About the League

• Founded in 1898
• Nonpartisan
• Nearly 600 voluntary dues paying members
• 190 Cities & 396 Villages
• Median size city/village is 1450
• 16 member Board, 9 staff
• LWMMI and MPIC
Recent Changes at the League

• New Executive Director
• New Offices
• New Communications Director
• New Strategic Plan
• New logo and New Look for our Monthly Magazine
About our Members
Most League Members are Small Communities
Thriving cities and villages are a key to Wisconsin’s long-term economic success.
Cities and Villages are where people live and work!

- 70 percent of the state’s population
- 87 percent of the all manufacturing property
- 89 percent of all commercial property
- Wisconsin’s metropolitan regions account for 75% of the state’s Gross Domestic Product.
League’s Advocacy Efforts

Main reason League was created: to advocate for cities and villages in the state legislature.

Core Principles:

1. Preserve Local Control
2. Preserve Local Revenue Sources
2015-2017 State Budget – A snapshot

• No cuts to major state aid programs affecting municipalities, including shared revenue.

• Despite significant problems with state’s Transportation Fund, previously approved 4% increase in GTA and Transit Aids funded.

• Communities allowed to carry forward unused levy capacity for five years; maximum 5% annually.
A Few Legislative Successes

• Budget provision makes it easier for municipalities to replace culverts without needing to obtain a waterway permit from DNR.

• Gov’s budget provision making counties responsible for property assessment removed.

• Gov’s budget provision imposing $10 million annual cap on historic tax credits removed.
Legislative Disappointments

• Recycling grant program cut by $4 million in first year of the biennium.*  

• Room tax law changes.

• Prohibition on enforcing code compliance at time real estate is sold.
What are we working on?

- Allowing communities with no licenses available under their quota to purchase a license from neighboring communities.

- Clarifying law regarding assessment of national chains like Walgreens and big box retail.
Legislative Opportunities – Remainder of Session

• AB 210, Enabling county sales tax for funding transportation.

• TIF Legislation -- 8 bills making positive changes to TIF law working their way through the legislative process.
  – The Senate has passed 7 unanimously. 5 are moving in the Assembly.
Legislative Opportunities

• SB 314/AB 459, Prohibiting persons from acquiring public lands by adverse possession.

• SB 310/AB 439, Changing publication notice requirement for municipal budget amendments.

• SB 340/AB 515, Restoring Funding to the Recycling Grant Program.

• SB 273/AB 350, Requiring full funding of the Payment for Municipal Services Program.
We need quality cities and villages for Wisconsin to prosper.
Questions? Comments?