



**TENNESSEE
MUNICIPAL
EST LEAGUE 1940**

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tennessee has long been known as the frontier. From the first settlers crossing the Appalachians to today's breakthroughs in science and innovation, the Volunteer State has never stopped looking toward the future. That spirit lives in each of our 345 towns and cities, where the next chapter of Tennessee's story begins.

As America approaches its 250th birthday, it's the perfect moment to recognize how essential our municipalities are to the state's well-being. Strong communities drive economic growth, expand educational opportunity, and shape the quality of life that keeps Tennessee moving forward.

The Tennessee Municipal League (TML) is proud to bring local leaders together to make that progress possible. Whether it's helping shape policy, sharing new ideas, or tackling the big challenges ahead, TML ensures every community has a voice as we chart Tennessee's next frontier.



JULIAN MCTIZIC
TML President
Bolivar Mayor

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ANTHONY HAYNES
Executive Director

On behalf of our staff, thank you for your interest in and support of the Tennessee Municipal League.

Every day, thousands of local officials and municipal employees work tirelessly to strengthen the communities they serve.

Our team is deeply committed to supporting that work through meaningful educational programs, valuable networking opportunities, and strong advocacy.

We always appreciate hearing from you. Please share your ideas, needs, and feedback so we can continue improving the ways we serve you and your community.

When Tennessee's towns and cities thrive, our entire state benefits.

2025/2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Julian McTizic
President
Bolivar Mayor



Kevin Brooks
1st Vice President
Cleveland Mayor



Blake Lay
2nd Vice President
Lawrenceburg Mayor



Paige Brown
Immediate Past President
Gallatin Mayor



Michael Baker
District 1
Erwin Alderman



Gary Chesney
District 2
Morristown Mayor



Stefanie Dalton
District 3
Red Bank Mayor



Keith Morrison
District 4
Algood City Administrator



Tim Ellis
District 5
Goodlettsville City Manager



Jessica Salamida
District 6
Nolensville Vice Mayor



Kim Foster
District 7
Paris City Manager



Bethany Huffman
District 8
Millington Alderwoman



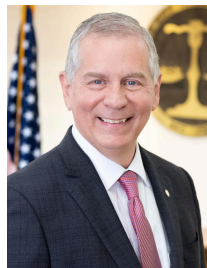
Johnny Dodd
At-Large Director
Jackson Councilmember



Roland "Trey" Dykes
At-Large Director
Newport Mayor



Paul Montgomery
At-Large Director
Kingsport Mayor



Joe Pitts
At-Large Director
Clarksville Mayor



Tim Kelly
Metropolitan Mayor
Chattanooga Mayor



Indya Kincannon
Metropolitan Mayor
Knoxville Mayor



Freddie O'Connell
Metropolitan Mayor
Nashville Mayor



Paul Young
Metropolitan Mayor
Memphis Mayor



Mike Callis
TMBF Chair
Portland Mayor



Jennifer Moody
TCMA Vice President
Belle Meade City Manager

TML STAFF

EXECUTIVE TEAM



Anthony Haynes
Executive Director



Chad Jenkins
Deputy Executive Director and
Senior Director of Government Relations

SERVICES TEAM



Sylvia Harris
Senior Director of Conference
and Meeting Planning



Debbie Kluth
Director of Corporate Sponsorship
and Conference Expo



Jackie Gupton
Executive Assistant
and Manager of Information Services

LEGISLATIVE TEAM



Rhett Pratt
Senior Director of Government Relations
and Membership Engagement

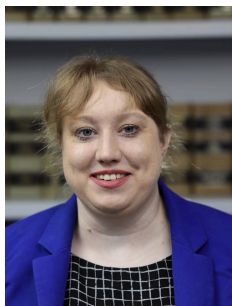


John Holloway
Director of Government Relations

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



Corinne Gould
Senior Director of Communications



Kate Coil
Assistant Director of Communications



Kelly McKinley
Director of Digital Strategy

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Since 1940, the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) has been dedicated to helping Tennessee's towns and cities promote economic development and quality of life for their citizens.

TML is recognized as the leader for public policy advocacy for legislative and regulatory issues affecting municipalities.

TML offers services and programs that give municipal officials the knowledge and tools to make the best possible public decisions in the complex world of municipal government.

A member-driven organization based in Nashville, TML is governed by a board of directors comprised of appointed and elected municipal officials. TML is proud to be known as the voice of Tennessee's 345 towns and cities.



2025 STATS

327

Member Cities

416

Bills Tracked with Potential Impact to Municipalities

1,125+

Conference and Meeting Attendees

12 HOURS

CMFO Continuing Education Credit Offered

10 HOURS

Utility Board Continuing Education Credit Offered

34

Sponsor Organizations

219,000

Social Media Views

6,250

Tennessee Town & City Subscribers

LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

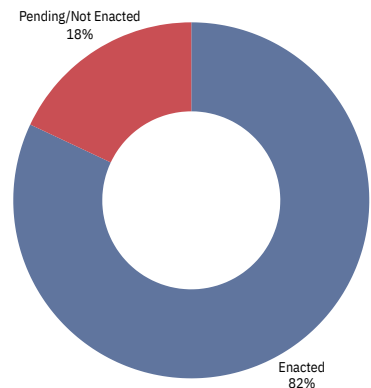
The First Session of the 114th General Assembly convened on January 14, 2025, and concluded on April 22, 2025. Throughout the session, TML's government relations team worked closely with city officials to secure positive outcomes for municipalities. Their coordinated advocacy helped block harmful proposals, protect key local interests, and improve numerous bills to better align with city priorities.

In addition to preventing negative impacts, the team also supported and advanced several positive initiatives. This strategic, collaborative approach enabled them to navigate a complex legislative environment and deliver meaningful, wide-ranging results. Hot topics included revenues, growth, property taxes, governmental liability, benefits for public safety employees, and protocols for public meetings. Nearly half of the 633 bills introduced this session had direct or potential impacts on municipalities.

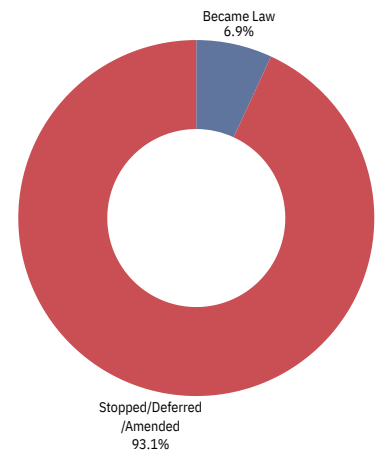
The team identified numerous bills that would have reduced local authority, increased municipal costs, or decreased municipal revenues. Most of these proposals were defeated, deferred, or amended to remove harmful impacts. TML took formal positions on 128 bills—supporting 73 and opposing 55. Of the supported bills, 82% were enacted, and all but 2 remain eligible for consideration next year. Among the 55 opposed bills, only 4 became law, reflecting a strong success rate in preventing adverse legislation.



SUPPORTED BILLS



OPPOSED BILLS

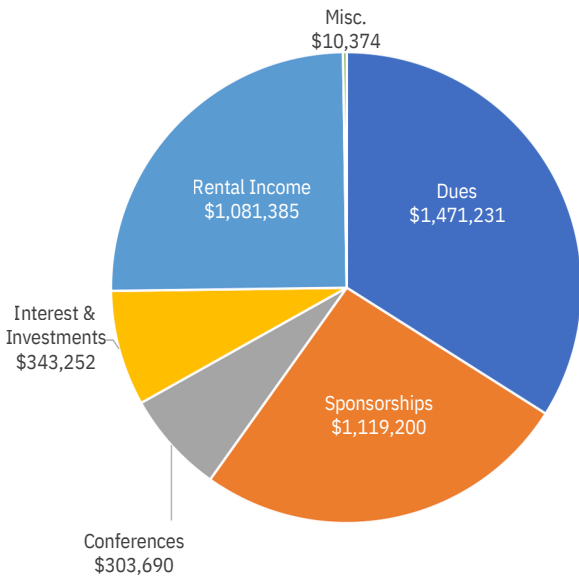


LEGISLATIVE POSITION	TOTAL BILLS	OUTCOME
SUPPORTED BILLS	73	82% ENACTED
OPPOSED BILLS	55	ONLY 4 BECAME LAW

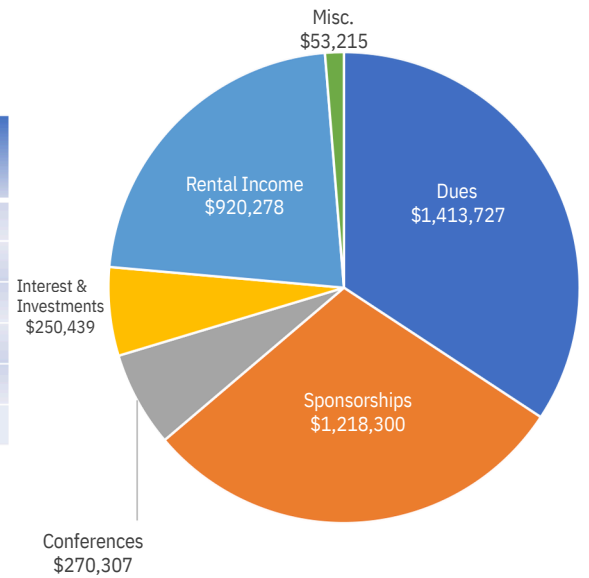
FINANCIALS - FY 2025

TML REVENUE COMPARISON BY SOURCE

Revenue –FYE 2025



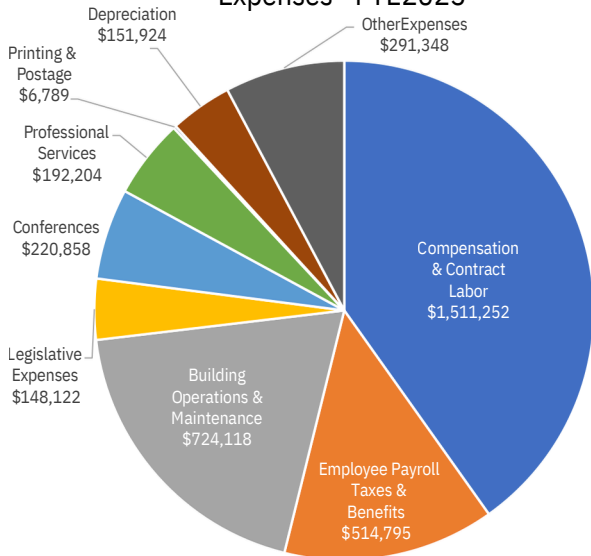
Revenue – FYE 2024



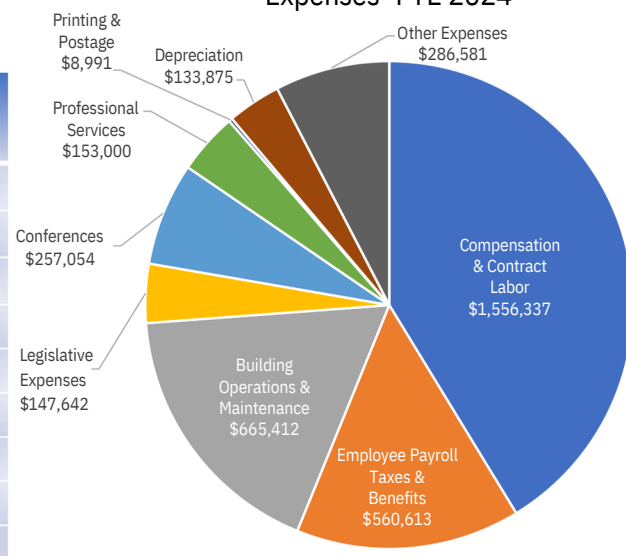
Revenue Source	YOY % Change
Dues	4.07%
Sponsorships	-8.13%
Conferences	12.40%
Interest & Investments	37.10%
Rental Income	17.50%
Misc.	-80.51%

TML EXPENSE COMPARISON BY USE

Expenses – FYE2025



Expenses – FYE 2024



Expense	YOY % Change
Compensation & Contract Labor	-2.90%
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	-8.17%
Building Operations & Maintenance	8.82%
Legislative Expenses	0.33%
Conferences	-14.08%
Professional Services	25.62%
Printing & Postage	-24.49%
Depreciation	13.48%
Other Expenses	1.66%

A NEW LOOK

TML's 2025 Visioning Committee identified the need for stronger communications and a refreshed brand, including a redesigned logo that reflects a modern, future-focused league. Working with designer Victoria Trusty, Senior Director of Communications Corinne Gould outlined key goals: fully spelling out the organization's name, adding a descriptive tagline, including the establishment date to signal longevity and credibility, and retaining a richer red-white-blue palette for a polished, professional look.

Trusty developed five design concepts—plus variations for two—based on those goals and follow-up discussions. An ad hoc committee of current and former Board members Kevin Brooks, Paige Brown, Trey Dykes, Kim Foster, Ken Moore, and Jessica Salamida met with Gould to review the proposals and provide input on how each option represented TML's identity.

The committee united behind one design, and their recommendation advanced to the TML Board. Following a unanimous Board vote, the new logo was approved and publicly launched Jan. 9, 2026.

"TML has built a strong foundation of trust, expertise, and advocacy," Executive Director Anthony Haynes said. He expressed his appreciation to the board and committee for supporting the change, adding "We look forward to moving into 2026 with a new visual representation of the organization and the aim to increase brand awareness to members and the broader community."

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Brand Story

The Brief

Creative Directions

MOOD 5

- + Focus on municipalities with larger text
- + Featuring Tennessee Tri-Star emblem, a modern version of TML's current logo
- + Emphasis on "U"



**TENNESSEE
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE**
EST 1940



**TENNESSEE
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE**
EST 1940



PARTNERS AND PROGRESS

In 2025, TML championed an initiative to establish the Center for Local Planning at the University of Tennessee Institute of Public Service (UT-IPS). A component of Gov. Bill Lee's farmland preservation initiative, the center will provide local governments with needed assistance in zoning, economic development, and infrastructure strategy. The agency will help communities update long-term growth plans and support thoughtful, coordinated growth statewide.

The agency will provide further technical assistance, training, and coordination in partnership and cooperation with Tennessee's nine regional development districts. This effort brings in expertise that anyone can tap into, but it's especially helpful for smaller, rural communities that don't have dedicated staff or the resources to hire these services.

The goal is to have a local planning team in each grand division of the state, overseen by an executive director and sharing centralized support and services, such as GIS, graphic design, grant writing, and report writing. UT-IPS is uniquely suited to lead this new local government asset, with the knowledge and experience to leverage university resources and expertise, and maintain consistency statewide.



MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

In 2025, TML offered members numerous ways to expand their leadership skills, connect with colleagues, and engage with lawmakers.

The Legislative Conference was held Mar. 3–4 at the DoubleTree Hotel Downtown in Nashville. Sessions explored Tennessee’s economic and population trends, infrastructure needs, cybersecurity, fraud prevention in local government, and opportunities for public policy training.

The 85th Annual Conference and Expo convened Aug. 1–5 at the Chattanooga Convention Center. More than 800 members, exhibitors, and sponsors came together for professional development and to hear from policymakers and innovators shaping communities across the state.

Coach Donnie Campbell—the real-life inspiration for the hit tv series *Ted Lasso*—delivered the keynote address, and participants gained insight into emerging technology through a panel discussion on quantum AI.

Savannah’s Bob Schutt was named 2025 Mayor of the Year, Shelbyville Councilman Henry Feldhaus III received the Bob Kirk Local Leadership Award, Paris City Manager Kim Foster was recognized as TCMA City Manager of the Year, and Maryville’s Johnny Garner earned the TCAPWA Murphy Snoderly Award for excellence in public works.

In the fall, TML resumed in-person district meetings, marking a formal return to gatherings that had been conducted virtually since 2020. Events in Jackson, Knoxville, Kingsport, Brentwood, and Crossville created an environment for participants to explore regional priorities, address statewide municipal issues, and exchange ideas with one another.



SPONSORS

Feature Level



Diamond Level



Platinum Level



Gold Level



Silver Level

A2H, Inc.	Holiday Design	The Jefferson Health Plan
ATA PLLC	Local Government Corp	Tidalwave Screen Printing & Fulfillment
Bank of New York Mellon Co.	Mark III Employee Benefits	Tim Leeper Roofing
BCA Environmental	Mattern & Craig, Inc.	TIPS - The Interlocal Purchasing Systems
BuyBoard	OpenGov	UKG
CLA	Performance Services	Veregy
Coryell Roofing	Recreational Concepts	Waste Connections of TN, Inc.
Energy Systems Group	Reeves Young	WM
Environmental Products Group	Sherrill Morgan	
Farmer Morgan	Sierra-Cedar, LLC	
Fortiline Waterworks	Simmons Wealth Management	
Goodwyn Mills Cawood	Tennessee Development District Assn	

Bronze Level

Gallagher Benefit Service
TLM Associates, Inc.

TML Partner Program



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 \$5.3 billion and the closing of more than 1,800 loans. TMBF has saved local governments approximately \$730 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 call (615) 255-1561 or visit their website at www.tml1.org/bond-fund.



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 visit their website at www.pepartners.org.



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 visit their website at www.mtas.tennessee.edu.