

# 2023 Annual Report

Tennessee Towns and  
Cities Working Together





## Stay Informed



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### Photos on the Front Cover

**Top Left:** Selmer Mayor Sherry Inman and Savannah Mayor Bob Shutt.

**Middle Left:** TML Board Members Morristown Councilmember Kay Senter, Farragut City Administrator David Smoak, and Metro Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell.

**Middle Right:** Bolivar Councilmembers Carolyn Spinks and Suzanne Rhea, City Recorder Carri Rhea, and Councilmember Melvin Golden.

**Bottom Left:** TML Board Members Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks, Millington Alderwoman Bethany Huffman, and Brentwood City Manager Kirk Bednar.

**Bottom Right:** Alcoa Vice Mayor Tracey Cooper and Alcoa Mayor Tanya Martin.



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## WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

Since 1940, the Tennessee Municipal League has been dedicated to helping Tennessee's towns and cities promote economic development and quality of life issues for their communities. TML has been recognized as 'the voice' of Tennessee's towns and cities, as well as the go-to organization for our state government in addressing the state's grand challenges. 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  
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Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
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[615-255-6416](tel:615-255-6416)



TML Board Members Kingsport Alderman Darrell Duncan, Springfield Mayor Ann Schneider Williams, and Henderson Mayor Bobby King.

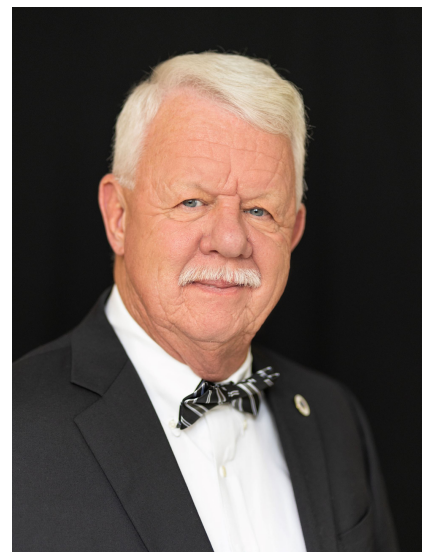


# Message from the President

Tennessee is on the move and people are moving to Tennessee! As our state moves up to the 15th most populated state in the nation with more than 7 million people, there is little end in sight of the business and people that wish to call the Volunteer State home.

There is one group that will largely determine the success of our state during this period of historical growth – our towns and cities. Tennessee’s infrastructure and programs are largely supported by sales tax collections. Almost 90% of those collections occur within Tennessee’s cities. More than 62% of our population lives within a city. The state depends on our cities, not only as its economic engine, but also to make the needed community investments to keep our state moving forward. Simply put, our town and city leaders are critical to Tennessee’s future.

TML is where those leaders come together. Whether its collaboration in addressing our state’s grand challenges or helping shape laws and policies, TML is where it happens. That’s why it is important that you are involved, and your voice is heard.



**Ron Williams**

TML President  
Farragut Mayor

# Government Engagement

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.

## Government Relations

The General Assembly addressed a number of issues, including approving a \$56.2 billion spending plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year which included Lee's \$3.3 billion transportation and infrastructure plan, fully funding Tennessee's new K-12 education funding formula (\$1.1B), increasing teachers' salaries, and implementing new business tax reforms.

A total of 1596 bills were filed during the 2023 legislative session. Of these, TML identified 720 bills that either directly affected or had the potential to directly affect municipalities. More than a third of these bills, 250, were put on notice for consideration in a committee. Of the 250 bills identified and considered, 70 passed, 160 were deferred and 20 failed. Of the 70 passed, all were amended or in a form suitable for municipalities.

Most of the bills identified and considered fell into five main categories:

- Municipal Finance and Taxation
- State Preemption
- Municipal Elections
- Land Use
- Open Records or Public Meetings' Law

Following the conclusion of the 2023 Legislative Session, TML distributed a legislative report that highlighted a select portion of the bills considered. For a copy, go to [https://www.tml.org/sites/default/files/tml/legislative\\_report\\_2023.pdf](https://www.tml.org/sites/default/files/tml/legislative_report_2023.pdf)



Pictured outside of the House and Senate Chambers are Sen. Page Walley, Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic, Brownsville Mayor Bill Rawls, and Rep. Johnny Shaw.



Elizabethton city officials visited with Sen. Rusty Crowe during TML's Legislative Conference. Pictured are City Manager Daniel Estes, Sen. Crowe, Mayor Pro-Tem Bill Carter, and Councilman Michael Simerly.



Tennessee's urban mayors participate in an annual day on Capitol Hill to visit with top legislative leaders. Pictured are Nashville Mayor John Cooper, Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly, Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon and Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland.

# Government Engagement

## 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 participated in weekly calls with The White House's Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

Some of 2023's federal issues include:

- **Waters of the United States or WOTUS.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a Final Rule on the definition of "Waters of the United States" or WOTUS, and restored regulatory actions that existed prior to 2015 under the Clean Water Act. TML continues to advocate for federal wetlands policy that balances environmental protection with the diverse needs of municipalities.
- **Broadband.** TML met with members of Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) as well as members of the Lee Administration to assist with the advancement of broadband deployment. NTIA is responsible for coordinating the federal agency's investments with other state and private sources to connect underserved households. TML served as a conduit between the agency and city governments in an effort to inform cities about the broadband deployment opportunities that exist.



TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes with U.S. Rep. Mark Green.



NLC Executive Director Clarence Anthony with Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly.



TML President and Farragut Mayor Ron Williams, U.S. Rep. Tim Burchett and Farragut City Administrator David Smoak.



Cookeville Mayor Laurin Wheaton and U.S. Sen. Bill Hagerty.



# Membership Engagement

TML is only as strong as our member participation. Over the past several years, TML has worked to fully engage our membership and offer additional opportunities for city officials to be involved in the League. As a result, we continue to grow the influence of cities and towns throughout the state and with our advocacy efforts with the Tennessee General Assembly.

Our work together makes the difference. When cities stick together and speak with one voice, outcomes take shape and begin to happen.

TML has always been a place where municipal officials can gather, gain information, exchange ideas, celebrate cities' accomplishments and to form a united front in an effort to make Tennessee cities and towns operate more efficiently and effectively.

Your involvement in TML makes the difference in Tennessee's future.

In 2022, the TML Board created a new standing policy committee as part of the legislative policy process. The committee meets regularly throughout the year and is charged with fully exploring issues of relevance to municipalities, seeking solutions to immediate challenges as they arise, reviewing legislation, developing and proposing policy initiatives, and identifying issues over the horizon.



TML officials were attendance at the 2023 TNECD Governor's Conference in Chattanooga. Pictured are TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes, TML Vice President and Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic, TN Municipal Bond Fund CEO Wade Morrell, and TML Board Member and Newport Mayor Trey Dykes.



TML Vice President and Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown took part in TML's Restore Return Relief campaign. She and 14 other mayors participated in our Mayors Across Tennessee video series. TML also received content from several other cities producing their own videos. The campaign was a true grassroots effort engaging city officials and local opinion leaders, as well as informing members of the general public through statewide media outlets and social media.



# TML Stakeholders & Partners

## West Tennessee Mayors Association

TML regularly presents at the quarterly West Tennessee Mayors Association's meetings. At TML's request, the association's November meeting was held in Huntington, home of Senate Finance Vice Chair John Stevens, to help emphasize the importance of his support for TML's shared sales tax proposal. Deputy Executive Director Chad Jenkins presented the state's most recent sales tax collection data and showed how most states have fallen well below the rate of Tennessee. Sen. Stevens offered comments following the presentation stating he personally wants to find ways to get more money back to Tennessee's communities and taxpayers.



**Above:** West Tennessee Mayors Association's meeting in Huntington.

## TML-MTAS Partnership Meeting

The staff leadership teams from TML and MTAS held a full day partnership workshop to discuss ways to improve how the two agencies can work together to benefit cities. Held at Montgomery Bell State Park, the meeting was very productive with both teams agreeing to continue to meet throughout the year.



**Below:** TML - MTAS partnership meeting at Montgomery Bell State Park.



Dr. Charles Martinez, UT Agricultural and Resource Economics Professor, discusses farmland loss at the TML Annual Conference.

## TN Dept of Agricultural / Farm Bureau

Agriculture Commissioner Dr. Charlie Hatcher created an agriculture – local government working group to help identify solutions in balancing growth needs with farmland protection. Tennessee ranks third in the nation in farm and timber land loss, and first in prime farmland loss. Commissioner Hatcher asked TML, Tennessee County Services and Farm Bureau to join together with the Department in identifying strategies, proposals, and solutions to this and other challenges facing the state's largest industry. Dr. Charlie Martinez, UT Agricultural and Resource Economics Professor, presented findings of his team's work on state farmland loss during a workshop at TML's Annual Conference in Nashville.



# Boards & Commissions

TML appointments to state boards and commissions gives city officials an opportunity to help shape state policies that not only benefit local governments but more importantly the citizens they serve.

The following city officials are currently serving on a state board:

- **Advisory Commission On Open Gov.-** Shauna Billingsley, Attorney, Franklin
- **Air Pollution Control Board** - Ken Moore, Mayor, Franklin
- **Collateral Pool Board** - Allison Myers, Finance Director, Farragut, TN
- **Consolidated Retirement System Board** - Tim Ellis, City Manager, Goodlettsville
- **Emergency Communications Board** - Blake Lay, Mayor, Lawrenceburg
- **Homeland Security Council** - Jim Hagaman, Mayor, Spring Hill
- **Local Development Authority** - Paige Brown, Mayor, Gallatin
- **Local Government Data Processing Corp Board of Directors**
  - Laurin Wheaton, Mayor, Cookeville
  - Don Weiss, Mayor, Dickson
- **Local Gov. Health Insurance Pool** - Kevin Krushenski, TN Municipal Bond Fund
- **Local Gov. Insurance Committee** - Kevin Krushenski, TN Municipal Bond Fund
- **Tennessee Advisory Committee Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR)**
  - Kevin Brooks, Vice Chair, Mayor, Cleveland
  - Paige Brown, Mayor, Gallatin
  - Jeffrey Griggs, Mayor, Lexington
  - Chase Carlisle, Council, Memphis
- **Underground Storage Tank & Solid Waste Disposal Control Bd.(UST-SWDCB)**
  - Jeff McCormick, ECD Director of Public Works, Goodlettsville
- **Underground Utility Damage Enforcement-** Steve Raper, Energy Authority, Jackson
- **Water Quality Control Board,** Terry Wimberley, Paris Board of Public Utilities
- **Water & Wastewater Operators,** Craig Brymer, Athens Utilities Board
- **TN Board of Utility Regulation,**
  - Candace D. Vannasdale, P.E. General Manager HUB, Nashville
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** Administrator's Local Government Advisory Committee – Julian McTizic, Mayor Bolivar
- **SMART (UT-IPS)** - Johnny Dodd, Councilman, Jackson
- **Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council** - Ken Moore, Mayor, Franklin



Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks serves as TACIR Vice Chair along side Sen. Ken Yager, who serves as the Chair.



Franklin Mayor Ken Moore, seated second from right, serves on the TN Opioid Abatement Council.

# TML Education & Programs

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.

## Legislative Conference

Held in Nashville on March 13-14, 2023, the conference featured top members of our state leadership, including Gov. Bill Lee, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, TN Comptroller Jason Mumpower, Senate State and Local Chairman Sen. Richard Briggs, Rep. Johnny Garrett, UT Economist Larry Kessler, and TBI Deputy Director Brad Nealon. The conference also featured a dynamic media panel who discussed current state affairs. More than 300 people attended the two-day event.

## District Meetings

Held virtually over a two-week period in December, all eight districts were presented using a webinar format. Agenda items included an update on TML's Restore, Return, Relief campaign; a preview of the upcoming legislative session; and information on two special reports on the sales tax growth gap and state budget projections. Presentations on state shared sales taxes, state's revenue picture, proposed changes to the state's property tax assessment are all available for viewing at <https://www.tml.org/2024-tml-legislative-priorities-and-advocacy-materials>





# TML Education & Programs

## Annual Conference

Held in Nashville, July 22-25, the four-day event featured experts and informative speakers, educational workshops, several special events, and ample time to network with other city officials from across the state. NLC Executive Director Clarence Anthony and *Tennessee Crossroads* host Joe Elmore helped kickoff the conference on Sunday. Monday's General Session featured a dynamic panel presentation on *The Future of Electric Power in Tennessee*. Workshop sessions covered such topics as Retail Development, Sales Ratio and Property Tax Collections, Social Media and the First Amendment, Intra-Council Relations, Utility Rate Studies, and Historic Preservation. Many sessions qualified for continuing education training hours for the Certified Municipal Finance Officers (CMFO) and Utility Board Member Training.



Metro Nashville's Color Guard helped kick off the 2023 Conference.



Incoming TML President and Farragut Mayor Ron Williams



Johnson City Assistant City Manager Steve Willis, Vice Mayor Aaron Murphy, Mayor Todd Fowler, and Assistant City Manager Randy Trivette.



Lawrenceburg Mayor Blake Lay and Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland.



Morristown Councilmember Kay Senter and Three Way Mayor Mary Ann Tremblay.



Newport Mayor Trey Dykes and Clarksville Alderwoman Karen Reynolds.

# Looking to the Future

## Visioning Committee

The TML Board of Directors approved a staff recommendation to create its first-ever Visioning Committee. The 17-member committee is charged with identifying issues and opportunities that best position TML through 2040. Issues include, but not limited to, organizational governance and representation, mission delivery, programs and services, funding, and inter-governmental relations. The Committee will engage various TML stakeholders and partners to solicit their input on various issues, topics and challenges.

## Strategic Plan Implementation

From 2021-2022, TML underwent the first strategic planning exercise in 10 years. Included in that five-point-plan were goals to facilitate a culture of innovation, thought leadership and efficiency by all team members. To better achieve our strategic goals and outcomes, internal changes were made to help promote greater accountability, pursue enterprise opportunities, and more clearly define who we are as a team.



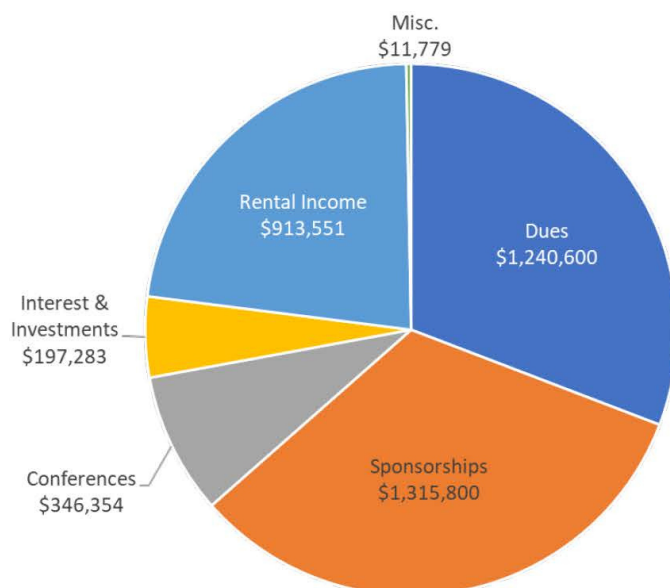
TML staff participated in a two-day de-briefing and planning session.

- Formally Establish the **Division of Government Relations** led by Chad Jenkins, Deputy Executive Director and Senior Director of Government Relations. John Holloway reports to Jenkins and serves as Director of Government Relations.
- Formally Establish the **Division of Communications** led by Carole Graves, Senior Director for Communications and Educational Programming. Kate Coil serves as Assistant Director of Communications and Assistant *Tennessee Town & City* Editor.
- Formally Establish the **Division of Corporate Support and Member Services** led by Mark Barrett, Senior Director of Corporate Support and Member Services. Debbie Kluth serves as Director of Corporate Sponsorship and Conference Expo.
- Sylvia Harris' title changed to Senior Director of **Conference and Meeting Planning**.
- Jackie Gupton's title changed to Executive Assistant and **Manager of Information Services**.

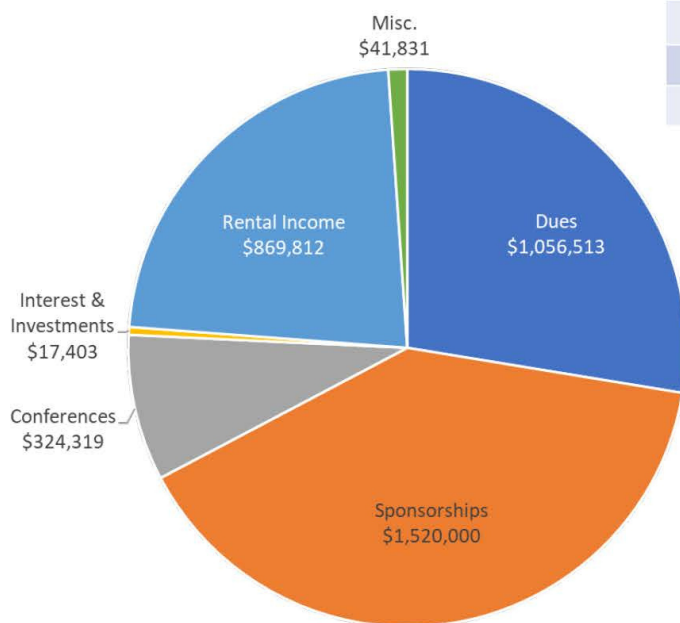
# Financial Highlights

## TML Revenue Comparison by Source

Revenue – FYE 2023



Revenue – FYE 2022



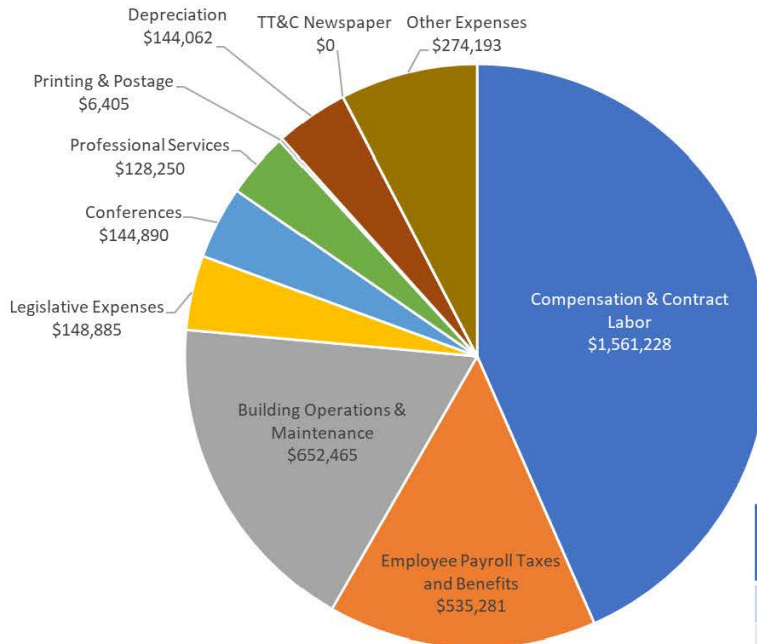
Revenue Source	YOY % Change
Dues	17.42%
Sponsorships	-13.43%
Conferences	6.79%
Interest & Investments	1,033.61%
Rental Income	5.03%
Misc.	-71.84%



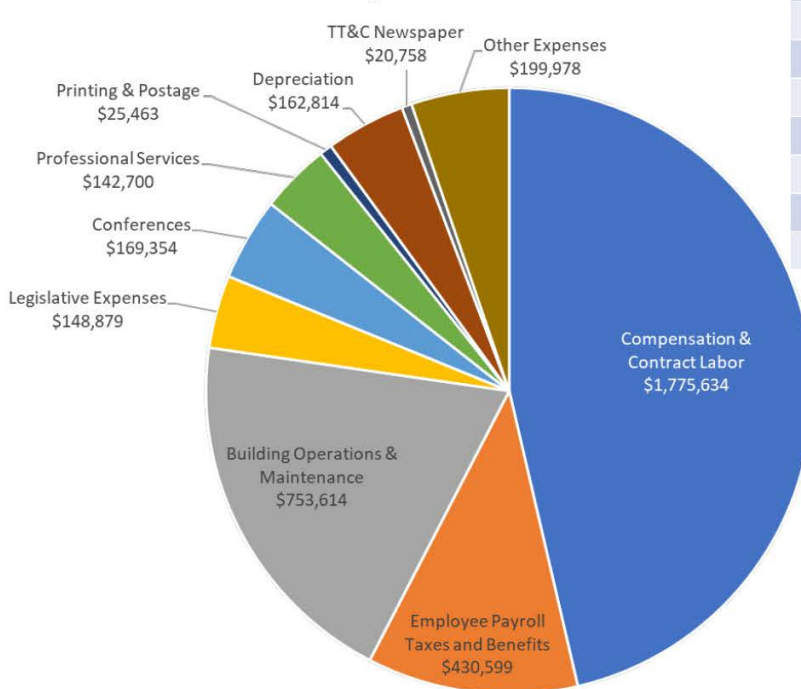
# Financial Highlights

## TML Expense Comparison by Use

Expenses – FYE 2023

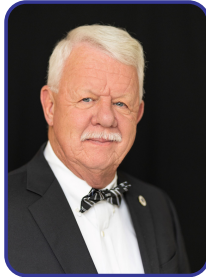


Expenses – FYE 2022



Expense	YOY % Change
Compensation & Contract Labor	-12.07%
Employee Payroll Taxes and Benefits	24.31%
Building Operations & Maintenance	-13.42%
Legislative Expenses	0.00%
Conferences	-14.45%
Professional Services	-10.13%
Printing & Postage	-74.85%
Depreciation	-11.52%
TT&C Newspaper	-100.00%
Other Expenses	37.11%

# TML BOARD FOR 2023/2024



Ron Williams  
President  
Farragut Mayor



Paige Brown  
1st Vice President  
Gallatin Mayor



Julian McTizic  
2nd Vice President  
Bolivar Mayor



Bobby King  
Past President  
Henderson Mayor



Darrell Duncan  
District 1  
Kingsport Alderman



Gary Chesney  
District 2  
Morristown Mayor



Stefanie Dalton  
District 3  
Red Bank Vice Mayor



Keith Morrison  
District 4  
Algood City Administrator



Ann Schneider Williams  
District 5  
Springfield Mayor



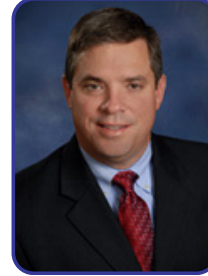
Blake Lay  
District 6  
Lawrenceburg Mayor



Blake Walley  
District 7  
Savannah City Manager



Bethany Huffman  
District 8  
Millington Alderwoman



Kirk Bednar  
At-Large Director  
Brentwood City Manager



Kevin Brooks  
At-Large Director  
Cleveland Mayor



Johnny Dodd  
At-Large Director  
Jackson Council



Roland Dykes  
At-Large Director  
Newport Mayor



Tim Kelly  
Chattanooga Mayor



Indya Kincannon  
Knoxville Mayor



Freddie O'Connell  
Nashville Mayor



Paul Young  
Memphis Mayor



Kay Senter  
TMBF Chair  
Morristown Council



David Smoak  
TCMA President  
Farragut Town Administrator

# TML STAFF



Anthony Haynes  
Executive Director

From the Executive Director

Thank you for taking time to review our 2023 Annual Report. This report covers just a few of the highpoints to give one the appreciation for the range of advocacy and education we offer our cities. There has never been a more important time for a strong TML. The challenges facing our towns and cities continue to mount. Some due to growth, others due to outside special interests and industry groups. Whatever the challenge, your voice and engagement is needed.

Thank you for supporting our organization and its mission. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony C. Haynes".



Chad Jenkins  
Deputy Executive Director  
Sr. Director Gov. Relations



Mark Barrett  
Sr. Director Corporate Support  
& Member Services



Carole Graves  
Sr. Director Communications  
& Educational Programing



Jackie Gupton  
Executive Assistant  
Manager Information Services



Sylvia Harris  
Sr. Director Conference & Meeting  
Planning



John Holloway  
Director Government  
Relations



Debbie Kluth  
Director Corporate Sponsorship  
& Conference Expo.



Kate Coil  
Assistant Director Communications  
Assistant TT&C Editor.



# TML Sponsors

## Thank You TML Sponsors and Partners

### Feature Level



### Diamond Level



### Platinum Level



### Gold Level



### Silver Level

AARP  
Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC  
Apptegy  
Asa Engineering & Consulting, Inc.  
Bank of New York Mellon, Co.  
BCA Environmental Consultants, LLC  
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee  
BuyBoard  
Charter Communications  
Collier Engineering Co., Inc.  
Cunningham Recreation  
Davenport & Company  
Environmental Products Group  
Local Government Corporation

Mark III Employee Benefits, Inc.  
Mauldin & Jenkins  
Onsite Environmental  
Pavement Restorations, Inc.  
Performance Services (Brian Stone)  
Recreational Concepts, LLC  
Rehrig Pacific  
Sherrill Morgan  
Siemens Industry, Inc.  
Simmons Wealth Management  
Tennessee Development District Association  
Trane Commercial Systems  
Waste Connections of Tennessee, Inc.  
WM (Waste Management)

### Bronze Level

A2H, Inc.  
Ameresco  
Deckard Technologies  
Employee Benefits Specialists  
Mattern & Craig, Inc.  
Smith Seckman Reid  
Tennessee Health Works  
TLM Associates, Inc.

### TML Partner Programs



# 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 billion and has now closed more than 1,700 loans. TMBF has saved local governments approximately \$720 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 you may visit their website at [www.tml.org/bond-fund](http://www.tml.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 you may visit their website at [www.pepartners.org/](http://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 you may visit their website at [www.mtas.tennessee.edu/](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/)



