

A collage of four photographs of NLC leaders. Top left: A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a grey suit and red tie, gesturing with his hands. Top right: A woman with dark hair, wearing a grey blazer over a pink top, speaking at a podium with a microphone. Bottom left: A man with a beard, wearing a dark suit and green tie, speaking at a podium with a microphone. Bottom right: A woman with dark hair, wearing a red blazer over a white top, smiling. The background of the collage is blue with the NLC logo and text "NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES".

2024 Annual Report

NLC NATIONAL
LEAGUE
OF CITIES
A CENTURY OF STRENGTHENING CITIES

A message from the CEO

Our centennial was a unique opportunity to connect with our members in their towns and capture their unique spirit.

This year, NLC celebrated 100 years, marking a historic milestone with our members that in many ways captured the unique spirit and pride of America's communities. Together, we made this moment special— for NLC—and the many leaders and staff in our member cities. All the while, we continued to deliver the services and programs that our members have come to rely on from us while growing our membership and our budget. The momentum of our celebration will carry us over the next year and the next century as we expand and grow NLC to reach more communities and share ideas and concepts that will strengthen local government leaders.



“It is my great honor to lead this association supporting our nation's cities, towns and villages in partnership with you.”

We're just getting started. NLC has an incredible future ahead.

Over the last century, this incredible organization has accomplished so many things to be proud of—from our major legislative accomplishments to our transformational research, to simply harnessing the immense power of convening local leaders from across the country. The great news is that we're just getting started. NLC has an incredible future ahead, and it is my great honor to lead this association supporting our nation's cities, towns and villages in partnership with every single one of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Clarence E. Anthony'.

Clarence E. Anthony
CEO & Executive Director
National League of Cities



A Century of Strengthening Cities

Celebrating 100 Years of NLC

In 1924, the National League of Cities was founded by 10 state municipal leagues, whose leaders met to convene one organization that could unify and elevate city voices at the federal level.

Our **Centennial Roadshow** kicked off in February at the site of NLC's founding, the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas. After that, the NLC Roadshow visited more than 130 communities in every region of the country.

Our roadshow also included visits to 15 state municipal leagues, which carry special significance as the state leagues that initially founded NLC 100 years ago. During those visits, NLC leadership and staff attended state league conferences and had the chance to tour state municipal league offices and meet with local staff. Some visits coincided with a few of the league's special anniversaries – such as in Arkansas, where we joined the celebration of the Arkansas Municipal League's 90th anniversary, and Michigan, where we rang in 125 years of the Michigan Municipal League.

As part of our centennial activities, we declared May the inaugural **National Cities, Towns and Villages Month**. All month long, our members shared stories from their communities and discussed the evolving roles and responsibilities of local governments. In celebration, more than 200 municipalities throughout the U.S. officially declared May “National Cities, Towns and Villages Month.”

The history of NLC is also full of legislative victories and an evolving organization that continues to advocate for America's 19,000 cities, towns and villages. To capture NLC's history and the impact that cities, towns and villages have had on our nation, we produced a **history book** that tells our story decade by decade through to the present day.

The yearlong anniversary celebration culminated at the **2024 City Summit** in Tampa, Florida, where more than 4,000 local leaders from across the country gathered.



Member Growth



NLC membership has continued to grow, totaling 2,761 members. The majority of our members continue to be based in the South, followed closely by the West region, though we continue to grow in the Midwest and Northeast regions as well. Since last year, we added 101 new member cities, surpassing our goal of recruiting 100 cities in celebration of our 100th anniversary.

NLC continues to prioritize recruitment and engagement within each of our constituency groups. The National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO) is currently our largest constituency group with 584 members, followed by Women In Municipal Government (WIMG) with 554 members, the Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO) group with 164 members, LGBTQ+ Local Officials with 99 members, and Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials (APAMO) with 64 members. NLC’s Local Indigenous Leaders (LIL) group, our newest constituency group, has doubled in size since last year. Four of the six groups hosted very successful summer meetings this year, bringing local leaders from across the country to network, exchange ideas, discuss challenges and share solutions.



In addition to our constituency group meetings, in September, we welcomed 18 Council Presidents from the nation’s largest cities to Washington, DC, for several days of discussion on the unique issues their communities face. Topics discussed included affordable housing, improving transportation and mobility in a post-pandemic world, and public safety.

TOTAL
MEMBERS

2,761

DIRECT
MEMBER
CITIES

1,413

AFFILIATE
MEMBER
CITIES

1,348

NEW
MEMBERS
SINCE FY23

101

MIDWEST

287

SOUTH

1,609

NORTHEAST/
MID-ATLANTIC

88

WEST

77

As of 9/30/24
(FY24 end totals)

Expanding Our Partnerships

New Enterprise Partners:

CivStart

New Capstone Partners:

Cisco
Chick Fil A
GoFundMe
Orange Barrel Media
UL Standards & Engagement
UKG

New Executive Partners:

Baker Tilly
Carahsoft/LinkedIn
GoRail
National Association of Home Builders
Quickbase
Skydio
SL Environmental Law

Centennial Collection Sponsors:

Enterprise Mobility
Google
Wells Fargo
WM

Much like our membership, NLC’s strategic partnerships continue to grow. Over the last year, we welcomed 14 new partners at the Executive, Capstone and Enterprise levels. The latest additions have brought our total number of strategic partners to 72, contributing to a total partner revenue of \$3,509,135 for the year.

Our 72 strategic partnerships include eight Enterprise-level partners, 21 Capstone-level partners, and 43 Executive-level partners.

Sponsorships continue to have a big impact on NLC’s finances. This year, our total revenue from sponsorships grew to \$2,350,000, which includes \$775,000 specifically for this year’s City Summit and \$1,575,000 dedicated to our 100th anniversary activities.



Our 72 strategic partnerships include:

8
Enterprise partners

21
Capstone partners

43
Executive partners

Helping Local Governments Navigate Challenging Issues

Building Local Workforce with the Good Jobs Great Cities Academy

NLC worked with the U.S. Department of Labor to co-host the Good Jobs, Great Cities (GJGC) Academy Capstone Convening in August in Washington, D.C. The GJGC Academy Capstone Convening brought together teams from all 16 participating GJGC cities, towns and villages to celebrate and uplift their accomplishments from the last year. At the capstone convening, local leaders exchanged best practices and lessons learned about partnering with key local industry partners, developing plans to create more green jobs, growing opportunities for women in trade industries, developing workforce solutions for the care economy, and better connecting and preparing local workforces for careers in growing manufacturing fields.

Supporting Communities with Free Grant-Writing Training Through the Local Infrastructure Hub

Since the Local Infrastructure Hub launched in 2022, more than 1,000 cities, towns and villages from all 50 states have participated in NLC's free grant-writing training program for small communities. As a result, more than 90 participating local governments have secured more than \$315 million in federal grant funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. The next phase of free grant-writing trainings continued in January 2025, with programs focused on grant implementation, developing clean energy projects, clean water projects, safe streets and roads, and rail infrastructure and safety improvements.



Partnering to Increase Local Housing Supply

NLC's work on the Housing Supply Accelerator continues to help local governments develop housing supply strategies that will address the specific needs of their communities. In September, NLC published nine case studies that demonstrate municipal best practices on housing supply, and in November, NLC released a new report entitled *Ending Homelessness: A Guide for Local Governments*, to provide an overview of the homelessness crisis, its causes and how local governments can work with partners to shape solutions.

Growing the Capacity of Local Communities

The Southern Cities Economiin initiative (SCEI), a partnership made possible with financial support from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, convened a site visit in Jackson, Mississippi, this past July. During the visit, Mayor Lumumba and his leadership team welcomed staff from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and NLC to explore methods of strengthening partnerships and supporting the City of Jackson. The visit also included staff from the City of Chattanooga, sharing best practices to enhance support for Minority and Women Business Enterprises. The site visit highlighted the critical role of collaborative relationships and peer learning in driving inclusive economic growth. NLC opened a second round for a new cohort of cities earlier in January.



Your Voice in Washington

Preparing for the Next Presidential Administration with NLC's Presidential Election Task Force

NLC launched the 2024 Presidential Election Task Force in the fall of 2023 with three goals for the year-long election cycle:

Ensure local government has a seat at the federal decision-making table.

Promote good governance and direct support to localities.

Celebrate civil discourse and strong engagement in the democratic process.



Throughout the last year, the Task Force created a toolkit for local leaders with sample outreach materials, an action guide of priorities as well as blogs and webinars to mobilize local officials around these three shared goals, regardless of who would ultimately win.

NLC officers connected with prospective administration officials by attending and networking at both the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee and the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. The Task Force also developed an advocacy toolkit for local officials to use when engaging with presidential

campaigns on the ground.

Ensuring Local Access to Federal Disaster Relief & Resilience Programs

NLC successfully pushed Congress to pass an emergency supplemental appropriations bill before the end of the year to provide the necessary funding for communities impacted by a series of devastating natural disasters in 2024. Particularly concerning was the potential for FEMA to run out of funds, which would have severely hampered both short-term and long-term recovery efforts for the many cities and towns still grappling with the aftermath of these catastrophic events.

In a meeting held in Washington, D.C., NLC's Second Vice President, Mayor Steve Patterson, along with a coalition of mayors and councilmembers, engaged in strategic discussions with Erik Hooks, FEMA's Deputy Administrator. Together, they explored innovative ways to strengthen the partnership between FEMA and NLC, aiming to bolster disaster risk mitigation and build resilient, safe communities nationwide. NLC highlighted the critical need for these initiatives and engaged with major national media outlets like *The Hill*, *Politico* and *Business Insider*.

Providing Legal Advocacy & Education

Along with our partners at the National Association of Counties and the International Municipal Lawyers Association, NLC founded the Local Government Legal Center two years ago to ensure a unified local government voice before the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) and lower federal courts in cases that are of consequence to municipal operations. This past term, NLC submitted amicus briefs on significant SCOTUS rulings and their implications for local governments. We also provided our members with explainers on each of these rulings, because we know that understanding federal court decisions is essential for local officials to navigate the changing legal landscape and effectively serve their communities.



Telling Your Story

This year, NLC piloted a new monthly “3 Things to Know” video series highlighting the top three NLC updates from the past month local leaders should be aware of.

Our podcast, **CitiesSpeak with Clarence Anthony**, continues to deliver in-depth conversations with compelling guests on issues important to city governments.

- ➔ Taking Risks to Build Better Cities with Rancho Cordova, CA Mayor David Sander
- ➔ Reimagining City Infrastructure with Dearborn, MI Mayor Abdullah Hammoud
- ➔ Combatting Hate & Extremism in our Communities with Bill Braniff from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- ➔ Bipartisan Leadership in Congress with U.S. Representatives Don Bacon and Salud Carbajal
- ➔ The History and Future of the National League of Cities with Secretary Henry Cisneros
- ➔ Creating Communities Resilient to Natural Disaster with Mayor Nic Hunter of Lake Charles, LA
- ➔ Designing Partnerships to Create the Housing Supply Accelerator Playbook
- ➔ Breaking Down the U.S. Supreme Court Term
- ➔ Economic Success in American Cities with Phoenix, AZ Mayor Kate Gallego and Wells Fargo's Roby Schapira
- ➔ The Value of NLC for Local Leaders with Fairfax, VA, City Council Member Jon Stehle and Central Point, OR, City Council Member Tanea Browning
- ➔ Integrating AI with City Services with Atlanta, GA Mayor Andre Dickens and Google's Jon Berroya
- ➔ Electrifying Municipal Fleets with Enterprise Mobility & South Pasadena, CA Councilmember Michael Cacciotti

NLC's voice and perspective on key issues facing local leaders today continue to resonate, with a 58 percent increase of visits to the NLC CitiesSpeak blog over the previous year. Our top-performing posts positioned NLC as a thought leader on topics such as broadband, federal budget implications for local leaders, affordable housing, court decisions impacting local leaders, and many more.

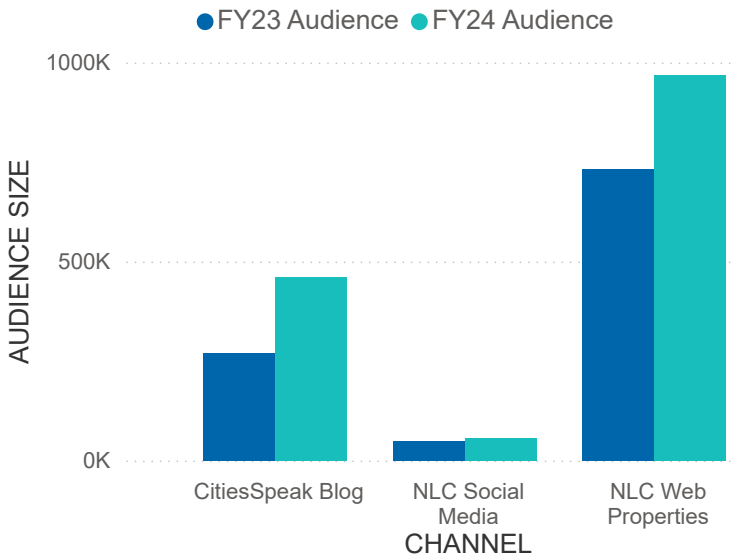


NLC’s brand continues to grow, with **1.4M visits** to our web properties, up 25% compared to the previous year.



NLC’S REACH BY THE NUMBERS

Media Mentions	Media Impressions	Video Views
6,800	39B	138K
	↑ UP 41% YOY	+41% YOY
Emails		
OPEN RATE	CLICK RATE	
22%	64%	
	+8% YOY	

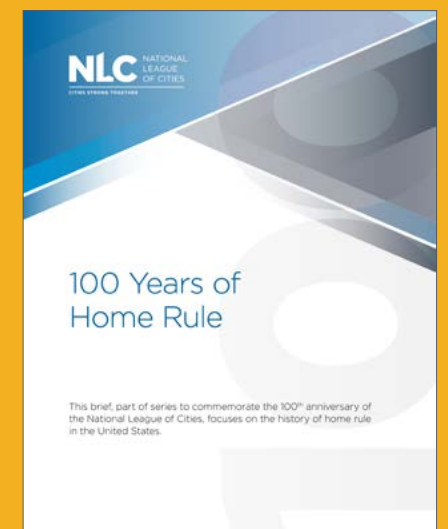
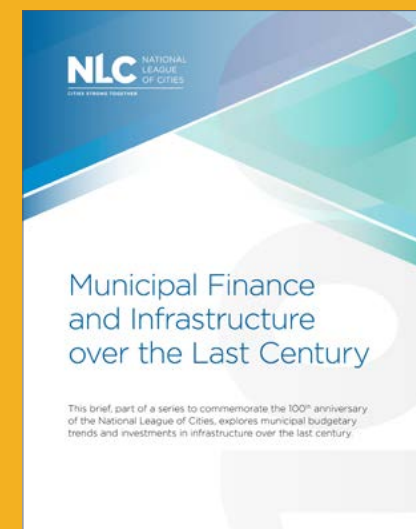
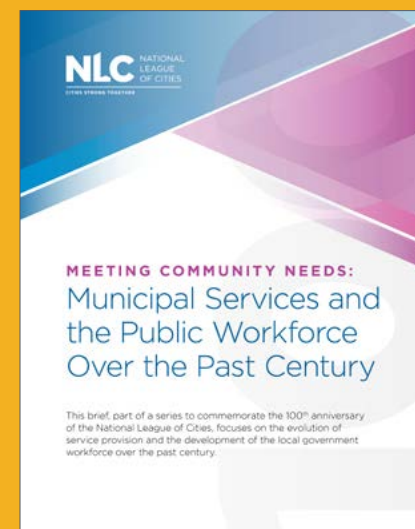
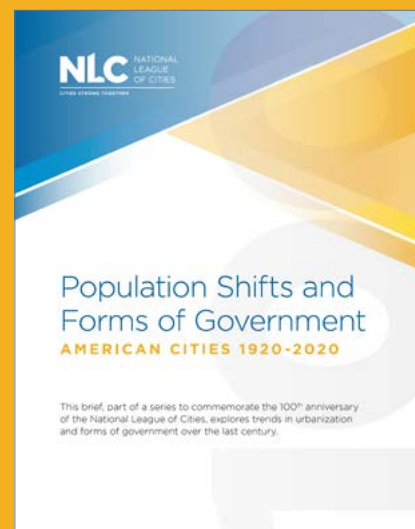
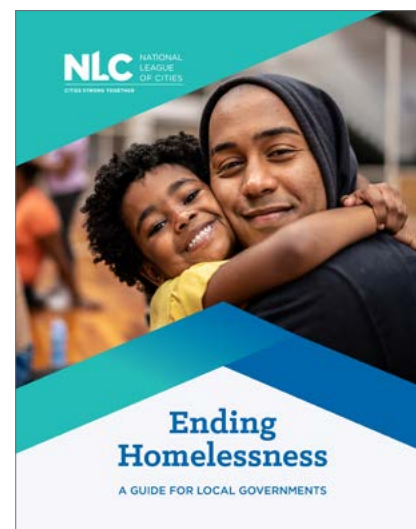
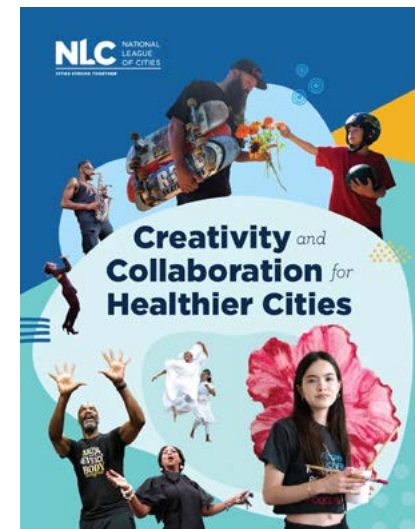
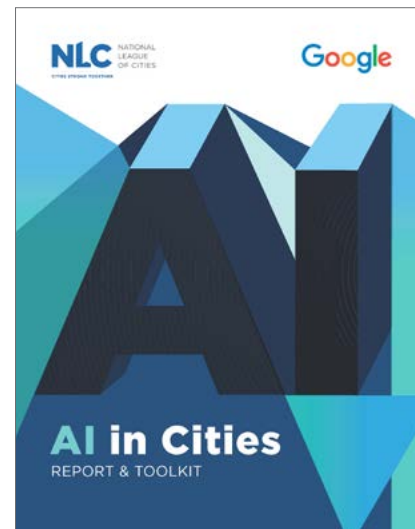
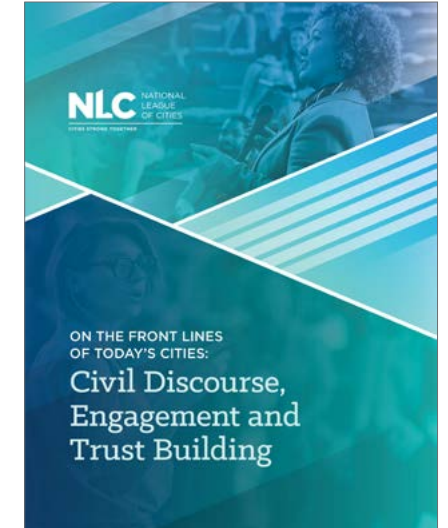
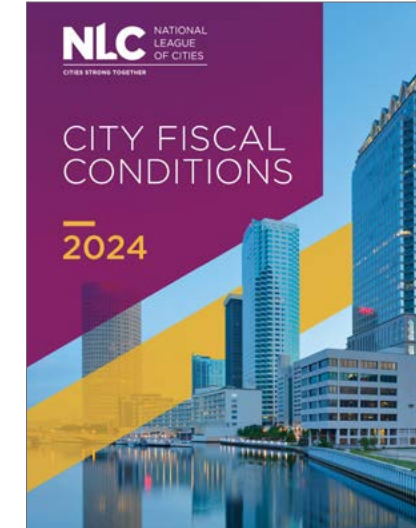
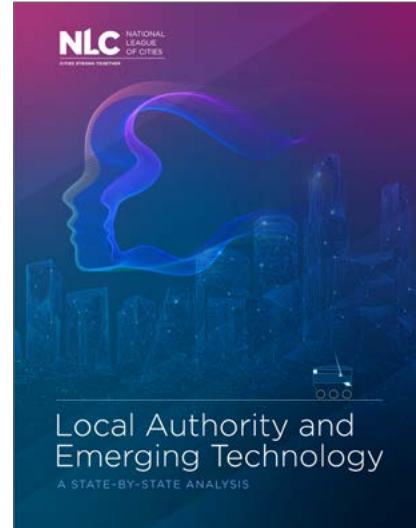


*YOY: Year Over Year comparison of fiscal year 2024 (October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024) to fiscal year 2023 (October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023).



Tools and Resources

As we move into the next century of NLC, one of our goals is to become a go-to resource for local leaders in finding solutions to their most pressing issues. Our research and technical assistance spans nearly every area relevant to municipal government. Below are a select few resources our team has produced over the last several months that have been especially relevant.



Tools and Resources



Strategic & Foundation Partners

Enterprise Partners

Build America Mutual
CivStart
CGI Digital
CVS Caremark
HomeServe US
Lexipol
Mission Square Retirement
Public Finance Authority

Capstone Partners

AARP
Airbnb
Amazon
AT&T
Chick-Fil- A
Cisco
City Health Dashboard
Enterprise Mobility
Esri
GoFundMe
Google
JustServe
Orange Barrel Media
Pallet
PayPal

SEED

Supernal

Tyler Technologies

UKG

VC3

Wells Fargo

Executive Partners

Aetna
AIA
American Gas Association
AtkinsRealis
Axon
Baker Tilly
Barnes & Thornburg
Black & Veatch
BRINC Drones Inc.
Carahsoft/LinkedIn
Cigna
CityHealth
Clear Channel
Comcast
Edison Electric Institute
Everytown for Gun Safety
Flock Safety
FUSE Corps

GoRail

Grubhub

IBTS

Jacobs

mySidewalk

NASPO

National Association
of Home Builders

National Association
of Realtors

NCTA

NuHarbor

Peregrine

Quickbase

Rubicon

Siemens

SL Environmental Law

Stantec

T-Mobile

U-Haul

US Green Buildings Council

Veolia

Walgreens

Walmart

Waste Management

Skydio

Polco

Foundation Partners

Amazon

American Association of
School Administrators

American Institute for
Research (AIR)

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker
Family Foundation

Aspen Institute

Baller Foundation

Bezos Family Foundation

Bill & Melinda Gates
Foundation

Bloomberg Philanthropies

Children's Defense Fund

Department of Homeland
Security (DHS)

Department of Housing and
Urban Development (HUD)

Department of Labor (DOL)

Doris Duke Foundation

Economic Development
Administration (EDA)

Educational Credit
Management Corporation
(ECMC)

Emerson Collective

Ewing Marion Kauffman
Foundation

Ford Foundation

Foundation for Child
Development (FCD)

Fund for Philadelphia

George B. Storer Foundation

International City/County
Management Association
(ICMA)

International Economic
Development Council (IEDC)

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co

Freedom Together Foundation

Kresge Foundation

Lumina Foundation

Pritzker Children's Initiative

MacArthur Foundation

Maryland Philanthropy Network

Melville Charitable Trust

New York Afterschool Alliance

National Association of County
and City Health Officials
(NACCHO)

National Science
Foundation (NSF)

Pohland Family Foundation

Public Finance Initiative -
Third Sector New England

Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

Rocket Community Fund

Sergey Brin Family Foundation

Siemens Foundation

State Exchange on Employment
and Disability (SEED)

The Charles Stewart Mott
Foundation

The Melville Family Foundation

The Nathan Cummings
Foundation

The Wallace Foundation

Tides Center

Vanguard Strong Start for Kids

Waverley Street Foundation

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Wells Fargo

2024 Leadership



Officers

President:

Mayor David Sander
City of Rancho Cordova, CA

First Vice President:

Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome
City of Baton Rouge, LA

Second Vice President:

Mayor Steve Patterson
City of Athens, OH

Immediate Past President:

Mayor Victoria Woodards
City of Tacoma, WA

Board of Directors

The Honorable Andreas Addison

Councilmember, City of
Richmond, VA

The Honorable Byron Amos

Councilmember, City of Atlanta, GA

The Honorable Jan Arbuckle

Mayor, City of Grass Valley, CA

The Honorable Aaron Banks

City Council President, City of Jackson, MS

The Honorable Andrea Barefield

Councilmember, City of Waco, TX

The Honorable Tom Belshe

Executive Director, League of
Arizona Cities and Towns

The Honorable Gyna Bivens

Councilmember, City of Fort
Worth, TX

The Honorable Michael Blake

Mayor, City of Cocoa, FL

The Honorable Nathaniel Booker

Mayor, Village of Maywood, IL

The Honorable Ted Brady

Executive Director, Vermont League
of Cities and Towns

The Honorable Travis Bruton

Councilmember, City of Glenn
Heights, TX

The Honorable Aditi Bussells

Councilmember, Columbia, SC

The Honorable Jolien Caraballo

Vice Mayor, City of Port St. Lucie, FL

The Honorable Kristopher Dahir

Councilmember, City of Sparks, NV

The Honorable Cindy Dyballa

Councilmember, City of Takoma
Park, MD

The Honorable Mark Freeman

Councilmember, Mesa AZ

The Honorable Doreen Garlid

Vice Mayor, City of Tempe, AZ

The Honorable Jeannie Garner

Executive Director
Florida League of Cities

The Honorable Dan Gilmartin

Executive Director, Michigan
Municipal League

The Honorable Ruth Grendahl

Councilmember (EENR Chair)
City of Apple Valley, MN

The Honorable Michelle Gowdy

Executive Director, Virginia
Municipal League

The Honorable Blaine Griffin

Council President (FAIR Chair),
City of Cleveland, OH

The Honorable Mark Hayes

Executive Director, Arkansas
Municipal League

The Honorable Jeanette Herron

Councilmember, City of
Bridgeport, CT

The Honorable Christina Hobbs

Councilmember, City of Union
City, GA

The Honorable David Holt

Mayor, City of Oklahoma City, OK

The Honorable Emmett Jordan

Mayor, City of Greenbelt, MD

The Honorable Dan Kealey

Councilmember
City of Burnsville, MN

The Honorable Kevin Kramer

Councilmember, Louisville, KY

The Honorable Kelly Lynch

Executive Director,
Montana League of Cities
and Towns

The Honorable Jodi Miller

Mayor, City of Freeport, IL

The Honorable Denise Mitchell

Mayor Pro Tem, City of College
Park, MD

The Honorable James Mitchell

Charlotte City Council At-Large,
City of Charlotte, NC

The Honorable Josh Moenning

Mayor, City of Norfolk, NE

The Honorable Bianca

Motley Broom
Mayor, City of College Park, GA

The Honorable Brian J. O'Neill

Councilmember, City of
Philadelphia, PA

The Honorable Darrell O'Quinn

Council President, City of
Birmingham, AL

The Honorable Matt Orlando

Councilmember, City of
Chandler, AZ

The Honorable Jaime Patiño

Councilmember, City of Union
City, CA

The Honorable Hattie

Portis-Jones
Councilmember, City of
Fairburn, GA

The Honorable Emmanuel Remy

Councilmember, City of
Columbus, OH

The Honorable

Christopher Roberts
Mayor, City of Shoreline, WA

The Honorable Adriana

Rocha Garcia
Councilmember, San Antonio, TX

The Honorable Chalice Savage

Councilor, City of Cottage
Grove, OR

The Honorable Richard Sheets

Executive Director, Missouri
Municipal League

The Honorable Mark Shepherd

Mayor, Clearfield, UT

The Honorable Joshua Simmons

Commissioner, Coral Springs, FL

The Honorable Doug Sprouse

Mayor, Springdale, AR

The Honorable Ty Stober

Councilmember, Vancouver, WA

The Honorable Brian Traugott

Mayor, City of Versailles, KY

The Honorable Ashley Vanorny

Councilmember, City of Cedar
Rapids, IA

The Honorable Gilbert Villegas

Alderman, City of Chicago, IL

The Honorable Laura Weinberg

Mayor, City of Golden, CO

The Honorable Jeff Weisensel

Mayor, City of Rosemount, MN

The Honorable Vince Williams

Mayor, City of Union City

The Honorable Janice Zahn

Councilmember, City of
Bellevue, WA

Overview

Financial Review 2024

FY24 revenue reached \$50.2M, with strong support from philanthropic funding (\$20.3M) and membership dues (\$8M), showcasing diverse funding sources.

A broad and well-balanced revenue base supports key initiatives, ensuring sustained impact. The mix of philanthropic funding, membership dues, and corporate sponsorships highlights NLC as a financially healthy organization.

 **Philanthropic Funding**
20m

 **Membership dues**
8m

 **Investment in LEAD**
18m

 **Investment in Center for Municipal Practice**
7m



NLC’s investments in technical assistance, digital engagement and leadership development reflect a commitment to growth and innovation.

Strategic spending enhances modernization and program development supporting expanded reach and engagement. This investment strengthens connections with members, partners, and the public, reinforcing the organization’s presence and influence.

Financial Activity

For the year ended September 30, 2024.

Consolidated Financial Statement

REVENUE	FY24
Contributions	20,273,643
Membership Dues	8,044,847
Service Fees	4,497,393
Corporate Partners/Sponsorships	5,463,032
Annual Conferences and Exhibits	3,064,271
Interest and Dividends	1,312,291
Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments	3,393,731
Partnership Distribution Income	2,198,158
Other	1,962,351
Total	50,209,717

EXPENSES	FY24
Leadership, Education, Advancement and Development	18,726,554
Center for Municipal Practice	7,405,160
Business Events	3,575,393
Federal Advocacy	1,956,946
RISC Program	686,007
NLC Mutual Insurance Company	3,379,670
Member and Partner Engagement	4,010,671
Digital Engagement, Marketing and Communications	3,838,353
Management and General	7,316,779
Fundraising	308,648
Total	51,184,181





A CENTURY OF STRENGTHENING CITIES

