

North Carolina  
League of Municipalities

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

2025

Dear Members,

As we reflect on another remarkable year, I want to express my gratitude to our League members and staff alike for the shared resilience, leadership, and partnership that have defined 2025 for the North Carolina League of Municipalities. This year brought new challenges and new opportunities—and through it all, our cities and towns continued to demonstrate the strength and ingenuity that make North Carolina such an exceptional place to live and work.

From advancing recovery and long-term preparedness efforts in communities still rebuilding after Hurricane Helene, to championing the policy needs of municipalities at the state and federal levels, our shared commitment to supporting local governments has never been stronger. We expanded member services, strengthened training and professional development offerings, and deepened our focus on providing the tools, resources, and advocacy our municipalities need to meet the evolving needs of their residents.

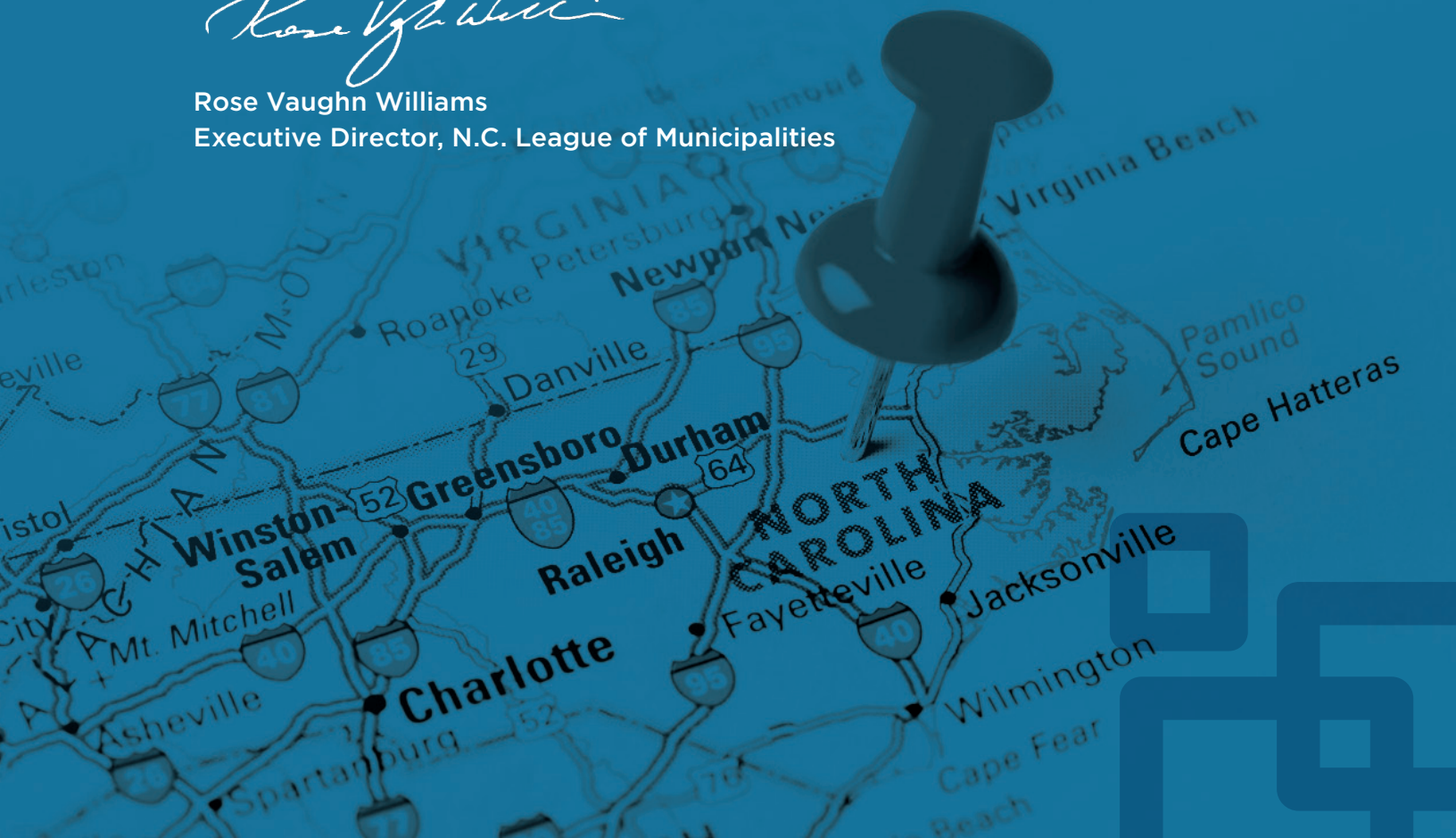
Looking ahead, our mission for 2026 is clear: to continue empowering North Carolina's municipalities through strategic support, collaborative problem-solving, and unwavering advocacy. Together, we will keep building vibrant, resilient communities where people and businesses can thrive.

Thank you for your partnership, your dedication, and your continued commitment to making North Carolina's cities and towns stronger—together.

Sincerely,



Rose Vaughn Williams  
Executive Director, N.C. League of Municipalities





## WHO WE ARE

The North Carolina League of Municipalities is a member-driven organization representing the interests of cities and towns in the state. Through their collective efforts, League member cities and towns better serve their residents and improve quality of life.

For more than 100 years, the League has been one voice for cities and towns working for a better North Carolina.

## OUR VALUES

Working together as one, the cities and towns of the North Carolina League of Municipalities will be guided by our commitment to:

### Service

We trust in the effectiveness of cities and towns, led by locally elected officials, to craft solutions that improve quality of life.

### Responsiveness

We focus on the needs of North Carolinians, answering to the people in meaningful ways that affect their everyday lives.

### Self-determination

We believe in the ability of all cities and towns to pursue their own visions of their futures.

### Collaboration

We believe in working together in ways that enhance all cities and towns, through promotion of best practices, and imparting knowledge and expertise.

### Inclusiveness

We value every member, the diversity of all, and the diverse nature of each member city and towns and their citizenry.





# 2025: A YEAR OF PROGRESS

From supporting our communities in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene to championing the needs of our cities and towns, 2025 has been a testament to the power of collaboration.



## Supporting Recovery After Hurricane Helene

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, the League established a dedicated western NC team—Regina Mathis, Desmond Worrell, and Patricia Cantrell—to provide hands-on guidance to impacted towns on FEMA compliance, emergency coordination, and reimbursement. To do this, we partnered with leading experts: Witt O'Brien's and ICF for FEMA Public Assistance and grant navigation; Parker Poe for disaster-related legal issues; and N-Focus for capacity-building, inspections, and planning. Together, these collaborations ensured municipalities had the resources and expertise needed to rebuild stronger.



**1500+**  
consults with Helene-  
affected members

## ADVOCACY & LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

The 2025 legislative long session was marked by yet another tough battle over land-use planning authority, but municipal officials, acting in concert with NCLM staff, successfully staved off this unprecedented attack on local decision-making. Engaging with legislators, we explained the consequences to local economies, existing home values and the ability to plan for major economic development projects and their infrastructure needs. In addition, the League's Government Affairs team tracked 300+ bills during the long session.



**300+**  
legislative bills  
tracked

More than 400 League members and state legislators attended the League's Town & State Dinner, held in Raleigh in late February. The event provides a chance for state and local leaders to break bread and discuss policy issues, further strengthening their relationships.

# FINANCIAL & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The League's Municipal Accounting Services (MAS) program provided direct support to members, including providing new accounting software implementation and training, audit support, catch-up accounting, cybersecurity and guidance on best practices. More than 60 members attended the Black Mountain Software User Conference to gain insights into their new software.

The League's Accounting Instruction & Mentorship (AIM) program delivered one-on-one mentoring and hands-on training to strengthen municipal finance departments. In 2025, 18 municipalities participated, bringing the total to 44 since its launch. AIM participants attended 10 specialized Lunch and Learn trainings, which will continue into 2026 as both live and on-demand courses for future AIM cohorts.



**60+**  
attendees at the  
MAS BMS User  
Conference

**44**  
participating  
municipalities in AIM  
program since its  
inception

**10**  
AIM webinars



*Municipal staff from 38 communities gathered for our first Black Mountain Software User Conference*





## RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The League's Risk Management teams, whose work includes the handling of insurance questions and claims, renewals, as well as providing vital safety information and training to protect both people and property, had another outstanding year of supporting members.

**2800+** property and casualty claims

**2000+** combined RMS member onsite consultations

**1800+** workers' compensation claims

**25+** member trainings

**70** claim and policy reviews

**17** law enforcement agency risk reviews

**513** visits to 371 municipalities

**4** fire department risk reviews

MUNICIPAL  
**DriveSafe**

### Municipal DriveSafe Program

The Field Services team launched the Municipal DriveSafe fleet management safety campaign, which highlights safety tips, template forms and policies, and a fleet management toolkit to educate members about preventing dangerous and costly driving-related claims.



# LEGAL CONSULTING

The League's legal department remained a key resource for local governments, responding to 200 legal inquiries and providing educational opportunities on topics such as ethics, municipal authority, and judicial advocacy. League attorneys also filed a brief before the North Carolina Supreme Court and published multiple editions of Municipal Law Notes and the annual Municipal Calendar.



## LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Education and leadership development remained a top priority in 2025 through the Advancing Municipal Leaders (AML) program—more than 1,500 members from 347 municipalities attended an AML course this year! And there were plenty to choose from with 40 different in-person workshops and webinars covering municipal finance, customer service, strategic planning and more.

CityVision, the League's annual conference, hosted 604 attendees, speakers and special guests across 20+ sessions over two days in Greenville, NC. Additionally, we were able to celebrate those who earned a certificate of municipal achievement and excellence, as well as the municipalities that adopted AML's "Commit to Civility" resolution.



**175**  
members with  
Certificate of Municipal  
Achievement  
(12 hrs credit)

**12**  
members with  
Certificate of Municipal  
Excellence  
(25 hrs credit)

**40**  
AML classes and  
webinars

# THANK YOU NCLM 2025 PREFERRED PARTNERS



## LOOKING AHEAD

As we move forward into 2026, the League remains committed to identifying new and expanding existing programs to continue supporting local governments. Thank you to our members, municipal staff and elected officials for your leadership throughout 2025.

WORKING AS ONE. ADVANCING ALL.

