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The Recap

Every two years, as North Carolinians usher in the fall season with pumpkin spice lattes, the Government Affairs Teams at the League embarks on its extensive, member-driven policy development process to establish the League's policy goals for the next legislative biennium.

I joined the Government Affairs Team in 2022, just as the policy development process was beginning for the 2023-2024 biennium. That year, our journey began in Hendersonville, as the leaves were changing colors, with about 20 elected officials who gathered over barbecue from a local business to discuss the issues that were most pressing to the residents in their cities and towns. Our team hosted listening sessions across the state, speaking with and listening to the concerns of over 150 local elected officials, gathering their ideas along the way.

Now, we are about to embark on a new journey, with new experiences as we connect with you, the members of NCLM, in the latest iteration of that process.

This is an opportunity for you to share your communities' needs, concerns and policy aspirations. Our team is coming to a city or town near you to host a listening session; we encourage you to attend and share your ideas with us. After all, the more involvement we have, the better the case that these policy goals represent the collective aims of all North Carolina cities and towns.

Sa'Metria Jones



Legislative Counsel

Legislative Goals Listening Sessions

Take part in the League's upcoming legislative goals process! This is an opportunity to have your voice heard as the cities and towns of North Carolina determine their priorities for the 2024-2025 legislative biennium.

The League is excited to host four in-person listening events and one virtual option. These meetings will allow city officials to share and discuss their legislative policy ideas with each other and League staff.

Lunch is included and space is limited. Please register as soon as possible to ensure your place in these discussions.

Locations:

- September 24 | Asheville | [Register here](#)
- September 25 | Concord | [Register here](#)
- September 26 | Rocky Mount | [Register here](#)
- October 1 | Elon | [Register here](#)
- October 2 | Virtual | [Register here](#)

Please note that registration for the Rocky Mount event will close on Sept. 10; Asheville and Concord event registrations will close on Sept. 12; and Elon registration will close on Sept. 20.

If you have questions regarding these sessions, [please email Desmond Worrell](#), Grassroots Associate.

NCLM Legislative Policy Committee Selected

The North Carolina League of Municipalities has announced the membership of its latest Legislative Policy Committee, which will lead its policy development process into the next legislative biennium.

Directing NCLM's Legislative Goals development process, committee members review and vet policy proposals from across the League's full membership. After review by the NCLM Board of Directors and a final vote by member cities and towns, the aim is an advocacy agenda that is both focused and reflects the priorities of all the state's municipalities.

[READ FULL PRESS RELEASE HERE](#)

State Revenue Growth

North Carolina has enjoyed good state budget times for over a decade, seeing budget surpluses and revenue growth that has helped fuel investment and a build-up of the state's Rainy Day Fund. Those good times may soon come to an end, according to State Budget Director Kristin Walker. Walker told The News & Observer of Raleigh that the state collected about as much revenue as its budgeted amount for the fiscal year that ended June 30, and she expects sluggish revenue growth in coming years. [The article](#) also examined the possibilities of whether the General Assembly would pass additional budget-related bills in upcoming, brief reconvened sessions, including one beginning next Monday, after failing to agree to a full budget revision to the two-year budget bill approved in 2023. Walker, meanwhile, noted that the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Research Division has stated that continuing corporate and personal income tax cuts will create structural budget imbalances beginning in 2026. Read the full article [here](#).

ARPA Story Site

Want to learn more about how municipalities are taking advantage of American Rescue Plan funding and how NCLM is helping them in that process? A new ["Investing in Our Future" content hub](#) is now live on the WRAL-TV website. This interactive hub provides some great examples of how cities and towns are using ARPA funding to make investments that will positively affect residents' lives for decades. The site also includes testimonials regarding how NCLM consultants are assisting member municipalities in meeting federal ARPA requirements and in improving their financial operations generally. Find the site [here](#), and help your residents find it by posting on your social media pages.



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