

2026 Convention Review Special Issue

The Alabama

MUNICIPAL

Official publication of the Alabama League of Municipalities

Journal

Riverside Mayor Rusty Jessup
Elected as 2026-2027 ALM President,
Following Fairhope Mayor Sherry
Sullivan's Strong Tenure



CONVENTION 2026

MONTGOMERY | APRIL 28 - MAY 1

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Jason Reeves - *Mayor, Troy, Vice President*
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Michael Gay - *Councilmember, Millbrook*
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From the Seventh Congressional District

Bobby Scott - *Mayor, Center Point*
Graham Smith - *Mayor, Mountain Brook*
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Mark Saliba - *Mayor, Dothan (2024-25)*
Leigh Dollar - *Mayor, Guntersville (2020-21)*
Ronnie Marks - *Mayor, Athens (2019-20)*
Walt Maddox - *Mayor, Tuscaloosa (2013-14)*
Johnny Ford - *Councilmember, Tuskegee (1989-90)*

About ALM:

The Alabama League of Municipalities is a nonpartisan membership association of over 450 incorporated cities and towns. Since 1935, the League has worked to strengthen municipal government through advocacy, training and the advancement of effective local leadership. As the recognized voice of Alabama's cities and towns, ALM's member municipalities benefit from a variety of member programs, services and activities that are impossible to accomplish alone.



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The Alabama MUNICIPAL Journal

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On the Cover:

The League's new president, Riverside Mayor Rusty Jessup, accepted the leadership gavel from immediate past president, Fairhope Mayor Sherry Sullivan, on April 30, 2026, at the annual convention in Montgomery. Scan the QR code to watch the 2026 Convention Recap Video on the League's YouTube channel.



The Municipal Workers Compensation Fund has been serving Alabama's municipalities since 1976 and is the second oldest league insurance pool in the nation!



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Outgoing President's Farewell Address

Opening Session • April 28 • Montgomery

Mayor Sherry Sullivan, Fairhope • ALM President, 2025 - 2026

This has been a year of milestones, both personally and professionally. We kicked off the year celebrating the 90th anniversary of the League; we held the first mandatory training for elected officials; a record number of bills were introduced during the legislative session; my granddaughter, Avery, was born; and we will soon celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States!

One of the most important of those, of course, is the 90th anniversary of the League. For nearly a century, the League has worked to help local governments function. The work the League does day in and day out directly impacts local leaders across our great state and, in turn, impacts the daily life of the residents in towns and cities across Alabama.

One initiative that truly reflects this mission is the Live Locally Alabama campaign. This effort highlights the importance of investing in our hometowns, supporting local economies and fostering pride in the places we call home. It reminds us that strong communities start with engaged citizens and committed leaders, and it encourages all of us to celebrate living, working and thriving locally.

As mentioned earlier, another important initiative this year has been ensuring that our elected officials are equipped with the knowledge and tools they need to serve effectively. The League's required training for elected officials plays a vital role in this effort. By providing education on governance, ethics and leadership, we

are helping build more informed, prepared and effective leaders across our municipalities. This investment in training strengthens not only individual leaders but the communities they serve.

Now, I want to transition to expressing my gratitude to those who allow me to serve. To my family and friends, whose constant support and encouragement make it possible for me to serve my community and serve the League, thank you. They all show me so much grace and love, and I am blessed by each of them. To my community, thank you for trusting me to represent you and for inspiring me every day to work harder on your behalf. When I serve on boards or with organizations outside of my community, I do not take lightly the fact that I am still representing Fairhope and want to do that to the best



of my ability. I am also incredibly thankful to our city council and our dedicated city staff, whose commitment to public service is the backbone of our community. Thank you, especially to Gayle Fogarty, who is always back at home taking care of my office and our citizens. I cannot imagine doing any job without her by my side.

To my fellow elected colleagues, thank you for placing your trust in me by choosing me to serve as League president. That confidence means a great deal, and I am honored to work with each of you as we work to strengthen our cities and towns.

I also want to acknowledge the incredible League staff. Your dedication and professionalism make everything we do possible. I am grateful for each of you and the role you play in making the League the great organization it is. You are the ones who take care of every detail for every event and make it look effortless. I especially want to give a shout out to Debra Pascal, Keely Smith and Mary Pollard. They are truly the unsung heroes who are always behind the scenes taking care of the details! Thank you also to Greg Cochran, Kayla Bass and Lori Jhons for your leadership, guidance and friendship. You truly make serving in this role easy and fun.

The work of the Alabama League's advocacy team cannot be overstated. From advocating for our municipalities to ensuring our voices are heard at every level of government, the League's team invests countless hours researching, engaging and fighting for policies that strengthen our communities. That work directly impacts the quality of life of the people we serve. Thank you to Baker Allen, Kaleb Beck, Adam Kilpatrick and Lillian Pitman for fighting every day to protect our cities and towns.

To the city of Montgomery and Mayor Steven Reed, thank you for being the host city of this convention and for partnering so closely with the League to ensure we have such an outstanding event. Your hospitality has truly made this a memorable experience for all of us.

I would like to also take a moment to recognize and give a special shout-out to our vice president, Rusty Jessup. Your enthusiasm, leadership and dedication to your community, along with your steadfast commitment to the League have made a lasting impact. It has been a privilege to serve alongside you, and I cannot wait to see you lead and dance next year!

The League holds a special place in my heart. On a personal level, it has provided me with



guidance, mentorship and a network of leaders who are committed to making a difference. It has shaped how I approach decision making and reinforced the importance of collaboration, relationship building and service. It has given me a village, and I am so grateful.

As I close out my year of service, I want to encourage your communities to participate in celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States. Let us join our fellow Americans in honoring the spirit of a nation founded on the ideals of liberty and equality. This milestone is based on courage, sacrifice and vision that shaped our history, but it is also a commitment to look forward with renewed purpose. It is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to democracy, to strengthen unity and to protect freedom for future generations.

Just like our country, whether we are tackling legislative challenges or supporting municipalities through difficult times, the League has demonstrated resilience and a strong commitment to progress.

As we look ahead, I am confident that the League will continue to grow stronger. Together, we will keep advocating, innovating and supporting each other as we work to build better communities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve, and for the trust you have placed in me. It has been my honor. ■



Executive Director's Report

Business Session • April 30 • Montgomery

Greg Cochran • ALM Executive Director

Good afternoon, I hope each of you have found the 2026 Annual Convention worth your time and energy. Our team strives to provide you with exposure to intentional resources and tools to lead your community. We value your time and appreciate your commitment to our organization.

It is such an incredible honor to be your executive director. I joined the Alabama League of Municipalities in 1996, 30 years ago this July as the director of intergovernmental relations and a whole lot has changed since then.

The Alabama League of Municipalities was formed in 1935 to be the advocacy voice of municipalities across our state, and still, 91 years later, protecting municipalities' authorities remains our focus. Every year, there are several legislative proposals being considered and signed into law that impact your authority to manage local sales and use taxes, business licenses and other resources within your community. Our advocacy team, led by Baker Allen, director of governmental affairs, along with Kaleb Beck, legislative counsel; Adam Kilpatrick, grassroots coordinator; and Lillian Pitman, legislative policy analyst, have done an incredible job of advocating on your behalf; however, they will be the first to remind folks, they are only half the equation to our success. Your engagement in our advocacy efforts is just as vital to the successes we experience. You live, work and raise families in your communities, we only share the collective voice of our members. This session, like so many others, has proved it takes us all communicating the same narratives to influence state policymakers.

Speaking of influencing state policymakers, I am excited to announce our second phase of the **Live Locally Alabama** campaign. We have just created a new set of videos and materials that will focus on sharing data we received from a survey of our members that focuses on the costs related to public safety; water, sewer and road infrastructure; and parks and recreation, which all typically account for the majority of a municipality's expenses



Scan the QR code to see the full speech on the League's YouTube channel.



LIVE LOCALLY ALABAMA

outside of payroll. This campaign was created to instill community pride and highlight the crucial role municipal government plays in the daily lives of Alabama’s citizens. Having your help sharing this data can be a game changer. Thank you to those that responded to our survey for your input. Now, it my honor to present the video!

Please give Lori Jhons and Kayla Bass a round of applause. Lori and her team, along with Kayla, have worked tirelessly, internally and with a third-party PR firm, to build momentum within this campaign which allows you, our community leaders, to take charge in showcasing your community’s uniqueness and the quality-of-life services you provide daily. This video and other resources will help show Alabamians why their investment in their community is critical. What you just saw is available to you now on our campaign page online. Scan the QR code to access all the available resources. Later this year, we will release additional videos and graphics to promote the second phase, so check the website periodically. Please note, we will host a webinar on May 7 at 3 p.m. to dive deeper into strategies for utilizing the campaign as well as release more graphics for Municipal Government Week on May 10-16.



We, and I mean all of us, must take the time to share how much it costs to build roads, develop parks and provide quality of life services for building strong communities where people want to live, work, play, shop, invest and raise families.

While I am talking about our communications team led by Lori Jhons, I want to take a moment to brag on them, because they are each five star talent. When you read our quarterly magazine, *The Alabama Municipal Journal*, you can see for yourself the work that Lori, Ty and Karl put into each issue. Karl’s hand drawn covers continue to amaze me and Ty and Lori’s ability to showcase our narratives across multiple platforms through written communication and digital capacities are truly second to none.

And, believe me, there is plenty of work to showcase!

Mary Pollard, director of professional and community development, and her team administer our Alabama Communities of Excellence program and the Economic Development Academy program to assist our members with economic recruitment and community development. These programs have worked with more than 100 communities collectively across our state.

Mary’s team also oversees the Certified Municipal Official training program to our members. Since the elections, the League has hosted four orientation workshops, five regional workshops at community college campuses; and hundreds of core curriculum trainings through our online training portal, generously developed in partnership with the Alabama Community College System. Mary and her team have done an excellent job of surveying our members and determining the most relevant issues that members want and need to hear, while working in conjunction with our legal team to provide that education.



Speaking of our legal team, which is led by Rob Johnston, they have been heavily involved in our CMO lectures and advocacy efforts. Each week during the legislative session they convene with our advocacy team to review each and every legislative proposal to determine its impact on local government. They also provide presentations to elected officials, clerks, administrators, municipal attorneys and judges, while also providing legal opinions throughout the year. Mary Elizabeth Dial and Mikal Webb have been fantastic additions to our legal team, and they could not do what they do without Jill Service, their legal services executive assistant!

Many people I talk to have the impression that advocacy would be my favorite team, having spent 35 years lobbying our state policymakers and congressional delegation. It is certainly the team I was most familiar with when I transitioned into the directors' role in 2020; however, my favorite team at ALM is our finance team.

They are special people. Led by Barry Crabb, director of finance and Richard Buttenshaw, director of financial services, they oversee three very special ladies that assist with any and every endeavor. Rachel Wagner has been with ALM for more than 30 years; she began part-time as a college student. Melissa Chapman has worked with us since 2012, and Dana Buster since 2017 — each of them manages the resources of our MWCF, MRS, MIS, AMFund and ALM programs. Without trustworthy and talented people in these roles, we would not be able to serve our members with quality programs.

As I mentioned earlier, we began our journey in 1935 to represent municipal governments and be a unified voice to advocate for local resources and preserve local authorities. Since then, we have continued to add programs to enhance our municipalities' abilities in building strong vibrant communities. Municipal Revenue Services recovers unpaid insurance premium licenses. The Municipal Workers Compensation Fund covers our members employees with job related injuries. The Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation provides general liability and property insurance. The Municipal Intercept Service recovers fines and fees owed by citizens from their state income tax returns. AMFund provides funding for local projects, equipment purchases and refinancing existing debt, and we are not stopping here!

This is a marathon, not a sprint. **We must continue telling the story of why more than 64% of Alabama citizens choose to live in cities, why 76% of business owners place their businesses in municipalities and why municipalities are the financial engine that keeps Alabama moving forward while providing quality of life services for their citizens.**

One new way we are going to do that is through our new video podcast series called *Municipal Matters*. Our first episode just went out and features our president and vice president. The goal of *Municipal Matters* is to educate you all on a variety of topics including League services and programs, grant opportunities, legal and legislative updates, state and federal initiatives and more. You will hear from different



members of our team, municipal officials, strategic partners as well as state and federal leaders throughout each episode. So be sure to tune in and as Lori would say “like, share and subscribe” to our YouTube channel!

I want to close by thanking our strategic partners for their investments in ALM. Without their trust and support, we would not be able to produce the Live Locally Alabama campaign; host in-state congressional luncheons during the summer; host the EDA program in Las Vegas and Atlanta; and so much more. Their investments allow us to provide the best resources and tools to our membership so they can thrive.

Lastly, I want to give a special thank you to Sherry, Rusty, our ALM Board of Directors and executive committee for providing us with the resources to attract and retain five-star talent and pursue these programs to serve our members.

Whether you are a new official or one of our veterans, remember your call to service and stay engaged with us and your citizens. Thank you! ■

ALM Presents Hal Bloom with Hometown Hero Award

Often referred to as “The Dean” by fellow lobbyists in the halls of the Alabama Legislature, Hal Bloom is the founding principal of his firm, The Bloom Group. With decades of strategic, political experience, Hal has worked closely with some of the biggest players in state politics to advance effective policy, foster collaboration and support community growth.

He is actually the League’s longest serving contractor. He has supported our advocacy efforts for 40 years! As a dedicated partner to the League, Hal has provided invaluable guidance, advocacy and insight, helping municipalities navigate complex challenges while promoting sound governance.

From working closely with ALM Executive Director Greg Cochran in the state house for decades to mentoring our current advocacy team members, Hal has been a tremendous asset to our organization and has earned the highest level of respect.

The Alabama League of Municipalities proudly salutes Hal Bloom as a Hometown Hero for his steadfast support and advocacy of Alabama’s cities and towns for 40 years of dedicated service! ■



Municipal Leaders Convene in Alabama's Capital City!

The Alabama League of Municipalities would like to thank Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed and his team, the Montgomery City Council and the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa at the Convention Center staff for hosting the League's annual convention and expo! More than 1,400 municipal officials, strategic partners, exhibitors and guests attended the massively successful three-day event where leaders gathered to share ideas and collaborate. We also appreciate our opening ceremony participants: Minister Barry Glazer Robinson II for the invocation, the Montgomery Police Department for the presentation of colors, Councilmember CC Calhoun for leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Lt. Tina McGriff of the Montgomery Police Department for singing the national anthem!

Additionally, we want to thank the city of Montgomery for hosting such an entertaining, safari-themed welcome reception at the Montgomery Train Shed. They pulled out all the stops to make sure everyone had an awesome time. ■



ALM Conference Speakers Deliver Insight, Energy and Big Ideas



Scan the QR code to see the full speech on the League's YouTube channel.
Photo credit: Governor's Office /Hal Yeager

During convention, ALM members were honored to hear from Gov. Kay Ivey, who gave her final address as governor to this organization and shared her administration's highlights, which ranged from historic public safety and education legislation to generating \$2 billion in Rebuild Alabama funding for over 500 road and bridge projects in every county of the state since passage in 2019 and \$70 billion in economic development investments totaling more than 100,000 new jobs. She also thanked local leaders for their support throughout the past nine years in helping lead the state forward and challenged newly elected officials to join her office in maintaining Alabama's forward momentum.

National League of Cities President Kevin Kramer, a councilmember from Louisville, KY, encouraged members to be active in NLC and to lead with dignity, civility and respect. Members can sign the national civility pledge and find more resources at www.nlc.org/civility. Dr. Kevin Elko, motivational speaker and bestselling author, ignited the crowd with his presentation on How to Achieve Greatness in Work and Life, and Matt Lehrman, co-founder and managing director of Social Prosperity Partners, energized attendees with a message on Leading Through Complexity.

Attendees also had an opportunity to hear from Attorney General Steve Marshall and Rayford Etherton, founder of The Helios Alliance, during the Opioid Settlement Panel; Rob Johnston, ALM director of legal services, on Zoning; Mary

Helmer Wirth, Mainstreet Alabama president and Jason Fondren, principal planner at KPS Group, Inc., on Decoding Your Downtown; and Houston Blackwood, ACCS Innovation Center workforce director, on Building Skills Gaps and Strengthening Workforce.

We appreciate each of these dynamic speakers and panelists for making sure our sessions highlighted a range of notable issues and resources that can support Alabama's communities. ■



Scan the QR code to see the full speech on the League's YouTube channel.



Capitol Journal Show Features Municipal Leaders at Convention

Our friends at Alabama Public Television recently aired a special edition of Capitol Journal focused on the ALM convention! Thank you to Executive Director Wayne Reid, Jack Williams, Todd Stacy, Randy Scott, John Holman, Rod Richardson, Jerry Williams and Jeff Sanders for your support in showcasing what municipal government is all about. We appreciate APT for being a tremendous strategic partner, and we cannot thank the entire crew enough for working with ALM Communications Director Lori Johns to pull off such a great lineup. Special thanks go to our interviewees for representing the ALM Board of Directors:



- NLC President Kevin Kramer, Councilmember, Louisville, KY
- Executive Director Greg Cochran
- Immediate Past President Sherry Sullivan, Mayor of Fairhope
- President Rusty Jessup, Mayor of Riverside
- Past President Mark Saliba, Mayor of Dothan
- Vice President Jason Reeves, Mayor of Troy
- Mayor Theoangelo Perkins of Harpersville
- Mayor Bobby Scott of Center Point
- Mayor Donna McKay of Wadley
- Mayor Joe Taylor of Rainbow City
- Councilmember Jennifer Williams Smith of Jasper
- Councilmember Marche Johnson of Montgomery
- Councilmember Michael Gay of Millbrook

Watch the special episode by scanning the QR code!





Minutes of the 2026 Business Session

April 30 • Montgomery

Shawn Cole • ALM General Counsel

The annual business session of the convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2026, by President Sherry Sullivan, mayor of Fairhope, at the Renaissance Hotel, MPAC, Montgomery, Alabama. President Sullivan welcomed the attendees.

President Sullivan called on Greg Cochran, ALM executive director, for his annual executive director's remarks. He reviewed the past year and all the successes that the League and its staff successfully navigated. A full copy of his report is attached to these minutes.

Greg Cochran then presented to the membership the video annual reports for the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund, Inc. (MWCF), the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC), the Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation (AMFund) and Municipal Intercept Services (MIS). Transcripts of these reports are attached to these minutes.

After the various board reports, Greg Cochran called President Sherry Sullivan to the stage, shared personal reflections and presented an award to her for her leadership. He also took a moment to recognize and thank visiting nonactive past presidents, board members and program board members.

He then called upon Deputy Director Kayla Bass who recognized and read the list of current and former officials who have died since the 2025 ALM Convention. She also recognized former League president, Fairhope Mayor James "Jim" Nix Sr. who passed away on October 14, 2025, for his significant contributions to the League and Fairhope. The complete list of all those who have passed away since the last convention is attached to these minutes.

Kayla Bass called President Sherry Sullivan and Shawn Cole, ALM general counsel back to the stage. Shawn Cole read the rules for voting during the League's business session.

President Sullivan informed the membership that the League's Executive Committee had met on April 28, 2026, to prepare a slate of nominees to be presented for consideration. She noted that they had a tough assignment choosing officers for the next year from an abundance of very qualified candidates. She then called on Shawn Cole to read the report on nominations. The nomination committee report included the following:

LEADERSHIP

For President: Mayor Rusty Jessup, Riverside

For Vice President: Mayor Jason Reeves, Troy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From the First Congressional District:

1. Mayor Ralph Hellmich, Foley
2. Councilmember Katherine Breeden, Loxley
3. Mayor Brandon Van Hook, Semmes
4. Councilmember Newton Cromer, Saraland
5. Mayor Ruthie Campbell, Robertsdale

From the Second Congressional District:

1. Councilmember Joe Beaty, Citronelle
2. Mayor Gordon Stone, Pike Road
3. Mayor Charles Andrews, Monroeville
4. Vacant
5. Mayor Stanley Stallworth, Evergreen

From the Third Congressional District:

1. Mayor Joe Taylor, Rainbow City
2. Councilmember Katrina Hennings, Springville
3. Mayor Ron Anders, Auburn
4. Mayor Eddie Smith, Opelika
5. Mayor Scott Reeves, Hokes Bluff

From the Fourth Congressional District:

1. Councilmember Jennifer Williams Smith, Jasper
2. Mayor Allen Dunavant, Glen Allen
3. Mayor Chuck Ables, Geraldine
4. Councilmember Jill Oakley, Albertville
5. Councilmember Willis Thompson, Muscle Shoals

From the Fifth Congressional District:

1. Councilmember Dana Henry, Athens
2. Councilmember Kyle Pike, Decatur
3. Mayor Jim McCamy, Scottsboro
4. Councilmember Charles Black, Priceville
5. Councilmember Alice Lessmann, Madison

From the Sixth Congressional District:

1. Mayor Hoyt Sanders, Pinson
2. Mayor Ashley Curry, Vestavia Hills
3. Mayor Stan Hogeland, Gardendale
4. Councilmember Michael Gay, Millbrook
5. Mayor Theoangelo Perkins, Harpersville

From the Seventh Congressional District:

1. Mayor Bobby Scott, Center Point
2. Mayor Graham Smith, Mountain Brook
3. Mayor Gwendolyn Rogers, Linden
4. Councilmember Wardine Alexander, Birmingham
5. Mayor Sheldon Day, Thomasville

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(Active Past Presidents)

- Mayor Sherry Sullivan, Fairhope (2025-2026)
- Mayor Mark Saliba, Dothan (2024-2025)
- Mayor Leigh Dollar, Guntersville (2020-2021)
- Mayor Ronnie Marks, Athens (2019-2020)
- Mayor Walt Maddox, Tuscaloosa (2013-2014)
- Councilmember Johnny Ford, Tuskegee (1989-1990)

STANDING COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

**Committee on State and Federal Legislation
(Legislative Committee)**

- Chair: Mayor Donna McKay, Wadley
- Vice Chair: Mayor Richard Teal, Loxley

**Committee on Finance, Administration &
Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR)**

- Chair: Councilmember Crystal Smitherman, Birmingham
- Vice Chair: Mayor Stanley Allred, Millport

**Committee on Energy, Environment and Natural
Resources (EENR)**

- Chair: Councilmember Willis Thompson, Muscle Shoals
- Vice Chair: Councilmember Melvin Duran, Priceville

**Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and
Communication (TIC)**

- Chair: Councilmember Don Mack, Centreville
- Vice Chair: Councilmember Eddie Smith, Opelika

Committee on Public Safety (PS)

- Chair: Councilmember Wardine Alexander, Birmingham
- Vice Chair: Councilmember Clark Hopper, Rainbow City

Committee on Human Development (HD)

- Chair: Councilmember Kent Back, Gadsden
- Vice Chair: Councilmember Bridgette Jordan Smith, Vincent

Committee on Community and Economic Development (CED)

- Chair: Councilmember Newton Cromer, Saraland
- Vice Chair: Mayor Jae'Ques Brown, Greenville

After the reading of the nominations committee report, President Sullivan asked if there were any nomination from the floor. Seeing none, she stated that unless there was an

objection, she declared the nominations closed. There were no objections.

Councilmember Arthur Day, from Phenix City, moved for the adoption of the nominating committee's report as presented. Annette Johnson, from Bayou LaBatre, seconded the motion. There being no objection to the motion from the floor, the motion passed unanimously. The president declared all officers elected.

President Sullivan congratulated Mayor Jessup and the other officials elected to serve the League and called upon Mayor Jessup to make remarks to the membership. Mayor Jessup thanked the membership for allowing him the honor of serving as the League president. A full copy of Mayor Jessup's acceptance speech is attached to these minutes.

Upon the conclusion of his remarks to the membership, Greg Cochran called up Mayor Jason Reeves, of Troy, for impromptu remarks on being elected as vice president. Greg Cochran then returned to share final announcements, recognize the League's strategic and community partners and announce that next year's convention will be held in Mobile on April 27-29, 2027. He concluded by reminding the membership about the President's Dinner scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the Alabama Ballroom at the Renaissance Hotel with the closing reception to follow at 8:00 p.m.

There being no further business, President Jessup officially adjourned the meeting. ■



Pictured left to right (row one): Immediate Past President Sherry Sullivan, Vice President Jason Reeves; (row two) Deputy Director Kayla Bass, President Rusty Jessup and Executive Director Greg Cochran

President's Acceptance Speech

Business Session • April 30 • Montgomery

Mayor Rusty Jessup, Riverside • ALM President, 2026 - 2027

As I stand here before you today, I am overwhelmed by what this moment represents — what it means. Being president of the Alabama League of Municipalities is not just a title to me; it is a milestone that belongs to all of you and all the people over the years that have shaped me. To my family, friends and cohorts that have stood by me through every late night meeting and every tough decision, thank you.

This honor belongs to the city of Riverside and the people of St. Clair County, who gave me the chance to serve in the first place. It belongs to my friend Mayor Lew Watson, who has mentored me throughout my political career. It belongs to Mayor Ronnie Marks and Mayor Walt Maddox, who have supported me throughout my ALM career. It belongs to my wife, Sandra, who has kept me on track and encouraged me even when I did not deserve it. It belongs to Mayor Sherry Sullivan, who has led our way this year with so much grace and dignity. It belongs to Greg Cochran, Kayla Bass and the rest of the League staff that has kept my reckless shenanigans and tomfoolery between the ditches!

And yes, it belongs to my Lord Jesus who has walked with me through it all in spite of the fact that He has his hands full with me and my imperfections every single day!

On a more serious note, let me say this:

I really and truly believe that all of us, in the elected servant capacity, are called. We are called to duty by something larger than us — a kinetic activity we know very little about — but something deep down in our DNA that steers us and motivates us to serve others. We can say we thought about it. We can say we prayed about it. We can say we analyzed our chances, our opponent and the cost. We can attribute our success of winning a public office to all sorts of things, but when it is all boiled down, there was just something inside of us that said “Just Do It.” No, I am not talking about Nike! I am talking about that voice, that “something” inside we heard — was a spiritual calling. One of my favorite living theologians, Henry Blackaby, tells us in his book “Experiencing God” that God communicates with us in four ways: through the Bible; through prayer, of course; through the people he puts into our lives; and through our circumstances. You were put where you are today by a combination of those things. You are supposed to be here!

You have to know — you must know — that each of you has the power to make people around you better. You make me better. You are the best Alabama has to offer because you have been vetted by your peers and have proven you are worthy in the trial by fire of an election! You have been initiated! You have the scars to prove it, and you are still standing! You make everything around you better; You Rock!



Scan the QR code to see the full speech on the League's YouTube channel.



You know, we often talk about community involvement in our line of work, but what really makes the ALM great is You. You have taken community involvement to an entirely different level. You did not just volunteer; you put your money where your mouth is and went out and ran for public office! I hope you realize how special that makes you!

You put your reputation on the line for everyone to see. You exposed yourself to criticism, ridicule and Facebook. You put a big target on your back, and we all know how badly those arrows hurt. We also know how lonely the campaign trail is when the porch lights go off and the noise gets loud.

I love you for that sacrifice. When I look out at this room, I see people I want to be like: passionate, principled and courageous. You are the key ingredient that makes Alabama work. You are here for a purpose, and you are here with a purpose. Stand tall!

I remember when I first joined the League as a councilman. During my first term in public office, I did not have a clue about all this stuff, but I was smart enough to realize I needed training, so I signed up. I had another full time job at the time; so, it took me my entire first term just to get my basic CMO certification.

That validation was vital; it gave me the confidence to eventually run for mayor. However, looking back, the real personal growth did not come from a textbook or seminar, it came through a sort of “leadership osmosis” that I received by just being around people like you.

So now what?

Here I am 20 years later. What will I bring to the table? Two things.

First, we must engage our citizenry. We must make them aware of what local government does, and how much it costs. Did you know that statistics prove that the average American citizen trusts their local leaders more than any other branch of government? Yes, that is a big win for us; however, they need to know all that we do on a daily basis to bring them a great quality of life. Our Live Locally Alabama campaign is designed to do that. I want to see those videos and graphics blasted out to every



municipal citizen in Alabama! All you have to do is go to the League's website to download them and share.

To be honest, when I look around at our country today, I am saddened. I am troubled by our cultural environment, the divisions and the vitriol that seems to color everything. But here is the thing: I have come to realize and believe that the only real thing dividing our country today is *the way we disagree*. We must learn how to disagree in a respectful and dignified way.

The second priority on my agenda is improving our relationships. We must find the strength to show dignity and respect, even to those we disagree with. We must be more empathetic to other viewpoints. It does not mean we cave in; it just means we have to try — really try — to understand the motives and feelings on the other side of the aisle or on the other side of the street.

Calling people names does not work. Ignoring who they are is counterproductive. Treating our neighbors as deplorable or unimportant is worse than ineffective. It is paralyzing. It renders us unable to reach decisions. It stops progress in its tracks.

And you know what happens next? People back off. They shut down. They retreat into their own little worlds of comfort, seeking solace and consolation. They close the doors. They pull the curtains and turn the blinds down, and when the blinds go down, engagement goes away. Community involvement goes away. We are already seeing some of that now. In the end, we all suffer.

So, let's open up!

I want to bring ideas and programs to the ALM that teach and train us how to lead with dignity. I want us to rediscover how to win friends and influence people in a way that truly makes Alabama great.

And, we — yes, those of us right here in this room can start a movement — a movement of respect and dignity that starts in our city halls and becomes contagious all across America!

Let's show them how Alabama leads! Thank you, and may God bless our great state of Alabama! ■



The League Welcomes New Vice President

Business Session • April 30 • Montgomery

Mayor Jason Reeves, Troy • ALM Vice President, 2026 - 2027



Jason Reeves, mayor of Troy, was elected to serve as the Alabama League of Municipalities' vice president for 2026-2027 at the annual convention on April 30, 2026.

Vice President Reeves has served as mayor of Troy since November 2012. He served on the city council representing District 3 for 16 years before becoming mayor. First elected in 1996 at the age of 24, he is the youngest elected official in Troy's history.

Under Mayor Reeves' direction, the city of Troy has seen some of the largest growth in the city's history. With the recent relocations of Kimber Firearms and Conecuh Ridge Distillery, the Publix Supermarket development, and the largest infrastructure road project to date, and downtown revitalization projects, he is quickly pushing Troy to the forefront of the economic development scene. Under his leadership, industries such as Lockheed Martin, the Sanders KW companies, CGI and Golden Boy Foods have expanded their operations, creating hundreds of new jobs for Troy and Pike County.

In addition to his service as an elected official, he serves on the Alabama League of Municipalities' Board of Directors. He is a past chairman and current secretary of the Southeast Gas and Southeast Energy Board of Directors. He is also a member of the Troy Hospital Health Care Authority, serves as chairman of the Alabama Municipal Workers Compensation Fund Board and participates on the Troy University Athletic Advisory Committee and the Troy University Sports Hall of Fame Board of Advisors. Additionally, he is a former member of the Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation (AMFund) Board of Directors. He has been a member of the Troy Seniors Foundation since its inception and is a past president. He was instrumental in the foundation and formation of the Colley Senior Complex through the Troy Seniors Foundation, as well as the expansion and relocation of the Troy Nutrition Program. He also served on the local American Cancer Society Board and is a former chairman for Pike County Relay for Life. He is also a member of Rotary and Troy First Methodist Church.

Growing up the son of a police officer and schoolteacher, public safety and education are close to his heart and a top priority, in addition to local health care, housing, quality jobs, historical preservation and community revitalization.

Mayor Reeves believes that the key to a progressive future lies in a united community — one where every citizen has a voice and a role in shaping Troy into a city where our families can thrive, live, work and play successfully.

Mayor Reeves and his wife, Elly, have four children: Will and his wife, Mary Caitlyn, Drew, Ben and Kate. ■

2026-2027 ALM Board of Directors Selected

Business Session • April 30 • Montgomery

The Alabama League of Municipalities Board of Directors is composed of five to seven elected municipal officials from each of the state's congressional districts, representing all of the diverse communities across Alabama. This year all seven congressional districts are represented by five elected officials.

The ALM Executive Committee, which includes the president, vice president, active past presidents still in office and the executive director (as a non-voting, advisory member) work with the board to help guide the League's mission of supporting and strengthening municipal government.

League officers and board members are elected by voting delegates at the annual convention to ensure that every region has a voice in leadership. In addition, the ALM Committee on State and Federal Legislation and six standing committee chairs and vice chairs are recommended and voted on during the League's annual business session, helping shape policy discussions and priorities for municipalities statewide. Learn more about each committee by scanning the QR code. Anyone interested in serving on a committee can email Lillian Pitman at lpitman@almonline.org. ■



First Congressional District



Mayor
Ralph Hellmich
Foley



Councilmember
Katherine Breeden
Loxley



Mayor
Brandon Van Hook
Semmes



Councilmember
Newton Cromer
Saraland



Mayor
Ruthie Campbell
Robertsdale

Second Congressional District



Councilmember
Joe Beaty
Citronelle



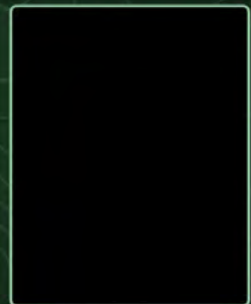
Mayor
Gordon Stone
Pike Road



Mayor
Charles Andrews
Monroeville



Mayor
Stanley Stallworth
Evergreen



Vacant

Third Congressional District



Mayor
Joe Taylor
Rainbow City



Councilmember
Katrina Hennings
Springville



Mayor
Ron Anders
Auburn



Mayor
Eddie Smith
Opelika



Mayor
Scott Reeves
Hokes Bluff

Fourth Congressional District



Councilmember
Jennifer Williams Smith
Jasper



Mayor
Allen Dunavant
Glen Allen



Mayor
Chuck Ables
Geraldine



Councilmember
Jill Oakley
Albertville



Councilmember
Willis Thompson
Muscle Shoals

Fifth Congressional District



Councilmember
Dana Henry
Athens



Councilmember
Kyle Pike
Decatur



Mayor
Jim McCamy
Scottsboro



Councilmember
Charles Black
Priceville



Councilmember
Alice Lessmann
Madison

Sixth Congressional District



Mayor
Hoyt Sanders
Pinson



Mayor
Ashley Curry
Vestavia Hills



Mayor
Stan Hogeland
Gardendale



Councilmember
Michael Gay
Millbrook



Mayor
Theoangelo Perkins
Harpersville

Seventh Congressional District



Mayor
Bobby Scott
Center Point



Mayor
Graham Smith
Mountain Brook



Mayor
Gwendolyn Rogers
Linden



Councilmember
Wardine Alexander
Birmingham



Mayor
Sheldon Day
Thomasville

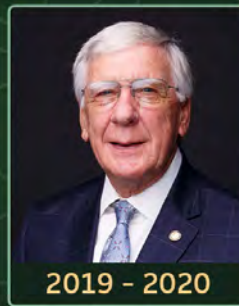
Executive Committee *(Active Past Presidents)*



Councilmember
Johnny Ford
Tuskegee



Mayor
Walt Maddox
Tuscaloosa



Mayor
Ronnie Marks
Athens

Executive Committee *(Active Past Presidents)*



Mayor
Leigh Dollar
Guntersville



Mayor
Mark Saliba
Dothan



Mayor
Sherry Sullivan
Fairhope

2026 - 2027 Standing Committees Chairs and Vice Chairs

Committee on State and Federal Legislation (Legislative Committee)



Chair
Mayor
Donna McKay
Wadley



Vice Chair
Mayor
Richard Teal
Loxley

Committee on Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR)



Chair
Councilmember
Crystal Smitherman
Birmingham



Vice Chair
Mayor
Stanley Allred
Millport

Committee on Energy, Environment and Natural Resources (EENR)



Chair
Councilmember
Willis Thompson
Muscle Shoals

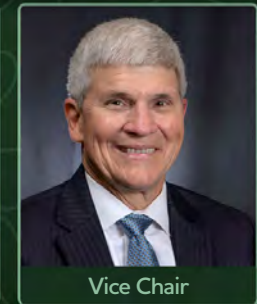


Vice Chair
Councilmember
Melvin Duran
Priceville

Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Communication (TIC)



Chair
Councilmember
Don Mack
Centreville



Vice Chair
Mayor
Eddie Smith
Opelika

2026 - 2027 Standing Committees (continued)

Committee on Public Safety (PS)



Chair

Councilmember
Wardine Alexander
Birmingham



Vice Chair

Councilmember
Clark Hopper
Rainbow City

Committee on Human Development (HD)



Chair

Councilmember
Kent Back
Gadsden



Vice Chair

Councilmember
Bridgette Jordan Smith
Vincent

Committee on Community and Economic Development (CED)



Chair

Councilmember
Newton Cromer
Saraland



Vice Chair

Councilmember
Jae'Ques Brown
Greenville

Congratulations to the 2026–2027 roster of municipal officials selected to lead the ALM Board of Directors and committees!

These leaders reflect the heart of municipal service by working every day to support public safety, infrastructure, economic development and quality of life in their communities.



MWCF Board Report • 2026 Business Session • Montgomery

The Alabama League of Municipalities founded the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund in 1976, and we are thrilled to celebrate our 50th anniversary this November!

We are proud that MWCF is the second oldest League insurance pool in the nation. It was created at a time when national insurance carriers were *abandoning* Alabama and her communities.

Over the decades, MWCF has helped municipalities control workers' compensation costs, strengthened safety programs and provided responsive, high-quality claims management. But beyond the numbers, this organization has always been about people — protecting first responders, public works and utilities crews, and all municipal employees so they can safely return home to their families.



This year, as we celebrate our 50th anniversary, the MWCF Board of Directors and I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for being an integral part of our story. You have trusted us to provide you with your workers' compensation coverage needs and, in doing so, have helped us grow from a small idea into a company with a rich history.

As we look back, we are filled with pride in the relationships we have built and the milestones we have achieved. Such milestones would not have been possible without the strong leadership that has guided the fund, including my predecessor, Steve Martin, and numerous dedicated elected officials who have served on the MWCF Board of Directors. Their commitment to responsible stewardship and innovation has positioned MWCF for long-term success.

Today, we are pleased to bring you the annual report on the activities of YOUR Municipal Workers Compensation Fund.

- MWCF currently has more than 724 members.
- Membership renewals have remained steady year over year.
- Net premiums for the 2025 fund year were approximately \$33 million.
- During the October 2025 Board Meeting, the board of directors approved a distribution of \$5 million to be given as a renewal dividend to eligible members toward their 2026 premiums.
- Total dividends for all fund years are now in excess of \$94.5 million.
- Unaudited financial statements show total assets of approximately \$242 million as of January 31, 2026.
- MWCF remains financially very strong.

MWCF members, thank you for your business, your confidence and your partnership. As we look forward, we reaffirm our commitment to serving you with the same passion and dedication that has guided us for half a century.

www.almwcf.org

AMIC Board Report • 2026 Business Session • Montgomery

The Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation is a not-for-profit mutual insurance company that is wholly owned and controlled by its member cities and towns. Five mayors from throughout the state of Alabama sit on the Board of Directors and take an active role in keeping AMIC focused on its original goals.

AMIC was formed in 1989 and received \$6 million in capital contributions from 233 municipalities, in the years that followed, to get off the ground. As we sit here today, AMIC is the premier provider of property and casualty insurance for public entities in Alabama and its capitalized members have now received more than \$18 million in dividends!



As of year-end 2025:

- AMIC has paid more than 63,000 claims totaling more than \$673,000,000 since its formation in 1989
- AMIC insures approximately 95% of all public entities in Alabama and has 587 members
- AMIC retains over 99% of its business annually
- Assets exceed \$196 million
- Current premiums exceed \$85 million
- And total surplus is over \$60 million
- AMIC also insures more than \$13.5 billion in property values, 22,000 vehicles and nearly 5,300 police officers

AMIC has 44 dedicated in-house staff members providing services to member insureds that include:

- A claims staff of 19 team members providing 24/7 claims handling
- A team of 12 sales and underwriting staff that make sure your policies are correct and delivered on time
- 11 dedicated loss control team members that provide a range of services and programs from general and police loss control audits to services such as the SKIDCAR system, the Firearms Training System, a LocalGovU library, as well as onsite training and seminars

The Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation realizes that its member cities and towns provide essential public services with the most exposure to risk and the least amount of money. AMIC works diligently every day to protect you and your ability to continue to deliver those essential services without fear of financial ruin.

From the Board of Directors and everyone at AMIC, thank you for what you do and for your continued support.

We are here to insure the future of **YOUR** local government!

www.amicentral.org

The Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation was formed in 2006 by the Alabama League of Municipalities to assist Alabama's cities and towns in funding local projects, equipment purchases and refinancing existing debt.

The purpose of AMFund is to provide timely, low-cost, direct bank debt financing to fund almost any size municipal project.

AMFund is managed by a board of directors composed of five municipal elected officials and works with financial advisor Louis Cardinal with Thornton Farish and Leo Lawrenson as pool administrator to take advantage of economies of scale allowing municipalities to:

- Receive competitive, fixed rate debt financing
- Significantly reduce borrowers' transaction costs.
- Minimize staff time by using straightforward, direct bank debt loan documentation.

AMFund partners with national banking institutions to provide our members competitive fixed rate financing on general obligation and revenue borrowing needs for

- Infrastructure
- Capital improvement projects
- Equipment purchases
- Refinancing of existing loans

AMFund received several funding requests during the past calendar year and has assisted several applicants in obtaining fixed rate financing for the purchase of equipment and capital improvement projects.

Since its inception in January 2006, AMFund has commissioned 80 loans in excess of \$153 million with no borrower defaults.

We encourage you to consider AMFund as an option for your refinancing, general obligation, revenue and equipment leasing needs.

We look forward to serving you in the future!



www.amfund.com

Does your town or city have debts you just can't seem to collect regardless of your efforts? Well, Municipal Intercept Services may be able to help at no charge to your municipality!

In 2014, the Alabama Legislature enacted an amendment allowing municipalities and counties to attempt to recover delinquent debts owed to them by collecting this debt from the individual's state tax refund.

In 2015, the Alabama League of Municipalities formed Municipal Intercept Services as its clearinghouse entity to act as a conduit between participating Alabama municipalities and the Alabama Department of Revenue.



FREE to eligible participating members, MIS is **NOT** a debt collection agency or service. Instead, MIS is a **UNIQUE** way to attempt to recover money owed to your municipality by "intercepting" an individual's Alabama state tax refund. Debt collection agencies **CANNOT** offer you this service.

Any municipal debt that is considered final; is still within its statute of limitations; and is more than 60 days old can be submitted to MIS.

Examples include:

- Municipal Court Fees and Fines
- Parking Fees
- Judgments
- Rental or Lease Agreements
- Library Fees
- Returned Checks
- Medical, EMS and Hospital Bills
- Sanitation and Garbage Fees
- Ordinance Violations
- Utility Bills
- Traffic Light Violations

MIS is Alabama's ONLY state tax refund municipal debt recovery program!

As of December 31, 2025, MIS had:

- More than 272 active participants
- Over 338,000 debts in the system valued at more than \$433 million
- More than 270,000 intercepts with over \$39 million disbursed since inception

We are proud to provide this service to Alabama's cities and towns!

www.alintercept.org





Ask Your Attorney General Session

April 30 • Montgomery

Legal Services Team • Alabama League of Municipalities

The “Ask Your Attorney” session is always popular at convention and gives everyone in attendance a sampling of the types of questions we answer day in and day out in the League’s legal department. Below are some of the questions answered during the “Ask Your Attorney” session at the 2026 convention. The League’s legal department is available during regular business hours to answer your questions and provide you with legal guidance.

IS IT REQUIRED TO HAVE TWO SIGNATURES ON A MUNICIPAL CHECK?

We encourage two signatures on municipal checks, but we are not aware of a specific rule that requires it. Section 11-43-120 of the Code of Alabama 1975 addresses approval of disbursement of municipal funds. While this statute authorizes the municipal treasurer to pay municipal expenses with approval of the mayor or other council designee, it does not specifically require two signatures on a check. Section 11-43-56 of the Code of Alabama 1975 gives council authority of municipal finances. This includes giving check writing authority for municipal accounts. Since municipalities have different staffing resources, each council makes the decision on check writing authority. Most municipal councils designate the mayor and clerk/treasurer with check writing authority since they are most frequently available during business hours to write checks to ensure the timely payment of municipal obligations.

WHAT MUST A MUNICIPALITY DO TO CHANGE THE SPEED LIMIT ON A COUNTY-MAINTAINED ROAD LOCATED IN THE CITY LIMITS?

For a municipality to change the speed limit on a county-maintained road, the municipality must first conduct an engineering and traffic investigation. The municipality must also get written approval from the county engineer to fix the speed based on the results of the investigation. Section 11-49-4(b), Code of Alabama 1975. Once this is accomplished, the municipal council must pass an ordinance establishing the speed limit. Section 11-49-4(a), Code of Alabama 1975.



THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL WANTS TO PURSUE THIS ACTION/PROJECT, BUT I STILL HAD A FEW QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS ABOUT IT WHEN IT CAME TIME TO VOTE. I VOTED IN FAVOR OF IT ANYWAYS SINCE THE REST OF THE COUNCIL WANTED TO PROCEED, BUT WAS THAT THE RIGHT THING TO DO?

One of your duties as a local legislator is to make decisions that are in the best interest of your municipality, and these decisions should always be *well-informed* ones. You do not have to vote blind. Here is an example of some simple steps to make sure your decision is well-informed:

1. **Read** whatever it is the council is being asked to take action on, whether it is an ordinance, resolution, contract, or something similar.
2. **Study** the thing you read and think about how it will impact your constituents. Who will be the most affected by this thing? What will it cost the municipality? Is there a better alternative?
3. **Ask questions!** Get feedback from your constituents or gather information from experts in the subject matter to better your understanding and to report back to the council.
4. **Make an independent decision.** Try to have an idea of what your position is on the topic before the council meeting.
5. At the council meeting, **Deliberate!** Talk about it with the rest of the council. Share your thoughts and what you have learned. Listen to what other councilmembers have to say about it. Be willing to compromise if that is in the best interest of the municipality.

If you are unable to do all of this on your own schedule, a great time to do it is at a **work session** before your regular meeting. Make sure you give notice to the public of the work session to avoid any issues with the Open Meetings Act. Scan the QR code to read ALM’s Selected Reading on the Open Meetings Act.



THERE IS A PROJECT OUR COUNCIL WANTS TO PURSUE. I DO NOT THINK WE CAN LEGALLY DO IT, BUT THE REST OF THE COUNCIL WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME. WHAT DO I DO?

At some point in your time as an elected official, you will find yourself in the minority on an issue. Do not underestimate the power of your vote in a council meeting. If everybody is going left, but your convictions are telling you to go right, you do not have to abandon your convictions for the sake of agreeability. It is not easy to be the lone dissenter, but it is possibly one of the most important roles you may have to play as an elected official. Further, in a case where the lawfulness of the council’s action is in question, being the lone dissenter may protect you from any guilt by association. Remember: your vote is *your* vote.



Shelby Morris, AAMA president and attorney for the city of Madison, answered questions alongside the ALM legal team at the Ask Your Attorney general session.



MAY A MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE (OR THEIR FAMILY MEMBER) PURCHASE PROPERTY FROM THE MUNICIPALITY?

Yes, they may! However, people are often hesitant to actually do so. They are usually thinking about Section 11-43-12, Code of Alabama 1975, which says that no “officer or employee of the municipality shall be directly or indirectly interested in any work, business or contract” with their municipality. That kind of caution is helpful, but do not forget about the rest of that sentence: those individuals cannot have an interest in “any work, business or contract, *the expense, price or consideration of which is paid from the treasury.*” In other words, municipal officials and employees are prohibited from making a profit in business dealings with the municipality outside of their office or employment, but the municipality is not prohibited from making money from them.

Just remember, public officials and employees are prohibited from using their position to obtain personal gain. Section 36-25-5(a), Code of Alabama 1975. That includes giving yourself an advantage that regular citizens cannot access. If you are interested in purchasing property from your municipality, be sure to avoid giving yourself an advantage over other buyers. Offer a fair price for the property, and do not participate in any decision-making process dealing with the sale.

HOW MUCH MONEY CAN A MAYOR SPEND WITHOUT COUNCIL APPROVAL?

The literal answer to this question is: \$0. Section 11-43-56, Code of Alabama 1975, gives the council control over the finances and property belonging to the municipality. We know, however, that this is not always how it works in practice. The question we should be asking is, “what constitutes council approval?”

Many municipal councils, when passing their annual budgets, allocate funding to different departments or even to specific line items, and consider that budget allocation to be prior approval for those expenditures. In these cases, the department or office receiving that funding would not need to go back to the council for approval when it is time to actually spend the money, because it was already approved.

A municipal council may also pass an ordinance permitting the mayor to spend up to a certain dollar amount without the council’s approval. That does not mean that the council does not approve. Instead, it means that the council has already given approval up to that dollar amount. The council can change that amount or repeal that ordinance completely if they choose.

HOW OFTEN ARE MUNICIPALITIES REQUIRED TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AUDIT?

Municipal financial audit requirements have existed since at least 1907 in Alabama. The current law, codified at Ala. Code § 11-43-85, sets the required audit frequency based on a municipality’s annual expenditures.

Municipalities with Annual Expenditures of \$500,000 or More

For municipalities with annual expenditures of \$500,000 or more, the mayor or city manager must provide for an **annual** audit of all municipal funds and activities by an independent public accountant for each fiscal year.



Municipalities with Annual Expenditures of Less Than \$500,000

For municipalities with annual expenditures of less than \$500,000, the mayor or city manager must provide for a **biennial** audit of all municipal funds and activities by an independent public accountant. Each audit must cover every fiscal year since the previous audit.

Municipalities with Annual Expenditures of Less Than \$300,000

For municipalities with annual expenditures of less than \$300,000, the city council may choose, instead of the biennial audit, to direct the mayor or city manager to prepare an **annual report in lieu of an audit**. That report should include:

- Proof and reconciliation of cash
- Confirmation of cash balances
- A list of bank balances
- A statement of cash receipts and cash disbursements
- A statement of compliance with state law
- A report of agreed-upon procedures
- A report of motor fuel excise taxes collected and the distribution and use of those proceeds
- Any other procedures established by the department

Pursuant to Ala. Code § 41-5A-12.1, upon receipt of the final report of the independent audit or examination, the municipal governing body must provide a copy of the report to the department within 60 days after completion.

For information on CPA firms who have expressed a willingness to consider additional work related to municipal audit compliance, scan the QR code to visit: alabama.cpa/legislative-advocacy/regulatory-resources.



WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES FOR FAILURE OR REFUSAL TO CONDUCT OR FILE A FINANCIAL AUDIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW?

Ala. Code § 41-5A-12.1 sets forth the role of the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts as it relates to municipal audits. The examiners may review a municipality's financial records when they suspect fraud or mismanagement, when the city council requests a review based on such concerns, or when a municipality fails to conduct an audit as required by state law. It is especially important to comply with the audit requirements because state law now authorizes the examiners to assess penalties for noncompliance. The examiners may assess financial penalties of up to \$250 per week against municipal officials or the municipal council for failing or refusing to obtain required audits or to submit audits requested by the examiners. **These penalties are assessed personally against the individuals responsible.** The municipal officials and municipal council responsible for the audit do have the opportunity to demonstrate to the examiners it has made a good faith effort to comply with state law to avoid these penalties. ■

2026 Distinguished Service Awards

Opening Session • April 28 • Montgomery

For many years, the Alabama League of Municipalities has been pleased to present the Distinguished Service Awards to mayors and councilmembers. The League was thrilled to continue that tradition this year and honor 17 mayors and councilmembers on their accomplishments during the opening session of convention on April 28, 2026. ■

20 YEAR HONOREES



Mayor Scott Carter
of the town of Woodland



ALM President
Mayor Rusty Jessup
of the city of Riverside



Mayor Joe Pylant
of the town of Morris



Mayor Annie Shelton
of the town of Beatrice



ALM Board Member
Mayor Gordon Stone
of the town of Pike Road

25 YEAR HONOREES



ALM Board Member
Mayor Chuck Ables
of the town of Geraldine



Councilmember Michael Phillips
of the city of Bay Minette



Mayor James Sullivan
of the town of Cleveland

Not pictured: Councilmember Emily Snellgrove of the town of Malvern, Mayor Chris Stone of the town of Pine Apple and Councilmember Kenneth Goode of the town of Woodland.

30 YEAR HONOREES



Councilmember Linda Crowe
of the city of Moody



Mayor Vaughn Goodwin
of the town of Trinity

Not pictured: Councilmember Dink Myers of the city of Guntersville and Councilmember Joyce Wall of the town of Pine Apple

35 YEAR HONOREE

Not Pictured: Councilmember Randall Whitaker of the city of Guntersville

40 YEAR HONOREE

Not Pictured: Councilmember Buddy Holloway of the town of Woodland

The League recognizes and celebrates these members and their years of distinguished and dedicated service to their fellow citizens and their efforts to strengthen municipal government and promote the importance and understanding of progressive, responsible public leadership.



ALM Recognizes 2025 Municipal Clerk of the Year

Congratulations to Beth Lee for winning the Alabama Association of Municipal Clerks and Administrators' 2025 Municipal Clerk of the Year Award!

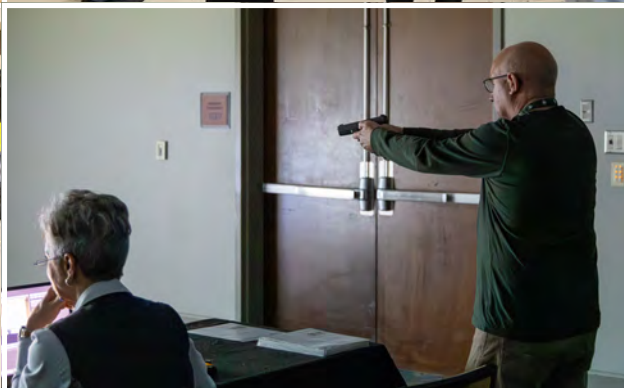
Beth is the city clerk of Rainbow City. She has devoted more than 20 years to municipal service, beginning in 2004 as secretary to then-Mayor Terry John Calhoun. She played a key role in organizing major community events and public functions before being appointed city clerk/treasurer in 2018, where she now oversees human resources and administrative operations for 121 employees while managing benefits, safety coordination and compliance.

She earned her Certified Municipal Clerk designation in 2020 and Master Municipal Clerk in 2022. She has also remained active in statewide and national clerk organizations, where she has served as AAMCA treasurer, president-elect and president.

In addition to her leadership and service, she has contributed to her community as a poll worker and continues to advocate for education and training in municipal government.

The League is proud to recognize Beth on this distinguished honor! ■







SAVE



DATE!

2026 CMO Training Calendar



THE



Make plans to join the League for training in 2026!

Visit www.almonline.org/UpcomingTraining or scan the QR code below for training and updated registration information.

- CMO Regional Trainings –
 - June 25 – Birmingham (Jefferson State CC - Shelby-Hoover Campus)
 - July 16 – Fairhope (Coastal Alabama CC - Fairhope Campus)
 - **Additional Date Added:** July 30 – Montgomery (ALM Headquarters)



The final deadline for submitting CMO credits for 2026 CMO Graduation is July 31, 2026.

- In-State Congressional Luncheons – August (full details TBD)
- Standing Committees Meeting – Fall (full details TBD) | Montgomery
- Municipal Leadership Institute and ALM Graduation Ceremonies – October 20-22 | Mobile
- NLC City Summit – November 18-21 | Nashville, TN

Learn more about the CMO Program and how it strengthens municipalities by educating municipal leaders.

almonline.org/CMOProgram

In Memory

The League memorializes the following officials who have died in office since its last convention:

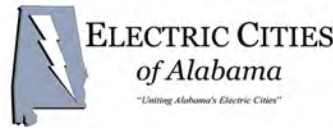
- Councilmember Frankie Brewster, Town of Leesburg
- Councilmember Randy Curtis, Town of Hayden
- Councilmember Richard “Dick” Dayton, City of Foley
- Municipal Clerk Phillip Horne, Town of Grimes
- Municipal Clerk Annette Sizemore, Town of Madrid
- Mayor David D. Smith, Town of Union Grove
- Mayor William Wayne Smith, City of Dadeville
- Councilmember Tom Wall, City of Sumiton

The League memorializes the following former officials who have died since its last convention:

- Mayor Jerry B. Andrews, City of Andalusia
- Mayor Carole Barfield, Town of Ashford
- Mayor Norman Burgess, Town of Ashford
- Councilmember Lillian Dean, Town of Flomaton
- Councilmember David Dunlap, City of Childersburg
- Mayor D.W. Franklin, Town of Vina
- Mayor Sherman Guyton, City of Gadsden
- Councilmember Billy R. Hall, Town of Ardmore
- Mayor Robert Harris, City of Childersburg
- Councilmember Steve “Hap” Mahaffey, City of Childersburg
- Councilmember Glenn Minyard, City of Adamsville
- Mayor Quitman Mitchell, City of Bessemer
- Councilmember Bill Morgan, City of Childersburg
- Mayor James “Jim” P. Nix Sr., City of Fairhope, ALM Past President
- Councilmember Sue Sorter, City of Guntersville
- Councilmember Samuel Stewart, City of Guntersville
- Councilmember Donald “Wade” Sullins, City of Hamilton
- Councilmember Kenny Thompson, City of Hartselle
- Mayor James Townson, City of Guntersville



The League Recognizes our **STRATEGIC and COM**



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- Alabama 811
- Alabama Association of Regional Councils
- Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition
- Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE)
- Alabama Correctional Industries
- Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
- Alabama Department of Archives and History

- Alabama Department of Transportation
- Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs
- Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)
- Alabama Forestry Commission
- Alabama League of Municipalities - EDA
- Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association
- Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation (AMFund)
- Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC)
- Alabama Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board
- Alabama Power Company
- Alabama Recreation and Parks Association
- Alabama Securities Commission

- Alabama Tourism Department
- AllTech IT Solutions
- American Fidelity
- American Flood Coalition
- American Heart Association
- American Tank Maintenance
- American Village
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- Clear Winds Technologies
- ClearWater Solutions, LLC
- CMH Architects, Inc.
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company UNITED
- Code Lien Resolution, LLC
- Colonial Life
- Connect Alabama

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- Corporate Pharmacy Services, Inc.
- Corrective Asphalt Materials, LLC
- Co-Syne Corp
- Crews & Associates, Inc.
- CSA Software Solutions
- Culligan Quench
- CXT, Inc.
- DCS (Diversified Computer Services, LLC)
- Department of Revenue
- Donelson Construction Company, LLC
- Duffield, an Aquafinity company
- Dynamic Civil Solutions
- Edmunds GovTech
- EF Partners / E-Footprints / EFP Broadband LLC
- Farmer Morgan, Inc.
- FatPipe Networks, Inc.
- Filevine
- First Responders Insurance Company (ALFRBP)
- FirstStep Pavement Management
- Fite Building Company
- Giffen Recreation, Inc.
- Good Earth Tools
- Good Grit
- Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC
- Gorrie-Regan and Associates



- GovDeals, Inc.
- GovToKnow (Hopstick)
- Grasshopper Company
- Great Southern Recreation
- Ground Works Distribution
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- Hercules Incorporated
- i3 Verticals
- ICS (Integrated Communications Solutions, Inc.)
- Ingram Equipment Company
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- Main Street Alabama
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- Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC
- Mesirow
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- Municipal Intercept Services, LLC (MIS)
- Municipal Workers Compensation Fund (MWCF)
- Musco Lighting
- NAFECO
- National League of Cities (NLC)
- Neumo Holdings
- NEXTRAN Truck Centers
- OPEX
- OX Bodies, Inc. (Truck Bodies and Equipment)
- Pelican Playgrounds
- Playworld Preferred, Inc.
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- Precision Concrete Cutting, LLC
- Purple Wave Auction
- Radarsign LLC
- Recreational Concepts, LLC
- Regions Bank
- Reliable Branding
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- Retirement Systems of Alabama
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- SilogIQ, Inc.
- Smarsh
- SmartBank
- Southeast Cement Promotion Association
- Southern Engineering Solutions, Inc.
- Southern Software, Inc.

- Spring City Electrical
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- State of Alabama Office of the Attorney General
- StreetBond
- Struthers Recreation
- SunSouth, LLC
- Swift Recreation, LLC
- Taylor Power Systems/Taylor Sudden Service
- TEKConnectGov
- The IT Verdin Company
- The Myers Agency / Combined Insurance
- Thompson Engineering
- Thompson Tractor
- Three Notch Group
- TransCor Supply
- Transportation Auction Consultants (TAC Auction)
- Trav-Ad Signs
- TriGreen Equipment, LLC
- Tristatz
- Truckworx
- Tyler Technologies
- Valley Bank
- VC3
- Vector Disease Control International (VDCI)
- Volkert, Inc.
- Vortex Aquatic Structures Intl.
- WAS Design
- Waste Pro
- Wild Energy
- Wildland Services







League past presidents, new officers and ALM leadership gathered for a group photo at the convention's closing reception on April 30, 2026.





CONVENTION 2026

MONTGOMERY



SAVE THE DATE

SUMMER SEMINARS 2026

All AMIC and MWCF members are encouraged to expand their understanding of risk management practices for public entities by attending one of our Loss Control Seminars this summer. To register for the Summer Seminars, visit www.losscontrol.org. The cost to attend is \$30 per person, and lunch will be provided.

Topics include: Workplace Ergonomics, Safety Isn't a Game, Social Media Policy and Legal Issues, Reducing Risk Behind the Wheel, Safety and Risk Management Roundtables

These training sessions have been approved for a total of four (4) credit hours in the Certified Municipal Official Program. Any municipal employee may register, but only elected officials will be awarded credit hours in the CMO Program.

Tuesday, August 25

Municipal Complex, Saraland

Wednesday, August 26

Beeland Park Community Center,
Greenville

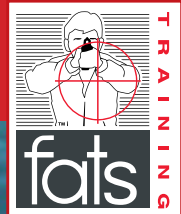
Tuesday, September 1

City Hall, Athens

Wednesday, September 2

City Hall, Vestavia Hills

Request the Firearms Training System Today



The Firearms Training System (FATS) is an excellent training tool designed to develop and sharpen a police officer's discretionary skills as well as reinforce conflict resolution abilities.

As our society has become more violent, and the scrutiny on police officers more pervasive, the need for judgmental firearms training has become more crucial. FATS utilizes digital interactive training technology, allowing officers to develop decision-making skills by responding to real-life scenarios where force may be necessary.

Contact the Loss Control Division at (334) 262-2566 or email Deena Pregno, FATS Coordinator, at Dpregno@almonline.org to find out when FATS will be in your area. You can also request the FATS system by completing the online form at losscontrol.org. ■



View the FATS in action by scanning this QR code!



Scan this QR code to access the FATS system request form.



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NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS Summer Conference



JULY 15-18, 2026
BIRMINGHAM, AL



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! Scan the QR code to learn more.

Thank You, ALM Staff, for your hard work and stellar attitude hosting the 2026 Convention!



Photo credit: Tristatz





Alabama's only state tax refund municipal debt recovery program

(FREE to eligible participating members!)

www.alintercept.org

Why use Municipal Intercept Services (MIS) when you already have a debt collection service?

MIS is **NOT** a debt collection agency or service. MIS does not do what debt collection services do and debt collection services cannot offer what MIS does. MIS is a unique way to attempt to recover money owed to your municipality by "intercepting" an individual's Alabama State tax refund. Debt collection agencies CANNOT offer you this service. MIS is a legislatively sanctioned conduit with the Alabama Department of Revenue (ADOR) that enables ADOR to recover delinquent debts owed by individuals to your municipality by collecting this debt from the individual's Alabama state tax refund. This system was made possible by an Alabama legislative change enacted in 2014 through which ADOR agreed to process these debts through only two clearinghouse organizations: the Alabama League of Municipalities (ALM) for municipal entities and the Association of County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA) for county entities. In 2015, ALM formed MIS to act as the clearinghouse on behalf of its municipal entities. **NOTE:** If the debtor is not eligible for an Alabama State tax refund, no money can be collected.

Who is eligible to use the MIS system?

Only municipal entities within Alabama are eligible to use the MIS system. This includes cities, towns, certain utility boards, housing authorities and hospitals. **For more information, visit: www.alintercept.org.**



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