



TML Legislative policy process open for 2021

Sept. 11 deadline for proposals

The TML policy process is open and proposed legislative initiatives for the first session of the 112th General Assembly are being accepted through Sept. 11. All ideas are welcome and TML encourages member-municipalities to submit any initiative(s) of interest that benefits municipalities. Municipalities are reminded that only fully completed submissions will be considered.

A proposed initiative will be considered “fully completed” only when the following four requirements have been satisfied:

1. The proposed initiative must be submitted using the online Proposed Legislative Initiative Form, provided by TML.

2. All sections of the Proposed Legislative Initiative Form must be completed, including: summary of the problem, description of the proposed remedy, and a statement of the anticipated benefits to municipalities. In addition, municipalities are encouraged to submit, either by reference or by separate copy, background or supplemental information in support of their submission to jholloway@tml1.org. You may also use the upload function built into the form marked “Attach Supporting Materials.” A member-municipality may submit more than one proposed initiative; however, a separate form must be completed for each submission.

3. The Proposed Legislative Initiative Form must be signed by at least three eligible local officials of the sponsoring municipality. However, if the municipality’s governing body is comprised of four or fewer members, then only two signatures are required. An “eligible local See **POLICY** on Page 3

Celebrations, reenactments, mark suffrage centenary



Actors and volunteers pay tribute to the anniversary of Tennessee’s vote to accept women suffrage outside the Hermitage Hotel, which served both as a headquarters for pro and anti-suffrage factions during the special session of the Tennessee legislature called on the issue.



Reenactors supporting the suffrage side of the debate gather with their signs and banners prior to the reenactment of the vote held in the Tennessee State Capitol on Aug. 18.



In addition to local actors and reenactors, lawmakers and legislative staffers took on roles of their historical counterparts during the reenactment of the suffrage vote staged at the State Capitol. The reenactment was streamed live from the House chamber.



Yellow roses, the symbol of the pro-suffrage movement, are thrown from a window at the Hermitage Hotel during a reenactment of a pro-suffrage parade held downtown. The Hermitage Hotel was recently designated as a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service.

To date, some 76% households in TN counted in 2020 Census

There is still time to do your constitutional duty and be counted!

School lunches. Plans for highways. Support for firefighters and families in need. Census results affect your community every day.

Every 10 years, the Federal Government conducts a population count of everyone in the United States. Data collected from the census provide the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support such vital programs as education, transportation, public works projects, and health care.

With the Covid-19 pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau has had to make some significant changes to the 2020 census count timeline as well as to its operations for collecting the data in order to ensure the safety of staff and the public while maximizing the number of households that respond on their own to the 2020 Census.

As of today, more than 75% of households have responded to the 2020 Census. In Tennessee, 76.2% of housing units in the state have participated; 63.7% self-responded and 12.6% were counted by Census Bureau field workers.

People can still respond online, over the phone or by mail — all without having to meet a census taker, <https://2020census.gov/>

An additional paper questionnaire will be sent to homes that have not yet responded. The form will arrive between Aug. 22 and Sept. 15. Leveraging the delivery of this form to coincide with other outreach efforts can help improve response in hard to count communities. The previous paper forms sent in March and late April generated significant boosts in response rates.

As a city leader, it is important that you continue to raise awareness about the importance of Census count and help reach those hard to



count populations.

Several census operations aimed at counting people who don’t reside in traditional dwelling units will begin soon. These include:

- Transitory locations, such as campgrounds, marinas, and hotels from Sept. 3 to Sept. 28
- People experiencing homelessness outdoors at locations under bridges, in parks, in all-night businesses, etc. on Sept. 23 to Sept. 24
- Service-based locations such as soup kitchens and shelters from Sept. 22 to Sept. 24.

Finally, a reminder that the Census Bureau’s deadline for providing state-level apportionment counts to the President is Dec. 31, 2020. Data used for redistricting congressional, state and local districts will likely follow in mid to late-March, 2021.

Tennessee shows improvement year-over-year, in past decade in Kids Count survey

By KATE COIL
TML
Communications
Specialist

While conditions for children in Tennessee have made gains in the past year, the 2020 edition of the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s annual Kids Count survey indicates the state still has significant room for improvement.

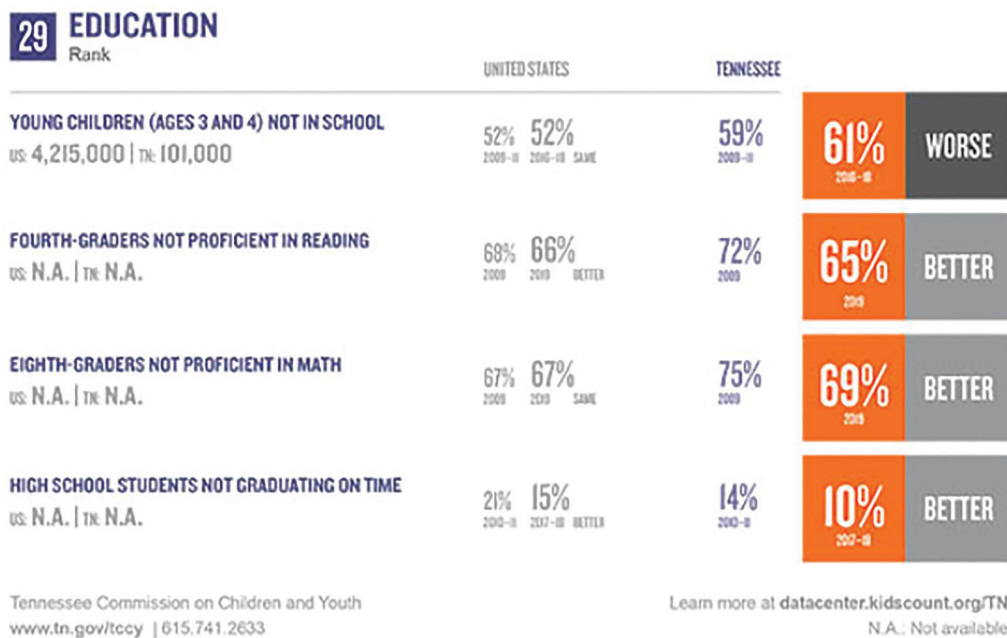
Published every year since 1990, the annual report ranked Tennessee 39 out of 50 states for 2020, an improvement over Tennessee’s ranking in the bottom 10 states Tennessee earned a decade ago.

The report ranks states on overall child well-being based on four categories: economic well-being, education, health, and family and community.

Data from the 2020 report was also compared to data from the 2010 report to chart changes over the decade. All data for the 2020 report was gathered in 2019 with officials saying they expect next year’s report to reflect the ongoing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Richard Kennedy, executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY), noted this year’s report showed gains in numerous areas over last year’s report as well as over its results a decade ago.

“While changes in the way the data sets are collected limit our



In the past decade, Tennessee has seen improvements in four of the three educational categories of the Kids Count report. The state only declined in the amount of children enrolled in preschool programs. However scores in fourth-grade math and eighth-grade reading have both improved in the past decade and year-over-year.

ability to compare this year’s ranking to older ones, TCCY is pleased Tennessee now ranks better than it did in the early days of its participation in KIDS COUNT when the state ranking was closer to the

bottom,” Kennedy said. “Tennessee’s school children are making gains. Continued investments in education, especially to address the racial and ethnic disparities that See **KIDS** on Page 3

Partnering for Success webinars continue thru Oct.

TML and Public Entity Partners are partnering together to offer a series of virtual presentations and workshops.

This series will fill the vacuum created by the cancellations of the TML Annual Conference and PE Partners Risk Symposium.

All sessions are free to our members and most sessions will qualify for continuing education units for the CMFO program and the required utility board training.

You can find a schedule of the series with each topic on both our websites, www.TML1.org, or www.pepartners.org

Event reminders with links to each online presentation will be sent out in advance of each webinar.

We are excited about being able to offer this virtual experience. So be sure to reserve your Wednesday afternoons and tune into our virtual “Partnering for Success,” webinar series.

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



BRENTWOOD

Brentwood’s Signal System proposal has been selected by the Tennessee Department of Transportation to receive funding from the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program. The project will receive \$2 million in federal funds including a local match of \$118,000 for the \$2.2 million project. The overall goal of the project is to reduce mobile source emissions and improve the state’s air quality. This will be accomplished by making upgrades to traffic signal detection systems at 10 intersections, upgrades to ADA pedestrian signal systems at 15 intersections, ADA sidewalk and ramp modifications at eight intersections, and updating traffic signal timing plans along major corridors. Brentwood city staff will be working with the Nashville Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on the project.

CHATTANOOGA

Southern Champion Tray (SCT) has announced the company will invest \$84.9 million to build a new manufacturing facility at the Centre South Riverport Industrial Park, expanding its footprint in Chattanooga. The company’s purchase of the property is subject to due diligence that is expected to be complete in the first quarter of 2021. The expansion is expected to create more than 120 new jobs in Chattanooga in the next five years, and the facility will manufacture paperboard and packaging projects. Construction will begin in early 2021 and be completed by early 2022.

CLARKSVILLE

The Clarksville Police Department has earned its fourth consecutive seal of approval from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, a leading credentialing body dedicated to developing and maintaining law enforcement standards. CALEA accreditation is a rigorous process designed to strengthen accountability, both within the agency and the community, by meeting high standards that clearly define police authority, performance and responsibilities. In 2010, the Clarksville Police Department received its initial CALEA accreditation, achieving a goal set by Chief Al Ansley when he took command in 2007. Chief Crockarell, who was sworn in July 30, following Ansley’s retirement, was quick to credit Ansley for the department’s third successful re-accreditation. In May 2020, the CALEA assessment team performed an unprecedented non-site-based assessment by video conferencing and not a physical visit to the department because of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The assessment team conducted 24 interviews with personnel in the department, Mayor Pitts, the 911 Center director, and two members of the community. Calls also were received during a Public Information Session.

CLEVELAND

The Cleveland Fire Department was recently evaluated by the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) and the department’s ISO rating has been lowered from a class 3 to a class 2. This evaluation is performed every five years and is a review of fire standards. The ISO rates fire departments on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being the best. In the evaluation of actual fire services and personnel, the fire department scored 95.84%, which included the review of engine companies,

reserve pumpers, pump capacity, ladder service, reserve ladder service, deployment analysis, company personnel, training, operational considerations and a risk reduction bonus. The department has experienced substantial growth in personnel, vehicles, and equipment in the past several years.

DUNLAP

Automotive supplier Mann+Hummel is planning to add 100 production operator and material handler jobs to its Dunlap facility due to an uptick in business. The plant makes auto filtration products like manifolds and airboxes for companies including Ford, Nissan, General Motors, BMW, and other brands. Pay for the new positions begins at \$11 and includes a 30-cent shift differential for those on second or third shifts, as well as \$3 per hour in “COVID-19” pay. Opened in 2011, the Dunlap facility presently employs around 300 people. Established in Germany in 1941, the company has an American headquarters in Portage, Mich., and employs more than 20,000 worldwide.

ELIZABETHTON

The Elizabethton City Council has purchased a house and property adjacent to the city’s largest water source for its Water Resources Department and is looking into easements for 19 parcels of land alongside the Tennessee River. The house and property purchase is the last parcel of land not owned by the city that borders the pool of the Hampton Springs, which provides 60% of the city’s water supply. The city purchased the 1,000-square-foot house and 0.2 acre of property and other buildings for \$35,000. An additionally \$12,000 will be designated to remove the structures and clear the land as well as pump and close the septic tank on the property.

FARRAGUT

The Farragut Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted to accept the gift of a 6.43-acre parcel located at 623 Concord Road. The property is the site of the historic Red Mill Dam, and the donor, who purchased the property in order to donate it, is anonymous. Because Farragut cannot accept such gifts directly, Legacy Parks Foundation accepted the donation and is in the process of quitclaiming the property to the town. Legacy Parks waived the one percent administrative fee for the transaction as part of an agreement that they would facilitate future donations to the town. Restrictions on the gift require that the property be used as a passive park and/or open space. Possible future improvements include a greenway trail, interpretive signage and a trailhead with a small parking lot. The desire of the donor was to allow public access to the property for viewing of Red Mill Dam and to preserve the site.

GALLATIN

Facebook officials announced the global technology company will invest \$800 million to build a new, state-of-the-art data center in Gallatin, creating approximately 100 permanent jobs. The construction of the new 982,000-square-foot facility is expected to employ more than 1,100 construction workers at the site at its peak. When the site becomes operational, it will hire a variety of positions including technical operations, electricians, logistics staff, and security. The Facebook Gallatin Data Center will be among the most advanced, energy- and water- efficient data center facilities in the world. It will be supported by 100 percent

Cookeville officials break ground on new police facility



Officials with the city of Cookeville and the Cookeville Police Department recently broke ground on the new headquarters for the police department. The \$13 million facility has been seven years in the making and will be located on the corner of Neal Street and South Maple Avenue. The police department has operated out of the Cookeville Performing Arts Center for more than four decades. The new facility will allow the department to grow with the community.

renewable energy, will use 80 percent less water than the average, and once completed, will be LEED Gold certified. Facebook has already partnered with the TVA to bring 220 MW of new solar energy to the Tennessee Valley to support Facebook’s operations in the region.

HARRIMAN

A \$1.1 million project will shore up the shoreline of the Emory River at Harriman’s Riverfront Park. The Harriman City Council recently approved an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for a “rip rap” project at the riverbank in the park. The term “rip rap” refers to a technique where a series of rocks and other materials are placed to protect shorelines, streambeds, bridge abutments, pilings, and other structures against the natural processes of scour, waves, and ice erosion. The city will contribute \$220,000 toward the overall project to better protect the riverfront and structures along it.

OAK RIDGE

The city of Oak Ridge has taken over the General Aviation Airport project planned for the former K-25 site. The city will receive some funds from state and federal sources for the airport, which was originally proposed under the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority (MKAA). A new resolution passed by the Oak Ridge City Council to accept the project also authorizes City Manager Mark Watson to create an airport department within the city to focus on the project’s development. Watson said the estimated cost of the overall airport project is \$55 million but at least \$22 million is already available in funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The project could also receive \$11 million more in funds from the state if approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

SHARON

Sharon City Hall and the Sharon Police Department have a new location in a former medical clinic, offering more space and new amenities for city staff and residents. Moving from East Main Street to U.S. Highway 45, the new city hall includes a larger parking area, handicap accessibility, a board meeting room, a new drive-through drop off for fee payments, and more storage. City officials decided to make the move as renovating the former clinic building would be cheaper than updates needed to city hall. Additionally, moving the city’s police department to the new facility now means the department saves \$5,000 a year on rent payments. The city initially purchased the clinic space for \$25,000.

SPRING HILL

The city of Spring Hill is beginning the first stage of creating its own

Work continues at downtown streetscape project in Sevierville



Construction is continuing on a downtown streetscape project in Sevierville more than 30 years in the making. The project is presently focused on Bruce Street from Forks of the River Parkway to Court Avenue from Main Street. Goals of the project include making downtown more walkable, allowing restaurants to accommodate more outdoor seating, burying utility lines, and allowing more room for family-friendly events downtown.

Manchester officials open new inclusive playground



Officials with the city of Manchester, Duck River Electric Membership Corporation, local businesses, and community members gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the new Dusty Elam Memorial Playground, an inclusive playground at the city’s Fred Deadman Park. The new playground was funded entirely through the state’s Local Parks and Recreation Fund Grant and Park Partners. The grants also financed a new sidewalk to give access to the ADA-compliant playground.

downtown square. Located on the current site of the Tennessee Children’s Home off of Main Street and Kedron Road, Kedron Square is planned to be a multi-use development with a 10-year construction timeline. The 201 acres of land will include commercial, residential, office, hotel, and restaurant development space as well as an 8-acre park, sidewalks, and historical markers. One of the first developments for the property is the construction of 81 single-family homes across more than 60 acres.

UNION CITY

Tyson Foods, Inc., has invested \$87.6 million and is expected to create 230 additional jobs at its

food processing facility in Union City. One of the world’s largest food companies, Tyson Foods has already announced two previous expansions at the Union City facility. The most recent of these expansions began earlier this year with the addition of 40,000 square feet and new production lines at the facility, though the expansion has been delayed by the global pandemic. In 2017, the company announced an \$80 million investment in the facility. In addition to the more than 1,600 employees at the Union City plant, Tyson also operates facilities in Goodlettsville, Newbern, Shelbyville and Humboldt, employing more than 5,500 in Tennessee.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
Tennessee Town & City (ISSN 00403415, USPS 539420) is published semi-monthly except in the months of June and December 19 times per year by Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894. Subscription rates: \$6 per year to members, \$15 to nonmembers, \$1 a copy. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Tennessee Town & City, 226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894. Official publication of the Tennessee Municipal League. **Publisher:** Margaret Mahery (mmahery@TML1.org); **Editor:** Carole Graves (cgraves@TML1.org); **Phone:** 615-255-6416. **Advertising:** Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unacceptable. Fax classified ads to *TT&C*: Attention Carole Graves at 615-255-4752, or e-mail cgraves@TML1.org. Fax advertising copy to *TT&C*: Attention Debbie Kluth at 615-255-4752, or e-mail to dkluth@TML1.org. Opinions expressed by non League officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML.

WAUFORD

J. R. Wauford & Company, Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Tennessee shows improvement year-over-year, in past decade in Kids Count survey

KIDS *from Page 1*

remain, are key to the state’s future prosperity.”

Tennessee’s 39th overall ranking was largely buoyed by its ranking of 29 out of 50 in terms of education. In the survey’s other three categories, Tennessee ranked 42 out of 50 for family and community, 43 out of 50 in terms of children’s economic well-being, and 48 out of 50 in terms of children’s healthcare.

Each category ranking is based on a series of statistics and metrics relating to children in the state. In terms of education, states were ranked on the percentage of children in pre-K, fourth-grade reading, eighth-grade math, and the percentage of high school students who graduate on time.

Nearly two-thirds – 61% - of Tennessee three and four-year-olds are enrolled in a pre-K program, the only one of the state’s education metrics to have declined in the past decade. Only 10% of the state’s high schools are not graduating on time with their classmates, an improvement over the 14% reported a decade ago.

Additionally, the state’s reading and math scores improved over previous years with 65% of students proficient in fourth-grade reading and 69% proficient in eighth-grade math.

While these statistics were lower than reported in the 2009-2010, they are an improvement over the results of more recent years.

States were ranked based on categories including percentage of children in single-parent households, the educational status of heads of households, how many children live in high-poverty areas, and teen births to determine their

overall family and community score.

Tennessee lost a little ground in family and community context, falling to 42nd from 39th last year. The survey found that 31% - roughly 534,000 – of children in Tennessee live in a single-parent household while 12% - about 184,000 children – live in a household where the head of household does not hold a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. The state also found that 12% of children in the state live in areas of high poverty.

The state’s teen birth rate was approximately 5,258 teen pregnancies per every 1,000, meaning the state’s teen birth rate dropped from 43 per 1,000 in 2010 to 25 per 1,000 in 2018. However, rates in other states decreased at a faster rate, leaving Tennessee ranked 41 in teen births overall.

While the state saw a year-over-year dip in family and community scores, the state generally improved its score when comparing 2020 to 2010. The number of children in single-parent homes was the only category in which Tennessee children were worse off in 2020 than in 2010.

The state dropped a bit across all measures in the economic well-being domain compared to last year, moving to 43rd from

32nd. Family economic challenges continue to be a problem for the state, with more than one in five children living in poverty. However, Tennessee has seen improvement in all of the economic well-being measures compared to 2010 results.

The state’s 43 out of 50 ranking in economic well-being was determined based on factors including the number and percentage of children in poverty, the number and percentage of children whose parents lack employment, children living in cost-burdened housing, and the number of teens not in school or working.

Approximately 22%(331,000) of children in Tennessee were living in poverty in 2019, while 9% of Tennessee teens were not in school

or employed. The report found that 29% of children have a parent who lacks employment and 29% of children live in housing where the rent or mortgage payment takes up more than a third of their parents’ income.

Tennessee had recorded a score of 33 on healthcare in 2019, dropping to 48 this year to make healthcare the state’s lowest scoring category. The survey ranked healthcare based on metrics including the low birth-weight babies, number of children without healthcare, child and teen deaths, and child and teen obesity.

The survey found that 9.3% of Tennessee infants born in 2019 were overweight, above the national average of 8.3% and one of the top ten highest rates in the

country.

Meanwhile, 37% percent of its children and teens are categorized as obese or morbidly overweight. The state also has approximately 83,000 children without access to some form of health insurance. The report also found the state recorded 549 child deaths per 100,000 children.

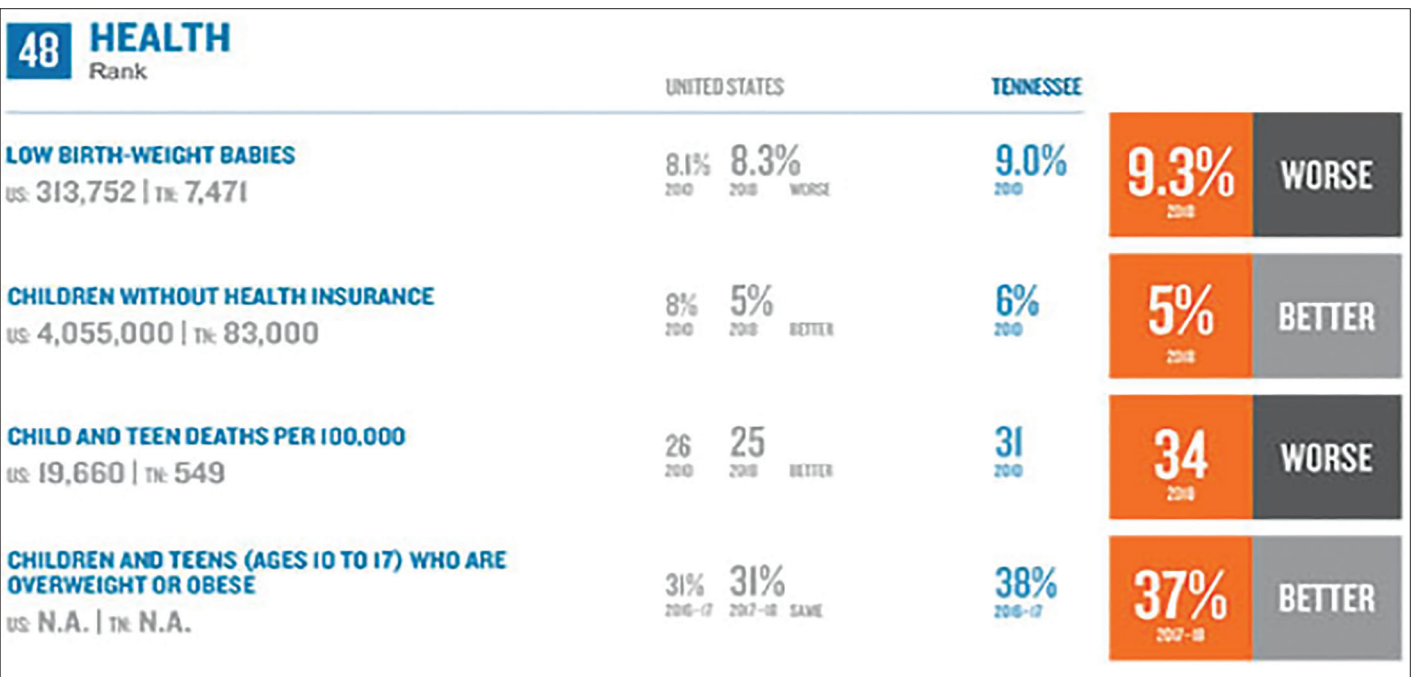
When compared to results reported in 2010, Tennessee has improved in the number of children without healthcare and decreased its number of overweight teens and children in the past decade. However, the number of low birth-weight children and amount of child and teen deaths has gotten worse since 2010.

Kennedy said the report needs to be utilized by policymakers to reflect on what improvements can be made for Tennessee’s children, especially during the current health crisis.

“Tennessee has been a leader in good public policy,” he said. “With multiple challenges facing children and families during the Covid-19 pandemic, this is a moment for Tennessee to increase investments to support families rather than reduce them.”

The overall report also indicated that states in certain regions of the country fare better than others with most of the top-ranking states located in New England and majority of the lowest-ranking states located in Appalachia, the Southeast, and Southwest.

“National data mask a great deal of state and regional variations in child well-being,” the report states. “A child’s chances of thriving depend not only on individual, family and community characteristics but also on the state in which she or he is born and raised. States vary considerably in their wealth and other resources. Policy choices and investments by state officials and lawmakers also strongly influence children’s chances for success.”



Data from the Kids Count report compares the state’s healthcare scores from 2010 and from 2020. Tennessee’s biggest decline in scores came in the children’s healthcare category. The state went from being ranked 33 in 2019 to being ranked 48 this year, the biggest drop of any category. The state also got a mixed-report when compared to a decade ago.

Livingston, Mount Pleasant achieve Main Street status

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe announced that Livingston and Mount Pleasant have achieved Tennessee Main Street accreditation.

Livingston and Mount Pleasant join 37 other Tennessee Main Street communities that are accredited through the state program and Main Street America, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

“We congratulate Livingston and Mount Pleasant on becoming the latest accredited Main Street communities,” Rolfe said. “Our Tennessee Main Streets are part of what makes our state so unique. We commend these communities for taking this step to invest in themselves and grow their downtown districts, and we look forward to seeing these great communities continue down a road of success.”

The Main Street program provides training, support and grant opportunities to assist in downtown revitalization efforts. Livingston and Mount Pleasant selected areas

of their downtown cores where the program will focus on historic preservation, community events and economic revitalization. Both communities successfully completed TNECD’s Tennessee Downtowns program prior to achieving Main Street accreditation.

“TNECD is excited to welcome Livingston and Mount Pleasant to the Tennessee Main Street network,” Tennessee Main Street Program Director Nancy Williams said.

Mount Pleasant, in Middle Tennessee, successfully participated in the first round of the Tennessee Downtowns program and is now embarking on new projects to improve infrastructure and foster entrepreneurship in its downtown.

Livingston, on the Upper Cumberland, successfully completed the Tennessee Downtowns program in 2018 and is focusing on improvements to its historic commercial buildings and branding the unique character of the downtown.

In 2019, accredited Tennessee Main Street communities generated

\$111 million of public and private investment and nearly 1,000 new jobs.

The Tennessee Main Street program requires communities to illustrate a commitment from local government and other local organizations, an adequate organizational budget, a strong historic preservation ethic, a collection of historic commercial buildings and a walkable district.

In addition to Livingston and Mount Pleasant, accredited Tennessee Main Street communities are spread across the state and include Athens, Bolivar, Bristol, Brownsville, Cleveland, Collierville, Columbia, Cookeville, Dayton, Dyersburg, Elizabethton, Fayetteville, Franklin, Gallatin, Greeneville, Humboldt, Jackson, Johnson City, Jonesborough, Kingsport, Lawrenceburg, Lebanon, Maryville, McKenzie, McMinnville, Morristown, Murfreesboro, Paris, Pulaski, Ripley, Rogersville, Savannah, Sevierville, Sweetwater, Tiptonville, Union City and Winchester.

Livingston’s Main Street ap-



plication was supported by Sen. Paul Bailey (R-Sparta) and Rep. John Mark Windle (D-Livingston). Mount Pleasant’s Main Street application was supported by Sen. Joey Hensley (R-Hohenwald) and Rep. Scott Cepicky (R-Culleoka) in the Tennessee General Assembly.

No loan is too large or too small



The Town of Livingston recently closed on a \$1.8 million capital outlay note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) issued to finance waterline improvements. The Town has used TMBF’s various loan programs 12 times since 1996. Seated L to R: Linda Mooringham, TMBF Marketing Director and Legal Coordinator; Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes; and Livingston Town Clerk Phyllis Loooper.



The City of Clinton recently closed a \$1 million note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) issued to finance city school system improvements. Seated L to R: Kelly Johnson, Director of Clinton City Schools; Clinton Mayor Scott Burton; and Gail Cook, Finance Director. Standing L to R: Roger Houck, Clinton City Manager; and Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative.

See us for your special projects needs.
(615) 255-1561





PEOPLE

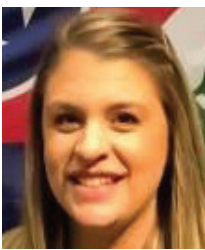


Shanna Boyette is leaving her position as city manager for the city of Shelbyville to serve as the new human resources director for Bedford County government. A Bedford County native with 20 years' experience in the public sector, Boyette worked for the Local Government Corporation based in Columbia as a customer service representative before joining the city of Shelbyville, where she has held numerous positions including city clerk, assistant city recorder, and open records custodian. Boyette was promoted to city manager in 2017. She holds a bachelor's degree in education from Middle Tennessee State University and it's a certified municipal clerk and recorder with the state of Tennessee.



Shanna Boyette

Sarah Jennings has been selected as the director of parks and recreation for the city of Goodlettsville after serving for six months as the interim director of the department. Jennings official first day as permanent director was Aug. 5. She has 15 years in parks and recreation experience, including serving as swimming pool manager for the city of Greeneville, a recreation worker and program coordinator in Johnson City, and as director of parks and recreation and public relations for the town of Unicoi. She came to work with Goodlettsville in 2017 as superintendent of recreation. Jennings is an active member of both the National and the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Associations. Jennings said assisting her mother in swim instruction at the YMCA in Greeneville where she grew up inspired her to seek a career in parks in recreation. She holds a bachelor's degree in sports and leisure management from East Tennessee State University and a master's degree in parks, recreation, and tourism from Clemson University.



Sarah Jennings

projects manager with the Oak Ridge Fire Department. He was selected as deputy chief in 2008 and was promoted to chief in 2011. In addition to resigning as chief of the Oak Ridge Fire Department on Aug. 21, Kerley also resigned his appointment to the Tennessee Commission on Firefighter Standards and Education, which he has held for six years.

Dennis Newburn has been selected as the new director of Clarks-ville's Office of Housing and Community Development. Newburn has more than 25 years' experience as a community development professional, most recently serving as the community revitalization coordinator for the city of Mesa, Ariz., from 2015 until 2019. Newburn also served as programs director for the Inland Fair Housing and Mediation Board in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., and as the regional housing manager for the Rural Community Assistance Corporation in West Sacramento, Calif. In addition, he has worked as a consultant providing technical assistance on affordable housing development to nonprofits, local governments, and Native American tribal governments. Newburn has also been a leader in his field, serving on the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Community Revitalization and Development Committee, and recently as vice president of Community Revitalization and Development for the Arizona Chapter of NAHRO.



Dennis Newburn

Cleveland Mayor **Kevin Brooks** has been reappointed to the State Workforce Development Board by Gov. Bill Lee. Brooks was previously appointed to the board last year. The State Workforce Development Board provides leadership and guidance to Tennessee's Workforce Development System. The vision of the workforce board is to increase the competitive position of Tennessee businesses and attract new businesses through the development of a highly skilled workforce. Brooks was elected mayor of Cleveland in 2018. He also served in the Tennessee House of Representatives for District 24 from 2006 until 2018.



Kevin Brooks

Barbara E. Johnson, who served three consecutive terms and a stint as mayor pro tem on the Clarksville City Council, died Aug. 3, 2020, at the age of 85. Johnson represented the city's Ward 1 from 1999 to 2010 and served as the mayor pro tem from 2007 through 2008. She was also a member and chairwoman of numerous council committees. When she retired from the council in 2010, the 10-acre Barbara E. Johnson Park was dedicated in her honors. Johnson served for 17 years with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service in Fort Campbell, Ky.



Barbara Johnson

Taylor Stamps has been selected to fill the Collierville alderman position left vacant by the resignation and death of Alderman Tom Allen. Stamps took the oath of office on Aug. 25 and will fill out the remainder of the Position 4 term, which ends in November. A lifelong Collierville resident, Stamps is the son of former Collierville Mayor John E. Stamps Sr., who served in the position from 1950 until 1955, and the uncle of current Alderman John E. Stamps III. Over the years, Taylor Stamps has served on the Collierville Planning Commission, Collierville Police Advisory Board, and the town's Industrial Development Board.



Taylor Stamps

Sheila Figgins has been selected as the new training and development coordinator for the Nashville office of the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS). Figgins most recently served as a training coordinator in employee services for Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala.



Sheila Figgins

Darryl Kerley, fire chief for the Oak Ridge Fire Department, has left his position after 43 years in the fire service. Kerley began his career in 1978 working as a construction inspector for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Materials and Engineering Laboratory in Louisville, Tenn. He moved to Seymour in 1982, beginning a 30-year career with the Seymour Volunteer Fire Department working his way up through the ranks, serving as assistant fire chief for six years and fire chief for three. He also spent nine years as an adjunct fire services instruction with the Tennessee Fire Services and Codes Enforcement Academy. He became a fire protection specialist with the K-25 Fire Department in 2001 and served as K-25 Fire Chief from 2003 to 2006 before transferring to serve as fire



Darryl Kerley

Greg Story has been selected as the new codes director for the city of Hendersonville. A native of Hendersonville, Story has been serving as interim codes director. Before coming to the city, Story previously worked for the Sumner County Building and Codes Department as well as served as a codes director in



Greg Story

Gov. Lee appointed to two-year term on Council of Governors

Gov. Bill Lee has been appointed by President Donald Trump to the Council of Governors.

Lee will serve a term of two years on the council, which was established in 2010 to serve as a mechanism for key federal officials to address matters pertaining to the National Guard, homeland defense and defense support to civil authorities.

In the same announcement, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey was selected to serve as co-chair of the council of governors.

The council consists of 10 governors appointed by the president – five from each party – with two governors serving as co-chairs. Other federal participants in the council include the Secretaries of Defense and Homeland Security, president's Homeland Security and Counterterrorism



Bill Lee

advisor, commander of U.S. Northern Command, and National Guard Bureau Chief.

Former Gov. Bill Haslam also served on the council from 2014 until 2019 after being appointed by former President Barack Obama.

Portland and as a senior building inspector for both the Clark County Development Services Building Division in Nevada and in Metro Nashville. Among his many certifications include training for the ATC-20 Disaster Response Team.

Chris Taylor has been selected as the new human resources director for the city of Hendersonville. Taylor has served as the assistant human resources director for the city since 2015. Before coming to the city, Taylor served for six years as the parks director for the city of Madisonville, Ky. He holds a bachelor's degree in public relations and advertising from the University of Southern Indiana. He is also an active member of TnPRIMA, IPMA and TPMA and has completed Levels I and II



Chris Taylor

of UT-MTAS Municipal Management Academy.

Isaac Thorne has been selected as the new director for transit for the Knoxville Area Transit (KAT). Thorne presently served as the chief executive officer of Connect Transit in Normal, Ill., where he has spent 13 years including time as an interim transportation director, procurement director, and operations manager. Thorne will be taking over the position in Knoxville from Interim Director Melissa Roberson, who will return to her role as chief administration officer. Thorne holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Lincoln College in Normal, Ill. His first day with KAT is Aug. 31, 2020.



Isaac Thorne

TML policy process now open

POLICY from Page 1 official" means any member of the governing body of the sponsoring city and the city/town manager or administrator. Since TML has moved to an online form, completing the boxes for affirmation of local officials at the bottom will satisfy the signature requirement.

4. A completed Proposed Legislative Initiative Form must be received by TML no later than 6:00 p.m. CST on Sept. 11, 2020. Proposals must be submitted using the online form.

Presentation of Proposed Legislative Initiatives to TML Policy Committee

Any municipality submitting a proposed legislative initiative must attend the meeting and present its initiative to the TML Policy Committee.

The TML Policy Committee will meet in October on a date to be determined later. This meeting will allow for virtual participation from members presenting legislative initiatives. The TML Policy Committee is comprised of nine members: the eight elected district directors and the current 2nd vice president of the TML Board of Directors. The 2nd vice president serves as chairman and all nine

members of the committee have voting privileges. The committee will meet to consider and rank only those legislative initiatives that have been fully completed and presented to the committee for consideration. Any initiative that lacks the required signatures or, otherwise, fails to meet the requirements will not be considered by the committee. If a municipality submits a fully completed proposed initiative but is unable to present the submission to the committee, then the committee will send that municipality's proposal to the TML Legislative Committee without recommendation.

The committee will rank all of the qualifying proposed initiatives in order of preference, as determined by a vote of the committee. The committee's final ranking of proposed initiatives will be submitted to the TML Legislative Committee for consideration.

The Legislative Committee, comprised of the TML Executive Committee and the chair of the TML Policy Committee, will meet and make their recommendations to the full TML Board of Directors at its fall board meeting. Once considered and voted on by the full board, TML's legislative initiatives will be approved for the 2021 session.



Partners Serving to Protect

Along with top-notch coverages and risk management training and education, Public Entity Partners provides value-added resources and services to members, including:

- Statewide member services team
- Experienced claims staff
- Disaster assistance and recovery
- Secured 24/7 online portal
- Expert loss control consultants
- Risk control surveys and consulting
- Property valuation program
- Legal hotline program

www.pepartners.org 800.624.9698



STATE BRIEFS

A new study has shown that COVID-19 cases are on the decline in areas of the state with mask mandates while those without mandates are showing an increase in cases. A report compiled by Vanderbilt University has traced the spread of the disease in the state. While cases were initially largely concentrated in the Memphis and Nashville metro areas, it has now spread rapidly through smaller communities with less healthcare resources. While the rates of infection have stabilized in Memphis and Nashville, researchers noted that the stabilization of cases in the state’s two larger metro areas doesn’t mean that cases are necessarily decreasing there. However, the study found the spread of the disease into rural areas does mean that more rural areas of the state could see a growth in cases, especially those without health measures in place like mask requirements.

More than 860 vacant positions will be eliminated from the Tennessee state government to save the state more than \$20 million. Finance and Administration Commissioner Butch Eley announced the cuts recently after receiving approval from the state legislature to make such financial decisions in light of the state’s budget shortfall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The largest cuts will come from unfilled positions in the departments of health, corrections, human services, and finance with more than 150 cuts to human services and 100 to the department of health. Positions will also be eliminated in the education and environment and conservation departments. State agencies are also in the process of presenting plans to eliminate 12% from their budgets as required by the administration.

Gov. Bill Lee announced the state will invest \$61 million on broadband expansion cross the state to support distance learning, telehealth, and working from home. Funding for the expansion will come from federal COVID-19 relief dollars distributed through the Coronavirus Aide, Relief and

Economic Security Act. The funds more than double the \$25 million Lee proposed for expansions this year. Before recessing in March, the state Legislature approved \$10 million toward broadband expansion but those funds were ultimately eliminated during June budget cuts.

A new program is aimed at supporting child care for essential employees during the state of emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Gov. Bill Lee signed Executive Order No. 22 signed the order for the COVID-19 Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance program, which is designed to help support essential workers so they can stay on the job during the COVID-19 emergency. Through payment assistance and a network of temporary care locations, parents who work as essential employees can access child care at no cost, during the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency. The Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance Program makes payments directly to the child care provider. Families can access this benefit at child care programs who are licensed by the Department of Human Services or regulated by the Department of Education and are participating in the Child Care Certificate Program. The Department of Human Services will facilitate participation for providers not currently in the program.

While Tennessee’s unemployment rate decreased for the third month in a row, July’s rate saw little improvement from the previous month. Recent data from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development showed Tennessee’s preliminary, seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2020 was 9.5%. That is a 0.1 of a percentage point decrease from the previous month’s revised rate of 9.6%. The latest jobless rate is 6.1 percentage points higher than it was a year ago in July 2019. Employers across Tennessee added 600 new jobs between June and July.

Environmental assessment, cleanup funding opportunities released

Grant guidelines are now available for FY 2021 US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Funding Opportunities. These grants may be used to sustainably reuse contaminated properties. Opportunities for funding are as follows: Brownfields Assessment Grants, Brownfields Multi-Purpose Grants, and Brownfields Cleanup Grants. The proposal submission deadline is Oct. 28, 2020. If you’d like further information on these grants or plan on applying, please reach out to Paula Middlebrooks, with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, at 615-532-0926 or Paula.Middlebrooks@tn.gov

State to hold workshops for public recreation grants

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has announced the 2020 grant cycle for public recreation. The grant cycle will include funding from the Local Parks and Recreation Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Recreational Trails Program. TDEC’s Division of Recreational Educational Services (RES) will host a virtual grant application workshop via WebEx on Thursday, Sept. 3, at 1 p.m. CDT. The workshop is expected to last approximately two-and-a-half hours. The workshop is designed to provide information and requirements to assist organizations in determining if they and/or the project they are considering meet the application requirements. The Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) provides state funding to local governmental agencies. LPRF funds may be used for the purchase of land for parks, natural areas, greenways and the purchase of land for recreational facilities. LPRF is a competitive grant program and provides funds via reimbursements for awarded projects with qualified expenses. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides federal matching grant dollars to local and state governments agencies. LWCF funds may be used for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. LWCF is a competitive grant program and provides funds

via reimbursements for awarded projects with qualified expenses. The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides matching grants to state, local, and federal governmental agencies as well as 501c3 organizations as long as the land developed is publicly owned. RTP funds may be used for trail development, trail head support facilities, acquisition of land for recreational trails or corridors, non-routine maintenance, and restoration of existing trails. RTP is a competitive grant program and provides funds via reimbursements for awarded projects with qualified expenses. Those interested in applying for the 2020 grant cycle are encouraged to attend the virtual grant application workshop as the grant application process and criteria have changed for this cycle. Applications will be accepted via the TDEC Grant Management System (GMS) only. To guarantee your seat, please register using the link below for the virtual grant application workshop to be held via WebEx or contact Hannah Smith at (615) 532-0752. Registered individuals at their discretion may allow other individuals to view the WebEx from their device. For more information, visit <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/res-recreation-educational-services/res-recreation-educational-services-grants0.html>.

State’s July revenues up over previous year

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Butch Eley announced that Tennessee tax revenues exceeded budgeted estimates in July. Overall July revenues were \$1.86 billion, which is \$689.4 million more than the state received in July 2019 and \$667.1 million more than the budgeted estimate. The growth rate for July was 59.06 percent. “Tax revenue receipts for July recorded significant growth compared to the same month last year and greatly exceeded budgeted estimates because tax extensions made in March resulted in large tax payments being made in July,” Eley said. “Sales and use taxes, which reflect June consumer sales activity, revealed positive progress after three straight months of negative growth with federal stimulus assistance likely supporting a significant portion of Tennessee consumer spending. “The state will finish the 2019-2020 fiscal year 2.42 percent above last year and \$369.2 million above the established budgeted estimate. Adjusting for changes adopted during the 2020 legislative session, total state revenues are \$488.2 million more than the revised revenue estimate and \$484.9 million more than the revised general fund estimate. Even as the state finishes the year with a positive revenue balance, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on future revenues remains a concern. Thus, we will continue to monitor national and global economic indicators to manage our spending and revenue collections appropriately.” On an accrual basis, July is the

final month in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and reported revenues will be subject to final accrual adjustments that may increase or decrease the recorded cash amounts on an audited basis. General fund revenues for July were greater than the budgeted estimate in the amount of \$632.7 million, and the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$34.4 million more than the estimates. Sales tax revenues were \$39.8 million more than the estimate for July and they were 6.33 percent more than July 2019. For the year, sales tax revenues are \$96.2 million higher than estimated. The yearly growth rate is 2.90%. Franchise and excise tax revenues combined were \$520.8 million more than the budgeted estimate in July and the growth rate compared to July 2019 was 675.95% or the year, revenues are \$228.9 million more than the estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is 3.81%. Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for July increased by 5.52% compared to July 2019, but they were \$800,000 less than the budgeted estimate of \$106.1 million. For the year, revenues were short of estimates by \$16.6 million. Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$5.2 million more than the July estimate, and for the year, revenues are \$5.6 million less than the estimate. Tobacco tax revenues were \$1 million more than the July budgeted estimate of \$20.8 million. August through July, revenues are \$700,000 more than the budgeted estimate. Hall income tax revenues for

July were \$94.7 million more than the budgeted estimate. For the year, revenues are \$47.5 million more than the budgeted estimate. Privilege tax revenues were \$6 million more than the July estimate, and for the year, August through July, revenues are \$21.2 million more than the estimate. Business tax revenues were \$10.1 million more than the July estimate. For the year, revenues are \$17.5 million more than the budgeted estimate. Gross receipts revenues were \$5.2 million less than the July estimate, and for the year, revenues are \$4.2 million less than the estimate. Mixed drink, or Liquor-by-the-drink, taxes were \$5.5 million less than the July estimate, and for the year, revenues are \$22.3 million less than the estimate. All other tax revenues exceeded estimates by a net of \$1 million. For the year, revenues were \$369.2 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$330.8 million more than budgeted estimates and the four other funds \$38.4 million. The budgeted revenue estimates for 2019-2020 are based on the State Funding Board’s consensus recommendation of Nov. 26, 2018, and adopted by the second session of the 111th General Assembly in April 2019. Also incorporated in the estimates are any changes in revenue enacted during the 2019 session of the General Assembly. These estimates are available on the state’s website at <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/finance/fa-fa-budget-information/fa-budget-rev.html>.

Nine state landmarks added to national register

The Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) has announced the addition of nine, new landmarks to the National Register of Historic Places across the state. The properties added to the list include two bridges, an industrial building, a historic district, a school, a historic road, a courthouse, a synagogue, and a church. “Tennessee has a tremendous inheritance of important historic places that are highlighted by the diversity of these recent National Register listings,” said State Historic Preservation Officer and Executive Director Patrick McIntyre.



Opened in 1970, the Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Synagogue in Memphis won two prestigious awards for its architecture after opening. Now, the synagogue has joined nine other Tennessee landmarks on the National Register of Historic Places.

The new additions include: **Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Synagogue - Memphis** In 1966 the Beth El Emeth and Anshei Sphard congregations merged in order to help each other financially and to encourage Jewish Orthodoxy. They needed a new building after the merger and by 1970, Francis Mah and Keith Kays’ stunningly modern design was completed. In 1972, the design of the synagogue won the Award of Excellence for Design of Interiors from the Architectural Record and the next year the American Institute of Architects awarded the architects and the building an Honor Award.

Arch Bridge – Hardin County Designed in 1925 by the Tennessee State Highway Department (now TDOT), the Arch Bridge in Hardin County is a closed spandrel, single arch concrete bridge over Indian Creek. When the bridge was built, the road was part of State Route 15/US 64, but when the route was realigned in 1964, it became a county road. V.W. Clanton completed the bridge construction by March 1926.

Dixie Mercerizing Company - Chattanooga The six historic resources that comprise the Dixie Mercerizing Company were built between circa 1920 and 1951. These are the 1920-1925 Art Deco influenced mercerizing mill building, circa 1920 boiler building with smokestack, circa 1951 Mid-Century Modern headquarters building, circa 1948 mutual risk building, circa 1920 water tower and circa 1920 storage shed. All the buildings have been updated over the years as the company went from cotton yarn to synthetics.

Downtown Chattanooga Historic District - Chattanooga Of the 71 resources are included in the Downtown Chattanooga Historic District, 13 were already individually listed in the National Register for their importance in the architectural and commercial development of the city. The new district provides a more comprehensive picture of the magnitude

of Chattanooga’s architectural and commercial history. Chattanooga was a major center for businesses from the late 19th to the mid-20th century. Architectural styles in the district range from Italianate, Beaux Arts, Art Deco, and various revival styles to include modern styles of Moderne and Brutalism. The district was the core area for banking, retail, hotels, government, and general office use.

Ebenezer Cumberland Presbyterian Church - Jasper Originally constructed in 1914, one of the most distinguishing features of this church are the double-hung stained glass windows that show elements of the Gothic Revival style in the tracery that forms pointed arches. Also important are the historic weatherboard siding, hipped roof with exposed rafters and paneled entry door. Wood wainscoting and wood pews with decorative side walls are historic features on the interior.

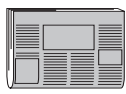
Higginbotham Turnpike - Spencer The Higginbotham Turnpike is part of the 1838 Trail of Tears when the federal government forcibly removed Native Americans from their ancestral homes in the southeast. The Trail of Tears encompassed several routes for the removal of Native Americans. This 4.7-mile segment was part of the Northern Removal Route where nine detachments comprising about 10,000 people were sent to the west. Higginbotham Turnpike is near the Rocky River Crossing and Road, another important site associated with the Trail of Tears.

Sulphur Fork Bridge - Adams The 1890 Sulphur Fork Bridge is the third bridge at this once well-traveled crossing on what was the Old Clarksville Springfield Road. Located in northeast Montgomery County at the Robertson County

line, over the Sulphur Fork Creek, both counties paid for the bridge. Built by the Converse Bridge Company, it is a pin connected, iron Pratt through truss that sits on masonry piers. Concrete deck girders on concrete piers were added in 1955. In 1990, a new bridge was erected nearby, and this bridge was taken out of service for vehicles. It is now a pedestrian bridge in Port Royal State Park.

Ward School - Hartsville The Ward School served Hartsville’s African American students from its opening in 1948 until 1966 with its last graduating class. Located outside of the downtown commercial area, the school is in a historic African American neighborhood and was the only school building in Trousdale County for African American high school students. When it opened, the school included classrooms, workshop, library, cafeteria, restrooms, offices and a gym. In addition to its primary use for education, the Ward School was used as a meeting space for public activities, examples being the May Day celebration and concerts.

Wayne County Courthouse - Waynesboro Designed by the Nashville architectural firm of Yearwood and Johnson and completed in 1975, the Wayne County Courthouse exemplifies the character defining features of Brutalism design. The large-scale angular building is notable for the exposed “raw” concrete/masonry exterior, large areas of formed concrete and limited fenestration. Features of Brutalism inside that remain are the exposed concrete and marble with no embellishments. A comparison of the building with the few Brutalist designs in the state reveals that the Wayne County Courthouse is unique in design due to the relationship of the solid rectangles, sloping rooflines, and tall clock tower.



CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. **No charge to TML members.** Send advertising to: Carole Graves: cgraves@TML1.org.

ACCOUNTANT
GREENEVILLE. The Town of Greeneville is seeking a professional Accountant with a CPA or a CMFO (Certified Municipal Financial Officer) or achievement of such certification within two years. Municipal government finance accounting experience preferred. Bachelor's degree required. Salary DOE. Applications and resumes can be emailed to humanresourcesstaff@greenevilletn.gov or mailed to Human Resource Director, 200 N. College Street, Greeneville, TN 37745. A completed application is required for consideration. To download an application, please visit www.greenevilletn.gov and click Public Services>Human Resources>Forms & Downloads.Open until filled. EOE/Drug Free Workplace

BUILDING INSPECTOR
TULLAHOMA. The City of Tullahoma is accepting applications for the position of Building Inspector which reports to the Planning Director. The Building Inspector conducts periodic and required inspections of buildings and structures for compliance with applicable building codes, including mechanical and plumbing inspections as required. This position also reviews and approves construction and specification plans for compliance with Standard Building Codes. The building inspector conducts inspections throughout the community, investigating complaints of code violations, generating notification letters, and issuing citations as needed. Applicants need to have a high school diploma and a college degree is desirable. Certification as a building inspector is preferred and additional certifications in mechanical and plumbing are also preferred. Knowledge of applicable building codes is required and ability to review construction and specification plans are preferred. Other ICC certifications will be required within one year. This is a full-time position with an annual salary between \$47,530 - \$50,446, depending on qualifications. The hours of work are 7:30am to 4:30pm. The city offers a comprehensive benefits package including participation in the TN Consolidated Retirement System. Individuals interested in applying for this position can print the application available on-line at www.tullahomatin.gov and complete the form or obtain an application at City Hall. City Hall / Municipal Building, 201 W. Grundy Street, Tullahoma, TN The application or a resume can be submitted by to City of Tullahoma, Attn: Human Resources, PO Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388; by email: cbrice@tullahomatin.gov; or by Fax: 931-455-2782. A complete copy of the job description is available upon request. Open until filled. EOE

CIVIL ENGINEER/INSPECTOR
COOKEVILLE. The Public Works Department is now accepting applications for a Civil Engineer/Inspector. Work in roadway design, inspections and assisting with design and surveys, and responsible for project layout in the field. Provides technical assistance in roadway, drainage and other construction projects. Verifies GIS data, visually inspects roadway and subdivision construction; acts as liaison with contractors; keeps inspection records. Degree in civil engineering and a valid TN driver's license are required. Two to five years experience and professional engineer license preferred. Must possess Local Government Guideline Manual, Right-of-Way Training Certificate, TDOT certification for purchase of right-of-way, or obtain all within one year of hire date. Pay range \$52,312 - \$78,478, DOE. This position will remain open until filled. Applications/resumes must be submitted online at <https://www.cookeville-tn.gov/> EOE.

CIVIL PLANS REVIEWER
MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking a candidate for the following position: Full-time civil plans reviewer to assist the director, deputy director and city engineer in the Public Works and Engineering Department in a variety of functions related to development services, general engineering, construction plans review, and the publication of manuals, specifications, etc. for the city of Mt. Juliet. Selected candidates will be required to complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary by each specific position. Applicants will need to hold a valid TN driver license. Excellent benefits and TCRS Retirement; Salary DOE. Detailed job descriptions and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available at the city's website, www.mtjuliet-tn.gov. This position will be open until filled. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic

application process, please call (615) 754-2552. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
ALCOA. The city of Alcoa is seeking highly qualified candidates for the position of director of finance. Under the appointment and general direction of the city manager, the director of finance serves as a member of the senior management team. The director of finance provides day to day supervision over approximately 33 direct / indirect reports in the areas of accounting, revenue collection, customer service, utility meter services, and city recorder functions. This position is responsible for the coordination and preparation of the City's \$159 million annual operating budget. Key responsibilities include but are not limited to the following: Serves as chief financial advisor to the city manager; forecasts and compiles financial data for the city's annual budget; continuously monitors revenues and expenditures to ensure the fiscal well-being of the city; prepares financial reports in compliance GAAP and for submission for GFOA's Certificate of Excellence Award; provides oversight responsibility for the annual audit process; establishes and maintains internal control procedures in accordance with state and national standards; serves as the city recorder (city clerk); supervises the collection of utility payments, taxes, fees, and other receipts in accordance with laws and regulations; oversees the investment of city funds; directs the preparation of state and Federal reports, including tax reports; develops finance-related ordinances and resolutions. Applicants must be a proven leader who demonstrates professionalism and support to staff. Must possess superior management skills and the ability to make sound decisions pertaining to assigned staff and financial matters. In addition, the ideal candidate will have considerable experience and knowledge in the following areas: modern governmental accounting theory, principles, and practices; public finance and fiscal planning; accounting related functions; budgetary, accounting and reporting systems, GAAFR, GAAP and GASB; ability to prepare and analyze complex financial reports; ability to maintain efficient and effective financial systems and procedures. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in accounting or finance preferred. Closely related fields in business or public administration will be considered. Five years of progressively responsible municipal finance work along with experience in a management level position. Must be bondable. Must possess a CMFO (Certified Municipal Finance Officer) certification or equivalent exemption. Certified Public Accountant (CPA) preferred. Interested persons may obtain additional information and an online application on the City website—www.cityofalcoa-tn.gov. EOE. Please no phone calls.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
MUNFORD. The city of Munford is searching for an economic development professional—someone with initiative, a positive mindset, ability to build and sustain strong relationships. The economic development director reports to the city mayor and will provide advice on all economic development matters in the city and supporting ongoing efforts to promote the local and regional economy while building upon the quality of life enjoyed by residents. This position is responsible for enabling retail, commercial and industrial development that will enhance job growth and the city's tax base. This position serves as the city's primary liaison with firms/ individuals desiring to locate retail, commercial and industrial businesses within the city. The economic development director will develop, plan, execute and evaluate the goals, strategies, and policies for economic development to ensure a favorable climate for business and sustainable economic growth. Minimum requirements: bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in public administration, marketing, economic development, business, communications, or a related field required. A minimum five years professional experience, with a proven track record of success in related economic development function, eight years if degree is not related. Experience and success in retail recruitment and downtown redevelopment is necessary. Grant writing experience and knowledge of funding sources a plus. Please send a cover letter, resume and salary requirements to mpinner@munford.com. A full description of the position is available on www.munford.com

ENGINEER
JACKSON. The person employed in this position will plan, organize, and direct all activities of the engineering

department. Specific job duties include: Must be able to exercise sound judgment and make independent decisions regarding engineering activities; assist in project management for the construction of the municipal public works projects. Oversee assigned projects to ensure contractor compliance with time and budget parameters for the project; review all contracts for projects covering streets or bridges; work closely with the planning department in reviewing subdivision plats and zoning requests; prepare estimates for project costs to correct drainage problems; follow-up on complaints regarding drainage and street flooding; prepare and submit budget for the, engineering department and control the expenditures; evaluate the work of subordinates and departmental working conditions; formulate and prescribe work methods, policies and procedures; maintain regular contact with consulting engineers, construction project engineers, county, state and federal agencies, professional and technical groups and the general public regarding engineering activities and services. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college in the area of construction architectural systems, civil engineering or a related field, and least 10 years of experience or equivalent as an architect, engineer, inspector, contractor, superintendent of construction or any combination of these (five years of which shall have been in responsible charge of work, plus five years' experience as supervisor/manager in city/county government. P.E. or eligible for P. E. licensing in the state of Tennessee, Generous benefit package; hourly rate \$44.98; EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Apply on line at www.jacksontn.gov or contact the City of Jackson Human Resources Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301: Phone: (731) 425-8252; Fax: (731) 425-8673.

FIRE CHIEF
FRANKLIN The City of Franklin is hiring a fire chief. Franklin is accepting applications from Aug. 26, 2020, through the close of business on Sept. 16, 2020. Applications will not be accepted after Sept. 16, 2020. Testing and interview dates for the City of Franklin Fire Chief will be Sept. 29 – 30 in Franklin, TN. Details will be sent to applicants selected to interview. All interested applicants should apply here: www.franklintn.gov/FireChief.

INTERNAL AUDITOR
JACKSON. The city of Jackson has an opening for an internal auditor. The person employed in this capacity will perform his/her duties under the direction of the mayor. This person will conduct protective and constructive audits to review the accuracy and effectiveness of financial controls, records, and operations; will perform a range of auditing and compliance duties using a systematic, disciplined approach. Will also provide staff services, including financial planning, payroll, human resources, purchasing, information technology, risk management, public safety etc. Specific job duties include: responsible for studying and evaluating internal accounting controls related to the various accounting systems determining the adequacy of controls and operating procedures; assist all departments and/or divisions in setting up bookkeeping systems to monitor expenditures; review, discuss and make recommendations for improvements to departmental systems of record-keeping in order to ensure good, sound financial reporting and accountability; make on-site visits to conduct audits and/or inventory checks at all

TN Municipal League needs new city contact information

We need help maintaining our database with the most up-to-date city information. With the recent August elections, we realize that there will be many changes to your city contact information.

Whenever we have a wrong address, the U.S. Postal Service charges TML for returned mail. But more importantly, when the Legislature is in session, you could miss out on vital information. That is why it is so important



that TML has the most up-to-date city information. Please send your updates to Jackie Gupton at jgupton@TML1.org, or Debbie Kluth at dkluth@TML1.org, by phone at 615-255-6416.

city-owned departments; review and discuss changes necessary for compliance; ensure compliance with regulations and controls by examining and analyzing records, reports, operating practices, and documentation; recommending opportunities to strengthen the internal control structure. Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business or public administration, or a closely related field, and five years of progressively responsible municipal finance work. Master's Degree preferred and CPA certification desired. Must be bondable. Generous benefit package; hourly rate is \$34.13. EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Apply on-line at www.cityofjacksontn.gov or contact the City of Jackson Human Resources Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301: phone (731) 425-8252; Fax: (731) 425-8673.

POLICE OFFICER
SHELBYVILLE The Shelbyville Police Department is now hiring Tennessee POST certified police officers. Starting pay based on years of experience. Successful applicants will be required to pass a background check, physical, psychological, and drug/alcohol test prior to final consideration for the position. Applicants must be minimum age of 21 years old. Applications and job descriptions can be picked up at city hall or download from the city website: www.shelbyvilletn.org. Applications will be accepted until position is filled and may be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street Shelbyville, TN 37160. EOE / Drug Free Workplace.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
ATOKA. The town of Atoka is seeking a full-time public works director. The successful candidate will have the following characteristics: positive attitude and work ethic, self-motivated, detail oriented and well organized. The candidate must also be team-oriented and be able to communicate well with the public. A complete job description and application are available at Atoka Town Hall, during normal business hours and also at www.TownofAtoka.com. Applicants must submit a completed town of Atoka job application and a resume with at least three references to the town recorder by 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4, 2020. This is an exempt position. Salary range is \$54,000 - \$62,750 annually. EOE / Drug-Free Workplace.

SENIOR PLANNER
TULLAHOMA. The City of Tullahoma is seeking applicants for a Senior Planner in the Community Development Department. Tullahoma has a population of 20,000 and is a progressive community located in southern middle Tennessee close to Nashville, Chattanooga and Huntsville, AL. The city has numerous parks and greenways, nearby lake access

and a top rated school system making it an ideal place to live. The Senior Planner is responsible for all aspects of municipal planning including zoning, current and long-range planning, site planning and special projects. The Senior Planner provides information and technical services to various boards and committees. This position requires someone who is professional, has strong analytical and problem-solving skills and is able to build effective working relationships. Bachelor's Degree from an accredited undergraduate program in Planning, or other related field is required. Five (5) years of related planning experience in state or local government and AICP certification preferred. Salary range is \$55,000 - \$62,000, DOE. Tullahoma offers an excellent benefits package and participates in TCRS. Please send resume with cover letter to: City of Tullahoma, Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388 or send e-mail to: cbrice@tullahomatin.gov. Position open until filled. Drug Free Workplace/EOE

UTILITY DIRECTOR
SAVANNAH. The city of Savannah is currently seeking a qualified and experienced professional for the full-time position of utility director to manage its natural gas, water and wastewater operations. This includes supervision of 35 full-time employees, being responsible for the acquisition and distribution of natural gas supplies for present and future use, as well as the proper operation, maintenance, reporting, collection, treatment, distribution, and/or disposal of water and wastewater. The successful candidate should possess a bachelor's degree in business administration, industrial management, civil engineering or related field, with 5 to 10 years extensive responsible administrative and supervisory experience in the public utilities field. Prefer certifications in water treatment; wastewater treatment; water distribution system operator; wastewater collections system operator; and natural gas operator qualifications. Benefits include a competitive salary (DOQ), paid health, dental, vision and life insurance, 401(a) retirement, paid leave and holidays. Interested applicants must complete and submit an "Application for Employment" utilizing forms furnished by the city. These forms and a full job description are available at City Hall Human Resources, 140 Main Street, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday except Holidays or on the City's website at www.cityofsavannah.org. Applications may be submitted via email to bmatlock@cityofsavannah.org or mailed to Savannah City Hall, Attention: Human Resources, 140 Main Street, Savannah, TN 38372. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE.



NLC CITY SUMMIT

VIRTUAL NOVEMBER 18-21 2020

We're going VIRTUAL!

A new way to experience City Summit

meet us online.

NOVEMBER 18-21st

Executive Education and Preconference Activities November 16 & 17

Tennessee Municipal League
2020-2021 Officers and Directors

PRESIDENT
Mike Werner
Mayor, Gatlinburg

VICE PRESIDENTS
Ken Moore
Mayor, Franklin
Bobby King
Mayor, Henderson
Ron Williams
Mayor, Farragut

DIRECTORS
Andy Berke
Mayor, Chattanooga
Paige Brown,
Mayor, Gallatin
Randy Childs
Councilman, Kingston (District 2)
Vance Coleman
Mayor, Medina
John Cooper
Mayor, Metro Nashville
W.T. Daniels
Mayor, Greeneville
Mike French
Alderman, Somerville (District 7)
J.H. Graham
Councilman, Crossville (District 4)
Doris Hensley
Mayor, Erwin
Blake Lay
Mayor, Lawrenceburg (District 6)
Gina Holt
City Manager, Springfield (District 5)
Terry Jones
Mayor, Millington (District 8)
Indya Kincannon
Mayor, Knoxville
Katie Lamb
Mayor, Collegedale (District 3)
Christa Martin
Vice Mayor, Columbia
Keith McDonald
Mayor, Bartlett
Wade Morrell
President-CEO, TN Municipal Bond Fund
Lonnie Norman
Mayor, Manchester
Todd Smith
City Manager, Greeneville (District 1)
Jim Strickland
Mayor, Memphis
Mary Ann Tremblay
Vice Mayor, Three Way

PAST PRESIDENTS
Jill Holland (2019) Mayor, McKenzie
Wallace Cartwright (2018) Mayor, Shelbyville
Bo Perkinson (2017) Vice Mayor, Athens
John Holden (2016) Mayor, Dyersburg
Curtis Hayes (2015) Mayor, Livingston
Dale Kelley (2013) Mayor, Huntingdon
Kay Senter (2011) Morristown Vice Mayor
Sam Tharpe (2010) Commissioner, Paris
Tommy Pedigo (2009) Councilman, Morristown

AFFILIATE DIRECTORS
Tracy Baker, Sevierville (TCMA)

TMLAFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS
(Ex-Officio Directors)

TN Assn. of Air Carrier Airports
TN Building Officials Assn.
TN Assn. of Chiefs of Police
TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Recorders
TN Government Finance Officers Assn.
TN Fire Chiefs Assn.
TN Fire Safety Inspectors
TN Assn. of Floodplain Management
TN Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth.
TN Municipal Attorneys Assn.
TN Municipal Judges Conference
TN Chapter, American Public Works
TN Recreation and Parks Assn.
TN Chapter, American Planning
TN Personnel Management Assn.
TN Assn. of Public Purchasing
TN Section, Institute of Transport
TN Public Transportation Assoc.
Assoc. Independent & Municipal Schools
TN Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council
TN Urban Forestry Council
TN Stormwater Assn

TML SPONSORS
5 STAR SPONSOR
Voya Financial Advisors
4 STAR SPONSOR
Blue Cross Blue Shield
3 STAR SPONSOR
First Horizon Bank
2 STAR SPONSOR
Alexander, Thompson, Arnold, CRA's Alliance Water Resources
Bank of America
Bank of New York Mellon, Co.
Entegrity
Waste Management Inc. of Tennessee

1 STAR SPONSOR
Charter Communications
Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc.
J.R. Wauford & Co. Consulting Engineers
Local Govt. Corporation
Mattern & Craig, Inc.
NORESCO
Pavement Restorations, Inc.
Republic Services
Smith Seckman Reid
Tennessee 811
Trane Commercial Systems & Services
TLM Associates, Inc.
Waste Connections of Tennessee Inc.
Waste Industries USA, Inc.

TML SPONSORED PROGRAMS
Public Entity Partners
Tennessee Health Works
Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund

TML PARTNERED PROGRAMS
American Fidelity
GovCard
GovDeals
Omni Partners
Peachtree Recovery Services, Inc.
Reach Alert
TN Drug Card
VC3

TML STAFF
Margaret Mahery, Executive Director
Chad Jenkins, Deputy Director
Mark Barrett, Legislative Research Analyst
Kate Coil, Communications Specialist
Jackie Gupton, Administrative Assistant
Carole Graves, Communications Director & Editor, *Tennessee Town & City*
Sylvia Harris, Conference Planning Director
John Holloway, Government Relations
Debbie Kluth, Marketing Director / Member Services
Kevin Krushenski, Legislative Research Analyst
Denise Paige, Government Relations

Covid emergency relief package still needed to support local governments

For the last six months, the National League of Cities has channeled all its time and resources into assisting the local government response to COVID-19.

As part of those efforts, NLC has worked as closely as ever with the state municipal leagues to keep federal leaders updated with accurate on-the-ground accounts from municipal governments; and factual, data driven assessments of local needs related to COVID-19. NLC has also worked hard to hold together the Big 7 coalition of state and local government associations to make sure we are all working from the same data and unified on the way forward.

And we have repeatedly expressed our gratitude to Congress and the Administration for the difference federal leaders have made to date by approving extraordinary levels of emergency spending in the CARES Act to protect public health, and hold off financial decline, for our most vulnerable households and small businesses.

Unfortunately, the current stalemate in Congress over the next emergency relief package is a clear and distressing message to local officials that some in Congress and the Administration remain unconvinced or unaware of the grim reality facing communities large and small across the nation, which local leaders of both parties have highlighted over the past several months.

NLC sounded the alarm and local leaders responded. Since March, we launched 10

different call to actions and over 4,000 actions were taken. Your voice has made a difference and brought us this far, evident by the number of proposals that have been introduced in support of local governments.

Despite our efforts to educate Congress that Cities are Essential, our opponents continue call our urgent request for federal assistance a “bailout.” To be clear, we are not seeking federal assistance to save local governments. We know the federal government cannot make up for every loss of local revenue.

Rather, NLC has sought an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including indefinite cuts to services at a time when communities need them most, permanent layoffs of municipal employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy. In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities, towns, and villages.

NLC’s unwavering recommendation to Congress since March has been to provide \$500 billion in direct, flexible funding to all municipalities and counties over the next two years with no minimum population threshold determining eligibility for funding.

As cities, towns and villages everywhere have made clear, there can be no national economic recovery without a clear commitment from the federal government to address the staggering revenue shortfalls and skyrocketing costs that local governments have been



forced to incur due to the unavoidable shutdown of our economies and communities.

To local leaders, we don’t have to tell you that Cities are Essential. But we do want to thank you and your colleagues in local government who have gone above and beyond to control the spread of the COVID-19, and to protect your residents and small businesses from fiscal decline in this unprecedented time. However, we know that despite our best efforts, federal aid to address the unprecedented revenue shortfalls local governments are facing will be necessary to maintain operations that produce clean water, safe transit, food inspection, decent and fair housing, public facilities for recreation and education, before and after school care, meals on wheels, warming centers in the winter and cooling centers in the summer, emergency response and public safety, and for everything else local governments are responsible for and that residents have come to expect.

NLC will not stop advocating for the direct federal aid necessary for each and every one of America’s 19,000 cities towns and villages. We will remain ready to work together with federal lawmakers on bicameral, bipartisan legislation that includes fair and appropriate levels of assistance to all cities, towns, and villages; and that includes the necessary guardrails to assure taxpayer funds are appropriately spent.

We ask that you continue to take action by letting your members of Congress know that Cities Are Essential.



Sept. 1-12: Clarksville Riverfest
With the COVID-19 pandemic still having a widespread impact, Clarksville Parks & Recreation is adapting the traditional three-day Riverfest celebration into nearly two weeks to include in-person and virtual events. Events will include a juried art show, virtual talent competition with winners performing at next year’s event, cardboard boat regatta, virtual 5K, DIY Riverfest event, Clarksville Downtown Market, movies in the park events, and a drive-in fireworks display. For more info, visit www.cityofclarks-ville.com/442/Riverfest

Sept. 25-26: Savannah TN River BBQ Battle & Music Fest
Savannah’s Green Acres RV Park will again host the Kansas City Barbeque Society sanctioned cook-off that brings the best teams from the country together to compete for cash prizes. Teams can compete for a grand cash prize of \$10,000 as well as in categories including people’s choice, chicken, pork, ribs, and brisket. Organizers have said that contact will be at a minimum at this year’s festival to protect both participants and judges. For more info, visit tnriverbbqbattle.com.

Sept. 25-26, 2020: Townsend Train Days
The Little River Railroad and Lumber Company Museum in Townsend will host its annual Train Days, celebrating the railroad and logging industry’s history in Townsend and the Great Smoky Mountains. Visitors can enjoy a model train display and other events. For more info, visit <https://littleriverrailroad.org>

NATIONAL BRIEFS



The U.S. has recorded more than 5 million coronavirus cases and now has the most confirmed COVID-19 cases and related deaths of any country in the world. Data compiled by Johns Hopkins University found the number of cases remains high when compared to earlier in the pandemic though it does show some signs of easing. More than 162,000 Americans have died as a result of the disease with more than 1.5 million having recovered. The study also found that five U.S. states in particular are responsible for 40% of the nation’s cases: California, Florida, Texas, New York and Georgia.

One-third of Americans are expected to not make their August rent or mortgage payments after the expiration of the federal eviction moratorium in July and the ending of the \$600 per week boost in unemployment benefits. An estimated 27% of adults missed a rent or mortgage payment for

the month of July with more than one-third (34%) reported they did not expect to be able to make their rent or mortgage payments in August, according to a survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The largest amount of those struggling to make rent and mortgage payments were residents of the Southeast. An estimated 35% of Americans said they expect to lose employment income due to the pandemic. The ongoing economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has left many Americans forgoing medical care and struggling with food insecurity as well as rent and mortgage payments.

U.S. homebuilder confidence rose for a third straight month to match a record-high, according to the National Association of Home Builders and Wells Fargo Housing Market Index. The high confidence rate is due in large part to low interest rates spurring a surge in customer traffic, especially in suburban markets growing as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The confidence rate of 78 ties with the previous record

set in 1998. Single-family homes in particular are benefiting from low interest rates as urban residents seek housing in more suburban and rural area due to concerns about the spread of coronavirus. Housing starts have rebounded from a six-year low in April.

More than 40% of U.S. adults do not have reliable health insurance, according to a new report from non-partisan healthcare research firm the Commonwealth Fund. The study found that a fourth of working-age adults with adequate coverage reported problems affording their medical bills or debt in the past year with the amount of uninsured and underinsured adults rising to nearly half of all Americans. People of color also disproportionately lacked comprehensive coverage and were more likely to struggle financially with medical business. Study authors said that this information, gathered in between January and June of this year, may worsen due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic with some 27 million Americans having lost insurance coverage between March and May.



October 27–29
NRPA Annual Conference: A Virtual Experience
<https://www.nrpa.org/conference>

November 3-5, 2020
TCMA Fall Conference
Franklin
https://www.tncma.org/fall_conference.htm

November 18-21, 2020
NLC City Virtual Summit
<https://citysummit.nlc.org/>

March 15-16, 2021
TML Legislative Conference
Nashville

July 31 - Aug 3, 2021
TML Annual Conference
Chattanooga



Retirement is a journey

For more than 30 years, Voya in partnership with the Tennessee Municipal League has provided retirement plan services to municipal employees all across the great state of Tennessee.

Competitive Retirement Plan Services for Tennessee’s Towns & Cities

Contact Ed Stewart at 615-627-5936 or ed.stewart@voyafa.com

Investment adviser representative and registered representative of, and securities and investment advisory services offered through Voya Financial Advisors, Inc. (member SIPC).
385783777_0321



Ed Stewart, ChFC, CLU, CFP®
Financial Advisor

Walls for Women project honors suffrage centenary with public art

By KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

Murals are going up in cities across Tennessee to honor the significant role the state played in the women’s suffrage movement as well as highlight female artists.

Kristin Luna, president and co-founder of DMA Events who is organizing the Walls for Women project, is no stranger to public art. DMA Events has helped install murals in several communities across Tennessee since it was founded in 2018 with the goal of bringing more public art to more rural communities across the state.

“I was working on a writing project for the state about 18 months ago that focused on prominent women in Tennessee’s history in celebration of the 19th Amendment,” Luna said. “As a journalist, I’ve always been drawn to writing about powerful, creative female figures, but realizing what a pivotal place my home state had in the suffrage movement gave me the desire to do something to honor that history.”

Slowly, the project evolved from an initial one-day event to something much bigger.

“A year ago, after this fact-finding mission of mine, my husband and I and our third executive board member, applied anthropologist Emilie Hitch, started brainstorming about how we could do an all-women’s ‘paint day’ to honor the 19th Amendment centennial. Then that turned into a paint week, which eventually became a paint month,” Luna said. “We simply had too many talented female artists we wanted to work with—not to mention, many communities who wanted to participate. Logistically, it made sense to stagger all the mural installs out over the course of the month, especially because we physically prep all the walls ourselves and also like to be on hand to document the installation process. We were inspired by all the Votes for Women imagery from the 1900s, and Emilie came up with the name ‘Walls for Women’ as a nod to the suffragists.”

Luna said artists were selected for the project through a mix of submissions through the DMA Events website as well as reaching out to artists they have worked with before and artists who have been recommended to them by others. Communities and small businesses across the state were then asked if they wanted to participate in the project.

“We put out a call at the beginning of the year where any community or small business who could fund their own mural could be a part of Walls for Women, and we’d handle all the logistics—the hiring of artists, prep of the building, travel and accommodation arrangements, materials and equipment rentals, marketing, the list goes on,” Luna said. “Immediately, Visit Knoxville, Blount Partnership (Maryville), McMinnville Tourism Development Authority, and Nelson’s Green Brier Distillery in Nashville jumped on board. The smaller communities who perhaps have no public art or marketing budget could apply to be a pro-bono recipient, meaning it didn’t cost them a penny to participate.”

The projects have been funded through a mix of grants and private donations from cities, chambers of commerce, convention and visitors’ bureaus, as well as local businesses and the Tennessee Arts Commission’s grants. So far, murals have been completed in Tullahoma, McMinnville, Maryville, Knoxville, Nashville, Nolensville, and Centerville.

“We were able to gift murals to the towns of Tullahoma and Centerville thanks to private funds from companies like Cycles Gladiator wine brand as well as a Tennessee Arts Commission creative place-making grant,” Luna said. “Sunbelt Rentals also came on board to supply all of our rental equipment, which really helped out as lifts are always a huge line item in any mural project budget.

“A map of all murals across the state will live permanently on WallsForWomen.com for those who would like to take a road trip across Tennessee and see all the new art. We currently have a map of all murals we’ve completed available on our website for anyone who wants to go on an art drive at any time.”

While COVID-19 seemed to throw a wrench in the project’s plans, Luna said project organizers are turning the pandemic into an



Above: Cincinnati-based artist Jenny Ustick works on the mural “Hebe, the Moon, the Rivers, and the Land” in McMinnville. The mural incorporates several aspects of the city’s history and local culture including the statue of the Greek goddess Hebe erected by a local women’s club in 1914; the saltpeter mines that were used during the Civil War and to start the city’s famed horticulture industry; and the local rivers that run through downtown and have become a large part of tourism in recent years. Located on the side of the city’s Security Federal Savings Bank, the mural is already drawing both locals and visitors to the area to take pictures and admire the completed work.

Odinn Media



Japanese-born, Oklahoma City-based artist Juuri painted “Wisteria Maiden” on the back wall of Memories Antiques in Tullahoma, honoring both her own culture and the Japanese internment camp located near the city during World War II.

Odinn Media

versal equalizer,” Luna said. “You don’t have to be a certain age, race or socioeconomic status to enjoy it; it’s open to all to enjoy, and every viewer is going to have a different emotional response than the next. Whereas you’d have to spend money to see art inside a gallery, museum or even coffee shop, it doesn’t cost a penny to consume public art. Many rural communities in Tennessee don’t have museums, art galleries, or public art programs, and many residents in these communities don’t travel far and wide, so we hope to bring culture and exposure to the arts to them through murals.”

So far, Luna said the feedback on the completed murals has been overwhelmingly positive.

“We’ve been lucky in that we’ve only been met with positive feedback in this project,” she said. “I honestly have not seen a single negative remark throughout the whole process, which is remarkable as everyone seems to be armchair art critics from the safety of hiding behind their Facebook accounts. I had no idea McMinnville was going to love the Hebe piece as much as they have, but the community feedback has been astounding.

Luna said McMinnville’s mayor in particular was extremely supportive.

“Mayor Ben Newman, who owns a law office across from the mural and was instrumental in bringing the mural to town, was so incredible in the process that he brought his five-year-old daughter down to ‘help’ paint,” she said. “He was constantly delivering the four Cincinnati snacks from the farmers’ market and doing other random acts of kindness like renting them kayaks so they could enjoy the area while they were in town. The rest of the tourism authority and the area’s tourism director Mandy Eller were equally as amazing to getting this project off the ground.”

McMinnville Mayor Ben Newman said the mural is already bringing members of the community together.

“It has had a wonderfully positive impact on our community just from the time that the women who worked on the project started putting paint on the wall,” he said. “I was there one morning and there were people doing their morning exercises who were telling the artists how wonderful it looked. On a daily basis I see people walking by, taking

pictures of it, standing in front of it, and looking at it. Everyone I’ve talked to says how good it makes them feel and how great it looks. My five-year-old daughter and her friend got to see women doing something in a creative role and doing something so special – it was a really positive thing. It shows them they can really do anything they want to.”

The mural is also bringing visitors from other areas to McMinnville.

“We have had people from other areas of the state asking where the mural is and how they can find it,” he said. “They either want to see if it something they can do in their community or just to see something beautiful. People are traveling here to see it, and I think people will continue to do so. We have some different murals downtown and this just further excites people to want to do more. They see something like this and think ‘I can have something like this on my building.’ I think this will spur even more public art than we have now. The more art you have in your city the better off everyone is.”

Newman said the mural has many subtle references to McMinnville’s history and culture, helping reinforce the community’s unique identity.

“Having our own identity is important to showcase who we are and what we have to offer,” Newman said. “If you look at the left side of the mural there is a blue shape in different colors that represents the rivers we have here. We have 40 miles of navigable waters in this area, which is a lot for not being situated on a major transportation river like the Cumberland or the Mississippi. Some people will know the Hebe statue from downtown, but they may not know the history of it.

“Part of the mural lets us delve into our local history. That statue was placed downtown in 1914 by the women’s league. Through this, people might ask more questions about our history. The crystal structures in the middle represent the saltpeter mines at Cumberland Caverns. Saltpeter is an ingredient in fertilizers for our nursery industry and was used for gunpowder in the Civil War. This is a visual representation of our history and all of it is so well thought out.”

To see a map and list of completed Walls For Women murals as well as updates on ongoing mural projects, visit WallsForWomen.com.



Knoxville artist Paris Woodhull got a chance to paint her own town with a mural at Printshop Beer Co. Woodhull’s mural celebrates both the suffrage centenary and the accomplishments of women since. It also honors a key suffragist and the artist’s own great-great-great-grandmother, Victoria Claflin Woodhull, the first woman to run for president of the United States.

Odinn

opportunity. Luna said the delay will allow the project to open up to more communities who maybe didn’t know about it initially or didn’t have the funds in place to participate in the first round, as well as work with more artists on new projects.

“We had other towns who couldn’t raise the funds in time and, as expected, cities who came calling after some major publications like *Forbes* shined a light on what we were doing,” she said. “We now have a waiting list for round two of Walls for Women, which we’re seriously considering for later in the fall as a way to extend the celebration throughout the centennial year. I’d also love to use this as a springboard to honor women forever going forward, not just during this centennial year.

“Our board is two-thirds women—and the lone male, my husband Scott, is a huge ally to women—so I’d anticipate it’s likely Walls for Women will become a main program of ours going forward as our nonprofit evolves. So many communities—like Sharon, Huntingdon, Viola, Madison, and beyond—are interested in us coming there next. We’re really excited about the prospect of doing more art in even more

Tennessee towns in the future.”

Luna said the goal of the project is to both inspire and create a sense of unity and community.

“Public art has so many proven effects, like boosting both mental and emotional well-being, and it’s necessary in all years but especially during a pandemic when so many people have lost jobs, homes, loved ones,” she said. “We target highly visible locations—some in downtown districts or Main Streets, others near schools or parks—but also look for walls that were already in dire need of a coat of paint. It’s amazing the domino effect that fixing up a building in a highly concentrated area has.

“During past projects, we’ve seen the other buildings surrounding the mural hustle to fix up their own buildings due to the added attention being drawn to the neighborhood. A mural is a source of pride for a community and it also sets the bar high for how the other businesses surrounding it treat their own property.”

Additionally, public art is more accessible, especially for those who maybe never visit a traditional gallery or museum.

“Public art is free. It’s a uni-