



# 2021 Annual Report

**Tennessee Towns and  
Cities Working Together**





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## **Who We Are & What We Do**

Since 1940, the Tennessee Municipal League has been dedicated to helping Tennessee's cities and towns promote economic development and quality of life issues for their communities. The League offers services and programs that will give municipal officials the knowledge and tools for making the best possible public decisions in the complex world of municipal government. Based in Nashville, the Tennessee Municipal League serves as the voice of and advocate for Tennessee's 345 towns and cities.

## **Contact Us**

Tennessee Municipal League  
226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd, Suite 710  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
[www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org)

# **ABOUT TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE**







# Message from the President

Dr. Ken Moore  
Franklin Mayor  
TML President



Tennessee is experiencing the most rapid transformation in its history and so is TML. Since 1940, TML has been the voice of our cities and towns, and as a result of working together, our communities have prospered and grown. As president, I want to take this historic partnership with our state and our reputation to the next level.

We are grassroots, not top-down. Under the leadership of our new executive director, TML is more engaged with our member cities and state government, modernizing our communications, and ever mindful of providing real value to help our cities address their challenges.

Our success, however, depends on you! Your involvement in TML is what makes our collective advocacy, reputation and expertise a reality. Thank you for your support and continued involvement in this great organization

*Ken Moore*



# Tennessee Municipal League Board for 2021/2022



Bobby King  
Henderson Mayor  
1st Vice President



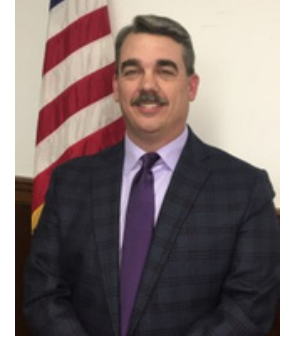
Ron Williams  
Farragut Mayor  
2nd Vice President



Paige Brown  
Gallatin Mayor  
3rd Vice President



Kevin Brooks  
Cleveland Mayor  
At-Large



Mike Callis  
Portland Mayor  
At-Large



Vance Coleman  
Medina Mayor  
At-Large



Christa Martin  
Columbia Vice Mayor  
At-Large



Keith McDonald  
Bartlett Mayor  
At-Large



C. Seth Sumner  
Athens City Manager  
At-Large



Mary Ann Tremblay  
Three Way Vice Mayor  
At-Large



Mark Watson  
Oak Ridge City Mayor  
At-Large



Darrell Duncan  
Kingsport Alderman  
District 1



Randy Childs  
Kingston Council  
District 2



Katie Lamb  
Collegedale Mayor  
District 3



Hoyt Jones  
Sparta Alderman  
District 4



# Tennessee Municipal League Board for 2021/2022 (Continued)



Ann Schneider  
Springfield Mayor  
District 5



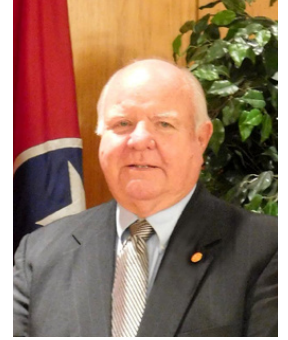
Blake Lay  
Lawrenceburg Mayor  
District 6



Mike French  
Somerville Alderman  
District 7



Terry Jones  
Millington Mayor  
District 8



Tommy Pedigo  
Morristown Council  
Past President



Sam Tharpe  
Paris Commissioner  
Past President



Kay Senter  
Morristown Council  
Past President



John Holden  
Dyersburg Mayor  
Past President



Bo Perkinson  
Athens Mayor  
Past President



Wallace Cartwright  
Shelbyville Mayor  
Past President



Jill Holland  
McKenzie Mayor  
Past President



Mike Werner  
Gatlinburg Mayor  
Past President



John Cooper  
Mayor  
Metro Nashville



Tim Kelly  
Mayor  
Chattanooga



Indya Kincannon  
Mayor  
Knoxville



Jim Strickland  
Mayor  
Memphis



Dale Kelley  
TMBF Chairman  
Huntington Mayor



Curtis Hayes  
PE Partners Chairman  
Livingston Mayor



Tim Ellis  
City Manager  
Goodlettsville



# The TML Perspective



Anthony Haynes  
Executive Director

Thank you for taking time to review TML’s first annual report. We believe it’s important that all our member cities, partners, and sponsors, are aware of the year’s key achievements on behalf of Tennessee’s towns and cities. We also want to be accountable to you. So let us know what you think and how we can better serve you.

Although this report focuses on our organizational achievements, it is important to remember TML is not just another association in Nashville – it’s you! TML is thousands of elected officials, municipal employees, partners and sponsoring organizations from all across Tennessee and beyond. Together, we form one of the most influential, respected and called upon voices in shaping our state’s laws, policies and their implementation.

Whether you support TML through membership dues, sponsorship or your time, thank you! Together, we all are making a difference for our towns, cities and state, that will benefit generations to come.

## TML Staff



Chad Jenkins  
Deputy Director



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Research/  
Website



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Director, Comms  
& TT&C Editor



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Asst. & Board  
Secretary



Sylvia Harris  
Director,  
Conference &  
Meeting Planning



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Government  
Relations



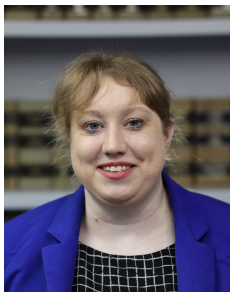
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Relations



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Research Analyst



Kate Coil  
Staff Writer



Jane Alvis  
Urban Policy &  
Legislative  
Coordinator





# Membership Driven

When people work together great things happen. It's the story of every town and city. Over the past two years, people from all walks of life helped one another and put others before themselves.

We engage our state and federal governments on the issues that matter to you. When our towns and cities stand together with one voice, the results benefit all of our citizens. Membership in TML has many other benefits. Through our topic webinars, virtual meetings and interviews with key government officials, we put you at the forefront of important discussions, policy issues, and decisions impacting your city each day.

Looking ahead, we are exploring corporate sponsorships with the League that would not only include benefits and discounts for our member cities, but their employees as well. We are excited what the future holds for our organization and its members. More importantly, we are excited how our towns and cities will shape Tennessee's future.

## Membership Outreach

Beginning in May, TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes and TMBF President and CEO Wade Morrell embarked on a statewide city tour as a means to introduce themselves to city officials.

- Visited more than 50 cities from Memphis to Mountain City.
- Shared value of TML Membership and listened to city officials concerns.
- Most importantly, their message was one of thanks for all that our elected officials do for their communities and the citizens that they serve.



Above: Wade Morrell, Mountain City Alderman Dustin Shearing, Mayor Jerry Jordan, and Anthony Haynes.

Below: Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland with TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes and TMBF President and CEO Wade Morrell.



TML provides training and networking opportunities for municipal elected leaders to connect with other local officials from across the state who share common experiences. Through various TML meetings, the League provides a forum to investigate best practices and to learn about innovative municipal services and programs.

# TML Education and Programs

Below: House Speaker Cameron Sexton addressed our members at the TML Legislative Conference in March



## TML Legislative Conference

- TML presented the 2021 Legislative Conference as a hybrid mix of some speakers in person and others presenting virtually to our members via Zoom.
- Featured top members of our state leadership, including Gov. Bill Lee, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, House Speaker Cameron Sexton, Comptroller Jason Mumpower, Senate State and Local Chairman Sen. Richard Briggs and House Local Government Chairman Rep. John Crawford.
- More than 400 people tuned in for the two-hour event

## TML Annual Conference

- Held in person in Chattanooga, Sept. 18-21
- More than 500 present, representing 80 cities and 40 First Time Attendees
- The four-day event featured educational workshops with continuing education requirements for the Certified Municipal Finance Officers (CMFO) and Utility Board Member Training, making it possible for attendees to receive 8.5 to 9.5 continuing education training hours.

## TML District Meetings

- Held virtually over a two-week period in December.
- All eight districts were offered using a webinar format.
- Agenda items included information on TML's 2022 legislative priorities proposed by Tennessee cities and approved by the TML board; updates on federal ARPA funds; and a preview of the upcoming legislative session.
- Our members heard presentations from Revenue Commissioner David Gerregano, Interim TDOT Commissioner Joe Galbato, and TDEC Deputy Commissioner Greg Young
- TML District Meeting presentations can be found online at: <https://www.tml1.org/tml-2021-district-meetings-content.5>

# Government Engagement & Advocacy

A primary mission of TML is engaging state and federal governments on behalf of towns and cities. We work to secure needed funding increases, modify or defeat proposals that would increase the operational cost to cities, especially unfunded mandates, and serve as a resource working directly with government officials in helping craft policies and proposals affecting municipal governments.

## State Relations

In 2021, our team:

- Secured \$50 million in discretionary grants for cities.
- Monitored 1,654 bills of which 665 had a potential impact to municipalities. This included a record number of almost 300 “caption bills,” that could have been amended to include language impacting cities.
- Protected local revenue collected from local lodging businesses – which for Tennessee cities equals some \$150 million in revenue annually.
- Protected local zoning authority including building materials, especially in historic districts.
- Our team yielded a 70:1 return on investment (ROI) for what we expend on state legislative engagement.



Above: Prior to the 2021 Legislative Session, Franklin Mayor Ken Moore, left, and TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes, right, met with Lt. Gov. Randy McNally to discuss TML’s legislative agenda.

Top right: Gov. Bill Lee attended an event in Gallatin with Mayor Paige Brown, Rep. William Lamberth, and Sen. Ferrell Haile.

Bottom right: Henderson Mayor Bobby King visits with Sen. Page Walley.



# Government Engagement & Advocacy

## Federal Relations

Working in concert with the National League of Cities (NLC), TML monitors federal actions, and when needed, engages our Congressional delegation and executive branch agencies. Our team also participates weekly in calls with The White House's Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

## Some of 2021's key federal successes included:

- Active engagement of U.S Treasury officials and filing formal comments in helping shape funding distribution and use requirements of funds provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
- Successfully opposing a proposed U.S. Census Bureau change in population threshold for Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's), which could have cost Morristown, Cleveland and Jackson millions in federal funding eligibility.
- Nominated and helped secure the appointment of Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic to serve as a member of the EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee and co-chair of its small towns subcommittee.
- Submitted comments with the Environmental Protection Agency on their proposed changes to regulations governing "Waters of the U.S."



Above: TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes, U.S. Rep. Tim Burchett, and Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic in Washington D.C.



Above: The Greeneville Board of Mayor and Aldermen met with Sen. Steve Sutherland and Rep. David Hawk to discuss the town's legislative priorities.

Right: Tennessee Comptroller Jason Mumpower and Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks at the TML Annual Conference in September.



# Communications



[www.facebook.com/TML1.org](http://www.facebook.com/TML1.org)



[twitter.com/TML4Cities](https://twitter.com/TML4Cities)



[www.tml1.org](http://www.tml1.org)



[www.ttc.tml1.org](http://www.ttc.tml1.org)

Internal and external communications are key to everything we do. Our members gain access to relevant information and are provided with an avenue for city officials to engage with state leaders on issues that matter.

- **Communications Review** – In 2021, we conducted a top to bottom review of our internal and external communications. We developed an overall strategy to migrate to more digital platforms to better connect with municipal officials, employees, and to expand our external audiences to the general public. We can provide more timely information to mobile users on-the-go and strengthen marketing efforts for TML sponsors.
- **TML Launches Social Media Presence** – TML officially launched our outreach on Facebook and Twitter. Facebook analytics show we have reached some 57,684 people. On Twitter more than 54,855 have viewed our tweets.
- **TT&C Goes Digital** – Beginning January 2022, TML launched a digital *Tennessee Town & City*. The online version includes feature articles on various city projects, a people section that highlights city and state officials, and legislative information. With this new format, our members will have up-to-date information about issues and people on a timely, daily basis. By going digital, the savings allows us to reallocate funds to other TML priorities.

# Creating A Stronger, Member-Driven League



Sam Tharpe, Paris Commissioner and TML Past President, with Ken Moore, Franklin Mayor and TML President.



Ann Schneider, Springfield Mayor and TML District 5 Director, and Paige Brown, TML 3rd Vice President and Gallatin Mayor.

## New Policy Process

In November, the TML Board of Directors created a new Standing Policy Committee to fully explore issues of relevance to municipalities. The committee consists of four subcommittees (Finance, Development, Municipal Governance, and Infrastructure) who will seek solutions to immediate challenges as they arise, review and comment on legislation, and develop and propose policy initiatives. The creation of these policy committees opens the door for 56 municipal officials to sign up and become more actively engaged in the League.

## New Board Election Process

In August, TML President Mike Werner issued a call for prospective nominees for nine available board positions on the TML Board and announced the formation of the TML Nominating Committee for 2021-2022. Any current elected or appointed official with a municipality who is a participating member of the League could submit the name(s) of qualified individual(s) for consideration for a board position. The nominating committee reviewed the prospective candidates and put forth the slate of city officials for a vote of approval by our membership at the Annual Business Meeting held during the Annual Conference in Chattanooga.

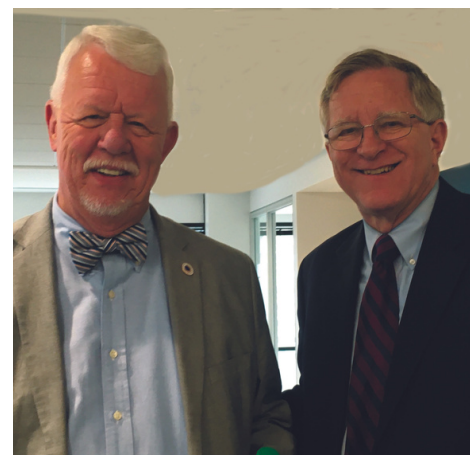
## New Program Review

In 2021, TML, using the expertise of outside consultants, conducted top to bottom reviews of our processes. Our goal was to ensure we are operating efficiently, effectively and at the level of performance our membership deserves. Reviews included our state legislative and grassroots efforts, internal and external communications, and marketing and sponsorship efforts. We will continue to review our efforts and incorporate the findings and improvements identified within our organization.

## New Strategic Plan

We also embarked upon the first strategic plan re-write since 2012. With the support of our partner at the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), the plan will incorporate input from TML members, partners, and state government officials.

Below: Ron Williams, Farragut Mayor and TML 2nd Vice President, with Bo Perkinson, Athens Mayor and TML Past President.





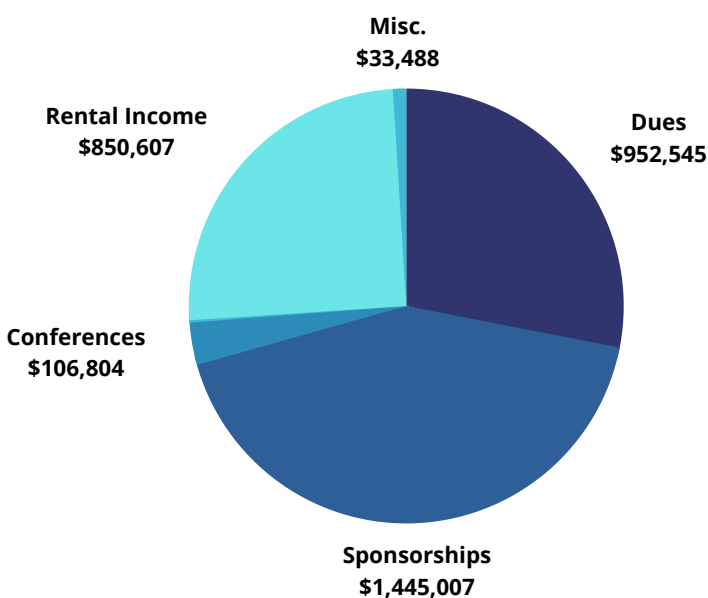
# Financials

Due to COVID-19, 2021 was a great year of uncertainty for many organizations, including TML. Although our conference revenues were slightly down, we planned and executed a first-rate in-person conference. While many of our sponsors faced their own financial uncertainties, their support of our work was maintained. We are grateful for their continued support. Your membership dues also are critical in making TML's vision and mission a reality.

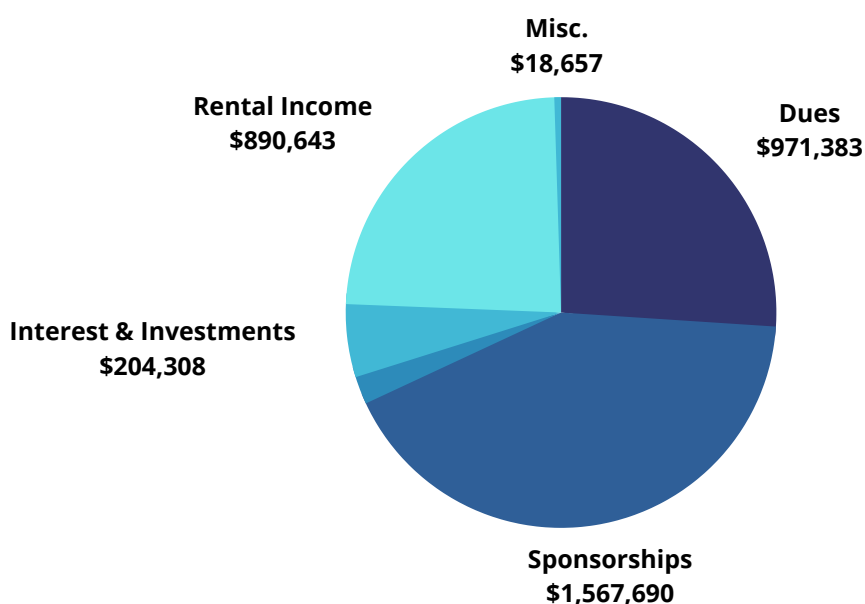
## Revenue Comparison By Source

Revenue Source	YOY % Change
Dues	1.98%
Sponsorships	8.49%
Conferences	-27.20%
Interest & Investments	3317.09%
Rental Income	4.71%
Misc.	-44.29%

### Revenue - FYE 2020



### Revenue - FYE 2021



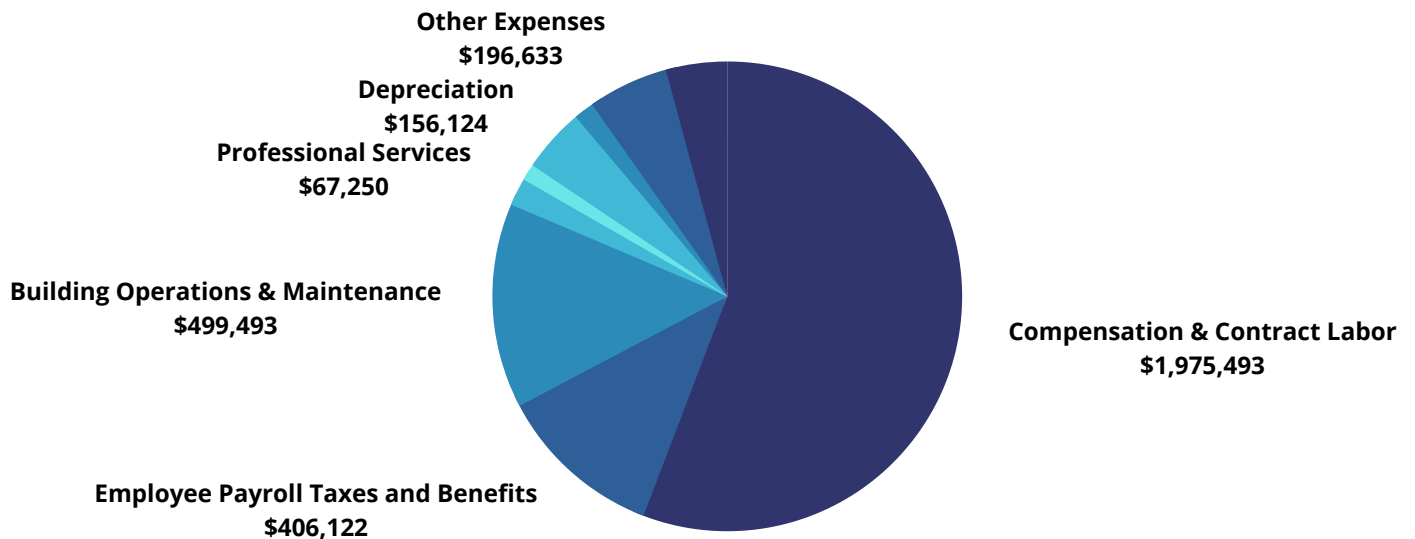
# Financials

We are committed to being good stewards of our resources. TML does not deliver government programs or pass-through dollars; TML advocates, engages, and works to get answers and resolution to issues that affect you. We share important news, developments and information that impacts your work and the health of our towns and cities. The expenditures of TML are focused on helping you every day.

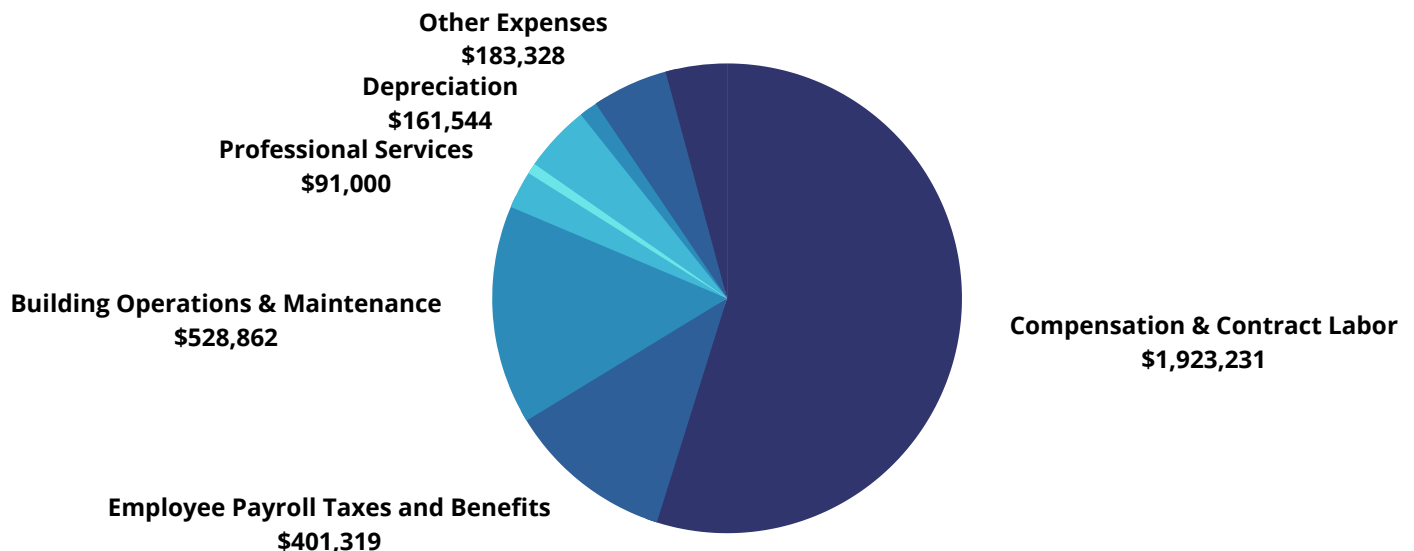
## Expense Comparison By Use

Expense	YOY % Change
Compensation & Contract Labor	-2.65%
Employee Payroll Taxes and Benefits	-1.18%
Building Operations & Maintenance	5.88%
Legislative Expenses	-0.84%
Professional Services	35.32%
Printing & Postage	-36.26%
Depreciation	3.47%
TT&C Newspaper	-10.43%
Other Expenses	-6.77%

### Expenses - FYE 2020



### Expenses - FYE 2021





## Our Vision

Our vision is to be stronger in everything we do. We will critically review areas such as government advocacy and engagement, communications, sponsorships and membership benefits. We will identify new ways to educate and inform through our annual conference, regional meetings and webinars.

A stronger TML starts with you. Under President Moore's leadership, we have been challenged to create new opportunities for member participation and involvement in TML.

TML is a grassroots organization of real people, working every day for better towns and cities, who enjoy the trust of the people in their communities. We are not a special interest or a single-issue political action center that crowd today's political atmosphere.

Together, we are making a difference. Our collective voice is heard, and the impact felt. Your TML membership at work, producing real time results.



## ON THE HORIZON

Below: Gov. Bill Lee with Covington Mayor Justin Hanson at the grand Blue Oval City announcement in September at the Memphis Regional Megasite.





# Mission Delivery Partners

Over the years, the leadership of TML created three organizations critical to the delivery of our mission of helping Tennessee cities. It all started in 1949 with TML lobbying the legislature for the creation and funding source for the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) at the University of Tennessee. In 1979, the TML Risk Management Pool (now Public Entity Partners) was formed to help cities with affordable risk management options. And in 1985, the TML Bond Fund was created to provide cities affordable access to meet their increasing capital needs.



The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) creates and administers various types of loan programs for the benefit of cities and counties. As an entity of the Tennessee Municipal League, TMBF works closely with city officials to structure cost-effective and flexible borrowing options. Types of projects include but are not limited to schools, roads, utilities, public buildings, jails, equipment, and any other project considered to be of benefit to the public. Project funds are available for any size government. Created in 1985, TMBF began making loans in 1986. Since inception, programs administered by TMBF have resulted in total borrowings by local governments in Tennessee in excess of \$4.65 billion and has now closed more than 1,495 loans. TMBF has saved local governments approximately \$665 million in interest costs alone. Many borrowers have multiple loans through one or more programs. Loan sizes range from \$21,000 to \$103 million. For more information contact: (615) 255-1561.



Public Entity Partners is a cooperative risk sharing arrangement that works in many ways like a traditional insurer. Participating members pay a premium, receive coverage, and make claims against that coverage. The unique relationship between local governments and Public Entity Partners sets it apart from traditional insuring methods. Public Entity Partners is a risk management, coverage/service provider and has the advantage of being able to tailor coverages and services for local government needs and through the risk management process, control the costs for these coverages and services. Public Entity Partners provides liability coverage for both tort and non-tort exposures worker's compensation coverage, and offers a multitude of property coverages. For more information on the services call (800) 624-9698 or (615) 371-0049 or you may visit their website at [www.pepartners.org/](http://www.pepartners.org/)



INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

In the complex world of local government, managing a municipality can be quite challenging, especially in smaller municipalities with limited resources. Established in 1949 by the Tennessee General Assembly, the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), an agency of The University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service, provides local officials with technical assistance in a variety of areas. MTAS consultants will assist in the development of practical and individual solutions for your city. In addition to general and technical consulting duties, MTAS also fulfills municipal training needs through its City University and Elected Officials Academy programs, as well as other specialized training programs. For more information call (865) 974-0411 or you may visit their website at [www.mtas.tennessee.edu/](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/)





## TML Partnered Programs

**AMERICAN FIDELITY**  
a different opinion



## TML Affiliate Organizations

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 Renewable Energy & Economic Devel. Council

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 Urban Forestry Council  
TN Stormwater Assn.

## TML Sponsors



### 1 Star Sponsor

The Brick Industry Association  
Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc.  
Franklin Collection Service  
J.R. Wauford & Co. Consulting  
Engineers  
Local Govt. Corporation  
Mattern & Craig, Inc.  
NORESCO  
Pavement Restorations, Inc.  
Smith Seckman Reid  
Tennessee 811  
Trane Commercial Systems & Services  
TLM Associates, Inc.  
Waste Connections of TN Inc.



### 2 Star Sponsor

Alexander, Thompson, Arnold, CRA's  
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Environmental Products Group  
PATH  
Onsite Environmental  
Rubrik  
Simmons Wealth Management  
Waste Management Inc. of Tennessee



### 3 Star Sponsor

First Horizon Bank



### 5 Star Sponsor

Voya Financial Advisors