



THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

The Association of Cities and Towns

PRESS RELEASE

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Governor Wes Moore and Senator Ben Cardin Headline Day 1 of MML 75th Annual Summer Conference

(June 24, 2024) Annapolis, Md. – The [Maryland Municipal League](https://www.mdmunicipal.org/) (MML) opened its Summer Conference today in the Ocean City Convention Center, featuring a keynote address by Governor Wes Moore and a live interview with outgoing Senator Ben Cardin.



Governor Moore kicked off the opening general session building on his theme of “leave no one behind,” and focusing on the full state benefits of childcare, education, housing, and healthcare, often repeating: “When they win, we win.” He also spoke about the importance of municipal work and the power of partnership.

“Progress means bringing everyone around the table, and that every decision that is being made is by those closest to the challenges,” said Moore. “It’s not just about working harder. It’s not just about working smarter, but working together, because partnership produces progress.”

In the afternoon, Bryan Sears of Maryland Matters interviewed Senator Ben Cardin on his career, Maryland politics, and several issues of importance to municipal officials.



Once a Maryland Delegate and Speaker of the House, Senator Cardin spoke about how municipalities have matured over the course of his career, and how they work in concert with other governments to support a shared constituency versus in silos. “We need to work as a team, we cannot work in isolation,” said Cardin. “Counties and the State need to plan with their municipalities. Some counties are better than others, but we have shared goals, so let’s share the revenue. Let’s share the credit.”

Senator Cardin informed the membership that there is bipartisan interest in making sure local governments are protected from liability concerns related to the EPA’s recent PFAS ruling. He also shared his confidence that Congress will act to ensure 100% of the Francis Scott Key Bridge replacement will be covered by federal funds.

Just prior to the interview, Senator Ben Cardin was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership with MML by President John Carroll for his consistent and effective efforts on behalf of Maryland’s cities and towns, not only in Congress but throughout his tenure.

Members spent the rest of the day in courses focused on today’s pressing issues and networking with one another. Today’s courses included an overview of recently passed MML priority Tourism Zones; AI and Local Government; Police Recruitment and Retention; and Addressing Environmental Health and Justice.

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About The Maryland Municipal League:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) was founded in 1936 and serves as the collective voice of 160 municipal governments and the 2 million Marylanders it represents. A voluntary, non-profit, nonpartisan association controlled and maintained by city and town governments, MML works to strengthen and support municipal government through advocacy and the development of effective leadership. Through its membership in the National League of Cities MML offers legislative representation in Washington, urban research programs, and a national municipal government information exchange. MML is the only statewide organization in Maryland composed solely of municipal officials and devoted to the promotion of all branches of municipal administration.

