state and federal government to help our communities successfully meet the ever expanding and complex roles and responsibilities of local government.

Ultimately, the intergovernmental framework is a system which is interdependent. As governmental roles and responsibilities shift among the levels of government, so too must we adjust the levels of autonomy and flexibility so that we may provide the tools necessary for our cities and urban centers to fairly and equitably provide the services needed by the ultimate judge of our governmental system- the taxpayer.



PennPRIME
INSURANCE TRUSTS | A Service Program of The League



Member
The League's
Business Leaders Network

PennPRIME's vision is to be the first choice for Pennsylvania municipalities in providing Risk Management Solutions

SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH HENRY, TRUSTS MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

PennPRIME is a member-driven, self-insurance trust that works with and is owned exclusively by Pennsylvania municipal entities. Our uniqueness stems from the fact that we continually deliver added value through our specialized products and services including custom coverage, solutions that reduce our members' risk, and building member equity. PennPRIME provides both Liability and Workers Compensation coverage.

The **PennPRIME Liability Trust** was formed by the League in 1987, in response to the commercial insurer's withdrawing from the municipal insurance market in the mid-1980's. At the time, municipalities saw their rates escalating, their coverage eroding or in many cases, found their insurance coverage canceled. The PennPRIME Liability Trust was designed to provide broad, cost effective and stable coverage to meet the special needs of the membership through all market conditions over time.

The **PennPRIME Workers' Compensation Trust** was formed in 1993 for the same reason the Liability Trust was formed. In response to the commercial insurer's withdrawing from the municipal insurance

market in the early-1990s, the trust was formed. At the time, municipalities saw their rates escalating, their coverage eroding or in many cases, found their insurance coverage canceled. Many municipalities had no other option at the time but to join the state fund. In response, the Board of Trustees of the Liability Trust put up the "seed money" needed to start the Workers' Compensation Trust.

These programs reflect just part of the League's commitment to support municipal government operations in Pennsylvania.

For further information on PennPRIME, contact:

Elizabeth Henry
Trusts Member Services Manager
ehenry@pml.org
717-236-9469, ext. *250
717-576-3517 cell



U•COMP
Unemployment Compensation Trust



The U•COMP Trust was created in 1985 and is 40 years old!

SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH HENRY, TRUSTS MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

U•COMP was created to help Pennsylvania municipal employers save money on unemployment claims. In analyzing the membership, it appears as though the original marketing representatives drove across the PA Turnpike and got off at every exit, signing municipal entities onto the program!

The Trust membership includes:

- Cities of all classes
- Townships of all classes
- Boroughs
- Housing and Redevelopment Authorities
- Transit Authorities

The program is administered by **The League**.

U•COMP offers opportunities for dividends. Each year the Board votes on whether to pay dividends and the amount for each member group. The Board has approved payment of dividends for over 35 consecutive years.

Each member's balance in the Trust is tracked separately. Claims are paid from each member's balance. Individual group rates are based on actuarial calculations. Interest is also earned on the member's individual balance.

Experian Employer Services is the third-party claims administrator For U•COMP.

Experian's services include:

- Assist in unemployment claim processing
- Monitor claims
- Protest claims that should be protested
- Handle most of the tedious claim paperwork
- Experian and U•COMP are the buffer between the member group and the Department of Labor and Industry
- Experian will assist employers in resolving fraudulent claims
- Experian representatives will attend unemployment hearings with the employer
- Experian representatives report to U•COMP's Board of Trustees.

Please reach out to Elizabeth with any questions or a quote!

For further information on U•COMP, contact:

Elizabeth Henry
Trusts Member Services Manager
ehenry@pml.org
717-236-9469, ext. *250
717-576-3517 cell

League Learning Academy Launches to Empower Local Government Officials

SUBMITTED BY CANDICE HEYWARD, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, THE LEAGUE

Creating a training program for municipal officials can be uniquely challenging due to the wide range of roles, responsibilities, and experience levels among participants. Municipalities vary greatly in size, resources, and governance structures, which means a one-size-fits-all approach often falls short. Additionally, elected officials may have limited availability and come from diverse professional backgrounds, requiring content that is both accessible and highly relevant. Balancing legal and procedural accuracy with practical, real-world application is essential—yet complex. Moreover, training must stay up to date with evolving laws, technologies, and community expectations, making the development process an ongoing, adaptive effort. In response to the evolving challenges facing communities today, The League stepped up to the plate with the launching of the League Learning Academy - a dynamic new training initiative aimed at strengthening the leadership capacity of local government officials.

This program is designed to provide practical, high-impact training in areas such as ethical governance, community engagement, policy development, budgeting, and digital innovation. With an emphasis on real-world application, the League Learning Academy seeks to ensure that local leaders are well-equipped to navigate complex issues and drive positive change in their communities.

Local government plays a critical role in the everyday lives of residents. Through targeted training and continuous professional development, we can empower officials to make informed decisions, lead with integrity, and build stronger, more resilient communities. The League Learning Academy offers a mix of both live and self-led courses tailored to meet the needs of both new and experienced officials. By fostering a culture of learning and collaboration, the initiative supports long-term improvements in local governance and public service delivery.

In today's rapidly changing landscape, training is not a luxury—it's a necessity. The League Learning Academy is committed to investing in the people who lead our communities, ensuring they have the tools, knowledge, and confidence to serve effectively. Local government officials juggle numerous roles — policy-maker, administrator, budget manager, and community

liaison — often with limited resources. Without adequate training, even well-intentioned officials may struggle to match rising public expectations or adapt to new challenges.

By investing in the development of local leaders, the League Learning Academy helps ensure decisions are informed, ethical, and aligned with community needs. It also establishes a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration across municipalities.

To accommodate the many facets of local government, the Academy is structured into several thematic “tracks”:

- **Management:** Covers leadership styles, strategic planning, performance management, intergovernmental relations, crisis response, and more.
- **Administrative:** Focuses on municipal structures, recordkeeping, meeting processes, communications, and internal procedure development.
- **Finance:** Teaches basics of public budgeting, revenue sources, expenditure control, financial reporting, auditing, and capital planning.

Some of the upcoming courses include:

- Public Procurement & Bidding Essentials for Municipal Officials — October 21–22
- Write to Win: Grant Writing for Local Government — November 5
- Municipal HR Best Practices — November 18–19
- Elected Auditors Masterclass: From Fundamentals to Excellence — December 9–10

To learn more, register for courses, or stay updated on the latest training offerings:

<https://www.pml.org/training-development/league-learning-academy/>

Phone: (717) 236-9469, then press 2

Email: LLA@pml.org



League Learning Academy

Registration for The League Learning Academy's Fall 2025 schedule is now open and is packed with opportunities to grow, connect, and be inspired! League members will receive special pricing, so make sure to explore the courses and claim your spot now!

LEARNING TRACKS:



FINANCE



ADMINISTRATIVE



MANAGEMENT

PML.org/training-development/league-learning-academy

LLA@PML.org

Celebrating 125 Years of Municipal Leadership: Sustainable Pennsylvania at the Forefront of Local Government Innovation

BY BAILEY ROCCO, SUSTAINABILITY
COORDINATOR, THE LEAGUE



In 2025, the Pennsylvania Municipal League marks a remarkable milestone, 125 years of empowering local governments across the Commonwealth. Founded in 1900 to advocate for Pennsylvania's third-class cities, The League has grown into a dynamic, nonpartisan organization representing cities, boroughs, townships, and home rule communities. As part of this historic celebration, The League is spotlighting one of its most transformative initiatives: the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification Program.

Launched in partnership with Sustainable Pittsburgh, the Sustainable Pennsylvania Program is a voluntary performance recognition initiative that equips municipalities with tools to enhance transparency, improve operational efficiency, and foster meaningful community engagement.

Municipalities participating in the program are evaluated across a comprehensive framework that includes:

- Economic Development & Revitalization
- Strategic Engagement & Resilience
- Energy
- Land Use & Housing
- Parks & Land Conservation
- Water
- Waste & Materials Management
- Municipal Operations
- Health & Public Safety
- Transportation

Municipalities earn one of four certification levels—Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum—based on their score and completion of required actions. Certification is

valid for three years and scaled by municipal size, using employee count as a key indicator.

Since its creation in 2013, and with formal recognition by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in 2016, the program has certified over 135 municipalities, representing more than 4.1 million residents.

In 2023, Sustainable Pennsylvania underwent a much-needed update to refine its assessment levels and actions, ensuring stronger alignment with today's sustainability best practices. This revision was thoughtfully developed to better support the diverse needs and goals of Pennsylvania's communities. Since the update, 21 municipalities have achieved Sustainable Pennsylvania Certification, including 9 League members. Additionally, 58 municipalities currently have applications "In Progress," with 30 of those being League members.

Each certified community receives a public profile showcasing its sustainability achievements, allowing residents and stakeholders to track progress and hold leaders accountable. This transparency builds trust and encourages civic participation.

As we celebrate 125 years of municipal leadership, the Pennsylvania Municipal League invites all communities to be part of the next chapter. **The Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification Program offers a clear path for municipalities to demonstrate their commitment to transparency, efficiency, and community engagement.**

Whether you're just beginning your sustainability journey or building on years of progress, this program provides the tools, recognition, and support to help your municipality thrive.

Learn more and start your certification journey at sustainablepa.org or contact Bailey Rocco, Sustainability Coordinator, at brocco@pml.org.

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For over 40 years, our professionals
have weathered the trends.
Our time-tested strategies have
been there for our clients through
up and down markets.

A photograph of three people in an office setting. On the left, a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a blue button-down shirt, is smiling and looking towards the center. In the middle, a woman with curly hair, wearing an orange cardigan over a white shirt, is also smiling and looking towards the right. On the right, an older man with white hair and glasses, wearing a light blue shirt, is gesturing with his hand while speaking. They are all seated around a wooden table. The background shows large windows and office partitions.

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please go to pfmam.com/disclosures*



T-Mobile Friday Night 5G Lights Grant Program

SUBMITTED BY DAVID OMBRES, GOVERNMENT-EDUCATION-NONPROFIT ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

[Friday Night 5G Lights](#) is the latest way T-Mobile is supporting small communities after announcing its commitment in April 2021. Since then, we've delivered on our promise by expanding the nation's leading 5G network, connecting rural communities with [T-Mobile 5G Home Internet](#), empowering the community through [Project 10Million](#), and investing nearly \$18 million in small communities nationwide through [Hometown Grants](#).

Below are the schools that were awarded money from our Friday Night 5G Lights grant program. This program provides funds for schools to purchase or upgrade their sports equipment/fields.

\$5,000.00 Awardees

- Pleasant Valley High School
- Dallas High School
- Derry Area High School
- Susquenita High School
- East Pennsboro Area High School
- Greensburg Salem High School
- Grove City Area High School
- Halifax Area High School

- Lehigh Area High School
- Ligonier Valley High School
- Delaware Valley High School
- New Oxford High School
- Northwestern Lehigh High School
- Frazier High School
- Portage Area High School
- Spring-Ford High School
- Steelton-Highspire High School
- Mid Valley Secondary Center

\$25,000 Awardee

- Pleasant Valley High School

PSATC President's Message



TODD K. MILLER
COMMISSIONER
CRESENT TOWNSHIP



firstclasstownship.org

*Fellow Township Commissioners,
I am grateful for the confidence you
have placed in me as the incoming
president of the Pennsylvania
State Association of Township
Commissioners (PSATC). It is
an honor to serve and lead this
esteemed organization.*

*This year marks PSATC's centennial.
Over the past century, our
association has developed into a robust body due to the commitment of our previous
leaders and the ongoing efforts of engaged members. PSATC was established to
provide a unified voice for township officials, promote best practices in governance,
and strengthen township management. Looking ahead, my objectives will focus on
expanding our membership, enhancing engagement among members and corporate
partners, and elevating our social media presence.*

*Our relationship with the Pennsylvania Municipal League (The League) remains
fundamental to our legislative advocacy and the advancement of policies
impacting local government. Maintaining this strong collaboration will support both
organizations' continued achievements. I extend congratulations to The League on its
125th anniversary.*

*Your contributions are vital to shaping the future of our association. My office remains
accessible for your input and concerns. Let us work collaboratively to further the
success of PSATC.*

I look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Todd K. Miller

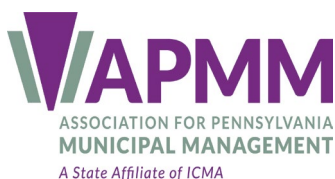
Todd K. Miller



APMM President's Message



DAN SANTORO
MANAGER
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP



APMM.net

Anniversaries invite us to pause – to celebrate progress, honor service, and recommit to the work ahead. As municipal professionals, we mark many kinds of milestones: years of public service, community projects brought to life, and the evolving professionalism of our field. This year, as we celebrate these anniversaries across Pennsylvania, I'm reminded that our greatest advances have always come from connection – learning with and from one another.

APMM's own story bears this out. In the late 1940s, a small group of forward-thinking managers saw that our profession shared common challenges and ambitions. Their collaboration sparked a statewide association dedicated to strengthening municipal management. We incorporated in 1982, affirmed our non-partisan, member-driven mission, and, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Municipal League, expanded training and technical assistance. In 1986, our name – Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management – signaled a broader, more inclusive community that now unites managers and administrators from townships, boroughs, cities, home-rule communities, counties, and COGs. Today, APMM stands as the commonwealth's principal advocate and resource for professional municipal management because those pioneers believed in the power of connection.

That spirit is alive every time we gather – especially at our conferences. Conferences are where expertise meets experience; where a hallway conversation turns into a solution to a thorny problem back home; where new managers find mentors and seasoned leaders discover fresh approaches. If you're looking for the single best way to plug into your peer network, sharpen your skills, and recharge your sense of purpose, start with our upcoming events:

- **Executive Development Conference**
February 12–13, 2026 | The Hotel Hershey
Immersive sessions designed by APMM's Professional Development Committee will focus on timely topics and practical tools you can use immediately.
- **APMM Annual Conference**
May 18–20, 2026 | The Landing Hotel, Pittsburgh
Our flagship gathering to connect across regions and disciplines, celebrate member achievements, and explore innovations shaping local government.

If you're commemorating a personal or municipal milestone this year, I hope you'll share it with us and bring your story to one (or both) of these conferences. Your perspective strengthens our collective wisdom. Your questions spark better practices. Your presence helps welcome the next generation of leaders into a profession defined by ethical service, practical problem-solving, and a deep commitment to community.

As we celebrate anniversaries, let's honor our past by investing in each other – building relationships, elevating standards, and expanding the capacity of local government to deliver for residents. I look forward to seeing you, learning with you, and celebrating together in 2026.

With appreciation for all you do in service to Pennsylvania's communities.

Sincerely,

Dan Santoro

Dan Santoro

Legislative Status Report STATE



PREPARED BY AMY STURGES, LEAGUE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – ADVOCACY – asturges@pml.org
KAITLIN ERRICKSON, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS MANAGER – kerrickson@pml.org

All legislation can be found on the General Assembly's website:

legis.state.pa.us

Legislative Update

2025 Adopted Resolutions

The League is a member-driven organization relying on member municipalities to help develop policies that meet the present needs of local government. Our annual [resolutions process](#) provides every League member with the opportunity to participate in, and shape, The League's legislative agenda.

During The Municipal Leadership Summit, the voting delegates for The League's Resolutions Committee and Annual Business Meeting met for a final discussion and vote on the proposed 2025 Resolutions. All seven resolutions were adopted and will be integrated into the 2026 Policy Statement.

Please view and read the adopted 2025 Resolutions [here](#). The subjects of the adopted resolutions are listed below.

1. 2021 Policy Review
2. Adoption of NLC's 2025 Municipal Policy and Federal Action Agenda
3. Fire Insurance Escrow Law Update
4. Expansion of Heart and Lung Act Eligibility
5. Expansion of Tax Exemptions without Replacement Revenue
6. Business Gross Receipts/Business Privilege Tax Repeal
7. Right to Know AI Requests



Cosponsor Memos

Shelter First for Pennsylvanians Experiencing Homelessness Act

Representative Ismail Smith-Wade-El has announced his intention to introduce legislation permitting individuals experiencing homelessness to conduct life-sustaining activity in public spaces when no reasonable, alternative options for housing are offered or available.

Commercial Property Tax Assessment Study

Representative Joe Webster has announced his intention to introduce legislation ordering the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study commercial property assessment and valuation in relation to local government budget shortfalls.

Short-Term Rental Reporting Requirements

Senator Rosemary Brown has announced her intention to introduce legislation requiring all online home sharing and short-term rental service companies conducting business in the Commonwealth to share information with local taxing authorities.

Legislation Affecting Local Government

Vacancies and Vacancy Boards

Second Consideration in the Senate, October 8, 2025

[House Bill 1651](#) (PN 2004) and [Senate Bill 862](#) (PN 973), introduced by Representative Bob Freeman and Senator Patty Kim respectively, would amend the Second Class Township and Borough Codes regarding vacancy boards and the filling of vacancies.

- If a majority of seats on a governing body are vacant, the Court of Common Pleas shall fill the vacancies upon petition from the remaining board members or fifteen registered voters;
- If a resignation would preclude the majority of a board from accepting the tendered resignation, the resignation is effective the second business day after being tendered;
- If a governing body convenes to fill a vacancy, the proceedings may be ended after 15 days instead of the current 30 days, if the seated members vote to disband because they cannot fill the vacancy; and
- A vacancy board chair may not vote for themselves to fill any vacancy.

Operating a Lawn Mower in Second Class Townships: Shadow Vehicles

First Consideration in the House, October 8, 2025

[House Bill 1856](#) (PN 2294), introduced by Representative Brett Miller, would amend the Second Class Township Code. Currently, townships must use a shadow vehicle while mowing along roadways, as the shadow vehicle follows the mower and other maintenance activities. This bill would remove the requirement of using a shadow vehicle while mowing, making it optional.

Increasing the Millage Cap for Municipal Fire and EMS Services

First Consideration in the House, October 8, 2025

[House Bills 1875](#) (PN 2329) and [1893](#) (PN 2358), introduced by Representatives Nikki Rivera and Jim Haddock respectively, would amend the First Class Township Code and Borough Code increasing the cap amount of taxes dedicated to EMS services from one half mill to five mills, as well as increasing the cap amount of taxes dedicated to fire services from 3 mills to 10 mills.

House Bill 393, which already passed the House, would add this language to the Second Class Township Code.

Deadline Extension for Annual Audit Report

Second Consideration in the Senate, October 8, 2025

[Senate Bills 971](#) (PN 1112) and [975](#) (PN 1116), introduced by Senators Tim Kearney and Scott Hutchinson respectively, would amend the Second Class Township, Borough, and Third Class City Codes extending the deadline to file an annual audit financial report with the Department of Community and Economic Development from April 1 to June 30. This language can also be found in the First Class Township Code Codification in Senate Bill 1036 and House Bill 1836.

Finally, the bill includes language protecting municipalities, participating entities, counties where a safe exchange zone is located and DCED from liability.

Care of Municipal Memorials

Second Consideration in the Senate, October 8, 2025

[Senate Bills 972](#) (PN 1113) and [993](#) (PN 1212), introduced by Senators Tim Kearney and Dawn Keefer respectively, would amend the Second Class Township, Borough, Third Class City, and County Codes allowing the listed municipalities to establish, maintain, and repair a memorial for first responders and/or armed service members. This language can also be found in the First Class Township Code Codification in Senate Bill 1036 and House Bill 1836.

Companion legislation in the House, House Bills 1720 and 1787, were recently voted out of the House Local Government Committee.

First Class Township Code Codification

Second Consideration in the Senate, October 8, 2025

Senate Bill 1036 (PN 1205), introduced by Senator Dawn Keefer, begins the initiative to codify the First Class Township Code into the PA Consolidated Statutes. The bill proposes a few amendments to the current Code that was updated in 2020. The proposed amendments come from first class township suggestions, as well as suggestions

from the Local Government Commission. Once enacted, the Code will be found in Title 73 of the Consolidated Statutes. Consolidation is beneficial because then one bill can amend or update all of the local government codes that have been consolidated, rather than having to have separate bills to amend each code. House Bill 1836, introduced by Representative Bob Freeman, is companion legislation in the House and was referred to the House Local Government Committee.

House and Senate Session Days 2025	
<u>House</u> November 17-19 December 15-17	<u>Senate</u> November 17-19 December 8-10

*reminder - session dates are subject to change



HELPING COMMUNITIES UNDERSTAND THE DATA CENTER BOOM

BY KELLY AVES, SENIOR PROGRAM SPECIALIST ON SUSTAINABILITY, NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

Data centers are the physical infrastructure that support our digital economy, yet their impacts, both positive and negative, are often overlooked in local governance discussions. Because of the recent explosion in Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing and other digital services, many areas across the U.S. have seen an increase in data center development and proposals. Speeding the construction of data centers was also a key priority in President Trump's January Executive Order, "[Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence](#)," and the resulting National AI Action Plan.

Fact Sheet #1

You can read more about the basics of data centers in NLC's **first fact sheet** of a three-part series, [A Primer for Local Governments: Understanding Data Centers](#).

Cities, towns and villages can take a proactive approach to planning data center development by addressing sustainability, zoning and infrastructure considerations to best position these facilities as community assets.

One of the first concerns residents and businesses may have with the proposal of data center development is that of environmental impacts and resource availability. Data centers operate around the clock, with large amounts of electricity not only powering the servers within data centers that bring digital services online, but also the systems that provide cooling and operational redundancy. Cooling systems, which require significant amounts of water, can vary greatly in their water re-use levels as well as whether they use potable water.

Fact Sheet #2

NLC's **second fact sheet** addresses the basics of data center water and energy usage, as well as new technologies to require or encourage developers to implement to conserve resources: [Data Centers and Environmental Considerations \(PDF\)](#).

Fact Sheet #3

The **third fact sheet** digs into some strategies and examples on how local governments can manage land use and the community impacts of data center development and operation, through zoning ordinances, permitting strategies and other policy tools: [Community Strategies to Address Data Center Development and Operation \(PDF\)](#).

By thinking about data centers proactively, instead of reactively, local leaders can position their city, town or village to be ready for the next big push in digital infrastructure development. Data centers can provide local economic benefits and tax gains for local jurisdictions as long as the proper framework is set in place. NLC encourages local leaders to work collaboratively with state regulators and legislators, local utilities and other communities in the region to implement the Community Strategies outlined in the third fact sheet.





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Public Finance

STRENGTH IN UNCERTAINTY

LGIPs AND ECONOMIC RISK ASSESSMENT IN TIMES OF VOLATILITY

BY COURTNEY MULHOLLAND, DIRECTOR, PFM ASSET MANAGEMENT, A DIVISION OF U.S. BANCORP ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC.

Local Government Investment Pools (LGIPs) play a critical role in managing public funds on behalf of local governments, school districts, and other entities. While LGIPs like PLGIT place safety as its top priority when it comes to public funds, in a climate of economic uncertainty—currently characterized by concerns over tariffs and trade disputes—extra attention to the goal of safety becomes even more important. Escalating trade tensions between major economies, particularly between the U.S. and China, have reintroduced inflationary pressures and market unpredictability. As experienced in prior circumstances, these dynamics can ripple through state and local economies, impacting revenue streams and raising credit risk for public entities.

In this environment, risk assessment becomes an additional, critical component of LGIP management along with the day-to-day protocols of oversight and guidance. Although LGIPs like PLGIT are not regulated by the Security and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Rule 2a-7 (which mandates risk assessments or "stress testing" for registered money market funds), many LGIPs assess fund resilience by adopting voluntary stress-testing programs which follow the SEC mandates.

In this article, we will review this type of risk assessment, as well as the standing practices to

monitor safety and liquidity that some LGIPs bring to the table.

Economic Risk Assessment Strategies for LGIPs

The purpose of risk assessment is to evaluate how large shifts in market conditions might affect the pool's goals of safety, liquidity, and yield. These analyses help LGIPs like PLGIT anticipate different scenarios such as in times of heightened economic volatility.

LGIPs can employ a variety of economic-risk monitoring methods. For example:

- **Track key economic statistics** (GDP growth, inflation, unemployment, consumer spending, etc.) **and leading indicators** (PMI, consumer confidence, employment trends). Sudden deterioration in these indicators often precedes market stress. By watching for signs of economic slowdown or excessive inflation, LGIP managers can gain early warning of shifts in monetary policy or credit conditions.
- **Analyze Interest Rate Trends and Yield Curves.** The slope of the yield curve (difference between short- and long-term Treasury yields) is a recognized recession signal: an inverted curve has historically been one of several potential indicators of an impending economic downturn.

- **Track Credit Market Signals.** Widening credit spreads (the extra yield investors demand to hold corporate versus Treasury debt) can signal rising risk aversion or systemic stress. Investment managers watch broad-market spread indices and news of credit events among major issuers when considering credit issues for portfolios.
- **Conduct Scenario Analysis and Stress Testing.** This means running variations of shocks – such as large rate hikes, deep spread increases, big redemptions, issuer defaults, or combinations thereof – to see the impact on portfolios.
- **Maintain Liquidity and Diversification.** Ample liquidity allows the pool to handle redemptions or market dislocations without forced selling. An example of this is PLGIT seeking to follow GASB 79 standards of at least 10% of portfolio holdings in one-day liquidity and 30% of holdings in weekly liquidity. In addition, diversification – spreading holdings across sectors, issuers, and maturities – can further mitigate risk.

Preparation through Diligence

As we have articulated many times in our articles and presentations, PLGIT maintains professional guidance and diligent safety practices as



its standard mode of daily operations. These standard practices serve to prepare the portfolios for times of uncertainty, and better help local governments weather challenging economic environments. Here are a few examples:

Professional advice through PFMAM - PLGIT's investment administrator is PFM Asset Management (PFMAM), which specializes in investments for local governmental entities around the country and in working with local government investment pools like PLGIT. PLGIT's investment advisor falls under the purview of several Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules relating to:

- *Fiduciary responsibilities.* An SEC registered investment adviser is subject to the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("the Act"). Under judicial interpretation of The Act, advisers owe fiduciary duties to their clients such as PLGIT. This means that an adviser will act with a duty of good faith and independence in putting its clients' interests above its own.
- *Formal policies and procedures.* SEC Rule 206(4)-7 requires registered advisers to adopt and implement written policies and procedures designed to prevent violations of SEC rules. It also requires review, at least annually, of the adequacy of policies and procedures and the effectiveness of their implementation.
- *Code of Ethics.* The registered investment adviser must adhere to standards of conduct that include protection of nonpublic information, guidelines on handling personal securities trading, requirements for reporting violations, recordkeeping, and more.

Local Oversight by Local Officials - PLGIT is overseen closer to home by government officials who have a front row

perspective on local economic environments. PLGIT has an 11-member Board of Trustees elected annually by a majority of PLGIT Investors.

Permitted Investments - PLGIT invests solely in investments permitted by the codes governing local governments and schools in Pennsylvania. Those investments can include:

- U.S. Treasury Bills/Notes
- Short-term debt of highly rated federal agencies such as the Federal Home Loan Bank
- Appropriately collateralized certificates of deposit and time deposits in banks
- Debt issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or a state-level agency
- Short-term repurchase agreements with highly rated financial brokers backed by appropriate collateral held in custody in the name of the Trust
- Commercial paper and other Act-10 permitted investments

PLGIT's portfolio managers and trading staff buy and sell investments that focus exclusively on meeting investor needs and finding opportunities to optimize returns in the market only after focusing on the safety of the principal.

Seeking stable NAV - As a local government investment pool, PLGIT seeks to maintain a stable NAV of \$1.00 per share for each dollar invested by shareholders.

For more information about risk assessment, or the standard policies that PLGIT maintains to manage public funds regardless of conditions, contact your PLGIT representative at (800) 572-1472.

Courtney Mulholland is a Director with PFM Asset Management, a division of U.S. Bancorp Asset Management, Inc. She works with public sector investors across Eastern Pennsylvania. She can be reached at mulhollandc@pfmam.com

Important Disclosure Information

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