

City & Town

Spring 2026 Vol. 83, No. 02 The Official Publication of the Arkansas Municipal League



ACT 671 MANDATORY TREASURER TRAINING

WHAT IS ACT 671?

In 2025, the Arkansas Legislature enacted Act 671, which requires all municipal treasurers to complete a mandatory eight-hour training course. The training is a one-time requirement and does not include a test. Individuals serving as municipal treasurers on July 1, 2026, must complete the training by December 31, 2026. All others have 180 days (six months) from the date they assume office or begin performing treasurer duties to fulfill the requirement.

WHO MUST ATTEND?

The municipality's primary financial officer—whether the treasurer, finance director or any other individual responsible for financial policies, procedures and audit preparation—must complete the training. This requirement applies equally to both elected and appointed officials. Only one official from each municipality is required to attend, although any with the financial responsibilities are welcome to attend.

WHO IS CONDUCTING THE TRAINING?

The course was developed by the Arkansas Municipal League in conjunction with Arkansas Legislative Audit (ALA). The League will provide the training, track its completion and notify ALA of individuals who complete the course.

The training is provided free of charge, with instruction led by League and ALA staff as well as experienced treasurers. Completing the training is a one-time requirement, and no test is required.

TRAINING CONTENT MODULES

- 1: Core Concepts
- 2: Budgets
- 3: Fund Accounting
- 4: Revenue
- 5: Internal Controls
- 6: Fixed Assets
- 7: Payroll
- 8: Audits
- 9: Ethics

COURSE AVAILABILITY

General briefing session on the MTT and how to use the ACE Hub: **Tuesday, June 23, 2 p.m.** via webinar.

IN-PERSON OPTIONS

June 17-19, 2026, at Convention 92 for registered attendees. Registration is open at register.arml.org.

December 10, 2026, at League headquarters in downtown North Little Rock. (Free)

VIRTUAL OPTIONS—TWO FORMATS

June 2026: On-demand training is available through the League's ACE Hub to watch at any time.

Starting August 4, 2026: Eight weekly one- to two-hour presentations with question-and-answer sessions included. More information on these sessions will be available soon.

It is also permissible to combine formats. For example, attending some of the in-person sessions and completing the remainder through on-demand modules. Any combination is acceptable as long as participants complete the full eight required training sessions within the applicable time frame.

Contact Kim Jones at kjones@arml.org for more information.

MANDATORY TREASURER TRAINING OFFERED AT CONVENTION 92

These mandatory courses will be offered in person on **June 17 and 18 during Convention 92** and registration is open at register.arml.org. For those unable to attend, additional in-person training will be held December 10 at League headquarters in North Little Rock. For those who prefer a virtual option, the training will be accessible through the ACE Hub. Learn more at armunileague.org/education.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

1:30 p.m.-3:10 p.m. Module 3: Fund Accounting | Caraway Room

Dive into the essentials of fund accounting. Learn the purpose of fund accounting, the types of municipal funds and the rules for using and documenting them.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

10:30 a.m.-11:50 a.m. Modules 1, 2 & 5: Core Concepts, Budgets and Internal Controls | Governor's Hall IV

Gain a strong foundation in this session covering municipal finance core concepts, budgeting and internal controls. Learn about key laws, responsibilities and the basic accounting principles that guide public sector decision making.

1 p.m.-2:20 p.m. Module 4: Revenue | Caraway Room

Explore how municipalities collect, manage and safeguard their revenue. Examine major revenue sources and learn the proper procedures for securely handling, recording and reconciling cash, card transactions and bank activity.

2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m. Module 6 & 7: Fixed Assets & Payroll | Caraway Room

Get a clear overview of fixed asset requirements and municipal payroll in this combined session. Learn key terms, statutory obligations and recommended policies and how to maintain complete, accurate asset listings including those tied to grant funds.

3:55 p.m.-5 p.m. Modules 8 & 9: Audits & Ethics | Caraway Room

Explore the essentials of annual audits and the ethical standards that guide municipal finance in this combined session. Learn the audit process, key roles and timelines, how to interpret findings, and best practices that help prevent common issues.

City & Town

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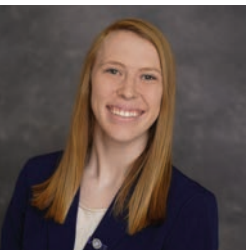
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ON THE COVER:

Exiting the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, the north side of the iconic dome comes into view. City and town leaders from across the nation gathered in Washington, D.C., in March to advocate for their communities' needs at the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference.





CITY of GREENWOOD

Feels like home.

DOUG KINSLOW
Mayor

SHARLA DERRY
City Clerk / Treasurer

Hello, everyone, from the Great City of Greenwood!



Recently, I was honored to attend the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. While every visit to our nation's capital is exciting and memorable, it's also a humbling and impactful experience when surrounded by legislators and leaders from around the country all experiencing similar situations and experiences. How we react and respond to those situations is what makes the difference.

I am very much looking forward to presiding over my last Convention, coming up June 17-19 in Little Rock. I can promise it will be an entertaining yet educational experience you do not want to miss. Registration is open now!

Serving as this year's president of the Arkansas Municipal League has been one of the greatest honors of not only my career but of my life. It's a role that brings into focus the shared challenges and triumphs of communities across the state, each working toward better infrastructure, stronger local economies and improved quality of life for the residents. I've greatly enjoyed visiting and meeting some of you across the state. (Check out visual evidence of some of my travels on these pages.) I understand even more of the deep appreciation that develops for public service itself. Municipal leadership can be demanding and at times underappreciated. Yet it is some of the most impactful work there is, as it directly shapes individuals' daily lives.

My encouragement for you all as I leave this role is to stay grounded in purpose. Challenges will always come, such as budget constraints, policy disagreements and unexpected crises, but steady leadership and commitment to the common good will carry you through. Surround yourself with people who are thoughtful, honest and positive, like my right hand and executive assistant, Danielle Smith, who I could not have done without during this role.

Remember that progress is often incremental. Not every effort yields immediate results, so never lose sight of why you started: to make your community stronger, more resilient and more connected.

I would like to thank Mark Hayes and his staff for their unwavering support during my term as president. Thank you for the kindness you have shown my family, especially my grandson Heath, a.k.a. Captain Chaos. We have indeed felt like we are part of a new family. Our state is very fortunate to have such representation provided by the Arkansas Municipal League.

I'm eager to build even more relationships as we travel this road of service together. Until next time, stay strong, stay funny, stay connected and stay committed to making our communities even better.

Doug Kinslow
Mayor, Greenwood
President, Arkansas Municipal League





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Writer's block is a thing and IT MADE ME ANGRY

As always, it is strongly recommended that the reader read the column first and then the footnotes.

As you likely have guessed from the title, writing my column for this edition of the magazine has been a little harder than usual. I'm not sure why. Normally, I have a couple of ideas, maybe a quote or two, and those things take root and a column comes flying out of my fingertips. Not this time. In hopes of getting some traction, I created an outline of each column I've written since becoming the executive director. Spoiler alert! I've written 55 columns. Spoiler alert number 2! Preparing the outline didn't give me any ideas. Ugh. My second largely unsuccessful attempt at idea hunting was to turn to my trusty ol' Google machine: "things executive directors of municipal leagues write about." The hits included these scintillating topics:

- Public policy
- Regulatory guidance
- Taxation
- Organizational reports
- Technical assistance

Snooze city! All those topics have merit if I was writing a white paper or a scholarly publication, but nobody is looking for that in a magazine unless the reader is a rocket scientist and the magazine is titled *How to Build a Rocket* or *Quantum Physics Fun*. On a whim, and in hopes of finding a good idea, I Googled "quantum physics fun." Here's what the AI search overview came up with:

"Quantum physics is the mind-bending, often humorous science of the very small, where particles can exist in two places at once (superposition), teleport through barriers (tunneling), and stay connected over vast distances (entanglement). It suggests reality is more like a, 'choose-your-own-adventure' game where particles explore all possible paths simultaneously."¹

Fun, right?! Anybody? Anyone? I didn't think so. I did, however, chuckle at the "humorous science" comment. I guess in a sense that does make *quantum physics fun*. See what I did there? I don't hear a loud roar of laughter. Some eye rolling but no guffaws. Time to move along!

None of these Googles and readings loosened my writer's block. With a deadline looming, I decided it was time to up my game and my Googling. I typed "writer's block." What I'm about to tell you is absolutely true, and The Local Controller² can verify. Take a guess at the first hit. Go ahead, I'll wait. No takers? The first hit was an essay on The Center for Fiction website.³ I hope the irony isn't lost on any of you. The "Center for *Fiction*" published an essay about the *reality* of writer's block! I may have a sense of humor that's a little peculiar but come on! That's hilarious, or at least worth a smile!

The author of the essay, Dawn Raffel, opines that writer's block is a product of fear. Specifically, fear of what's produced if a person is writing honestly. She refers to this as "writing toward jeopardy." She also notes that the "fear of the fear abates" over time. Said a little differently, writing over time means less fear of writer's block. I just turned 66. At my advanced age I should have very little fear of writing honestly! Yet here I am, fishing for something to come through the brain blockade. Grrr.

¹ <https://armuni.org/4vn5BDI>

² For the newly initiated reader, let me start by apologizing for some of the shenanigans I engage in throughout my column writing. The Local Controller (L.C.) appears frequently in my cast of characters. In reality she is Alison, my incredibly strong and talented wife. I would be lost without her. She's "encouraging" me to cut to the meat of the coconut, so to speak. I shall.

³ <https://armuni.org/4c3Wxfi> The essay can be found here: <https://armuni.org/4mnOhKn>

Turns out other theories about writer's block exist as well. I won't go into these theories in depth but here's a few.

- Maggie Rowe, writing for *Psychology Today*, believes the block stems from a physiological state. She notes fascia, polyvagal theory, proprioception and interoception as being part of the problem.⁴ I...don't know what any of that means.
- The *Purdue Owl* (Purdue University's liberal arts publication) has an entire section on its website devoted to writer's block, including symptoms and cures.⁵ It's a way more practical guide than understanding fascia and the like!
- There's also a book titled *The Writers Block: 786 Ideas to Jump-Start Your Imagination*.⁶ I haven't read it, and I probably won't. I did, however, consider skimming those ideas in hopes of an idea springing forth. Don't worry, I didn't.

That's enough about writer's block. Good news: The hint of an idea for my column has begun to germinate in the back of my brain! Or maybe it's the front or one side or another of my brain. I don't know brains so much.⁷ What I do know is that municipal officials and personnel are never off the clock and there's always video being recorded.⁸ Always. And just like that, the block is broken and we're off to the races!

Because police are some of, if not the most, visible municipal employees I'll start there. We all know there are loads of "reality TV" shows devoted to cops. (Anyone care to join me in a chorus of "Bad boys, bad boys, what you gonna do? What you gonna do when they come for you?"⁹) I Googled—shocking I know—videos of municipal police officers and, of course, dozens of things hit, including:

- A day in the life of a cop¹⁰
- Meet our new officers¹¹
- 164 municipal police recruits begin training¹²
- Class 212 Graduation¹³

Pretty benign stuff. Good PR for cities and police officers for sure. If, however, you add "behaving badly" to the search, the results become wild, electric and terrible. Before I go any further, let there be no confusion: I'm pro-police. I spent the majority of my career putting my law degree to work representing and training police officers throughout Arkansas. I taught big departments and small ones alike on pretty much any and every police-related topic you can think of, including "the camera is always on." Always! A warning should you conduct such a search: There's yelling, cursing and a whole lot more. I'm not condoning any of it.

As L.C. will likely soon point out, it's time to make my point. I will, I promise.

Here are the titles of some of the police behaving badly videos revealed by Mr. Google:¹⁴

- The most embarrassing public arrest of all time
- Police officer behaving badly (I bet you saw that one coming from a mile away!)
- When dumb cops ruin their careers in seconds
- 10 disturbing incidents that got cops fired
- Cop instantly loses it
- One of the worst behaved cops in America

Not one to leave a Google un-Googled, I flipped the script and searched for people behaving badly with police officers. Here are a few of the results (see previous caveat re: foul language etc.):¹⁵

- When bad decisions meet the police
- Lady tries ignoring the police, ends badly
- Bad attitude, trip to jail
- People behaving badly, ride along

There are also videos of other city officials behaving badly. Shocking I know. From texting while driving to cursing when the mic was hot.¹⁶ Google away and you'll find any number of things. Mayors, council members and clerks behaving badly, you ask? Yep! Yelling? No problem. Name calling? That too.¹⁷

Not to be outdone, the angry, screaming discourse of people in general has reached what I believe is an all-time low, or high, as the case may be. Here are a few doozies, but again, don't click if you don't want to hear or see the ugliness.^{18 19}

4 <https://armuni.org/4vn5gRb>

5 <https://armuni.org/4cenKun>

6 <https://armuni.org/41kIJld>

7 If you want to know brains, I guess Johns Hopkins Medicine is as good a place to go as any. Take a peek: <https://armuni.org/3OgCr8n>

8 My rudimentary search produced dozens of articles, blog posts and litigation regarding the recording of public officials. If you're bored, use this search: "how much of a public official's work is being recorded?"

9 This famous ditty was recorded in 1987 by Inner Circle. According to Wikipedia the band is still performing. <https://armuni.org/4chITVJ>

10 <https://armuni.org/3O9DGWY>

11 <https://armuni.org/4c1LS4H>

12 <https://armuni.org/4edpaYH>

13 <https://armuni.org/4slh2J1>

14 <https://armuni.org/4ssaecS>

15 <https://armuni.org/4tCilLag>

16 <https://armuni.org/41JpQOh>

17 <https://armuni.org/4sXYD69>

18 And I'm in no way condoning the behavior! It's abhorrent, but it's also, unfortunately, our reality.

19 <https://armuni.org/4tJ2ZOJ>

Let's all take a deep breath. Here's a truism if ever there was one: People cannot take their eyes off a trainwreck, metaphorical or not. Videos of people being polite or kind usually don't go viral. Unfortunately, the ugly always gets noticed. Dumpster fires are watched repeatedly.

An audio clip of a politician, preacher or entertainer saying something untoward will always get airtime. Add in an epithet, a curse word or two and some yelling and you've got yourself a hit. Catch it on video and it'll be an internet sensation forever. Those are the things getting all the attention. These recordings are creating a culture of acceptance that threaten our moral fabric. We are becoming numb to name-calling. This volatile mixture is what I call the Jerry Springer effect. You'll recall Mr. Springer had a TV show that essentially rewarded outlandish and angry behavior and commentary. That show ran for 27 years!²⁰ That's a long time. I loathe this sort of "reality TV," but it is, unfortunately, popular! Ick.

Kurt Ela Psy.D., wrote in *Psychology Today* that there are seven reasons people seem angry all the time.²¹ They are:

1. We are tired. I'm stunned by the number of studies showing how sleep deprived we are. The fallout is enormous in terms of productivity, lifespan and emotional tolls.
2. We are overwhelmed. Emails, text messages and social media, to name a few, are so voluminous that we cannot keep up. That failure causes immense stress, and stress manifests in many terrible ways.
3. We are afraid. Media is constantly telling us that crime rates are up. Videos show violence in our schools and neighborhoods thereby adding to the pressure cooker.
4. We are hot. Take a look at climate.gov and you'll see statistics showing how much warmer our world is year after year. Research shows that heat plays a significant role in violent and aggressive behavior.
5. We are stuck in a zero-sum game. Try getting a last-minute reservation to dine out. It's unlikely you'll be successful. Show up at church on a holiday and you'll likely find it hard to park and harder yet to find a seat.
6. We are broke. Inflation, rising mortgage rates and economic uncertainty all play into a lack of financial freedom. Poor financial circumstances often lead to depression, addiction and a whole host of things that breed anger.
7. We are in pain. New polling shows that nearly one-third of the world is in physical pain every day. Short fuses go hand-in-hand with chronic pain.

Dr. Ela also provides some solutions and methods to reduce anger:

1. Be kind to yourself. Self-compassion goes a long way toward stress reduction and likely lets you sleep better. Self-care in the form of diet, exercise and boundary-setting is very helpful in reducing anger.
2. Forgive yourself and others. I have a friend that routinely says, "Have mercy." Mercy toward those around us helps lower the proverbial heat in the kitchen. Forgiveness is healthy. Forgiveness isn't weakness.
3. STOP. That stands for: Stop, Take a breath, Observe, Proceed. In other words, let's try to remove the flash points of anger that we face by slowing down and calming down.

In recent years I've written columns about compromise, the power of forgiveness, unity, respectful dialogue and listening to one's conscience. There's no better place for that to occur than in city hall. You are the connection between service and people. You are the gatekeeper to civility. At the local governmental level, you can make a difference every single day. You are the starting point, and your city is ground zero for making a positive impact. Does that mean every resident of your city or town will be satisfied and happy with you and the folks you work with? Absolutely not. What it does mean, however, is you can help put a dent in this anger problem and start to turn the tide toward civility.

There are multiple civility initiatives around the country.²² They all have merit. I'm most familiar with the program produced by the Municipal Association of South Carolina.²³ Heading that effort is my friend Todd Glover.²⁴ Todd is my peer, and I assure you he's one of the finest humans you'll ever meet. He has worked diligently in preaching and leading the charge of civility. I urge all of you to look at the program.²⁵

Arkansas cities and towns do indeed make for a great state. It's incumbent upon each of us to turn down the static and tune in the civility. Anger be gone! And please take writer's block with you!

Until next time, Peace.



Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League

20 <https://armuni.org/4tlzxyB>

21 <https://armuni.org/41sPp5V>

22 Your League has multiple civility writings. <https://cityandtown.org/?s=civility>

23 <https://armuni.org/4c0aLOC>

24 <https://armuni.org/4mo5nrE>

25 <https://armuni.org/4tvEAvU>

Low Trust. Low Turnout. **HIGH STAKES.**

LET'S ACT!

Civic Arkansas, a Winthrop Rockefeller Institute program, works with communities across the state by improving civic engagement from the ground up.

What we've heard on our travels is clear: Arkansans want better access to civic education, more trusted local news, and civic spaces to connect with one another.

Civic Arkansas responds with local trainings, multi-day convenings, and partnerships that help communities address their most pressing needs.



Inter-local cooperation, infrastructure and land use top regional meeting agenda

PHOTO: BEN CLINE, LEAGUE STAFF

The Arkansas Municipal League's 2026 spring regional meeting series, "Shared Resources, Shared Benefits," kicked off March 11 in Bentonville, drawing more than 100 officials and personnel from 20 northwest Arkansas municipalities alongside partners from federal offices, regional planners, chambers of commerce and private-sector organizations. Hosted at the Heartland Whole Health Institute, the event highlighted what many attendees already recognize: Northwest Arkansas continues to demonstrate how powerful regional cooperation can be when cities and towns share resources and tackle challenges together.

League staff attorney Caleb Alexander-McKinzie led the day's training, emphasizing the growing need for collaboration as responsibilities and resources tighten. From navigating post-abatement steps for neglected properties to maintaining essential water and wastewater services, the session outlined practical tools such as cooperative purchasing, inter-local agreements and regional planning. "Everyone is trying to grow, but most are trying to do it independently," he said. "Northwest Arkansas is showing what's possible when communities work together and move forward together."

The day highlighted two of the state's most pressing municipal issues: land use and water infrastructure. Garver engineer and planning expert James Walden joined League General Counsel John Wilkerson to discuss recent legislative changes, focusing on the pressure that development and growth put on water and wastewater infrastructure. "The governor's recent executive order makes it clear that adequate workforce housing is part of Arkansas' economic strategy," Wilkerson said. "We know the importance of the permitting process working hand-in-hand with protecting public health. As cities, I think you all agree, our fundamental job is to protect the life, health, safety and welfare of our citizenry."

The day concluded with a discussion on what the creation of Economic Development Districts could bring to cities and towns if Issue 3 passes in November's General Election, followed by a tour showcasing Bentonville's recent economic development momentum.

A second "Shared Resources, Shared Benefits" meeting was held April 8 in Searcy, and the series continues May 7 in El Dorado. Additional meetings are planned for Hot Springs, DeWitt and Mountain Home this fall. Learn more at armuni.org/events.

Municipal Notes

IIMC celebrates 57th Clerks Week

The International Institute of Municipal Clerks



(IIMC) has designated May 3-9 as the 57th Professional Municipal Clerks Week. Initiated in 1969 and endorsed by its members throughout the United States, Canada and 15 other countries, Professional Municipal Clerks

Week is a time of celebration and reflection on the importance of the clerk's office.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation that officially declared the first full week of May as Municipal Clerks Week. In 1994 and 1996, President Bill Clinton also signed proclamations confirming Municipal Clerks Week.

The 57th Professional Municipal Clerks Week will feature a series of activities aimed at increasing the public's awareness of municipal clerks and the vital services they provide for local government and their communities.

Lamar's Boze achieves MMC status

Lamar Chief Deputy Clerk Johnessa Boze has earned the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from the International Institute Of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), the organization has announced. MMC is one of two professional

designations granted by the IIMC. To qualify, one must first earn the Certified Municipal Clerk designation. Those who achieve the MMC designation have demonstrated that they have pursued continuing education opportunities and have remained informed of the socio-political, cultural and economic issues that affect local government.

Batesville's Davis achieves CMC status

Batesville City Clerk Jessica Davis has earned the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute Of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), the organization has announced. To earn the CMC designation, a municipal clerk must attend extensive education programs often totaling more than 120 educational hours. The CMC designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. Since 1970, the CMC program has prepared applicants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the municipal clerk by providing them with quality education in partnership with institutions of higher learning as well as local and national associations.

To learn more about Professional Municipal Clerks Week and the IIMC, please visit <https://www.iimc.com/156/Professional-Municipal-Clerks-Week>.

Greatest American Cleanup underway in Arkansas

In honor of our great nation hitting the big 2-5-0 this year, Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup is now the Greatest American Cleanup! Keep America Beautiful invites all citizens to take the pledge to make their communities cleaner, greener and more beautiful for America's 250th celebration, setting a goal to remove 25 billion pieces of litter from parks, waterways and public spaces by July 4.



Take part here at home by joining the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission and your fellow Arkansans for the Greatest American Cleanup in Arkansas. The annual spring cleanup event runs until May 31 and offers volunteers the opportunity to organize events to beautify their communities. Find an event near you or register your own at keeparkansasbeautiful.com. Then, be sure to take the pledge at kab.org/greatest-american-cleanup.

Once a community signs on to host a Greatest American Cleanup in Arkansas event, KAB helps organize and publicize the effort and provides volunteers with trash bags, gloves, safety vests and T-shirts while supplies last. Promotional materials such as customizable media releases, banners and volunteer stickers, as well as how-to videos and safety tips, are also available on the website.

Trendsetter City Awards 2026 accepting applications

Presented by Arkansas Business Publishing Group and Crews & Associates in partnership with the Arkansas Municipal League, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, Associated Industries of Arkansas, Crafton Tull and Emery Sapp & Sons, the Trendsetter City program is designed to honor cities and towns that are leaders in innovative programs and initiatives for improvement and growth. Award recipients are recognized at the League's annual Winter Conference.



The competition is divided into three population categories to allow cities to compete with others of comparable size: cities less than 5,000 population, 5,000-20,000 population and more than 20,000. Each city may submit one award application in each award category. Entries must describe programs or projects brought to conclusion or showing significant results between July 2022 and July 2026.

An official entry application must be submitted for each project. Entry forms must be received in the Arkansas Business office by 5 p.m. August 26 or be postmarked on or before that date. Entry forms should be submitted to: Bonnie Jacoby, Arkansas Business Publishing Group, 114 Scott Street, Little Rock, AR 72201; or emailed to bonnie@abpg.com. Winners will be notified in September 2026. For more information and an application, please visit arkansasbusiness.com/trendsetter.

Trendsetter City Award winners will be recognized in the following categories:

- Diversity/Equity/Inclusion
- Education and Workforce Development
- Infrastructure and Water
- Public Works/Environmental and Green Management
- Technology and Security
- Tourism Development/Creative Culture

Cabot Justice Center wins design award

Cabot has received a regional interior design award from the South-Central Section of the American Society of Interior Designers for the Cabot Justice Center, *Arkansas Money & Politics* reported March 24. The center, designed by WDD Architects, was recognized for its "beautifully designed interior renovation serving multiple municipalities."



Formerly a shopping center, the 44,000-square-foot center is now home to the Cabot Police Department, city administration meeting space and district court, Lonoke County 911 dispatch and Cabot's Connect2First fiber utility. The city's voters approved the funding for the Cabot Justice Center in 2021 as part of a bond initiative. WDD representatives presented city leaders with the award during a March 23 ceremony.

"The recognition highlights the city's commitment to delivering high-quality public facilities that are a good steward of taxpayers' dollars," Cabot Mayor Ken Kincade said. "This project was about more than a building—it was about creating a space that works for our community every day. We're proud of this facility and honored to have it recognized by ASID."

Municipal Notes

Trauma Assistance Program now available to participating municipalities

Developed in response to Act 398 of 2023, which provides that Arkansas first responders are eligible for up to 12 counseling sessions with a licensed mental health professional following a traumatic on-the-job event, TAP (Trauma Assistance Program) is a voluntary program that helps cities and towns meet this obligation by managing every aspect of the administrative process in a confidential manner.

To access these services, a municipality must first enter into a formal agreement to participate in TAP. Upon a municipality's enrollment, TAP becomes accessible whenever an employee is involved in a qualifying traumatic event. A traumatic event is defined as "traumatic bodily injury or death of a person, serious injury or abuse of a minor, immediate threat to the life of an individual or another person, or a mass casualty."

The impacted employee can be referred directly to TAP, or the employee may contact the TAP hotline to request services. TAP verifies both the event and the employee's eligibility while keeping the individual's identity confidential from the city. Eligible employees receive referrals to licensed providers and may access up to 12 counseling sessions per calendar year. TAP manages all intake, verification, referral and invoicing steps, sending only de-identified billing to the city. Ongoing, non-identifiable utilization data is collected to help evaluate and improve program effectiveness.

For more information, contact your area field representative. Find your rep at armunileague.org/field-reps.

Act 833 deadline for fire departments June 30

The 2026 Act 833 application period for Arkansas fire departments opened January 1 and



will close June 30. Act 833 of 1992, "Funding for Fire Departments," is administered by the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board and requires all Arkansas fire

departments to become certified in order to be eligible for funding. Certification requirements include possession of a NFPA 1901-compliant fire suppression apparatus, a minimum of six active members with 16 hours of certification training, and personal protective equipment for all active members.

Act 833 application forms are available online through the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management at dps.arkansas.gov. For log-in credentials or for more information, contact State Fire Coordinator Louis Eckelhoff at 501-683-6781 or louis.eckelhoff@adem.arkansas.gov.

Monthly sales tax receipts

City & Town magazine is now printed quarterly, but you'll never have to miss a month of your latest local sales tax receipts. The latest reports for cities, towns and counties from the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration and each month's turnback distributions are available on the League's website. Go to armuni.org/publications and click on "Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas" to access the information you need, when you need it.

Upcoming Events

May 7: Regional Meeting, MAD House, El Dorado, 9 a.m.

May 20: Investment Committee Meeting, League Campus, 10 a.m.

May 20: Executive Committee Meeting, League Campus, 12:30 p.m.

June 17-19: 92nd Annual Convention, Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock

August 19-21: Annual Planning Meeting, Beebe

"Safety isn't just a priority, it's our mission. ACE SafeTrack Certification delivers essential training to workers on the front lines, building safer workplaces and communities."

Eli Singer
Director & Legal Counsel
Municipal Workers Comp

Safety Training Anywhere, Anytime.

Workplace Hazards

Understand how to identify and prevent workplace hazards to create a safer environment.

Heavy Machinery

Learn safe and efficient practices for handling heavy machinery in municipal work.

Harassment Training

Gain practical insights into fostering a respectful and harassment-free workplace.

Policy

Stay informed on workplace policies and compliance essentials for smoother operations.

Course Variety

The ACE SafeTrack Certification program offers a comprehensive range of safety training courses tailored to meet the needs of municipal employees. From mastering the safe operation of heavy machinery to recognizing and addressing workplace hazards, these courses provide essential skills to foster a secure and efficient work environment.

ACE SafeTrack

The ACE SafeTrack Certification is part of the broader Arkansas Civic Education (ACE) Program, a cornerstone of AML's training and certification initiatives. Launched just after the one-year anniversary of the ACE Program, ACE SafeTrack ensures that essential safety training is always accessible, empowering municipal employees to learn anytime, anywhere.

- ✓ Training is available exclusively through the ACE Hub at any time.
- ✓ The Safetrack program currently offers 75 courses, with plans to expand the catalog further.

Four Levels of Certification

Participants can progress through four certification levels:

LEVEL 1: 25 CREDITS

LEVEL 2: 75 CREDITS (ADDITIONAL 50 CREDITS)

LEVEL 3: 150 CREDITS (ADDITIONAL 75 CREDITS)

LEVEL 4: 250 CREDITS (ADDITIONAL 100 CREDITS)

Each course completed earns one credit, providing a clear pathway for participants to achieve safety excellence.

Sponsored by AML

The ACE SafeTrack Certification program, proudly sponsored by the Arkansas Municipal League, is offered completely free of charge.



Register for SafeTrack

To Register for the SafeTrack Certification, learners can scan this QR code.

Questions? Contact Tricia Zello at tzello@arml.org.



Attorney general opinions

A quarterly discussion of recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas.

BY BLAKE GARY

OP: 2025-054

Question: Does the retroactive exemption deadline of April 9, 2025, violate article 5, section 1 of the Arkansas Constitution on the grounds that:

- a. It precedes the effective date of the Act;
- b. It precedes the Public Service Commission rulemaking deadline; and
- c. The General Assembly did not include an emergency clause to justify the retroactivity?

Act 945 was passed during the 2025 legislative session with an emergency clause, making the act itself effective on August 5, 2025. However, it exempted wind energy projects “under development” as of April 9, 2025. For the project to be considered “under development” it had to: (1) have executed land leases; (2) begun required state or federal studies related to construction; or (3) started construction.

Concerning retroactive provisions, the attorney general opined that retroactive provisions are not inherently unconstitutional and that the federal and Arkansas constitutions only prohibit specific types of retroactive laws, such as bills of attainder, *ex post facto* laws, and laws that impair contracts or violate the Due Process Clause, Takings Clause or principles of separation of powers. A retroactive law will be unconstitutional if it falls within one of those prohibited categories. The retroactive date in Act 945 did not alter the legal status of any actions taken before the act’s effective date and thus the act did not impose new duties or penalties on completed actions but merely reference those actions to establish a future compliance requirement.

OP: 2025-058

Questions: (1) When the county judge enacts an Act 9 bond and/or Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILOT) agreement with a company or other entity, is he acting in his executive capacity or his judicial capacity? (2) Can the county judge enter into an Act 9 bond and/or PILOT agree-

ment without an ordinance or resolution from the quorum court? (3) Can a quorum court overrule a county judge’s signature on an Act 9 bond and/or PILOT agreement?

When issuing an Act 9 bond or entering into a PILOT agreement, the county judge acts in a judicial capacity as the sole member of the county court, the judicial branch of county government. When entering into a PILOT agreement, the county court has “exclusive jurisdiction in all matters” concerning “all real and personal ad valorem taxes collected by a county government.” The county court further has exclusive jurisdiction in all matters concerning “county financial activities ... trade and commerce ... or the development of natural resources.” As the sole member of the county court, the county judge uses judicial authority in issuing Act 9 bonds or enter into PILOT agreements. As the legislative branch of government, as opposed to the county judge operating in the judicial branch, the quorum court plays no role in issuing Act 9 bonds or entering into PILOTs. As such, the quorum court has no authority to overrule the county judge when issuing Act 9 bonds or entering into PILOTs through their judicial authority.

OP: 2025-108

Questions: (1) Is comp time classified as exempt under pertinent employment law? (2) Can comp time accrued by city employees be released and disclosed to a government official or the public?

Comp time accrued by city employees is best classified as a “personnel record” and generally subject to release under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act. However, if the record contains information reflecting an employee’s illness or medical condition, that information must be redacted before release.

OP: 2026-007

Question: Assuming the applicable procedures are followed, and assuming a report is provided to a requesting governmental entity through its chief executive officer, is some or all of the information in the report then considered a public record subject to disclosure by the receiving governmental entity under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)?

Pursuant to A.C.A. § 26-73-115, municipalities, through the chief executive officer, may request a report from the Department of Finance and Administration listing all businesses remitting sales and use taxes for the municipality. The question pertains to whether that report, once received by the municipality, becomes a public record subject to disclosure under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

The attorney general opined that under A.C.A. § 26-18-303 the names of businesses that have remitted sales and use taxes are exempt from release.

That statute provides, in part, “all tax returns ... and information pertaining to any tax returns, whether filed by individuals, corporations, partnerships, or fiduciaries, shall not be subject to the [FOIA].” The statute defines “tax return” broadly to include “any tax or information return, report, [or] declaration of estimated tax ... required by ... any state tax law.” However, the attorney general limited the opinion to “names of businesses that have remitted sales and use taxes”. As such, the custodian must review the specific records to determine whether the exemption applies.

OP: 2025-102

Due to the length of this opinion, I am only going to examine a few questions posed to the attorney general's office, as well as the brief responses to each question in the opinion. I recommend reading the full opinion at arkansasag.gov.

Question 2: May a mayor refuse to authenticate bylaws and ordinances that are patently inconsistent with state law given that the presiding officer's authentication responsibility is only triggered by the “passage” of a bylaw or ordinance, the satisfaction of which is inherently beyond a city council's power to achieve?

The attorney general opined that the authentication of an ordinance or bylaws is purely an administrative, record-keeping function and is not directed at or affected by the law's content or substantive validity. Therefore, the authentication obligation is triggered when a law is passed, regardless if it is inconsistent with state law as the authentication has nothing to do with the legality of the ordinance.

Question 3: When must a mayor authenticate the passage of a bylaw or ordinance?

The attorney general opined that the obligation to authenticate an ordinance passed by the governing body arises as soon as it is enacted. While there is not a specific deadline, the authentication must occur within a reasonable time.

Question 4: What is the consequence of failing to authenticate the passage of a bylaw or ordinance? Can an ordinance or bylaw be effective if its passage has not been authenticated?

The attorney general opined that a bylaw or ordinance is effective regardless of authentication because authentication is “about the law's genuineness, not validity” and that while authentication is a mandatory record-keeping requirement, the lack of the mayor's signature does not, by itself, invalidate an ordinance or bylaw that has otherwise been duly enacted.

OP: 2025-129

Question: Are emails sent to or from elected public officials, including but not limited to, Justices of the Peace, public records under Arkansas law?

The premise of this questions concerns emails between justices of the peace in county governments, but the same analysis applies to city and town officials. The attorney general opined that a record is a “public record” if it: (1) is a writing, recording or electronic information; (2) it is kept; and (3) it is “a record of the performance or lack of performance of official functions ... carried out by a public official or employee.” Thus, emails of justices of the peace are not automatically “public records.” As to how long emails must be kept, the attorney general opined the FOIA is a dis-

Municipal Notes

closure statute, not a records-retention statute, and therefore public records are not required to be retained for any specific period of time. However, there are some public records that fall into the categories listed in A.C.A. § 13-4-302 – 308 (county record retention statutes) and that are required to be kept for the specified time.

For an overview of record-retention statutes that apply to city and town governments, see the 2026 *Arkansas Municipal Bulletin*, available online at armuni.org/publications.

OP: 2026-018

Question: After the enactment of Act 314 of 2025, which eliminated municipal extraterritorial planning jurisdiction, does A.C.A. § 14-56-405(b) continue to authorize a municipality to appoint or reappoint up to one-third of its planning commission members from outside the city limits but within the municipality's "recorded planning jurisdiction"?

With the passage of Act 314 of 2025, municipalities are no longer authorized to administer and enforce planning ordinances, regulations and related controls outside their corporate limits. However, Act 314 did not amend or repeal A.C.A. § 14-56-405(b), which provides that the "legislative body of the municipality may appoint one-third of the membership of the [planning] commission from electors living outside of the corporate limits of the municipality but within the recorded planning jurisdiction of the municipality." Therefore, the attorney general opined that so long as the planning jurisdiction has not been altered, the municipality may continue to appoint members that do not reside within the corporate limits of the municipality. However, while a municipality retains authority to prepare and maintain planning documents that consider areas outside the corporate limits, it can only do so for advisory and coordination purposes.





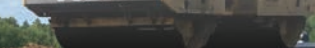


















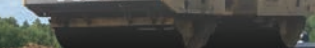




















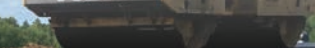




















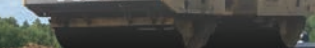




















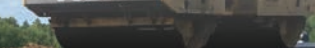




















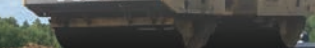




















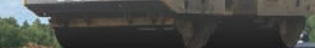




















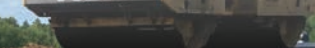




















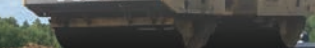




















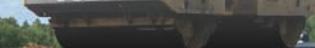




















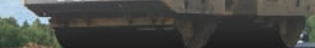




















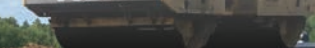




















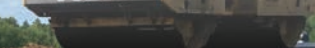




















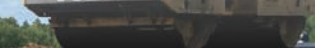




















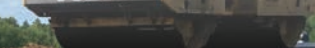




















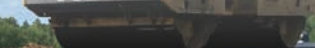

























Cash transactions in a post-penny world

In February 2025, the Trump administration directed the U.S. Treasury Department to cease the minting of new pennies in an effort to reduce federal spending. In 2025, each penny cost about 3.5 cents to manufacture.

While the last new penny was produced November 12, 2025, pennies currently in circulation will remain legal tender. “The Federal Reserve will continue to recirculate the roughly 114 billion pennies currently in existence for as long as possible,” the Treasury stated on its website. “How long existing pennies remain in circulation depends largely on consumer behavior. The Treasury Department encourages the public to spend their on-hand pennies to support a smooth transition and allow retailers and point-of-sale system providers time to adapt. This initiative aims to help keep the existing supply in circulation, ensuring clarity and fairness at the point of sale during the transition.”

While retailers and banks have already begun adjusting to the change, with some rounding up or down to the nearest nickel and updating point-of-sale and cash drawer procedures, the issue may be more complicated for municipal governments.

What does this mean for local governments?

When it comes to cash transactions, local governments will require guidance before implementing rounding procedures as policy.

The Common Cents Act (S.1525 and H.R.3074) is bipartisan legislation introduced in April 2025 and now pending before Congress that would establish formal, national rounding rules for cash transactions. Until the law is passed, local governments that round cash transactions may violate the Arkansas Constitution, according to the League’s Municipal Law staff. **Please note:** Rounding issues due to the elimination of the one-cent coin do not apply to payments made via electronic methods, checks or other non-cash payment methods.

While we await guidance

As municipalities await federal and state guidance to establish formal rounding policies for cash transactions, there are fair and transparent payment procedures they may implement to help prepare for the disappearance of the penny:

- Consider requiring or encouraging customers to provide exact change for cash payments.
- Offer alternative payment methods including debit/credit cards, electronic checks or online payment portals.
- Ensure that any new policy is applied uniformly, and clearly communicate any new policy to local officials, employees and the public.

Always consult with your city attorney before adjusting cash transaction procedures. To track the legislative process of the Common Cents Act, visit commoncentsact.com.

CONVENTION NINETY TWO

STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER
JUNE 17-19, 2026



The League's Annual Convention is the most comprehensive gathering for Arkansas' municipal leaders, a time to set policies, goals and resolutions for the year ahead. It's where we elect new officers, honor municipal officials and conduct the annual business meetings of our programs.

Our 92nd Convention theme, **Rooted, Resilient and Rising**, reflects the realities facing Arkansas cities and towns: rooted in sound planning, strong infrastructure and dependable policy; resilient in the face of weather disasters, legislative challenges and economic strain; and rising to meet opportunities that strengthen municipalities for generations. Each general session and breakout has been designed to echo these principles helping leaders stay grounded in compliance, responsive to emerging challenges, and prepared to seize new pathways for growth.

MEMBER REGISTRATION

\$350 Member Registration Now Open
No Registration Refunds After May 31

\$400 Registration June 1
\$150 Spouses and Significant Others

As our events continue to grow, the League has discontinued the 'Non-Member' registration option to ensure priority access for our members—municipal officials and personnel. Businesses and exhibitors are still welcome to participate by joining us in the Exhibition Hall and may find details at register.arml.org.

RESOLUTIONS & RECOGNITION

Be it resolved...

The League is accepting resolutions for consideration at Convention 92. Resolutions may be drafted by an official of any member city or town and can relate to any matter of municipal concern. See your *Policies and Goals 2025-2026* for resolutions adopted at the 91st Convention.

Resolutions can be emailed to Sheila Boyd at sboyd@arml.org, or mailed to:

Convention 92 Resolutions
Arkansas Municipal League
P.O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

Resolutions deadline: Friday, May 8.

Years of Service Recognition

Were you elected and began serving your city or town in 2001? The League would like to know. Special recognition will be given to elected city and town officials who are in their 25th year of municipal service in 2026 at Convention 92, June 17-19. To submit names, please contact Sheila Boyd at 501-537-3785 or sboyd@arml.org.

Years of Service deadline: Friday, May 8.

ROOTED | RESILIENT | RISING

WORKING AGENDA

*Times, descriptions and session content are a work in progress and may change before the event.
Visit register.arml.org for the latest information.*

MANDATORY TREASURER TRAINING (MTT)

Act 671 of 2025 requires every municipality's primary financial officer to complete an eight-hour training course designed to strengthen financial oversight and accountability. The law applies to anyone responsible for managing a city's financial policies, procedures, accounting or audit preparation whether elected or appointed and gives new officials 180 days from taking office to complete the requirement, while those already serving on July 1, 2026, must finish by December 31, 2026. The training covers core municipal finance concepts including budgeting, fund accounting, internal controls, revenue management, fixed asset tracking, payroll administration, annual audits and ethics. These mandatory courses will be offered on Wednesday and Thursday of Convention 92 and are listed on pages 26-28. See also pages 2-3 for full details about MTT. For those unable to attend these courses at Convention, additional in-person training will be held December 10 at League Headquarters in North Little Rock. For those who prefer a virtual option, the training will be available on demand via the ACE Hub beginning in June 2026, and live virtual training sessions will begin in August. Contact Kim Jones at kjones@arml.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

10 a.m.-11 a.m.—State Aid Street Committee, Manning Room

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.—ACCRTA Annual Business Meeting, Arkansas Ballroom

12 p.m.-5 p.m.—Check-in and Exhibition Hall Open

1:30 p.m.-2:20 p.m.—Breakout Sessions (*Certification Credit Options Available*)

Ethics of Campaigns, Bond Initiatives and Elections: What Every City Leader Needs to Know

Rooted governance begins with ethical boundaries that guide public leadership. The Arkansas Ethics Commission will be on hand for a straightforward look at what city officials can and cannot do during campaigns, bond initiatives and election activities. This session clarifies the rules of the upcoming election season so municipal leaders can remain compliant, avoid pitfalls and uphold the trust that keeps municipalities resilient.

FOIA Final Jeopardy

Transparency is essential, but FOIA misuse can strain even the strongest of municipal operations. Using a single-question "Final Jeopardy" format, this session explores what happens when FOIA requests become excessive or harassing. Join as we walk through real examples of the workforce and budget impacts cities and towns face and considers practical statutory changes that maintain openness while preventing abuse.

Lower Premiums, Stronger Budgets: Cost Saving Approaches for Cities and Towns

Premium costs continue to rise nationwide, but municipalities have effective strategies to significantly reduce what they pay. This session focuses on cost saving programs such as reducing high specialty drug expenses, preventive care, diabetes management, trauma assistance for first responders and other targeted cost control solutions that can lower health care costs. Attendees will leave with practical tools to cut expenses while maintaining a stable, resilient workforce.

CONVENTION NINETY TWO

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

1:30 p.m.-3:10 p.m.—Mandatory Treasurer Training Module 3: Fund Accounting, Caraway Room

Dive into the essentials of fund accounting. Learn the purpose of fund accounting, the types of municipal funds and the rules for using and documenting them.

2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.—Resolutions Committee, Fulton Room

Each municipality has a designated representative who votes on legislative matters to be included in the League's Policies and Goals for the coming year. This year, the League's proposed resolutions have been woven throughout the breakout and general sessions to give municipal leaders meaningful opportunities to learn more about these priorities. Discussions on housing policy, solid waste collection, economic development, FOIA, and municipal finance and budgeting are designed to help understand the issues behind each proposal and prepare for the 2027 General Assembly.

3:45 p.m.-5 p.m. | Governor's Hall IV

Welcome and Presentation of Colors; General Session 1: Keynote by Jason Curry

After a welcome from League Executive Director Mark Hayes, Convention 92 opens with the Presentation of Colors, the National Anthem, and keynote speaker Jason Curry. In his book *Finish Empty*, Curry speaks to the pressures city leaders face: long hours, constant challenges, and decisions that shape entire municipalities. Like a coach preparing a team, he emphasizes that resilience, discipline and clarity—not luck—drive success. With principles centered on purpose and excellence, Curry challenges leaders to give their best every day, staying rooted in core values, resilient under pressure and rising to meet their calling with no regrets.

5 p.m.-6 p.m.—America 250 Celebration & Happy Hour, Exhibition Hall

6 p.m.-8 p.m.—Opening Night Dinner, Wally Allen Ballroom

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.—Check-in and Exhibition Hall Open

7:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.—Breakfast, Exhibition Hall

8:15 a.m.-8:45 a.m.—Voluntary Prayer Session

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.—Arkansas City Attorneys Association CLE, Drew Room

9 a.m.-10:15 a.m. | Governor's Hall IV

General Session 2: The Future of Economic Development for Arkansas Municipalities

Economic development is where cities and towns rise or fall based on preparation. With Issue 3 on the November ballot, this session gives leaders a forward-looking framework for growth. From vision to bond counsel, this session will offer practical steps for strengthening local economies. Executive Committee members with hands-on development experience will share real-world insights to help municipalities stay rooted in good planning, resilient amid shifting economic winds and rising toward long-term prosperity.

ROOTED | RESILIENT | RISING

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.—Groundwork CHATS Housing Challenges Across Arkansas

CHATS is a simple, guided model from Groundwork that helps municipal leaders talk openly about housing challenges and work toward realistic, community-driven solutions. This session offers practical tools to start clearer and more productive housing conversations in your municipality, with a focus on how housing issues show up differently across cities and towns and what local tools can help address them. You'll leave with easy-to-use language, fresh ideas and connections with other leaders.

10:30 a.m.-11:55 a.m. | Governor's Hall IV
General Session 3: Mandatory Treasurer Training Modules 1, 2 & 5

Gain a strong foundation in this session covering municipal finance core concepts, budgets and internal controls. Learn about key laws, responsibilities, and the basic accounting principles that guide public sector decision-making.

12 p.m.-1:30 p.m.—Lunch, Exhibition Hall

1 p.m.-5 p.m.—Mandatory Treasurer Training, Caraway Room

1 p.m.-2:20 p.m.—Mandatory Treasurer Training Module 4: Revenue

Explore how municipalities collect, manage and safeguard their revenue. Examine major revenue sources and learn the proper procedures for securely handling, recording and reconciling cash, card transactions, and bank activity.

2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m.—Mandatory Treasurer Training Modules 6 & 7: Fixed Assets & Payroll

Get a clear overview of fixed asset requirements and municipal payroll in this combined session. Learn key terms, statutory obligations and recommended policies and how to maintain complete, accurate asset listings including those tied to grant funds. The session also covers core payroll processes, compliance needs, internal controls and common challenges unique to public-sector payroll.

3:55 p.m.-5 p.m.—Mandatory Treasurer Training Modules 8 & 9: Audits & Ethics

Explore the essentials of annual audits and the ethical standards that guide municipal finance in this combined session. Learn the audit process, key roles and timelines, how to interpret findings, and best practices that help prevent common issues.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

1:30 p.m.-2:20 p.m./3:10 p.m.—Breakout Sessions *(Certification Credit Options Available)*

Continuing the Conversation with Jason Curry

Resilience isn't built in the keynote—it's built in the follow through. In this breakout, Jason Curry expands on the principles of *Finish Empty*, helping leaders turn inspiration into daily habits that improve team performance and strengthen municipal culture. This session is designed for anyone ready to bring clarity, focus and renewed purpose back to their departments. It's the next step in rising to the challenges—and opportunities—that define modern public service.

The Caran Curry Variety Hour: A Rapid-Fire Update on Municipal Must Know Topics

Municipal leaders must keep pace with a variety of fast moving issues and Caran Curry's rapid fire session will cover everything from water district consolidation to cybersecurity grants to AI and website ADA requirements with clear explanations and practical takeaways that help leaders stay ahead of emerging challenges. This session strengthens municipal resilience by giving leaders the information they need—quickly, clearly and all in one place.

Follow the Money: Tracking Where Your Municipality's Revenue Really Goes

Financial resilience requires understanding where every dollar goes, particularly sales tax dollars. The Department of Finance and Administration retains a 3% administrative fee from city sales tax—over \$32 million annually and growing—and this session will examine how that money is used by the state and what options municipalities have to keep more of their revenue local. It will also address the millions spent on sales tax rebates intended to spur economic development, the limited information municipalities receive about those rebates, and why understanding where every penny goes is essential to effective leadership. Participants will gain a clear, grounded understanding of how these financial pressures impact municipal budgets and what reforms could help Arkansas cities and towns rise to a stronger fiscal future.

Safe, Strong and Cost Effective: Smart Steps to Help Cities Protect People and Budgets

This session cuts straight to the bottom line: a smart safety program and a solid grasp of workers comp costs can save your city real money spotlighting the most effective safety training tools available today, showing how online training can speed employees back to work and revealing how fewer claims drive safer workplaces and lower premiums. Packed with practical steps your team can use immediately, this breakout helps cities strengthen safety, control rising costs and protect both their people and their budgets.

3 p.m.-3:50 p.m.—Resolutions Committee, Fulton Room

Each municipality has a designated representative who votes on legislative matters to be included in the League's *Policies and Goals* for the coming year.

4 p.m.-5 p.m. | Governor's Hall IV

General Session 4: Trash Talk, Legal Edition: Supreme Court Impacts on Municipal Waste

Reliable and affordable solid waste service is one of the most important duties municipalities offer to their citizens. A properly managed system protects public health, safety, and welfare at an affordable rate. Late last year, the Supreme Court changed the solid waste landscape for municipalities. Whether your municipality operates its own solid waste utility or whether it contracts with another entity, the recent Supreme Court decision is important to know and understand. In this session, panelists will explore the legal and practical implications of the Supreme Court's decision and discuss what options now exist for cities and towns.

ROOTED | RESILIENT | RISING

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

7:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.—Breakfast, Exhibition Hall

7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.—Check-in and Exhibition Hall Open

8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.—Arkansas City Attorneys Association CLE, Drew Room

9 a.m.-10 a.m. | Governor's Hall IV

General Session 5: Annual Business Meetings and State of the League: Rooted in Structure

Following the annual business meetings for Municipal Workers Comp, Municipal Health, and Municipal Vehicle and Property programs, League members will review and vote on the proposed 2026–2027 Policies and Goals. The Nominating Committee will present its recommended slate of officers, and Executive Director Mark Hayes will deliver the annual State of the League address, reflecting on the past year, outlining priorities ahead and setting the tone for the work to come.

10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.* | Governor's Hall IV

General Session 6: Building Momentum for 2027: Housing Policy Priorities

This closing session will look ahead to the challenges and opportunities that await in the 2027 legislative session, from revitalizing abated properties to supporting affordable, safe and sanitary housing. The legislative team and other partners in these issues will share the five pillars of housing policy designed to strengthen our advocacy efforts. Members will leave Convention 92 as champions for housing solutions Arkansas municipalities deserve.

**If General Session 5 runs longer than 10 a.m., this session will begin after a 15-minute intermission following the State of the League.*

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | Marriott Ballrooms

New Officers' Luncheon and Awards Ceremony

Before heading home, we'll welcome the incoming president and 2026–2027 slate of officers, recognize Certified Municipal Officials and present awards from the Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association. The Adrian White Municipal Leadership Awards, the Marvin Vinson Commitment to Excellence Awards and the Jack Rhodes Sr. Distinguished Service Award will also be presented.

1:30 p.m.—Attendees on the road home.



MCI Certification/Academy Scholarships

The executive board of the
Arkansas City Clerks,
Recorders and Treasurers

Association (ACCRTA) awards scholarships for tuition to attend the Municipal Clerks' Training Institute and the Academy for Advanced Education, both of which will enable Arkansas clerks to further educational training.

One (1) scholarship is offered to a first-year attendee in the certification program, six (6) scholarships are offered to first, second- and third-year attendees for certification, and one (1) is offered for the Advanced Academy.

All scholarships are for the amount of tuition only. These scholarships are in addition to the eleven (11) Regional Scholarships awarded by IIMC.

Applicants must be city clerks, recorders, treasurers, deputy city clerks, or related titles at the time of application. Scholarships are available to all members.

Scholarships Available:

- ☐ MCI Certification Class, September 20-24, 2026
OR
☐ MCI Advanced Academy, September 21-22, 2026

Completed scholarship applications should be returned to the ACCRTA Scholarship Committee chair:

Johnessa Boze
Chief Deputy City Clerk
City of Lamar
437 W Main St.
Lamar, AR 72846

Direct questions to Johnessa.boze@gmail.com
or (479) 885-3865

2026 ACCRTA APPLICATION FOR MCI CERTIFICATION/ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

DO NOT PREPAY FOR MCI IF APPLYING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP!

DEADLINE: AUGUST 10, 2026

Name: _____ Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Email: _____

Municipality: _____ Date you assumed your present position: _____

This application is for ☐ First ☐ Second ☐ Third Year Certification Institute OR ☐ Advanced Academy

Are you a member of ACCRTA? ☐ yes, # of years ____ ☐ no

Are you a member of IIMC? ☐ yes, # of years ____ ☐ no

Have you received your CAMC designation? ☐ yes ☐ no

Have you received your CMC designation? ☐ yes ☐ no Have you received your MMC designation? ☐ yes ☐ no

Have you ever received an MCI Scholarship? ☐ yes ☐ no If so, when was the last one received? _____

Does your municipality pay or reimburse travel and meal expenses? ☐ yes ☐ no

What is your reason for applying for this scholarship? _____

I understand that if a scholarship is awarded to me, it must be used for the current year MCI and that I must attend all sessions and complete all assessments. Failure to complete sessions and assessments may require repayment of the scholarship. I attest that the information submitted with this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Disclaimer: ACCRTA is not responsible for applications that do not reach the chairperson by the deadline. Please feel free to call or email for verification of receipt.

ACCRTA seeks nominations for Clerk of the Year

The Municipal Clerk of the Year Award recognizes a member of the Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association (ACCRTA) who has made significant contributions to the profession and to the improvement of municipal government in Arkansas and the clerk's own community.

Qualities are length of service, good relationship with other clerks, interest in education, attendance at regional/national conferences, community volunteerism, and advancing and supporting the municipal clerks association.

Any municipal official or ACCRTA member may nominate a candidate for 2026 Municipal Clerk of the Year. The finalist will be honored at the 92nd Annual Convention of the Arkansas Municipal League, June 17-19, in Little Rock.

Requirements for nominees:

- Has been an active ACCRTA member for at least five years.
- Holds a city clerk/recorder/treasurer or deputy position.
- Is a Certified Municipal Clerk or Certified Arkansas Municipal Clerk.
- Provides service to other municipal clerks in the state as the opportunity exists.
- Exhibits leadership.

Municipal Clerk of the Year 2026

Please Submit the Following Information

Nominee's full name and title: _____

Address, city, zip: _____ Business phone: _____

Name of the city the municipal clerk represents: _____

Years served as Clerk, Recorder, Treasurer or Deputy Clerk and year appointed or elected: _____

Arkansas City Clerks, Records, Treasurers Association (ACCRTA) member years served _____ and date of membership: _____

ACCRTA offices held: _____

ACCRTA meetings attended: _____

ACCRTA, IIMC or Arkansas Municipal League committee service, committees served on and number of years served: _____

International Institute Municipal Clerk (IIMC) participates at annual and regional meetings (please list all meetings attended): _____

IIMC workshops (District meetings) attended: _____

Municipal Clerks Institute attendance (number of years and classes attended): _____

Certification received: IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk, IIMC Master Municipal Clerk or Certified Arkansas Municipal Clerk and date of certifications: _____, Arkansas Municipal League conferences attended: _____

Education program participation (instructor, panel member, moderator): _____

Community involvement: _____

Leadership activities: _____

Other activities: _____

Name of individual submitting nomination: _____

Address: _____ Phone number: _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Deadline to apply: May 1, 2026

To submit the nomination form or for more information, please contact:

Kimberly Hutcheson

PO Box 36

Cave Springs, AR 72718

Kimberly.Hutcheson@CaveSpringsAR.gov

479-866-9285 - Cell #



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Features

CITY & TOWN | SPRING 2026

NLC delivers in D.C.

BY ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF

Delegates from Arkansas joined local government leaders from across the nation in Washington, D.C., March 16-18 for the 61st National League of Cities Congressional City Conference. More than 2,800 officials from cities, towns and villages were in attendance to hear from congressional leaders, NLC leadership and fellow municipal officials on pressing issues, including housing, infrastructure and civility, and to advocate for federal policies that support local government.



NLC President and Louisville, Kentucky, Council Member Kevin Kramer (above left) addressed the conference during the March 16 opening general session. He introduced the theme of this year's conference: Local Governments Deliver. "Cities are where solutions happen, in housing, transportation, infrastructure and public safety," he said. "We are growing resilient local economies and thriving communities because local governments deliver." Despite local successes, political polarization—fueled by chaotic uncertainty at the federal level and intensified by social media—remains a difficult challenge, Kramer said, and he called for a renewed effort to promote civility in our cities, towns and villages. "We owe it to each other, to our residents and to the nation to find a way to civility and with dignity and respect explain ourselves to each other before we collectively push each other off the cliff." To promote the initiative, the NLC Board of Directors unanimously adopted a Resolution to Lead with Civility, Dignity and Respect. Local government remains the most trusted level of government, Kramer said, and he encouraged every city and town to adopt local civility pledges and to utilize the resources NLC has made available at www.nlc.org/civility.

NLC CEO and Executive Director Clarence Anthony (above right) expounded on the conference's theme. "You deliver safe streets. You deliver clean water. You deliver parks where families can take their children. You deliver housing solutions. You deliver economic development opportunities. And most importantly, you deliver trust." Innovation "kicks off" at the local level, which is why cities need strong partners at the federal level, he said. The NLC fought to make sure the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law provided direct funding to

local governments, and he urged city and town leaders to request of their representatives in Congress that new funding opportunities through legislation like the Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act and the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act do the same. Direct funding has been especially crucial for small cities, Anthony said. "With the help of our partner, Bloomberg Philanthropy, we delivered more than \$5 billion, which was awarded to about 2,600 communities throughout America. The vast majority of that went to cities, towns and villages that were under 25,000 population."

"We owe it to each other, to our residents and to the nation to find a way to civility and with dignity and respect explain ourselves to each other before we collectively push each other off the cliff."—NLC President and Louisville, Kentucky, Council Member Kevin Kramer



On the afternoon of Monday, March 16, NLC welcomed Reps. Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-Mich.) (above right) and Rob Bresnahan (R-Pa.) (above left) to discuss the bipartisan BASICS Act, which they co-sponsored. Pittston, Pennsylvania, Mayor Michael Lombardo moderated the panel, and he stressed the need for local project funding. “About 50 percent of the ownership of transportation infrastructure falls on the backs of local governments,” he said. “That’s why, more than ever, we need assistance like in the former bill that’s about to expire. And I think it would be safe to say that we’d like to ask Congress to help us with a new bill to pave the way to more transportation help.” Breaking down barriers will be important to foster local-federal partnerships through the legislation, McDonald Rivet said. “So the

idea is, how do we streamline the process, get rid of a bunch of red tape and make sure that not only can local communities set their own priorities, they also have the flexibility and funding they need.” Bresnahan agreed with his colleague from across the aisle. “I’ve always felt the best form of government was the government closest to the people, and I feel leaders like Mayor Lombardo and the rest of you are better advocates of taxpayer-funded dollars than us in Washington sending money to the state capital and then watching those funds sent, perhaps, not necessarily where you need those dollars the most.” The bill must pass through committee and both chambers of Congress before heading to the president’s desk, but both representatives expressed confidence that the legislation will eventually become law.



Many communities were undercounted in the 2020 census, and strengthening the operations of the decennial census is a priority for the NLC as 2030 approaches. “An accurate 2030 census will impact cities, towns and villages across the country for the next decade,” said NLC President Kevin Kramer, who moderated a panel discussion on the issue during the conference’s closing luncheon session. “This census is not political—it is one of the most fundamental acts of good governance and a cornerstone of how we invest in and understand our community.” In Arkansas, Springdale is one of the cities that was likely undercounted, and Mayor Doug Sprouse (left) joined the panel to set the context for why an accurate count is important. The city’s diverse makeup includes the largest Marshallese population outside of the Marshall Islands. Between COVID hitting that community

especially hard and confusion and fear caused by the potential of a citizenship question on the census, they essentially went “underground,” Sprouse said. “There was no getting them back to talk about a census at all.” Many funding mechanisms for local governments rely on census data, and in order to provide services to all their residents, an accurate count is important, he said. “That turnback money from both federal and state government is essential for us, and if you miss it on the census, then you’re behind the 8 ball for 10 years.” Even if a city conducts a special census, the baseline will still be low and it will lose out on funding, he said. “In Springdale’s case, we believe by the time we get to 2030 it will have been tens of millions of dollars.”

During the closing luncheon, the NLC welcomed Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) (top right) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) (bottom right), who addressed local leaders. Paul, who has built a reputation as a staunch opponent of government overreach, shared his thoughts on federalism and the nation's founders' intent that the federal government's powers be limited. "Federalism, the system that was originally designed, was intended to ensure that the leaders closest to the people—mayors, state and local representatives, governors—held the bulk of the responsibility for governing while leaders far away in Washington focused on the few problems that were common to the entire nation." He argued that we now experience a sort of "tyrannical" top-down system of overregulation of issues that should be decided locally, where states are "laboratories of democracy." "This may sound familiar, all this talk about division of power, states and federal government," Paul said. "It should be because it's the 10th Amendment, which prescribes that powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states and the people respectively."



Sen. Whitehouse warned of a potential collapse of the home insurance market due to climate risk, particularly in areas subject to flooding and wildfires. "The problem with that, in addition to the immediacy of how that hurts families' budgets, the problem with that is that when you have a home insurance collapse, that cascades into the mortgage market, because you can't get a mortgage on a piece of property that is uninsurable," he said. The chief economist at Freddie Mac, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, has warned that such a collapse could trigger a 2008-style recession, Whitehouse said. "For those of you who were working in municipalities in 2008, you know that is not a good thing. But it is a real danger, and that prediction from Freddie Mac was based entirely on a crash in coastal property values. It did not at all consider the emerging wildfire risks that western states have seen so clearly." To help mitigate risk at the local level, he urged local governments to make sure flood maps are accurate and not reliant upon potentially outdated FEMA maps. "FEMA's mapping is demonstrably inadequate and inaccurate, so please make sure that you have access to professional quality flood mapping."



"Federalism, the system that was originally designed, was intended to ensure that the leaders closest to the people—mayors, state and local representatives, governors—held the bulk of the responsibility for governing while leaders far away in Washington focused on the few problems that were common to the entire nation."—Kentucky Senator Rand Paul



The final Wednesday of the annual Congressional City Conference is dubbed Hill Day, and local leaders are encouraged to use the time to set meetings with their congressional delegations and advocate for the needs in their communities. Not all members of Arkansas' delegation were available during the time allotted, but city and town leaders met with Sen. John Boozman (top) and members of his staff at his office in the Dirksen Senate Office Building and with Rep. Steve Womack (above) during a luncheon in the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. With more than \$20 billion in estimated upgrades needed across the state, water and wastewater funding is a top municipal challenge, Arkansas local officials shared. Housing, streets, bridges and other transportation needs also ranked high on the list of needs. Boozman and Womack each thanked the city and town officials for their dedication to their communities and invited them to continue to share their needs and concerns with their staff in Arkansas and in Washington.

Arkansans at the Table



As members of the Arkansas Municipal League, all Arkansas cities and towns are also members of the National League of Cities, and this year our state is well represented on NLC boards and committees. Springdale Mayor Doug Sprouse serves on the NLC Board of Directors, and at this year's Congressional City Conference, he was invited to participate in a panel discussion on the general session stage on Tuesday, March 15.

Hot Springs City Director Phyllis Beard (above) serves as vice chair of the NLC Small Cities Council, which is open to municipal officials from member cities with populations of 50,000 or less. Small cities make up 80 percent of NLC's membership, and the Small Cities Council advocates for their needs. Also on that council are Beebe Clerk/Treasurer Carol Westergren, Luxora Mayor Lee Brown, Luxora Council Member Jackie Rolland and Texarkana Assistant Mayor Laney Harris. Fayetteville Council Members D'Andre Jones and Mike Wiederkehr serve on the University Communities Council. Wiederkehr also serves on the First Tier Suburbs Council. Bentonville Mayor Stephanie Orman is a member of the Large Cities Council.

The NLC is also home to numerous federal advocacy committees, and Arkansas city and town leaders are at the table there as well. Those serving on these issue-focused committees are: Cabot Mayor Ken Kincade, Transportation and Infrastructure Services; West Memphis Director of Emergency Management DeWayne Rose, Public Safety and Crime Prevention; Cave City Mayor Jonas Anderson, Information Technology and Communications; Texarkana Assistant Mayor Laney Harris, Youth, Education and Families; Batesville Mayor Rick Elumbaugh and Russellville Director of Sustainability and Resilience Sara Jondahl, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources; and Hot Springs City Director Phyllis Beard, Race, Equity and Leadership.

Learn more about the NLC's advocacy efforts and educational opportunities in this issue beginning on page 39, or visit www.nlc.org.



Building stronger cities and towns together: An introduction to the National League of Cities

BY KATYA MAYER

As the south regional representative for the National League of Cities (NLC), I have the privilege of working with local leaders across the South, from small towns to large urban centers, helping you access the resources, networks and advocacy that form the backbone of NLC. Whether stepping into office for the first time or returning to continue your service, I encourage municipal officials and staff to see NLC as a partner in your leadership journey.

Thanks to the Arkansas Municipal League's leadership, Arkansas is the only state in the country where every municipal leader has direct access to exclusive NLC member benefits, right at your fingertips.

Who we are

NLC is the oldest and largest organization representing cities, towns and villages across the United States. For over 100 years, NLC has served as the unified voice of local government in Washington, D.C., advocating for federal policies that strengthen communities and empower local

leaders to deliver solutions in your hometown.

Our mission is simple yet powerful: to relentlessly advocate for and protect the interests of cities, towns and villages by influencing federal policy, strengthening local leadership and driving innovative solutions. We do this through four core pillars:

- 1. Advocacy:** Representing local governments before Congress and federal agencies.
- 2. Education:** Offering leadership training, research and professional development.
- 3. Networking:** Creating spaces for local officials to share ideas and best practices.
- 4. Innovation:** Helping communities find creative solutions to local challenges.

NLC is more than a membership organization; it's a movement of local leaders committed to building stronger communities. Across thousands of member municipalities, our network is driven by a core value: The future of our nation depends on the strength, vision and collaboration of its cities, towns and villages.

A century of local leadership

In 2024 NLC celebrated its 100th anniversary, marking a century of local leaders coming together to shape the future of our nation. What began in 1924 as a small gathering of 10 state municipal leagues at the University of Kansas has grown into a powerful national movement representing thousands of cities, towns and villages. Over the decades, NLC has been at the forefront of key moments in our nation's history, from rebuilding after the Great Depression and supporting the passage of the Housing Act of 1949, to advocating for federal investments in infrastructure, broadband access and housing today.

To commemorate our centennial, NLC launched the "100 Years, 100 Cities" Roadshow, visiting communities across the country to celebrate local innovation and hear directly from the leaders shaping America's next century. Through this effort, one message rang loud and clear: Strong cities build a strong nation.



In June 2024, the NLC Roadshow's stop in Little Rock coincided with the League's 90th Annual Convention.

Connecting through Member Councils, Federal Advocacy Committees and Constituency Groups

One of the most impactful ways to engage with the National League of Cities is by joining one of our Member Councils, Federal Advocacy Committees or Constituency Groups. These networks provide direct access to peer learning, leadership opportunities and national policy influence, all grounded in the shared experience of local governance.

MEMBER COUNCILS

NLC's Member Councils bring together local leaders from communities that share similar characteristics, such as population size, geography or policy priorities. These councils serve as spaces for collaboration, problem-solving and elevating the voices of cities and towns facing everyday challenges.

NLC Member Councils include:

- Small Cities Council
- Large Cities Council
- University Communities Council
- Military Communities Council
- First-Tier Suburbs Council
- Race, Equity and Leadership (REAL) Council
- Council on Youth, Education and Families
- Young Municipal Leaders (YML)

Each council meets regularly to share best practices, discuss emerging trends and advise NLC's broader work. Participating in a Member Council helps you connect with peers who understand the unique opportunities and challenges of leading a community like yours, while also helping shape NLC's programming.

WHAT NLC OFFERS OUR MEMBERS

NLC membership opens the door to a wealth of tools, training and support designed specifically for local governments. Here are a few valuable ways we help cities succeed:

Federal advocacy that works for cities

NLC is your voice in Washington. Our federal advocacy team works year-round to ensure local priorities are represented at the national level, from securing infrastructure investments to expanding affordable housing, promoting public safety and advancing digital equity. When Congress debates legislation that impacts local governments, NLC ensures your city's perspective is heard.

Education and professional development

Through NLC University, members gain access to leadership training, skill-building workshops and certifications focused on effective governance, finance, equity and communications. Whether you're a new mayor learning the ropes or a seasoned council member looking to strengthen your leadership style, there's a course or resource designed for you.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY COMMITTEES

If you want to influence national policy, NLC's Federal Advocacy Committees (FA) are where members turn local experience into national impact. These committees are the foundation of NLC's federal policy process, guiding our advocacy agenda and ensuring Congress and federal agencies hear the voice of local government.

NLC's seven Federal Advocacy Committees are:

- Community and Economic Development (CED)
- Energy, Environment and Natural Resources (EENR)
- Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR)
- Human Development (HD)
- Information Technology and Communications (ITC)
- Public Safety and Crime Prevention (PSCP)
- Transportation and Infrastructure Services (TIS)

Serving on an FA Committee allows you to collaborate with local leaders nationwide, share expertise and help shape NLC's national positions on issues that matter most to your community. These committees offer an excellent opportunity to build leadership skills, deepen policy knowledge and strengthen your municipality's influence in Washington, D.C.

CONSTITUENCY GROUPS

NLC's Constituency Groups celebrate and elevate the diversity of local leadership. They provide spaces where members connect through shared experiences, identities and community perspectives, offering support, mentorship and a platform for advocacy.

Our six Constituency Groups are:

- Women in Municipal Government (WIMG)
- National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO)
- Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO)
- Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials (APAMO)
- LGBTQ+ Local Officials (LGBTQ+LO)
- Local Indigenous Leaders (LIL)



As a member of the Small Cities Council, Hot Springs City Director Phyllis Beard, (right) is one of several Arkansas officials taking advantage of the resources NLC offers.

Each group hosts programming, leadership development opportunities and community-building events throughout the year, including during major NLC conferences. These groups are powerful spaces for both personal and professional growth, ensuring that your community's voice and story are represented in NLC's work.

Why get involved

Whether you join a Member Council, Federal Advocacy Committee or Constituency Group, engaging in these networks is one of the best ways to make the most of your NLC membership. You'll gain access to peer mentors, amplify your city's voice in national policy, and develop leadership skills that strengthen both your community and our collective movement for stronger local government.

As your south regional representative, I encourage you to explore one or all of these opportunities. NLC thrives because of the active participation of members like you, and together, we can ensure that local leadership continues to drive national progress.

Networking and peer exchange

NLC's greatest strength is its people. Through conferences, councils and networks, you'll connect with peers who share similar experiences and challenges and offer solutions. You'll find mentors, collaborators and lifelong colleagues across the country who are just as committed to public service as you are.

Research and resources you can use

Our experts produce actionable research and policy briefs that help cities navigate pressing challenges, from housing and transportation to workforce development and climate resilience. These aren't just reports—they're tools you can bring directly to your council meetings and planning sessions.

Opportunities to lead at the national level

Members can serve on NLC committees, policy councils and constituency groups or as part of our board of directors. These roles provide local leaders with a national platform to elevate your city's voice and help shape the future of municipal policy. As your regional representative, I work directly with members to identify opportunities and ensure your voice is included at every table.



Joining an NLC council or committee is a benefit for all Arkansas municipalities. West Memphis Director of Emergency Management DeWayne Rose (left) serves on the Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee, while Springdale Mayor Doug Sprouse (right) serves on the NLC Board of Directors.

Why this matters for Arkansas leaders

You're leading at a pivotal time, one filled with both challenges and opportunities for cities and towns across our state. As a member of the Arkansas Municipal League, you are already a member of the NLC. Now it's time to make the most of your NLC membership: Take advantage of these valuable services and resources to strengthen your leadership and support your community. NLC is here to help you lead effectively, connect nationally and bring resources back home.

Start by exploring NLC University courses, joining a committee or council, and signing up for newsletters and webinars. Please reach out to me at membership@nlc.org. My job is to help you navigate all that NLC has to offer.

Together, we lead

As we enter NLC's second century, our commitment to local leadership has never been stronger. Cities are where change begins, and NLC exists to ensure you have the tools, connections and advocacy to make that change possible. I look forward to working with you, learning from you and celebrating your success as we continue to build stronger cities together.



Scan the QR code or visit nlc.org to join NLC or learn more about opportunities to get involved.

Join us in Nashville: City Summit 2026

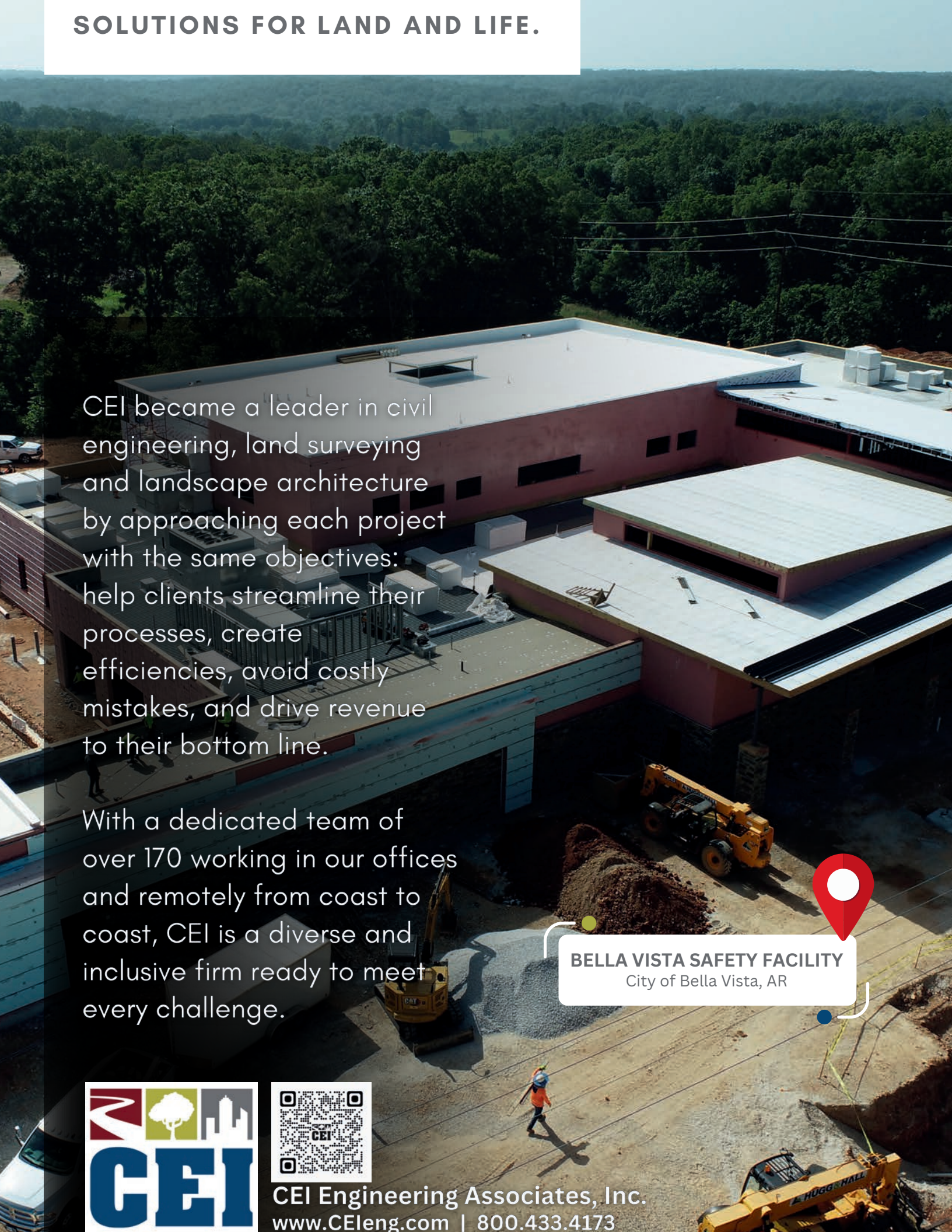


NLC's annual City Summit Conference is November 19-21 in Nashville. It's an ideal time to connect and see the value of your NLC membership in action. City Summit brings together thousands of local leaders who connect, learn and engage with experts and their peers. It's also where NLC's Member Councils, Federal Advocacy Committees and Constituency Groups meet in person to network and discuss policy. If you've been thinking about getting more involved, City Summit is the perfect place to start. You can learn more and register at citysummit.nlc.org.

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We're still here: A new mural adorns the wall at Cave City Park, home of the annual Cave City Watermelon Festival, which was held last July amidst the recovery from March's tornado. "The vibe was incredible," Mayor Jonas Anderson said. Each year local growers auction off melons for charity. This year they raised more than \$20,000 for food pantries, children's clothing resources and other charities assisting residents affected by the storm.

On the mend: Rebuilding continues in Cave City after powerful 2025 tornado

BY ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF

It's been a little more than a year since an EF-3 tornado with 165-mile-per-hour winds cut a 94-mile path across north Arkansas and into southeastern Missouri on the night of March 14, 2025. The storm cut through the heart of Cave City in Sharp County, effectively bisecting the community, leaving damaged and destroyed homes and businesses behind. Five million pounds of debris later, the scars remain, but signs of recovery abound in the city of 2,000 residents. In March, *City & Town* visited with Mayor Jonas Anderson to check in on the progress.

FEMA denied disaster recovery funding to the city and county in the storm's immediate aftermath. The governor appealed the decision but was again denied. Families, individuals and businesses were granted FEMA assistance, however, and that has been a great help, Anderson said. In March the city submitted storm-related expenditures to the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, who will be able to offer the city a 30% reimbursement. That will be the last big operational hurdle, he said. "FEMA would have been 70%, but if they

can do 30% that would be amazing. I mean, yeah, we'll take it."

Despite those challenges, Anderson is pleased with the city's progress. "We're a lot further along than I thought we would be."

The process of repairing city hall and the severely damaged Cave City Fire Department is nearly complete, and the mayor credits the League. "The Municipal League has been very wonderful in helping us out. I'm a big advocate for the Municipal Property and Vehicle Programs. It's been a really good process."

About 52 residences were damaged or destroyed, and that aspect of the city's recovery will likely take the longest, Anderson said, in part because some owners didn't have insurance. More than 20 of Cave City's businesses and churches were damaged, and a few were completely destroyed. Some businesses are taking the opportunity to build back better. Qualls Funeral Home is under construction at the same location, and Walling Drug will soon open its brand new store and drive-



(clockwise from top left) Repair and removal of damaged and destroyed residences is ongoing, even a year later. It's an especially long process for properties that didn't carry insurance. Two Cave City Fire Department buildings sustained severe damage. Repairs are now nearly complete, thanks to the quick work of the League's Municipal Property Program, the mayor said. In the tornado's immediate aftermath, one of the first actions by the Cave City Chamber of Commerce was to repair the city's iconic welcome sign, which was toppled by the storm.

through a block away. The local dentist, who previously worked out of a small space, is building a new larger office. Developers have acquired property on the west side of Cave City, near where the tornado first touched down, where they plan to build new housing. "That is actually something that's going to be really helpful. And they're going to be modest, affordable, nice houses."

Lessons learned

Anderson offered several of the key lessons he has learned from the experience, including what to keep in mind before a disaster strikes and what to anticipate in the aftermath.

Build relationships. "The biggest thing is build those relationships now, and build them strong," Anderson said. Almost within minutes of the storm, assistance from other cities and towns, county and state agencies and others began pouring, and he credits the relationships he and the city leadership have built over time. "That paid off in such a huge way."

Have a plan. Make sure you have an emergency management plan, and review your plan. "There is definitely a lot to be said for having that framework in

place." He added a caveat, however. "Sometimes you have to set 'the binder' aside and deal with what's actually happening on the ground."

Donations can be a mixed blessing. Anderson read something in an article that turned out to be a profound truth. "It said the first disaster is the tornado. The second disaster is an out of control donation response." In the aftermath of a disaster, donated items from well-meaning people can pour in and easily overwhelm city employees and volunteers. The problem can be compounded when the items aren't especially useful. The article gave the example of a city that received a shipment of 10,000 sticks of men's deodorant, he said. "It literally sat and melted in a crate at the airport." You will inevitably end up with items you cannot use, the mayor said. "I've talked to other city leaders in Arkansas who've had disasters. They said one and two years later we still have shipping containers full of stuff. Who's responsible for that? There is no one." Be prepared to say no, he said. "It can be hard to tell people 'no thank you.' We had to explain that we had a whole gym-full of donations now and we're not sure that we can work our way through it."



PHOTOS: BEN CLINE, LEAGUE STAFF

Thanks to a 2017 bond issue, Farmington has been able to add amenities like play structures.

Farmington parks catching up with growth

BY BEN CLINE, LEAGUE STAFF

When Ernie Penn first took office as the mayor of Farmington, the city had just over 1,300 residents and little in the way of amenities, he said. “We did not have any parks of any kind whatsoever or any major residential developments anywhere.” Over the 24 years he’s been in office, the city has grown to more than 10,000 people, and its investment in public spaces has grown with it. Creekside Park is now one of Farmington’s most popular spots, and city officials say a planned trail connection to Fayetteville will build on that momentum.

Creekside Park began with a donation from a local family, the Greens. “We were lucky, and we got some property given to us, and it was rough,” Penn said. “We had to basically go out there and clear it ourselves. We got some grants to get us started.”

It existed for years in a modest form. “Just a walking trail, a playground and a basketball court,” Public Works Director Tanner Denham said. After voters approved a bond issue in 2017, the city completed major upgrades in 2019 that added play structures, courts, a pavilion, a “ninja” course and other improvements, giving the park a new life.

The ninja warrior-style extreme obstacle course is designed for both play and fitness, and it quickly became one of the park’s standout additions—and one of the first of its kind in the state, Penn said. “That was kind of a unique request. The first day that we opened it, it wasn’t necessarily the adults that were using it. It was the kids. And we had little kids, we had medium size kids, and we had adults...people who worked out and they’d be over

STATE
of
PLAY

State of Play is a new series that explores how Arkansas cities and towns are investing in active, healthy lifestyles for their residents. From trail systems and bike infrastructure to parks, wellness programs and community design, each installment highlights local leaders and bold ideas reshaping what it means to live well in Arkansas. Sponsored by Municipal Health, State of Play celebrates the places where movement meets momentum. **Story Idea? Share your State of Play by emailing Citytown@arml.org.**



Farmington Public Works Director Tanner Denham (left) takes League Municipal Health Director Katie Bodenhamer (right) on a walking tour of the city's new paths and parks.

there using that equipment. So, with it being unique, it was also very attractive to people from other communities to come over and use it.”

Denham said the community’s response to the improvements was immediate. “People wouldn’t let [the new surfaces] dry. They wanted on them so quick. It’s always packed down there.” A new trail counter shows how often the park is used. “We’ve had over 20,000 people that have walked by since the first of the year,” he said.

Farmington expects that number to rise once a new multi-use path connecting Creekside Park to Fayetteville is complete. The route will tie into Fayetteville’s trail system and, ultimately, to the Razorback Greenway, giving residents a wider, safer and more consistent path for both recreation and transportation. Funding for the project comes from a mix of state, federal and private sources. The city received about \$900,000 in Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants from the Arkansas Department of Transportation, which required an 80-20 match. The Walton Family Foundation provided an additional \$450,000.

Denham believes the connection will bring more people into Farmington. “You’re going to have a lot more bike riders probably come in from the Fayetteville side. I think it’s going to unite the two cities as far as a trail system.” The path will also guide users directly through the 32-acre park’s amenities, including the disc golf course and activity areas.

As he prepares to leave office at the end of his final term, Penn said the work being done now will shape Farmington long after he’s gone. “I can come in here after I’m gone from office and see all the great things that we’ve done in our community. These trails are just going to give our community a lot more space and a lot more room to grow.”

CONVENTION NINETY TWO

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

1:30 p.m.-2:20 p.m.

(Certification Credit Options Available)

Ethics of Campaigns, Bond Initiatives and Elections: What Every City Leader Needs to Know

Rooted governance begins with ethical boundaries that guide public leadership. The Arkansas Ethics Commission will be on hand for a straightforward look at what city officials can and cannot do during campaigns, bond initiatives and election activities. This session clarifies the rules of the upcoming election season so municipal leaders can remain compliant, avoid pitfalls and uphold the trust that keeps municipalities resilient.

FOIA Final Jeopardy

Transparency is essential, but FOIA misuse can strain even the strongest of municipal operations. Using a single-question “Final Jeopardy” format, this session explores what happens when FOIA requests become excessive or harassing. Join as we walk through real examples of the workforce and budget impacts cities and towns face and considers practical statutory changes that maintain openness while preventing abuse.

Lower Premiums, Stronger Budgets: Cost Saving Approaches for Cities and Towns

Premium costs continue to rise nationwide, but municipalities have effective strategies to significantly reduce what they pay. This session focuses on cost saving programs such as reducing high specialty drug expenses, preventive care, diabetes management, trauma assistance for first responders and other targeted cost control solutions that can lower healthcare costs. Attendees will leave with practical tools to cut expenses while maintaining a stable, resilient workforce.

Zoning for predictability

BY JAMES WALDEN, AICP



Well-meaning conditional-use permit requirements almost stood as barrier to this development.

For nearly 30 years, the pages of City & Town have included articles by Jim von Tungen. Over that span, Jim has shared planning wisdom collected from a 50-plus year career in a colorful style unique to him with fictional characters like Mayor Furlow Thompson of Pot Luck. It has been an immense benefit for so many public officials across the state. I have personally benefited from that wisdom, leading to where and who I am today both personally and professionally. It is a great honor to be able to follow Jim's footsteps with the privilege of contributing my thoughts to the pages of this publication.

A common developer question heard in city halls across Arkansas is, "Now will this require planning commission or city council approval?" Developers want to determine what kind of gauntlet they may be about to face and what risks to project approval might exist? Will the approval process be predictable enough to make an investment?

For developers, a city's development requirements are often a secondary concern to the issue of uncertainty in the development approval process. They'll often directly say, "I'm not so much concerned about what you require, assuming everyone has to meet those requirements. I just don't want to spend a lot of money only to get turned down because of the neighbors." This is for good reason. Approvals for development often require plans to be drawn by numerous design professionals. There is the surveyor for the boundary survey and plat. There's the engineer for developing the civil engineering plans for drainage, streets and utilities. Don't forget the architect for developing blueprints for the structure. The list goes on.

All these design professionals and plans cost money,

and a lot of it. That said, they are a necessary part of the process. Where would one want a developer to skimp? Not having an accurate survey to ensure the development isn't on someone else's property? Not properly designing the streets so that the city and taxpayers become burdened with fixing a street as soon as it is turned over to the city? Not adequately designing a structure so that it potentially falls in on its occupants or catches fire? No one, including the developer, wants any of those things.

Development plans are necessary. Code requirements must be met. Protecting life, health and safety is a fundamental requirement. This is where zoning for predictability enters the picture. Predictability means ensuring your regulations are structured to properly protect health, safety and welfare while also allowing for public input and providing a fair process for developers. It means reducing the number of places where unforeseen factors can affect approvals. Here are some places to start.

Unnecessary public hearings

For all the right reasons, public officials often want to make sure residents are heard when a proposed development might impact them. This is why statutory public hearing requirements exist. However, many codes go well beyond the state's requirements. These codes often require public hearings for administrative elements like site plan and subdivision approvals, not just legislative elements like rezonings. Such requirements reduce predictability. Rezoning a property is about determining what land uses are allowed, whether it's for a house or a hot dog stand. Once that is determined, development rights are established. The site plans and

subdivisions that follow help ensure the development follows the rules. Allowing public hearings on these items may feel proper, but they can increase the chance that an angry crowd influences decision making at the wrong point in the process. Put another way, those public hearings can turn the process from ensuring compliance with codes to ensuring the neighborhood is happy.

Standards of approval

Developers often want to know what they have to do to get to “yes.” In other words, “How do I make the planning commission or city council like my project?” The idea that a project should be “liked” is often a result of either a lack of understanding of the approval process or a nonfunctional process itself. Planning commissions and councils don’t always have proper guardrails to help them determine when a project should be approved or denied. This means approval can again fall back on whether or not the neighborhood is happy with the project.

Establishing standards of approval outlines exactly what is required so that the developer, the planning commission and the city council know what is expected for granting approval. Standards should vary based on application type. However, they can require maintaining consistency with the city’s comprehensive plan, meeting all code requirements or obtaining variances/waivers before approval, and mitigating any negative impacts on adjacent properties. The more clear and objective the standards are, the better.

Standardized use requirements

Conditional use permits are a planning commission and city council favorite. They are the ultimate tool for flexibility. In essence, a conditional use permit allows the governing body to impose certain conditions on a use to obtain approval. By now you might be able to guess the reason why: yes, keeping the neighborhood happy. Conditional uses have their place, especially for rare, high-impact uses or those types of uses that may be appropriate in some locations and not others. They can also be overused.

An alternative can be predefining conditions for would-be conditional uses. This means setting the exact standards the use in question is required to meet. An easy approach is to analyze all the approved conditional use permits over the last five to 10 years. Where do patterns emerge? What are common conditions of approval? From there, consider making those common conditions of approval the pre-defined standard. This approach can save lots of headaches in the approval process for the developer, planning commission and city council.

Beyond these examples, there are many other ways to make the development approval process more predictable. A commitment by everyone involved to ensure processes are fair and regulations are followed can go a long way. We’ll never be perfect, but that shouldn’t keep us from striving to be better.

CONVENTION NINETY TWO

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

1:30 p.m.-2:20 p.m./3:10 p.m.

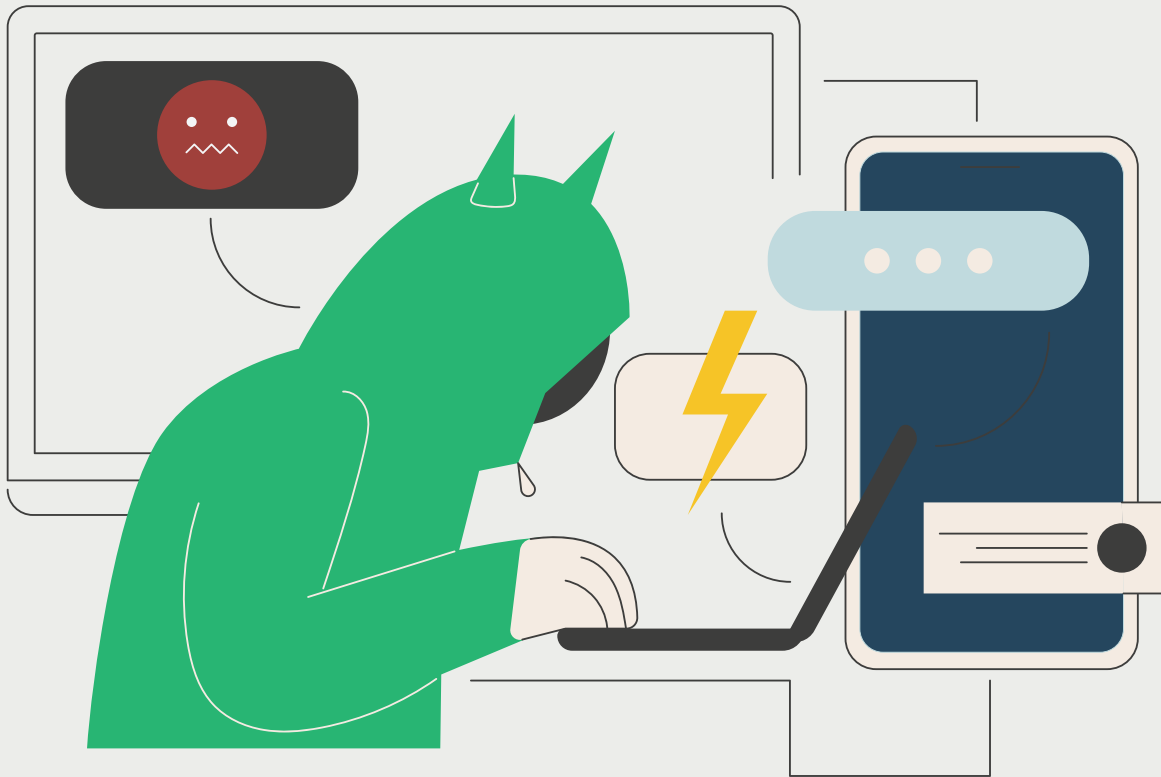
(Certification Credit Options Available)

Continuing the Conversation with Jason Curry

Resilience isn’t built in the keynote—it’s built in the follow through. In this breakout, Jason Curry expands on the principles of Finish Empty, helping leaders turn inspiration into daily habits that improve team performance and strengthen municipal culture. This session is designed for anyone ready to bring clarity, focus and renewed purpose back to their departments. It’s the next step in rising to the challenges—and opportunities—that define modern public service.

The Caran Curry Variety Hour: A Rapid-Fire Update on Municipal Must-Know Topics

Municipal leaders must keep pace with a variety of fast moving issues and Caran Curry’s rapid fire session will cover everything from water district consolidation to cybersecurity grants to AI and website ADA requirements with clear explanations and practical takeaways that help leaders stay ahead of emerging challenges. This session strengthens municipal resilience by giving leaders the information they need—quickly, clearly and all in one place.



Freedom of speech and social media: How to effectively navigate both

BY TRACEY L. CLINE-PEW, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, AND CALEB ALEXANDER-MCKINZIE

At a recent meeting of municipal officials from across the state, the conversation turned to the challenges public officials face on social media. Officials described an increase in distressing communication that ranged from minor vulgarities to implied or blatant threats. More disturbing, the officials described ways in which this form of online harassment is often directed at the family members of civil servants as well as those who chose to serve the public. Their frustration and outrage were unmistakable and entirely understandable.

With advancements in technology, we are more interconnected and accessible than ever before. Messaging is instant. Information or events can gain global attention in a matter of moments. While there are certainly positive and productive elements to this new culture of connectivity, the negative elements are often more palpable. Context is muddled, opinion is presented as fact and, sadly, the digital age presents ample opportunities for incivility and outright cruelty. Based on numerous civility studies, surveys about harassment of state and local officials, and the daily news cycle, American culture has clearly changed dramatically

over recent decades. Increasingly, anger has become a first response, replacing constructive dialogue. Instead of viewing neighbors as individuals with differing perspectives, many now see those who disagree with them as adversaries.

While public officials at all levels of government face incivility, local officials are particularly exposed because they live and work among the people they serve. Citizens encounter them at grocery stores, restaurants, community events and other everyday settings. This accessibility is essential to public service, yet it also places local leaders in the path of direct verbal aggression. Social media has only intensified that scrutiny.

This raises a critical question: How can local officials balance the First Amendment's broad protections for speech with the need to foster constructive—not abusive—dialogue about community issues?

The First Amendment in an online world

The First Amendment generally prevents government from censoring speech based on its content and viewpoint. The U.S. Constitution protects not only

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

1:30 p.m.-2:20 p.m./3:10 p.m.

(Certification Credit Options Available)

Follow the Money: Tracking Where Your Municipality's Revenue Really Goes

Financial resilience requires understanding where every dollar goes, particularly sales tax dollars. The Department of Finance and Administration retains a 3% administrative fee from city sales tax—over \$32 million annually and growing—and this session will examine how that money is used by the state and what options municipalities have to keep more of their revenue local. It will also address the millions spent on sales tax rebates intended to spur economic development, the limited information municipalities receive about those rebates, and why understanding where every penny goes is essential to effective leadership. Participants will gain a clear, grounded understanding of how these financial pressures impact municipal budgets and what reforms could help Arkansas cities and towns rise to a stronger fiscal future.

Safe, Strong and Cost Effective: Smart Steps to Help Cities Protect People and Budgets

This session cuts straight to the bottom line: a smart safety program and a solid grasp of workers comp costs can save your city real money spotlighting the most effective safety training tools available today, showing how online training can speed employees back to work and revealing how fewer claims drive safer workplaces and lower premiums. Packed with practical steps your team can use immediately, this breakout helps cities strengthen safety, control rising costs and protect both their people and their budgets.

spoken words but symbolic actions, artistic expression and commercial speech. While most speech is protected, the right is not absolute. There are types of speech that fall outside of the First Amendment's protections. Courts have established that obscenity, defamation, fighting words and true threats of violence, as defined by the courts, are not protected forms of speech.

It is also important to note that the First Amendment restricts government and not private companies or private employers. Social media companies may establish and enforce their own standards for user conduct.

Reflecting on these principles evokes a line from the 1995 film *The American President*, in which President Shepherd explains that defending free speech means tolerating—even celebrating—the expression of ideas that may deeply offend us. Idealistic? Certainly. But it feels far less abstract when the offensive speech is directed at you or your family. Fortunately, there are practical ways for public officials to protect themselves while upholding constitutional values.

Effectively navigating professional social media accounts

When used strategically, social media can promote engagement and support transparent governance. The key is maintaining professionalism and implementing thoughtful boundaries. Tone and language matters. When and how you choose to engage matters. Remember, incivility is a political issue as much, if not more, than a legal one. Consider the following steps to help mitigate uncivil interactions.

Maintain separate professional and personal accounts

In 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a ruling that had a major impact on the way public officials should manage and facilitate social media. In *Lindke v. Freed*, the court made an important distinction between personal speech and government speech. Officials should distinguish personal accounts from official ones. Personal accounts should clearly state that the views expressed are individual and not representative of the municipality. Privacy settings should be used to limit public access. When operating a personal account, the First Amendment protects you and your actions as a citizen. You can limit engagement, delete comments, and even block people on

your private page if you choose. Keep in mind, however, that while doing so may be lawful, there could still be social or political ramifications.

If there is evidence that a private account is also used for public business, such as by officially announcing government action, or using government staff to make a post, the comments of third parties could be entitled to greater First Amendment protection. This area of law is evolving, but if the official is speaking on behalf of the government, it is unlikely that the official could permissibly block a user or delete comments based on the content or viewpoint expressed by a citizen. In this scenario, the social media page would likely be considered to be a type of public forum. Restrictions that are not content-neutral on speech in a public forum are presumptively invalid, and the government must show that the restriction was narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling government interest to rebut the presumption. For this reason, an official who blocks accounts or deletes comments could be at risk of being found liable for constitutional violations.

Adopt municipal social media policies

Because a government's social media account is likely to be considered a public forum, cities and towns should adopt policies governing the use of official social media accounts. Municipalities are not required to allow public comments if the platform permits disabling them. Under these circumstances, a government's social media page may be deemed to be a limited public forum, in which courts have held that speech may be limited to discussion on certain municipal-related topics as long as restrictions are clearly posted and consistently enforced. However, regulation based on viewpoint is never allowed, and you are strongly advised to review any proposed policy with your city attorney prior to implementation. The law is still fluid, and regulating speech always comes with a significant degree of legal risk.

Distinguish between criticism and harassment

Not every negative comment constitutes harassment. Legitimate criticism is protected speech. However, officials

should immediately report behavior that crosses into:

- Repeated personal attacks
- False statements presented as fact
- Threats of physical, property or reputational harm
- Targeting of family members
- Stalking
- Hostility based on protected-class characteristics
- Reports may be made to the city attorney, law enforcement or the social media platform.

Avoid direct engagement

Engaging hostile users rarely improves the situation. Consider the following best practices:

- Don't respond at all, or respond once with factual clarification.
- Avoid debating personal attacks or false claims.
- Do not respond emotionally.
- Do not escalate the exchange.
- Address the issue, not the individual.

Protect mental and emotional well being

Sustained harassment can take a toll. Officials should:

- Limit time spent reviewing comments.
- Turn off notifications.
- Designate staff to monitor official pages.
- Seek support from colleagues, clergy, counselors or friends.

When the city attorney should assist

City or private attorneys may help when:

- Defamation becomes legally actionable
- False information misrepresents municipal operations
- City employees experience harassment
- A protective order may be warranted
- Clarification of public records is needed

When to involve law enforcement

Law enforcement should be contacted when:

- Threats of harm or violence occur
- Doxxing or stalking takes place
- Conduct interferes with official duties
- Repeated contact continues despite a "do not contact" notice



Create and implement a proactive communication strategy

Transparent communication reduces misinformation. Helpful strategies include:

- Posting FAQs
- Sharing regular updates on city projects
- Publishing budget documents and summaries
- Providing “myth vs. fact” sheets
- Scheduling posts to ensure consistent, accurate information
- Turning off all comments on social media posts immediately upon posting

Serving as a local municipal official is deeply meaningful work, but it comes with challenges, particularly in an era when social media amplifies both civic engagement and public hostility. By maintaining professionalism, establishing clear boundaries between personal and official accounts, understanding when and how to respond, and prioritizing mental well being, public officials can navigate these challenges effectively.

When local leaders combine transparency, thoughtful communication and strong support systems, they not only protect themselves, they strengthen the trust and resilience of the communities they serve. The League publication *Social Media and the First Amendment: Guidance for Arkansas Municipalities* provides valuable information and includes a sample Municipal Facebook Comments Policy. The free publication can be downloaded at armuni.org/Publications.

If you have questions or would like additional information or resources, please do not hesitate to contact us.

CONVENTION NINETY TWO

GENERAL SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17
GOVERNOR'S HALL IV

3:45 p.m.-5 p.m.

Welcome and Presentation of Colors; General Session 1: Keynote by Jason Curry

After a welcome from League Executive Director Mark Hayes, Convention 92 opens with the Presentation of Colors, the National Anthem, and keynote speaker Jason Curry. In his book *Finish Empty*, Curry speaks to the pressures city leaders face: long hours, constant challenges, and decisions that shape entire municipalities. Like a coach preparing a team, he emphasizes that resilience, discipline and clarity—not luck—drive success. With principles centered on purpose and excellence, Curry challenges leaders to give their best every day, staying rooted in core values, resilient under pressure and rising to meet their calling with no regrets.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18
GOVERNOR'S HALL IV

9 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

General Session 2: The Future of Economic Development for Arkansas Municipalities

Economic development is where cities and towns rise or fall based on preparation. With Issue 3 on the November ballot, this session gives leaders a forward-looking framework for growth. From vision to bond counsel, this session will offer practical steps for strengthening local economies. Executive Committee members with hands-on development experience will share real-world insights to help municipalities stay rooted in good planning, resilient amid shifting economic winds and rising toward long-term prosperity.



More than 360 rural Arkansas families benefit each month from Harvesting Hope's mission. A mobile market: Volunteers in Pine Bluff are ready to deliver food to those in need (facing page).

The Harvesting Hope Initiative: Lessons in rural resilience and collaboration

BY LINDA TETTEH-QUAYE

Recent findings from the University of Arkansas' Arkansas Health Survey show that 28.8% of adult Arkansans go without food regularly. Though the survey only tracked adults, food insecurity rates could be similar for children from struggling families.

The Harvesting Hope Initiative, led by the Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association (ACAAA), is working to reverse those trends in rural Arkansas. The initiative is a statewide effort to fight food insecurity, but rather than building new systems, it leans on an asset-based approach focused on what communities already have: trusted people in trusted places. The program strengthens local food banks, supports rural churches as distribution hubs, and promotes healthier, sustainable lifestyles through better nutrition access.

An immediate impact

The initiative's first year, funded in partnership with the University of the Ozarks, gave the model its first real test. The results showed positive gains and impacts. Twenty

congregations across 20 rural counties signed on, forming a statewide network connected by a shared sense of purpose. Together they:

- Served approximately 360 families each month
- Facilitated 4,320 fresh food distributions over the course of the year
- Brought fresh fruits, vegetables and healthy staples directly to people through a mobile market model, cutting through barriers that limit rural families from accessing nutritious food.

The program found success in driving the market to the community instead of asking the community to come to the market through their Mobile Market.

"I have witnessed firsthand the critical impact of the ACAA Harvesting Hope Mobile Market on our community, especially engaging our churches," Wrightsville Mayor Derrick Rainey said. "In a city where access to fresh, affordable food is limited and transportation barriers are real, the Mobile Mart has been more than a food distribution strategy—it has been a lifeline."



Churches as living communities

Harvesting Hope built its strategy by including churches as “living communities.” The goal is bigger than filling a box with produce; it’s about equipping local religious leaders to address the full picture of a community’s physical, emotional and social health.

Churches are anchor institutions that form authentic relationships within their communities, and the ACAAA believes they are the most suitable partners and meaningful entry points for food distribution in communities with limited access to healthy food.

The ACAAA is also exploring additional pathways to sustain and grow the program. According to Executive Director Tomekia Moore, the primary deliverable of the initiative will go beyond food distribution to “build the capacities of rural churches to champion community-level issues.”

Planning for the future

Goals for the future include a strategic shift toward the development of community gardens that promote sustainability and harness the economic benefits that come with a grow-your-own approach. The key objectives are to strengthen local food systems and build something that outlasts a single grant cycle.

There’s a difference between receiving a bag of groceries versus tending a garden that feeds you and your neighbors and addresses food insecurity from within. Both matter, but one builds community ownership and extended sustainability. What Harvesting Hope is proving is that the most durable community work happens when you invest in people who are already rooted in your community.

ACAAA continues to actively explore new partnerships to carry this work forward. To learn more or connect with Harvesting Hope, you can reach out to Tomekia Moore at tmoore@acaaa.org.

CONVENTION NINETY TWO

GENERAL SESSIONS

THURSDAY, JUNE 18
GOVERNOR’S HALL IV

10:30 a.m.-11:55 a.m.

General Session 3: Mandatory Treasurer Training Modules 1, 2 & 5

Gain a strong foundation in this session covering municipal finance core concepts, budgets and internal controls. Learn about key laws, responsibilities, and the basic accounting principles that guide public sector decision-making.

4 p.m.-5 p.m.

General Session 4: Trash Talk, Legal Edition: Supreme Court Impacts on Municipal Waste

Reliable and affordable solid waste service is one of the most important duties municipalities offer to their citizens. A properly managed system protects public health, safety, and welfare at an affordable rate. Late last year, the Supreme Court changed the solid waste landscape for municipalities. Whether your municipality operates its own solid waste utility or whether it contracts with another entity, the recent Supreme Court decision is important to know and understand. In this session, panelists will explore the legal and practical implications of the Supreme Court’s decision and discuss what options now exist for cities and towns.

Understanding ultra-processed foods

BY ALYSSA FRISBY, RDN, LD

Arkansas faces significant challenges when it comes to food and health. The state ranks among the lowest in national health measures and has one of the highest rates of food insecurity in the country, with nearly 1 in 5 residents struggling to consistently access enough nutritious food. When budgets are tight and time is limited, the foods that are most affordable and convenient often become the foods that people rely on most.

Unfortunately, many of these products fall into a category known as ultra-processed foods. They are widely available, heavily marketed, and designed for convenience. Understanding what ultra-processed foods are and how they fit into a balanced diet can help people make more informed food choices without feeling overwhelmed.

How foods are classified

Researchers often use a tool called the Nova classification system to describe how much a food has been processed. Rather than focusing only on factors such as fat, sugar or calories, the system looks at how foods are made and how much they have been altered from their original form.

The first category includes unprocessed or minimally processed foods. These are foods that are close to their natural state, such as fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables, beans, grains, eggs and milk.

The second category includes processed culinary ingredients like oils, butter, sugar and salt. These ingredients are typically used in cooking to prepare or season foods.

The third group includes processed foods, which are made by adding ingredients such as salt, oil or sugar to whole foods. Examples include canned vegetables, cheese and freshly baked bread.

The fourth category is ultra-processed foods. These are industrially produced products made with multiple ingredients and additives to improve flavor, texture and shelf life. Examples include packaged snack foods, sugary cereals, soft drinks and many ready-to-heat meals.

Why ultra-processed foods matter

In recent years, researchers have taken a closer look at how diets high in ultra-processed foods may affect health. Studies have found that people who consume

large amounts of these foods tend to have a higher risk of conditions such as heart disease, obesity and Type 2 diabetes.

Ultra-processed foods often contain higher amounts of added sugars, refined grains, sodium and fats while providing fewer beneficial nutrients such as fiber, vitamins and minerals. They are also designed to be highly palatable and convenient, which can make it easy to consume them frequently.

At the same time, nutrition experts note that the Nova classification system focuses on the degree of processing rather than overall nutrient content. Some foods in this category may still provide useful nutrients, and ultra-processed foods can play a practical role in many households where time, cost, and access to fresh foods are important considerations.

Because these foods are often inexpensive, shelf-stable and widely available, the environments where people shop and live can strongly influence how much they rely on them in their daily diets.



Small changes make a difference

For many people, reducing consumption of ultra-processed foods does not have to mean eliminating them entirely. Instead, small and realistic changes can help create a more balanced pattern of eating.

One approach is to build meals around more minimally processed foods when possible. This might mean choosing oatmeal with fruit instead of sugary cereal, adding beans or vegetables to boxed or ready-to-eat meals, or selecting plain yogurt and topping it with fresh or frozen fruit.

Cooking more meals at home can also help people have greater control over the ingredients in their food. However, convenience still matters, and options such as frozen vegetables, canned beans or pre-cut produce can make preparing balanced meals easier while still providing nutritious ingredients.

Ultimately, the goal is not perfection but progress. Even small shifts toward meals that include more whole or minimally processed foods can support better long-term health while still fitting into busy schedules and real-life budgets.



Will Henson, P.E.

Blake Peacock, P.E.

Oren Noble, P.E.

Wes LeMonier, P.E.

Austin Anderson, P.E.

Craig Hardin, P.E.

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Designing the future with intention

BY CHRIS BAKUNAS, PLA



The street, sidewalks and green spaces were designed with intention, and it shows.

Across Arkansas, cities and towns are continuing to invest in parks, trails and downtown improvements. These projects do more than occupy land or satisfy immediate needs. When planned with intention, they shape how a community functions, how it is experienced and how it is remembered.

Public space is where community life becomes visible. It is where people gather for events, where children play, where neighbors run into each other and where visitors form their first impressions. The quality of these spaces influences not only how a place looks but how it feels. Over time, that experience becomes part of a town's identity.

Intentional design begins by asking bigger questions before decisions are made on layout, materials or amenities. What kind of place are we trying to create? What should people experience when they walk through downtown, visit a park or enter a neighborhood? How should public spaces reflect the values of the community? These questions are answered through design choices such as site organization, circulation, scale, proportion, visibility,

comfort, and the way spaces connect to one another.

This is why intentional design matters. Without it, projects can easily become a collection of disconnected parts: a sidewalk that leads nowhere meaningful, a park that feels like leftover land, or a development that turns inward and ignores its surroundings. With it, those same projects create a stronger sense of place: The park becomes a community gathering point; the corridor supports both movement and public life; the neighborhood feels connected, welcoming and cohesive rather than fragmented.

Parks offer one of the clearest examples. A park can be designed as little more than open ground with a few amenities placed on it, or it can be arranged as a hub of community activity. The difference is usually not about spending more money. It is about being deliberate with the placement of gathering areas, shade, play features, walking paths, seating, and connections to surrounding streets and neighborhoods. When those elements are organized with purpose, the park will be more usable, more memorable and more valuable to those around it.

GENERAL SESSIONS

FRIDAY, JUNE 19
GOVERNOR'S HALL IV

9 a.m.-10 a.m.

General Session 5: Annual Business Meetings and State of the League: Rooted in Structure

Following the annual business meetings for Municipal Workers Comp, Municipal Health, and Municipal Vehicle and Property programs, League members will review and vote on the proposed 2026–2027 Policies and Goals. The Nominating Committee will present its recommended slate of officers, and Executive Director Mark Hayes will deliver the annual State of the League address, reflecting on the past year, outlining priorities ahead and setting the tone for the work to come.

10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.*

General Session 6: Building Momentum for 2027: Housing Policy Priorities

This closing session will look ahead to the challenges and opportunities that await in the 2027 legislative session, from revitalizing abated properties to supporting affordable, safe and sanitary housing. The legislative team and other partners in these issues will share the five pillars of housing policy designed to strengthen our advocacy efforts. Members will leave Convention 92 as champions for housing solutions Arkansas municipalities deserve.

**If General Session 5 runs longer than 10 a.m., this session will begin after a 15-minute intermission following the State of the League.*

Transportation corridors present similar opportunities. A street has potential to do more than move vehicles efficiently. It can also help define the character of the area it serves. The relationship between sidewalks and storefronts, the width and comfort of pedestrian space, the presence of trees and landscaping, and the inclusion of places to pause or gather all influence whether a corridor feels active and inviting. When corridors are designed intentionally, they support mobility while reinforcing identity and encouraging economic activity.

The same principle applies to new development. Consider a subdivision that hopes to attract young families. If the design only focuses on lot yield and street layout, it may meet basic development goals but miss the qualities that make a neighborhood truly desirable. But if the plan includes usable green space, safe sidewalks and pedestrian connections separated from busy streets, and street trees for shade, the development begins to offer a lifestyle rather than just housing. Those design moves help create comfort, safety and visual identity. They also make the neighborhood feel more complete from the start.

Intentionality also has long-term benefits. Communities with well-designed public spaces often see stronger economic activity, more stable property values and greater private investment over time. Businesses are drawn to places that feel active, cared for and cohesive. Residents are more likely to take pride in places that reflect long-term thinking. At the same time, coordinated design can reduce maintenance issues and improve durability and efficiency. In that sense, intentional design is not an added luxury; it is a way to improve long-term performance.

None of this happens by accident. It requires planning, clear goals, and the involvement of qualified professionals who understand how to shape land, infrastructure and human experience into a cohesive whole. Landscape architects, working alongside engineers, architects and planners, help communities move beyond simply fitting uses onto a site. They help organize space in a way that is functional, durable and meaningful.

Arkansas cities and towns have an opportunity to shape their identity through the spaces they create now. The parks, corridors and developments being built today will influence daily life for decades to come. When these projects are approached with intention, they do more than solve today's needs. They create places people recognize, remember and value, because the strongest communities are shaped not only by what they build, but by how thoughtfully they build it.

ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Grant Writing & Grant Management CERTIFICATION



The Arkansas Municipal League invites you to take advantage of our Grant Writing Certification Series available on the ACE Hub, acehub.learningmanager.com.

This series is practical, step-by-step guide for municipal officials and employees who want to strengthen their grant writing skills and secure funding with confidence.

- Introduction to Grants
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- Federal Grant Budgets
- Writing the Program Narrative
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- Insights from Arkansas Professionals

By the end of the certification, you will be fluent in basic grant-writing language and best practices. The ACE Hub provides the tools to develop a successful proposal for your community.

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Issue Three

UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITY FOR ARKANSAS

Issue 3 gives Arkansas cities and towns a powerful new tool to strengthen their local economies. This constitutional amendment will be on the ballot November 3, 2026, and will give your community the option to create Economic Development Districts to facilitate your own development goals, whether that's retaining jobs, attracting investment or stimulating community revitalization.

WHY ISSUE 3 MATTERS

1. Local Control.

Decisions impacting your community are made by the people in your community.

2. No New Taxes. Doesn't Divert Existing Revenue.

Issue 3 does not raise taxes, redirect local budgets or impact state revenue.

3. Competitive Edge.

Surrounding states already use these tools to win jobs and investment. Issue 3 levels the playing field and gives us the chance to compete for economic development projects that will bolster our communities.



ARKANSAS
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

2025/2026 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
January	\$7.15	\$5.63	\$0.10	\$0.11	\$2.02	2.01
February	\$6.98	\$7.11	\$0.08	\$0.14	\$1.019	1.01
March	\$5.793	\$5.63	\$0.165	\$0.21	\$1.018	0.99
April	\$6.815		\$0.183		\$1.017	
May	\$6.987		\$0.155		\$1.017	
June	\$7.166		\$0.191		\$1.021	
July	\$7.077		\$0.169		\$2.797	
August	\$6.936		\$0.077		\$0.806	
September	\$7.264		\$0.124		\$1.003	
October	\$6.763		\$0.129		\$1.006	
November	\$6.710		\$0.061		\$1.00	
December	\$6.61		\$0.101		\$1.01	
Total Year	\$82.26	\$18.37	\$1.53	\$0.46	\$14.74	4.01

Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
January	\$14,344,529.55	\$11,296,901.34	\$195,553.15	\$212,728.32	*\$4,043,691.60	* \$4,045,201.89
February	\$14,012,520.67	\$14,288,370.19	\$157,738.04	\$284,713.27	\$2,045,108.83	\$2,023,532.12
March	\$11,622,645.85	\$11,308,964.51	\$330,048.09	\$426,964.71	\$2,043,178.51	\$1,992,588.34
April	\$13,676,758.28		\$367,688.47		\$2,041,110.91	
May	\$14,028,095.73		\$311,468.00		\$2,040,998.66	
June	\$14,386,450.95		\$383,577.72		\$2,049,591.83	
July	\$14,207,602.29		\$340,095.19		** \$5,616,357.28	
August	\$13,924,877.49		\$154,039.67		\$1,618,232.06	
September	\$14,584,356.29		\$248,165.66		\$2,014,413.20	
October	\$13,578,890.40		\$258,053.09		\$2,019,837.38	
November	\$13,471,117.28		\$121,652.47		\$2,016,097.48	
December	\$13,274,248.89		\$202,319.76		\$2,029,356.52	
Total Year	\$165,112,093.67	\$36,894,236.04	\$3,070,399.31	\$924,406.30	\$29,577,974.26	\$8,061,322.35

* Includes \$2 million appropriation from the Property Tax Relief Fund

**Includes \$3,515,917.86 supplemental for July 2025

Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas



KEY:  Counties not collecting sales tax

Source: Rachel Garrett, Office of State Treasurer

See also: www.dfa.arkansas.gov

Sales and Use Tax Year-to-Date 2026 with 2025 Comparison (shaded gray)								
Month	Municipal Tax		County Tax		Total Tax		Interest	
January	\$88,822,714	\$87,231,351	\$74,688,425	\$73,841,246	\$163,511,139	\$161,072,597	\$472,863	\$552,364
February	\$102,706,712	\$99,189,231	\$84,903,360	\$82,980,100	\$187,610,073	\$182,169,331	\$400,357	\$492,132
March	\$81,565,997	\$82,603,040	\$67,704,017	\$69,633,233	\$149,270,014	\$152,236,273	\$441,261	\$484,497
April		\$78,191,680		\$67,323,560		\$145,515,240		\$535,740
May		\$88,877,799		\$77,018,979		\$165,896,778		\$492,720
June		\$89,233,284		\$75,247,038		\$164,480,322		\$227,276
July		\$90,220,754		\$76,473,646		\$166,694,400		\$553,450
August		\$91,495,631		\$77,564,991		\$169,060,621		\$526,942
September		\$92,338,849		\$79,302,329		\$171,641,179		\$537,910
October		\$91,269,649		\$77,780,466		\$169,050,115		\$576,141
November		\$91,205,492		\$78,249,667		\$169,455,158		\$519,867
December		\$90,235,351		\$75,804,159		\$166,039,510		\$503,407
Total	\$273,095,423	\$1,072,092,110	\$227,295,803	\$911,219,414	\$500,391,226	\$1,983,311,524	\$1,314,481	\$6,002,445
Averages	\$91,031,808	\$89,341,009	\$75,765,268	\$75,934,951	\$166,797,075	\$165,275,960	\$438,160	\$500,204

2026 March's Distribution

March 2026 Municipal Levy Receipts and March 2026 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2025 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE	AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	Fouke	12,113.73	13,953.72	Menifee	6,660.73	12,810.22	West Fork	95,921.05	98,671.26
Alexander	201,253.01	194,584.62	Fountain Hill	2,510.04	2,410.30	Midland	1,714.79	1,613.52	West Memphis	1,221,717.93	763,426.57
Alma	325,818.47	304,665.58	Franklin	3,092.30	1,828.30	Mineral Springs	6,071.95	7,245.84	Western Grove	5,214.57	5,467.03
Almyra	2,375.80	2,971.03	Garfield	25,266.10	25,342.76	Monette	43,762.69	41,164.83	Wheatley	3,822.55	7,206.19
Alpena	8,830.64	7,548.43	Garland	2,252.15	1,736.09	Monticello	249,635.68	247,337.10	White Hall	96,772.47	95,650.11
Altheimer	5,571.29	3,599.89	Gassville	37,146.99	39,764.44	Moorefield	5,129.43	4,228.12	Wickes	7,491.38	10,452.10
Altus	8,211.41	7,444.83	Gentry	140,355.03	173,783.51	Moro	9,175.63	1,668.52	Widener	6,875.44	2,933.38
Amity	17,536.27	16,912.28	Gilbert	482.64	236.69	Morrilton	205,803.31	200,112.77	Wiederkehr Village	2,533.02	2,171.25
Anthonyville	587.35	1,352.29	Gillett	13,308.74	14,114.62	Morrison Bluff	5,411.74	3,889.19	Wilmar	3,513.61	NA
Arkadelphia	465,343.36	456,055.88	Gillham	8,619.94	9,123.62	Mount Ida	23,561.08	24,169.16	Wilmot	3,449.12	3,795.22
Arkansas City	6,896.34	5,393.38	Gilmore	422.60	789.59	Mountain View	1,131,170.00	1,076,682.58	Wilson	13,274.43	8,607.44
Ash Flat	133,891.55	127,874.37	Glenwood	89,670.61	93,087.83	Mountain Home	220,315.52	219,265.24	Wilton	1,007.22	748.40
Ashdown	173,109.03	173,256.56	Goshen	45,928.44	40,971.52	Mountainburg	18,400.76	8,288.75	Winslow	10,113.25	11,352.71
Atkins	78,699.98	78,805.21	Gosnell	20,225.03	18,166.51	Mulberry	57,291.18	41,411.63	Wynne	175,225.18	181,997.61
Augusta	21,128.07	23,850.36	Gould	16,862.66	17,140.42	Murfreesboro	35,621.37	31,826.39	Yellville	55,069.43	54,835.95
Austin	52,426.82	55,351.78	Grady	4,491.27	6,095.58	Nashville	125,078.67	128,495.63			
Avoca	8,409.49	9,706.30	Grannis	5,334.29	5,712.24	Newport	235,198.96	230,748.23			
Bald Knob	69,431.62	66,615.42	Gravette	134,475.88	129,212.79	Norfork	7,406.26	7,785.36	COUNTY SALES AND USE AMOUNTY		
Banks	501.65	619.26	Green Forest	131,754.52	140,947.41	Norman	4,188.12	4,307.52	Arkansas County	420,570.34	424,170.56
Barling	99,693.01	3,769.87	Greenbrier	366,087.70	394,837.00	North Little Rock	3,503,180.94	3,409,942.20	Ashley County	252,469.98	241,478.55
Batesville	918,107.45	853,033.33	Greenland	98,055.86	58,431.83	Oak Grove	1,348.42	1,788.05	Crossett	60,958.90	58,305.02
Bauxite	31,289.78	31,034.91	Greenwood	331,474.73	329,403.04	Oak Grove Heights	9,422.90	8,896.28	Fountain Hill	1,365.32	1,305.88
Bay	24,775.87	22,250.46	Greers Ferry	24,623.25	26,241.03	Ola	17,700.80	15,841.05	Hamburg	32,059.68	30,663.94
Bearden	11,712.78	10,288.68	Guion	2,350.44	2,032.08	Opelo	4,399.74	4,554.12	Montrose	3,071.96	2,938.22
Beebe	261,817.03	251,303.61	Gum Springs	986.51	1,517.76	Osceola	244,072.26	360,754.58	Parkdale	2,174.39	3,929.72
Beedeville	160.38	204.09	Gurdon	39,656.65	42,246.44	Oxford	4,462.38	3,492.05	Portland	4,108.59	3,929.72
Bella Vista	734,385.63	699,081.69	Guy	13,441.09	16,041.75	Ozark	194,418.62	210,807.46	Wilmot	5,259.02	5,030.06
Bellville	2,931.49	3,292.09	Hackett	10,698.67	9,168.04	Palestine	28,362.18	32,382.09	Baxter County	675,180.59	634,376.86
Benton	2,163,129.99	2,078,940.91	Hamburg	100,751.35	102,627.63	Pangburn	9,119.72	8,827.12	Big Flat	1,741.65	1,636.39
Bentonville	4,933,521.65	6,235,555.93	Hampton	7,432.93	9,346.39	Paragould	848,182.03	821,768.93	Briarcliff	4,670.78	4,388.51
Berryville	352,283.81	300,170.60	Hardy	27,608.63	26,272.55	Paris	93,897.84	91,047.50	Cotter	17,535.23	16,475.51
Big Flat	982.30	929.42	Harrisburg	85,847.61	87,971.72	Parkdale	516.76	479.12	Gassville	42,967.25	40,370.58
Black Rock	5,895.62	4,892.47	Harrison	913,497.10	876,516.44	Parkin	5,945.05	6,025.22	Lakeview	15,338.38	14,411.42
Blains	3,830.00	4,060.32	Hartford	8,153.17	8,146.66	Patmos	83.01	1,363.26	Mountain Home	253,825.43	238,485.79
Blue Mountain	411.36	383.87	Haskell	79,013.99	68,725.46	Patterson	825.61	689.52	Norfolk	9,203.03	8,646.85
Blytheville	508,842.20	493,051.74	Hatfield	5,423.10	6,143.97	Pea Ridge	314,894.88	316,020.10	Salesville	9,361.36	8,795.63
Bonanza	3,071.21	3,397.39	Havana	4,181.77	3,754.99	Perla	4,268.78	5,608.33	Benton County	1,124,582.29	1,330,343.05
Bono	47,285.14	22,420.27	Hazen	99,797.08	95,214.37	Perryville	27,170.49	29,501.80	Avoca	12,371.45	14,464.45
Booneville	172,488.55	157,469.22	Heber Springs	196,781.68	189,119.12	Piggott	84,200.21	83,023.40	Bella Vista	764,743.39	894,122.64
Bradford	21,598.68	19,049.39	Hector	5,598.61	8,128.54	Pine Bluff	1,045,395.47	1,062,323.41	Bentonville	1,375,948.75	1,608,731.68
Bradley	5,502.38	5,107.60	Helena-West Helena	254,293.16	278,644.84	Pineville	2,625.50	2,149.66	Cave Springs	146,348.88	163,207.68
Branch	2,340.32	2,161.26	Hickory Ridge	2,756.43	NA	Plainview	8,319.64	6,158.73	Centerton	453,958.42	528,442.40
Briarcliff	2,145.31	2,027.65	Higginson	1,442.50	2,590.00	Pleasant Plains	20,602.62	12,227.30	Decatur	45,040.20	52,660.09
Brinkley	183,971.71	180,086.09	Highfill	165,112.12	158,002.52	Plumerville	13,145.37	12,826.07	Elm Springs	11,812.57	13,811.02
Brookland	154,831.62	145,560.36	Highland	34,456.05	35,611.62	Pocahontas	351,363.74	367,782.08	Garfield	15,064.21	17,612.77
Bryant	1,514,185.68	1,464,453.73	Holly Grove	10,281.26	10,489.35	Pollard	763.05	549.31	Gateway	11,075.87	12,949.69
Bull Shoals	35,963.63	31,646.65	Hope	497,784.53	223,483.84	Portia	5,233.00	4,590.32	Gentry	96,558.25	112,567.26
Cabot	1,200,433.10	52,718.71	Horatio	10,063.46	8,704.38	Portland	12,236.25	5,939.95	Gravette	90,105.79	105,349.89
Caddo Valley	68,659.99	61,647.97	Horseshoe Bend	30,742.87	33,437.27	Pottsville	48,194.60	48,228.39	Highfill	40,315.17	47,135.68
Calico Rock	54,970.61	372,594.60	Hot Springs	1,978,366.05	2,078,116.92	Powhatan	714.57	NA	Little Flock	77,607.33	90,736.93
Camden	373,091.76	7,147.25	Hoxie	19,434.09	19,500.92	Prairie Grove	277,683.61	243,553.63	Lowell	249,943.36	292,229.36
Caraway	6,896.24	59,967.53	Hughes	6,660.84	7,101.64	Prescott	123,561.45	106,385.18	Pea Ridge	167,992.56	194,809.67
Carlisle	68,877.42	2,633.55	Humnokke	4,162.99	2,009.66	Pyatt	4,786.94	1,200.85	Rogers	1,775,899.58	2,076,346.18
Carthage	2,648.22	3,534.39	Humphrey	2,323.99	2,693.98	Quitman	29,748.55	30,589.41	Siloam Springs	442,018.83	513,443.33
Cash	2,919.49	34,911.66	Huntington	7,733.43	7,373.50	Ravenden	5,651.75	4,353.93	Springdale	307,304.70	359,294.50
Cave City	35,162.85	174,911.28	Huntsville	104,300.58	88,251.55	Rector	41,807.38	44,671.82	Springtown	2,108.48	2,465.19
Cave Springs	186,923.18	10,574.02	Imboden	12,402.62	13,480.92	Redfield	46,048.51	46,617.82	Sulphur Springs	12,219.03	14,286.23
Cedarville	11,299.38	535,267.22	Jacksonville	830,227.77	805,303.53	Rison	18,107.52	19,808.27	Boone County	599,789.57	564,546.48
Centerton	523,839.24	48,778.71	Jasper	45,158.74	43,091.77	Rockport	28,450.09	36,681.75	Alpena	5,629.78	5,298.98
Charleston	48,178.71	29,718.22	Jennette	651.67	488.54	Roe	858.63	736.16	Bellefonte	7,978.75	7,509.93
Cherokee Village	29,880.18	9,656.44	Johnson	166,517.87	180,983.77	Rogers	4,320,954.51	4,601,454.19	Bergerman	8,269.95	7,784.01
Cherry Valley	13,529.25	4,619.70	Joiner	5,426.39	4,592.81	Rose Bud	23,995.78	32,516.39	Diamond City	14,695.66	13,832.15
Chidester	4,760.62	66,676.76	Jonesboro	2,050,732.00	1,975,212.10	Rosston	4,617.29	32,516.39	Everton	2,018.95	1,900.32
Clarendon	86,151.25	500,960.29	Judsonia	19,649.41	19,065.00	Rudy	11,869.10	3,479.58	Harrison	253,708.78	238,801.08
Clarksville	155,492.86	120,672.60	Junction City	6,043.68	6,779.34	Russellville	1,290,630.88	11,946.68	Lad Hill	5,319.17	5,006.62
Clinton	121,388.39	5,886.47	Keiser	5,398.03	4,382.66	Salem	28,848.28	1,281,682.39	Omaha	2,484.87	2,338.86
Coal Hill	4,738.53	NA	Kensett	9,144.97	NA	Salesville	5,070.24	25,025.72	South Lead Hill	1,669.52	1,571.42
Colt	4,414.93	3,353.68	Keo	1,583.42	1,774.47	Scaranton	4,465.22	4,429.28	Valley Springs	3,552.58	3,343.84
Concord	3,561.09	2,894,736.68	Kibler	5,573.83	5,333.30	Searcy	1,369,906.76	4,896.69	Zinc	1,785.99	1,681.06
Conway	2,875,466.38	76,560.71	Kingsland	2,389.23	2,639.79	Shannon Hills	24,406.83	1,806,169.45	Bradley County	158,236.50	154,911.65
Corning	69,486.45	15,861.04	Lake City	35,434.93	34,357.12	Sheridan	309,014.95	19,036.30	Banks	916.24	896.99
Cotton Plant	1,926.67	2,218.41	Lake Village	92,016.62	85,060.26	Sherill	963.31	320,381.82	Hermitage	5,529.06	5,412.89
Cove	14,093.40	11,963.31	Lakeview	6,959.06	6,727.09	Sherwood	1,210,185.66	1,236.45	Warren	57,428.54	56,221.85
Crawfordsville	12,777.87	226,597.10	Lamar	27,191.37	24,544.74	Sherwood	1,210,185.66	1,177,399.73	Calhoun County	127,195.97	120,910.65
Crossett	237,216.90	3,454.85	Leachville	23,126.48	20,983.26	Siloam Springs	1,041,151.61	5,055.73	Hampton	33,833.46	32,161.60
Cushman	2,723.70	11,266.20	Lead Hill	6,939.64	7,906.86	Sparkman	4,255.37	942,181.60	Harrell	6,016.12	5,718.82
Damascus	12,596.44	59,503.17	Lepanto	22,959.83	21,546.59	Springdale	3,780,557.45	5,272.59	Thornton	9,711.72	9,231.82
Danville	46,004.91	197,240.76	Leslie	8,926.49	7,227.57	Springtown	637.09	4,125,379.72	Tinsman	1,432.40	1,361.64
Dardanelle	194,182.41	52,600.77	Lewisville	12,066.45	11,617.19	St. Charles	4,926.87	776.98	Carroll County	220,269.15	194,976.85
Decatur	38,834.89	6,265.68	Lincoln	104,955.33	102,655.72	St. Paul	3,591.99	4,123.56	Beaver	573.17	507.36
Delight	5,552.84	151,127.71	Little Flock	19,647.01	24,414.71	Stamps	15,395.30	4,083.10	Blue Eye	393.52	348.34
DeQueen	151,695.09	26,724.20	Lockesburg	7,330.30	8,341.64	Star City	51,736.34	15,421.03	Holiday Island	20,522.98	18,166.43
Dermott	54,885.68	65,842.24	London	8,378.35	289,000.20	Stephens	17,325.74	59,043.30	Chicot County	144,186.51	139,695.54
Des Arc	78,966.22	12,449.79	Lonoke	275,506.81	1,368,576.11	Strong	9,707.25	5,417.55	Dermott	19,956.24	19,334.66
DeValls Bluff	18,348.41	196,603.23	Lowell	646,129.41	5,088.31	Stuttgart	826,814.62	9,855.99	Eudora	17,063.03	16,531.56
Dewitt	204,581.76	3,296.58	Luxora	5,695.31	1,869.97	Subiaco	9,312.42	846,877.35	Lake Village	20,390.71	19,755.60
Diamond City</											

McNeil	1,025.86	1,033.50	Midway	3,669.41	3,996.45	Yellville	13,196.63	12,791.03	Reyno	5,700.84	5,965.48
Taylor	1,558.98	1,570.59	Perla	2,501.43	2,724.37	Miller County	419,294.95	422,894.30	Saline County	NA	726,650.50
Waldo	3,099.12	3,122.21	Rockport	6,579.64	7,166.05	Fouke	11,034.08	11,128.80	Scott County	140,124.83	135,848.08
Jonway County	465,312.41	455,334.22	Howard County	322,494.07	435,678.42	Garland	11,034.08	11,128.80	Mansfield	9,341.66	9,056.54
Menifee	4,633.80	4,534.43	Dierks	31,808.02	18,316.57	Texarkana	248,266.74	250,397.93	Waldron	37,366.61	36,226.15
Morrilton	118,246.52	115,710.84	Mineral Springs	37,676.52	21,695.94	Mississippi County	1,202,526.43	1,278,660.42	Searcy County	105,004.12	105,765.28
Oppelo	12,463.91	12,196.64	Nashville	144,212.54	83,044.52	Bassett	2,175.84	2,313.59	Gilbert	278.92	280.95
Plumerville	12,413.19	12,146.99	Toilette	6,424.12	3,699.32	Birdsong	561.51	597.06	Leslie	4,022.94	4,052.10
Trailhead County	397,207.92	377,657.42	Independence County	713,351.37	675,368.89	Blytheville	235,235.90	250,129.09	Marshall	14,257.30	14,360.65
Bay	39,816.30	37,856.55	Batesville	209,481.10	198,327.25	Burdette	2,456.59	2,612.12	Pindall	1,019.15	1,026.93
Black Oak	4,945.20	4,701.80	Cave City	3,406.81	3,225.41	Dell	3,404.13	3,619.65	St. Joe	1,383.89	1,393.93
Bono	51,128.71	48,612.17	Cushman	8,105.20	7,673.64	Dyess	5,948.45	6,325.06	Sebastian County	382,644.20	365,866.25
Brookland	86,254.50	82,009.07	Magness	4,118.12	3,898.85	Etowah	4,456.95	4,739.13	Barling	100,665.93	96,251.99
Caraway	24,046.84	22,863.26	Moorefield	2,358.56	2,232.98	Gosnell	51,061.95	54,294.77	Bonanza	12,356.94	11,812.12
Cash	5,942.73	5,650.23	Newark	22,088.08	20,912.00	Joiner	8,738.44	9,291.68	Central City	9,704.52	9,279.00
Egypt	2,398.32	2,280.27	Oil Trough	4,230.43	4,005.18	Keiser	13,177.84	14,012.15	Fort Smith	1,876,529.08	1,794,248.17
Jonesboro	1,667,700.22	1,585,616.32	Pleasant Plains	6,588.99	6,208.16	Leachville	35,778.46	38,043.65	Greenwood	200,321.41	191,537.83
Lake City	49,367.12	46,937.28	Southside	80,097.37	75,832.57	Luxora	16,529.33	17,575.83	Hackett	16,503.99	15,780.33
Monette	31,963.41	30,390.17	Sulphur Rock	11,399.68	10,792.71	Manila	64,608.28	68,698.74	Hartford	10,504.45	10,043.86
Crawford County	573,019.11	554,032.29	Izard County	64,855.53	63,507.89	Marie	1,895.08	2,015.06	Huntington	10,314.99	9,862.71
Alma	82,258.81	79,533.19	Jackson County	333,264.24	324,079.68	Oseola	122,408.30	130,158.18	Lavaca	51,574.97	49,313.54
Cedarville	20,109.28	19,442.96	Amagon	917.36	892.08	Victoria	350.94	373.16	Mansfield	14,398.89	13,767.54
Chester	2,033.52	1,966.14	Beedeville	1,116.79	1,086.01	Wilson	13,441.05	14,292.03	Midland	4,778.58	4,569.05
Dyer	10,901.94	10,540.71	Campbell Station	3,084.46	2,999.45	Monroe County	NA	NA	Sevier County	568,548.47	580,683.32
Kibler	14,192.29	13,722.04	Diaz	16,273.17	15,824.69	Black Springs	842.53	830.90	Ben Lomond	1,914.26	1,955.12
Mountainburg	7,456.25	7,209.19	Grubbs	4,001.82	3,891.53	Glenwood	544.13	536.62	De Queen	83,475.60	85,257.26
Mulberry	21,789.76	21,067.76	Jacksonport	1,994.26	1,939.26	Mount Ida	8,741.21	8,620.58	Gillham	2,146.71	2,192.53
Rudy	1,835.82	1,774.99	Newport	106,427.05	103,493.99	Norman	2,659.22	2,622.53	Horatio	12,579.45	12,847.94
Van Buren	327,877.26	317,013.15	Swifton	9,745.29	9,476.71	Oden	1,579.75	1,557.93	Lockesburg	8,121.95	8,295.30
Crittenden County	1,123,893.85	966,542.82	Tuckerman	22,694.29	22,069.24	Nevada County	131,563.67	121,136.79	Sharp County	188,648.51	295,220.81
Anthonyville	1,422.12	1,223.02	Tupelo	930.65	905.01	Bluff City	1,252.99	1,153.68	Ash Flat	15,474.20	14,314.24
Clarkdale	3,539.51	3,043.96	Weldon	757.80	736.92	Bodcaw	1,284.84	1,183.01	Cave City	26,294.06	24,323.03
Crawfordsville	4,866.82	4,185.44	Jefferson County	463,944.06	471,900.88	Cale	775.15	713.72	Cherokee Village	59,645.19	55,174.14
Earle	19,288.21	16,587.76	Alzheimer	9,334.40	9,494.49	Emmet	4,215.56	3,881.46	Evening Shade	6,346.84	5,871.08
Edmondson	2,559.82	2,201.43	Humphrey	2,870.06	2,919.28	Prescott	32,928.08	30,318.42	Hardy	10,698.96	9,896.96
Gilmore	1,668.63	1,435.01	Pine Bluff	553,264.66	562,753.36	Rosston	2,888.24	2,659.34	Highland	14,839.52	13,727.14
Horseshoe Lake	2,781.04	2,391.68	Redfield	20,184.31	20,530.48	Willisville	1,571.55	1,447.00	Horseshoe Bend	196.45	181.72
Jennette	1,118.74	962.11	Sherrill	710.81	723.00	Newton County	58,242.70	53,073.76	Sidney	2,901.41	2,683.92
Jericho	1,032.36	887.82	Wabbaseka	2,414.07	2,455.47	Jasper	5,037.75	4,590.66	Willford	1,193.82	1,104.33
Marion	144,867.01	124,584.87	White Hall	74,849.59	76,133.29	Western Grove	3,260.27	2,970.92	St. Francis County	429,988.03	443,035.28
Sunset	1,744.47	1,500.24	Johnson County	177,813.15	171,455.75	Ouachita County	576,069.63	583,903.07	Caldwell	11,667.54	11,061.16
Turrell	4,901.59	4,215.34	Clarksville	131,832.15	127,118.19	Bearden	10,332.85	10,473.36	Colt	7,580.02	7,186.08
West Memphis	258,299.82	222,136.49	Coal Hill	11,523.54	11,111.49	Camden	141,304.37	143,225.33	Forrest	336,702.76	319,204.18
Cross County	578,034.14	616,976.96	Hartman	7,251.40	6,992.11	Chidester	3,368.83	3,414.64	Hughes	27,319.10	25,899.32
Cherry Valley	8,188.86	8,740.56	Knoxville	9,275.05	8,943.40	East Camden	10,625.79	10,770.28	Madison	19,635.60	18,615.14
Hickory Ridge	3,247.06	3,465.82	Lamar	24,157.28	23,293.48	Louann	2,037.28	2,064.98	Palestine	13,090.40	12,410.08
Parkin	11,307.75	12,069.57	Lafayette County	106,296.57	97,522.63	Stephens	10,252.95	10,392.37	Wheatley	7,217.84	6,842.72
Wynne	118,403.87	126,380.86	Bradley	3,759.83	3,449.49	Perry County	188,821.99	191,274.18	Widener	5,484.50	5,199.48
Iallas County	173,859.41	170,867.51	Buckner	1,531.78	1,405.35	Adona	1,121.02	1,135.40	Stone County	208,680.40	202,400.99
Iesha County	106,878.86	111,305.36	Lewisville	8,494.44	7,793.29	Bigelow	2,648.31	2,682.70	Fifty Six	2,126.71	2,062.71
Arkansas City	4,885.00	5,087.32	Stamps	11,678.71	10,714.72	Casa	902.83	902.83	Mountain View	38,725.03	37,559.59
Dumas	51,981.08	54,133.93	Lawrence County	387,294.93	379,862.66	Fourche	421.32	426.79	Union County	609,423.98	639,277.37
McGehee	50,006.29	52,077.35	Alicia	1,239.33	1,215.55	Houston	1,075.88	1,089.85	Calion	16,832.03	17,656.56
Mitchellville	3,806.66	3,964.32	Black Rock	5,113.32	5,015.19	Perry	1,971.19	1,996.79	El Dorado	746,214.84	782,769.11
Reed	1,688.96	1,758.91	Hoxie	22,515.94	22,083.85	Perryville	10,329.92	10,467.07	Felsenthal	3,197.59	3,354.23
Tillar	415.74	432.96	Imboden	5,546.65	5,440.21	Phillips County	172,315.95	179,547.88	Huttig	21,798.23	22,866.05
Watson	2,403.54	2,503.07	Lynn	2,235.99	2,193.08	Elaine	8,620.74	8,982.55	Junction	20,579.60	21,587.72
Irew County	533,849.67	534,607.05	Mintum	754.00	739.53	Helena-West Helena	162,951.86	169,790.78	Norphet	26,501.12	27,799.30
Monticello	150,609.35	150,823.02	Portia	3,674.66	3,604.14	Lake View	5,696.02	5,935.08	Smackover	68,704.63	72,070.21
Tillar	2,497.67	2,501.21	Powhatan	901.33	884.03	Lexa	3,626.01	3,778.19	Strong	17,990.79	18,872.09
Wilmar	7,046.99	7,056.99	Ravenden	3,691.99	3,621.14	Marvell	15,025.02	15,655.61	Van Buren County	276,913.45	279,130.93
Winchester	2,444.14	2,447.61	Sedgwick	1,412.66	1,385.55	Pike County	211,851.04	218,898.72	Clinton	37,064.59	37,361.40
aulknier County	1,092,995.48	1,094,246.17	Smithville	754.00	739.53	Antoine	1,463.99	1,512.69	Damascus	3,619.30	3,648.28
Enola	2,870.34	2,873.63	Strawberry	2,322.66	2,278.09	Daisy	1,140.10	1,178.03	Fairfield Bay	28,762.36	28,992.69
Holland	5,289.37	5,295.42	Walnut Ridge	46,661.20	45,765.78	Delight	3,731.23	3,855.36	Shirley	3,663.62	3,692.96
Mount Vernon	1,299.78	1,301.26	Lee County	43,117.01	42,076.35	Greenwood	25,989.07	26,853.65	Washington County	2,172,217.84	2,134,201.43
Twin Groves	2,861.32	2,864.59	Aubrey	1,057.61	1,032.08	Murfreestboro	19,368.72	20,013.06	Elkins	77,366.15	75,773.14
Wooster	9,405.33	9,416.10	Haynes	1,194.70	1,165.87	Poinsett County	294,667.47	299,514.43	Elm Springs	40,723.55	39,885.03
Franklin County	315,183.72	311,051.87	LaGrange	509.22	496.93	Fisher	2,124.69	2,159.64	Farmington	162,894.19	159,540.12
Altus	9,126.90	9,007.25	Marianna	35,008.70	34,163.74	Harrisburg	26,110.04	26,539.52	Fayetteville	2,025,674.28	1,983,964.66
Branch	4,062.50	4,009.24	Moro	1,733.30	1,691.46	Lepanto	20,444.21	20,780.49	Goshen	45,148.15	44,218.53
Charleston	35,519.41	35,053.78	Rondo	1,596.19	1,557.67	Marked Tree	26,983.52	27,427.37	Greenland	33,120.10	35,227.53
Denning	3,964.90	3,912.92	Lincoln County	154,218.76	168,610.82	Trumann	87,336.42	88,773.02	Johnson	77,516.50	75,920.40
Ozark	48,612.74	47,975.46	Gould	4,496.15	4,915.75	Tyronna	8,451.53	8,590.55	Lincoln	49,272.06	48,257.52
Wiederkehr Village	686.23	677.24	Grady	2,068.37	2,261.39	Waldenburg	625.60	635.89	Prairie Grove	151,317.19	148,201.49
ulton County	296,664.38	277,791.88	Star City	14,736.26	16,111.48	Polk County	369,862.50	353,565.46	Springdale	1,615,689.54	1,582,421.79
Ash Flat	836.74	783.51	Little River County	362,697.73	374,379.43	Cove	10,067.08	9,623.50	Tontitown	92,379.73	90,477.59
Cherokee Village	6,168.15	5,775.76	Ashdown	53,656.51	55,384.67	Grannis	15,652.88	14,963.18	West Fork	50,066.77	49,035.87
Hardy	259.17	242.68	Foreman	12,302.84	12,699.09	Hatfield	10,887.60	10,407.86	Winslow	7,839.69	7,678.27
Horseshoe Bend	81.45	76.27	Ogden	1,649.61	1,702.74	Mena	176,378.97	168,607.28	White County	1,262,919.90	1,760,624.13
Mammoth Spring	6,879.01	6,441.40	Winthrop	1,460.73	1,507.77	Vandervoort	3,629.20	3,469.28	Bald Knob	34,154.75	47,614.80
Salem	11,595.83	10,858.16	Logan County	418,655.76	385,252.25	Wickes	20,102.58	19,216.82	Beebe	114,259.96	159,288.68
Viola	2,650.90	2,482.25	Blue Mountain	1,102.91	1,014.91	Pope County	457,524.17	459,182.21	Bradford	9,181.97	12,800.49
Iarland County	2,214,617.22	2,290,752.23	Booneville	47,738.59	43,929.64	Atkins	50,782.73	50,966.77	Garner	2,857.51	3,983.63
Diamondhead	20,783.40	NA	Caulksville	1,930.10	1,776.10	Dover	23,748.34	23,834.41	Georgetown	1,096.96	1,529.26
Fountain Lake	14,401.34	14,757.93	Magazine	9,274.50	8,534.51	Hector	7,300.35	7,326.81	Griffithville	2,099.12	2,926.37
Hot Springs	766,656.38	785,639.84	Morrison Bluff	977.58	899.58	London	16,625.62	16,6			

Fairs & Festivals

April 18-25, FORDYCE, 45th Fordyce on the Cotton Belt Festival, fordyceonthecottonbeltfestival.com

April 24-26, SILOAM SPRINGS, Dogwood Festival, siloamchamber.com/dogwood-festival

April 25, CHEROKEE VILLAGE, Arkansas Pie Festival, arkansaspiefestival.com; **JONESBORO**, 9th Oasis Arts & Eats Fest, oasisfest.org/artsandeats

April 29-May 2, HAMBURG, World Famous Armadillo Festival, hamburgchamber.com

May 1-3, CONWAY, Toad Suck Daze, toadsuck.org

May 2, COTTER, 24th Cotter Trout Festival, cottergassvillechamber.com; **PARIS**, Spring Time in Paris Festival, ParisArkansas.com

May 7-9, DARDANELLE, Free State of Yell Fest, 479-699-5246; **HARRISON**, Crawdad Days, crawdaddays.net

May 9, BLYTHEVILLE, Mayfest, 870-763-2525; **CORNING**, 6th Hop Alley Rally, 870-857-6746

May 9-10, VAN BUREN, 47th Old Timer's Day Steampunk Festival, oldtownvanburen.com/old-timers-day-steampunk-festival

May 14-16, PARAGOULD, 25th Loose Caboose Festival, loosecaboose.org

May 15-16, MAGNOLIA, Magnolia Blossom Festival & World Championship Steak Cook-off, blossom-festival.org

May 16-17, FAYETTEVILLE, Fayetteville Strawberry Festival, downtownfay.org/strawberryfestival

May 28-30, WYNNE, Wynne FarmFest, crosscountychamber.org

June 5-6, HOT SPRINGS, World Championship Running of the Tubs, hotsprings.org/events/world-championship-running-of-the-tubs; **LOWELL**, 47th Mudtown Days, lowellarkansas.gov; **MENA**, Lum & Abner Festival, visitmena.com/event/lum-abner-music-arts-festival

June 11-14, EUREKA SPRINGS, Pride Festival, visiteurekasprings.com

June 12-13, TYRONZA, Stars and Stripes Festival, cityoftyronza@gmail.com

July 23-25, CAVE CITY, Cave City Watermelon Festival, cavecitywatermelonfestival.com



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