

2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT

THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

47 STATE CIRCLE, SUITE 403 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
WWW.MDMUNICIPAL.ORG
410-295-9100

2024-2025 MML BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Michael O'Connor, Mayor, Frederick

President Elect Todd Nock, Mayor, Pocomoke City

Immediate Past President John Carroll, Mayor, Galena

Members-At-Large

Jud Ashman, Mayor, Gaithersburg

Nathan Brown, Mayor, Brunswick

Monica Casanas, Mayor, Colmar Manor

Dia Costello, Mayor, Glen Echo

Takisha James, Mayor, Bladensburg

Jeannine James, Mayor, La Plata

Ken Lord, Mayor Keedysville

Jay Mattingly, Council VP, Leonardtown

Joseph Solomon, Council President, Hyattsville

David Unglesbee, Councilmember, Hampstead

District Vice Presidents

District 1 Sputty Cephas, Commissioner, Cambridge

District 2 James Cook, Mayor, Rock Hall

District 3 Brandon Scott, Mayor, Baltimore

District 4 Andrzej Marciniak, Mayor, Port Tobacco

District 5 Monique Ashton, Councilmember, Rockville

District 6 Wayne Creadick, Councilmember, Myersville

District 7 Kevin Grove, Commissioner, Frostburg

District 8 Howard Long, Mayor, Boonsboro

District 9 Celina Benitez, Mayor, Mount Rainier

District 10 Travis Marion, Rising Sun

District 11 Chris Nevin, Mayor, Hampstead

Department Representatives

City and Town Administrators Scott Nicewarner, City Manager, Hagerstown

Municipal Attorneys Elissa Levan, Esquire, Bowie, Westminster, Church Hill, North Beach, Mount Rainier

Municipal Clerks John Hoatson, City Administrator, Cottage City

Code Enforcement and Zoning Pamla Bennett, Code Enforcement Officer, New Carrollton

Municipal Parks and Recreation Carolyn Muller, Director of P&R, Gaithersburg

Municipal Police Executives Michael Spaulding, Police Chief, Sykesville

Municipal Public Works Lesley Riddle, Director of Public Works, Hyattsville

Emergency Management Officials Kevin Simmons, Director, Office of Emergency Management, Annapolis

Ex-Officio Members

Cindy Dyballa, Councilmember, Takoma Park (NLC)

Emmett Jordan, Mayor, Greenbelt (NLC)

Denise Mitchell, Mayor Pro Tem, College Park (NLC)

Theresa Kuhns, MML Chief Executive Officer





This past membership year marked a period of intentional growth and bold steps forward for the Maryland Municipal League. Even as federal administrative transitions introduced uncertainty and our state confronts significant fiscal challenges, MML remained focused on advancing the work that strengthens Maryland’s cities and towns—and on expanding our reach in ways unlike anything in our organization’s history.

Municipalities continue to be the backbone of responsive government, opening town halls every day, providing essential services, and delivering value that drives Maryland’s economy. That same spirit of dedication has guided our work as a League. Over the past year, we have pushed ourselves into new spaces, broadened our impact, and elevated the voice of Maryland’s municipalities—locally, statewide, and beyond.

We introduced new services and benefits designed to meet members where they are, offering innovative tools, training, and support tailored to the evolving challenges municipal leaders face. At the same time, MML expanded its presence on the national stage, collaborating with partners across the country to ensure that Maryland’s municipal perspective is both represented and respected in broader policy discussions.

Whether our challenges stem from federal shifts or state budget constraints, the path forward demands the inclusion of the government closest to the people—municipalities. Maryland’s cities and towns contribute irreplaceable value—through tax revenues, infrastructure, services, and the lived experience of daily governance.

As you explore this annual report, you will see the work of an organization that is not standing still. You will see a League committed to innovation, to partnership, and to strengthening municipal leadership in every corner of the state—and increasingly, the nation.

The League team is one of trust, passion and knowledge, with a collective 200+ years of association and municipal experience. From our advocacy wins, data strategy to emerging curriculum and expanded member outreach, please know our team continues to be an extension of your own. Thank you for your continued trust, your collaboration, and your unwavering commitment to the communities we all serve. Together, we are charting a future where Maryland’s municipalities are not only heard but actively shaping the solutions our residents deserve.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theresa Kuhns', written in a cursive style.

Theresa Kuhns
Chief Executive Officer
Maryland Municipal League



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- 38 Community Partners
- 5 New Partnerships
- 4 Quarterly Check Ins with Partners
- 2 Partner Provided Articles for Magazine
- 1 Annual Reception



SYMPOSIUMS AND RECEPTIONS

- 119 Attended Advocacy Day
- 103 Attended State of the Municipality
- 140 Attended Summer Housing Symposium
- 3 Sponsors for Summer Housing Symposium
- 1,500 Attended Legislative Reception
- 13 Sponsors at Legislative Reception

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS



MARYLAND MAYORS ASSOCIATION

- 90 Mayors Attended MMA Winter Conference
- 7 MMA Winter Conference Sponsorships



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 33 Total Board Members
- 30 Board Members Attended Retreat in Frederick
- 4 Board of Directors Meetings
- 1 Board of Directors Orientation





Representing MML across the State and Nation!

- Baltimore City’s State of Downtown
- Embassy of Netherlands, Sustainable Chesapeake Game
- Governor Moore, State of the State Address
- Governor Moore, Maryland Mayors Reception
- Greater Baltimore Committee Annual Meeting
- Local Government Insurance Trust Annual Meeting
- Maryland 250 Commission Partner
- Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference
- Maryland Association of Counties Winter Conference
- Maryland Chamber of Commerce Events
- Maryland Disabilities Council
- Maryland Economic Development Association Main Street Maryland
- Maryland Economic Development Association Winter Conference
- Maryland Recreation and Parks Association Conference
- National League of Cities City Summit
- National League of Cities Congressional Cities Conference
- National League of Cities Executive Retreat
- National League of Cities Fly In
- National League of Cities Mutual Board Retreat
- NLC Research Committee
- NLC RISC Trustee Conference
- Southern Municipal Conference
- State Host, NLC Region II Retreat
- Tawes Annual Crab & Clam Bake
- The White House, MML Board Federal Briefings
- University of Baltimore Conference
- University of Baltimore, Schaeffer Center Advisory Board
- University of Maryland Graduation
- University of Maryland Speaking Opportunity



SPECIAL NOTE OF INTEREST

Crofton Special Community Benefits District (CSCBD) joined as the League’s 161st member. The CSCBD will be the League’s fourth special taxing district member, with its 13,000 residents joining the 2 million Marylander’s represented by the Maryland Municipal League.



CONFERENCES

2024 Experience in Leadership Conference:
427- Registered Attendees
51- Speakers
41- Sessions
36- Exhibitors

2025 Summer Conference:
1,446- Registered Attendees
270- Exhibit Booths in the Expo Hall
76- Years of the Annual Summer Conference
36- Community Partners in the Expo Hall



Keynote, Summer Conference 2025
Tim Shriver
Chairman of Special Olympics International
Co-creator of the Dignity Index
CEO & Founder of UNITE

ANNUAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES





PUBLICATIONS

6,500 Local Dispatch Subscribers

33,950 Article Views

4 Editions of The Local Magazine

2,037 Recipients of The Local Magazine

128,000 Views of MML Job Board



SOCIAL MEDIA

2,218 League Page Followers on Facebook, 15.5% increase

13.2K League Facebook page visitors, 20.5% increase

1,364 League Page Followers on LinkedIn

2,440 League Page Followers on Instagram



LUNCH & LEARN WEBINAR SERIES

8 Lunch & Learn Webinars, Including:

- MMLCon25 Registration Refresher
- Orientation for Municipal Officials (OMO)
- MD Municipal Careers 101
- Navigating the MML App
- Caucus Panel
- Municipal Emergency Management & Continuity of Operations
- General Assembly Session Recap
- MML Legislative Priorities



MML Summer Conference & Expo - June 22-25, 2025

THE LOCAL DISPATCH
A digital publication of the Maryland Municipal League

June 5, 2025

Maryland Municipal League Newsletter

Your go-to resource of vital information for 161 Maryland local governments and MML League events and announcements

SUMMER SYMPOSIUM: BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES
AUGUST 1, 2025

Save the Date: MML's Summer Symposium on Resilience

This year's Summer Symposium, *Building Resilient Communities*, is your chance to understand what resiliency means and how Maryland municipalities can achieve it together. Join us August 1 at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis.

[Read More](#)



🍏 ESSAY CONTEST

1,495 Essays Submitted

11 District Winners

TOWN HALL/DELEGATION VISITS

Regions Visited Include:

- Anne Arundel
 - Annapolis
 - Highland Beach
- Cecil County
 - Chesapeake City
 - Elkton
 - North East
 - Rising Sun
- Harford County
 - Aberdeen
- Port Towns of Prince George’s
- Washington County
 - Keedysville, Smithsburg, Williamsport



🎯 EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Facilitation/Consulting Services:

- New Carrollton
- Berwyn Heights
- Chesapeake Beach
- University Park
- Brunswick
- Seat Pleasant
- La Plata

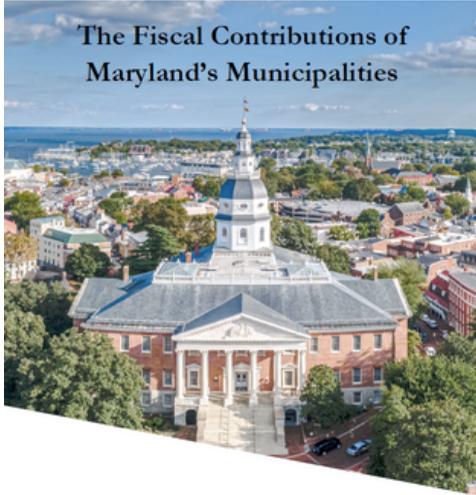


34% State sales tax revenue generated in municipalities.

12%-13% The amount higher assessed property values are in municipalities

4x The rate that municipal populations are growing compared to unincorporated places

242 Total attendees at the Summer Policy Symposium and State of the Municipality



MML continued it with its annual research study and accompanying event, the State of the Municipality again partnering with Sage Policy Group to publish the study. This year's topic is the amount of tax revenue generated for the State by residents, visitors, and businesses within municipalities. The findings were astounding but also confirmed what we already knew: municipalities are the hubs of activity.

A new study on services provided by municipalities, their cost, and usage is underway and set to be released in December 2025.

The second annual Summer Policy Symposium was held in August on the topic of housing. This standing event on the MML calendar was another rousing success on a very pertinent issue. Attendees heard national, State, and local perspectives on accessory dwelling units, recently passed State legislation, and success stories from Maryland's municipalities. The event was headlined by a keynote from DHCD Secretary, and former Salisbury Mayor, Jake Day.



THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
The Association of Cities and Towns



December 2024



The 2025 legislative session saw significant accomplishments for Maryland's towns and cities, including passing one priority while making significant progress on the other. For the second year in a row MML carried a priority to alter the back-end framework for speed cameras by allowing trained civilians, in addition to law enforcement officers, to review the images and issue citations. The bills' strong sponsors helped usher HB 343/SB 390 through the legislative process which culminated in the Governor signing the bills into law.

The portfolio of policy issues that impact local governments and are handled by the MML staff is vast; from elections, to personnel, to the environment, to housing, to government transparency, to cyber and IT. Thanks to the significant and ongoing involvement of MML's Board of Directors, Chapter leadership, Legislative Committee leadership and members, and our membership at large, MML can proudly tout legislative wins in all of these areas and more.



2,605
Bills Introduced

275
Bills Reviewed

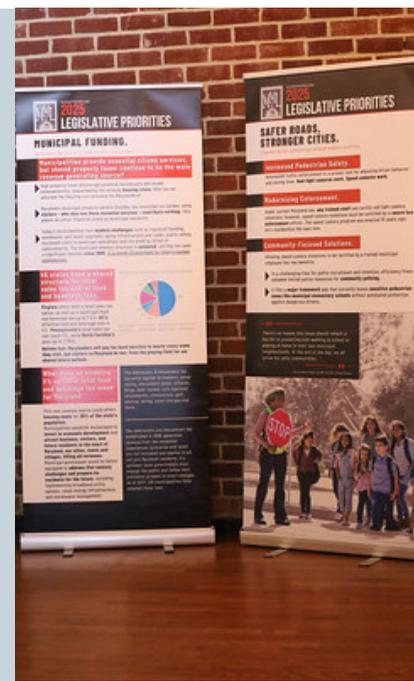
181
Positions Taken

56
FAV (19 passed)

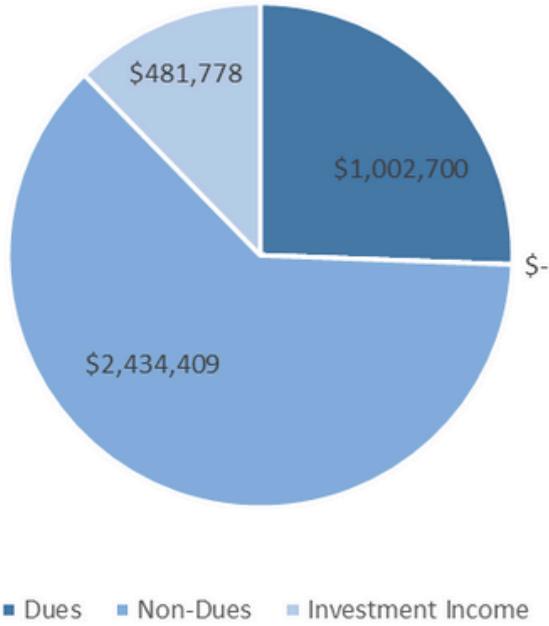
42
FWA (19 amended and passed)

50
OPP (40 failed)

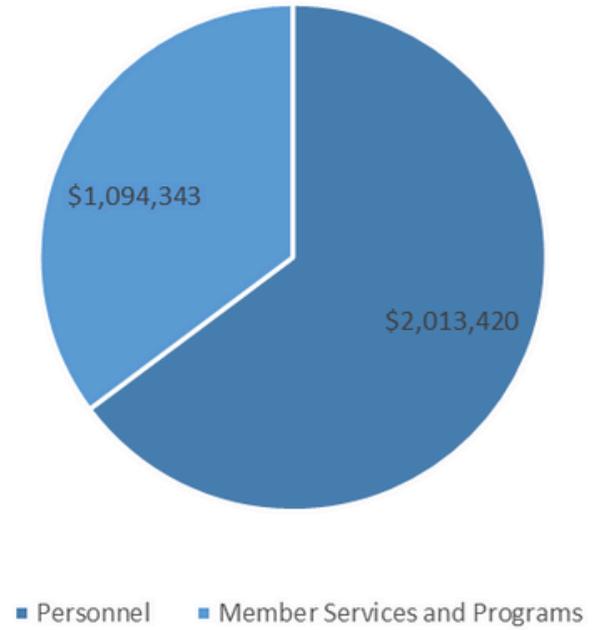
343
Fiscal Note Responses



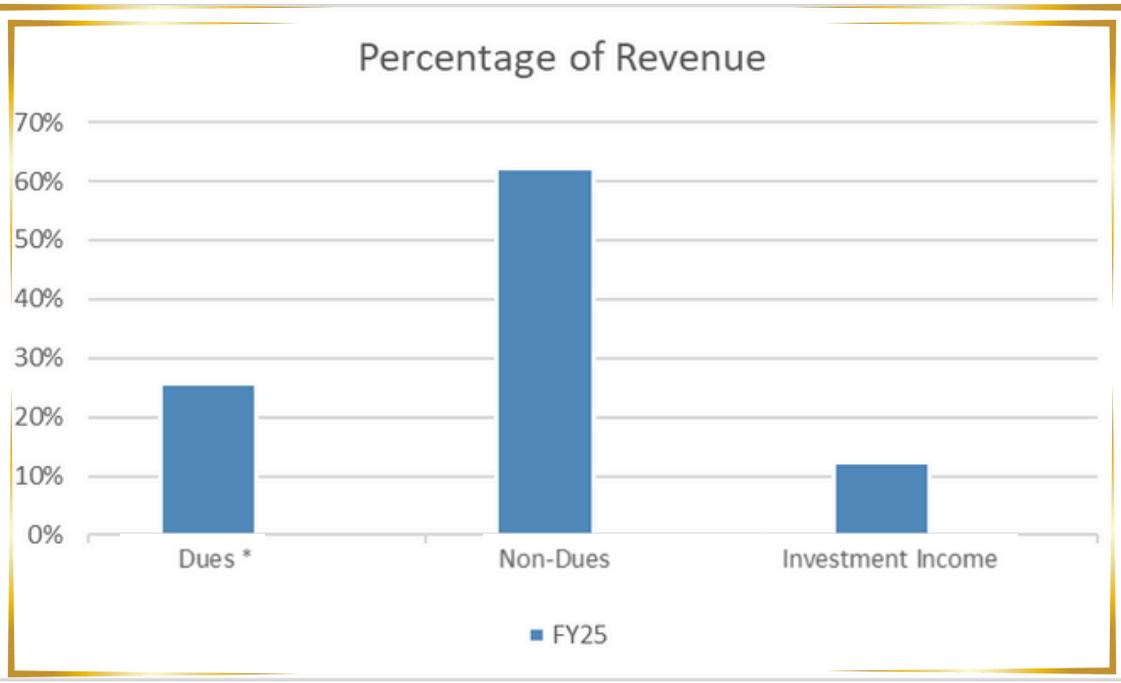
Fiscal Year 2025 Revenue



Fiscal Year 2025 Expenditures



Percentage of Revenue



*Association industry standard for excellence is below 35%



Theresa Kuhns
Chief Executive Officer



Felicia Banuelos
Deputy Director Community Engagement & Executive Operations



Paula Chase-Hyman
Managing Director, Leadership Development & Member Experience



Bill Jorch
Managing Director, Advocacy & Public Policy



Karen Wilbert
Controller



Sharon Easton
Manager, Member Experience



Dionna Richardson
Senior Associate, Leadership Development



Steve Lopes
Deputy Director, Publications & Events



Tom Reynolds
Senior Director, Leadership Development



Angelica Bailey Thupari
Director, Advocacy & Public Policy



Justin Fiore
Director, Advocacy & Public Policy



Iris Ibegbulem
Senior Associate, Advocacy & Public Policy



Tyler Brice
Manager, Advocacy & Public Policy