

To Survive and Thrive During These Challenging Times, Municipalities Must Work Together

The past several months, our local communities have faced multiple crises that will have a lasting impact on society. Even now, local leaders are in the midst of guiding their residents through a period of unprecedented fear and unrest. Communities across the state are suffering from deep revenue cuts while continuing to deliver quality local services through the worst global pandemic in modern history. In recent days, civil unrest towards systemic racism and inequality have broken out in both peaceful protests and violent riots that have left the downtowns of many cities shattered and burned. These circumstances are unique, and our municipal leaders have never faced such challenging times.

I have been proud to watch Ohio's cities and villages respond to these crises. Our communities are in need of strong local engagement and leadership, and our municipal leaders are rising to meet these challenges. The work local governments do to provide their residents with public health and safety has never been more on display; however, there is still so much more work to be done before these difficult times are behind us.

Our communities must be united now more than ever. These crises are an opportunity to come together, to help one another, to work with one another and to witness what a united community can truly accomplish.

While municipal leaders across our state are working on behalf of their residents, the League is committed to ensuring they have the most accurate and up-to-date information they need to make the right decisions. We do not just advocate on behalf of our municipalities at the Statehouse; we also work to provide constant updates as decisions are made by the state and federal government that affect local communities. In addition to our publications and webinars, we also facilitate communication and collaboration among municipal leaders through regular conference calls. These are not challenges that we can overcome alone. Cities and villages must work together, asking questions and sharing best practices to see Ohio and its residents safely through to the other side.

The work is far from over, but our cities and villages are well equipped to work together towards healing and equity in our communities. This is an opportunity for municipal leaders to reach out to their residents and provide the guidance and stability our communities need now more than ever. As municipal leaders continue to work on behalf of their citizens, we will continue to work on behalf of our local leaders. We cannot survive these times without coming together, and I know Ohio's cities and villages are capable of creating united communities that will lead our state into a stable and prosperous future.