



## From the Desk of the Executive Director

### A New Year Brings New Opportunities

2026 brings new opportunities for our towns and cities. There are many great things happening this year, but here are a few that I'm excited about...

**New look and communications** – In recent days, we introduced TML's new brand logo. A recommendation of TML's Visioning Committee and approved by the Board, we unveiled TML's refreshed image, the sixth in our 86 year history. We are moving to a new database and member communications system that will help us communicate more effectively with you, and you with us.

**New Healthcare Partnership for Cities** – After hearing from a number of our member cities about their challenges in providing affordable healthcare insurance for their employees, we have partnered with FMIG to provide an alternative to traditional providers of these services. We expect unprecedented growth in the program this year and significant savings for member cities.

**New Format and Location for**

**Annual Conference** – You told us you wanted something new for our annual conference, and we listened. This year, we are working with Visit Kingsport and neighboring cities to make the 2026 TML Annual Conference a destination event. As plans are finalized, we look forward to sharing with you the unique experiences that will make this conference unlike any other.

**Election year** – Each election year affords citizens an opportunity to vote for or against state and federal officials who will ultimately play a significant role in determining our communities' futures. Cities power Tennessee's state budget and economy, and they are home to more than 60% of all Tennesseans. It's critical to our state's future that cities thrive.

I hope to see you in Nashville March 2-3 at TML's Annual Legislative Conference.

  
Anthony Haynes  
TML Executive Director

## TML unveils new logo



TML's new logo and branding, above, will replace the former logo, bottom.

With a new year comes a new look for the Tennessee Municipal League (TML).

When developing the roadmap for the next 20 years of TML, the 2025 Visioning Committee highlighted the need for impactful communications and identity, including a redesign of the TML logo to help provide an updated, new brand image for the organization.

The current logo for TML has been in use for decades, and while it initially aligned with graphic trends and has served TML well, the Visioning Committee and TML Board recognized the need to create a contemporary logo that reflects modern aesthetics and a league focused on the future.

Working with Victoria Trusty of Trusty Design Co., TML Senior Director of Communications Corinne Gould identified the primary goals for the new design: use the entire name of organization; include the tagline explaining what TML does; include the establishment date to indicate longevity, strength to withstand time and change, expertise, and trustworthiness; and maintain a classic red, white, and blue color scheme with deeper, richer shades for a polished, professional appearance.

Trusty Design relied on those goals and follow-up conversations with Gould to ultimately develop five design proposals, with additional variations and secondary use options developed for two.

An ad hoc committee came together at that time to review the proposals. TML current and past Board members Kevin Brooks, Paige Brown, Trey Dykes, Kim Foster, Ken Moore, and Jessica Salamida met with Gould to offer their opinions on the options and how TML's identity would be represented best.

## 114th General Assembly reconvenes



Lt. Gov. Randy McNally reconvenes the Tennessee State Senate (Photo by TN GOP Caucus)



Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton reconvenes the Tennessee State House (Photo by State Affairs)

Legislators returned to Nashville on Jan. 13, 2026, to convene the second session of the 114th General Assembly.

Top priorities expected for this session include the expansion of Gov. Bill Lee's Education Freedom Act from the 20,000 private school scholarships approved last year, immigration, infrastructure improvements and funding, artificial intelligence, and the state's grocery tax.

There has also been a significant discussion about [capping local government property tax increases](#). Enactment of a property tax cap will have an immediate and lasting impact on local governments, including legal and financial consequences, constraining government revenues and creating diminished quality of life for residents.

[Other legislative priorities](#) for TML this session include the full

restoration of the historic state sales tax sharing relationship, residential rental property protections, modernizing public notices, and harmonizing public record requests that burden municipalities and taxpayers.

To keep up-to-date with TML's legislative priorities and advocacy, members should check the [Legislative Bulletin](#) every week. Published each Friday, the bulletins focus on priority bills as they move through the legislative process, recap the week's legislative activity, and preview the upcoming week.

This includes monitoring pending legislation that directly affects or has the potential to affect towns and cities. Bills can evolve quickly, and the weekly bulletin alerts municipal leaders to what they need to know.

These issues come as lawmakers must also balance a state budget amid declining revenues. Inflation has seen state revenues drop with

the Tennessee State Funding Board [projecting a growth rate](#) of between 1.59% and 2.04% for all state revenues in the upcoming fiscal year, well below the 3-5% growth range the state typically enjoys.

While this rate is higher than projected last year, the state's [November 2025 revenues](#) came nearly \$50 million under estimates. Notably, the state eliminated certain franchise and excise taxes in 2024, which saw budget impacts last year. Ongoing economic uncertainty on the federal level also continues to play a role in financial forecasting.

Following a new rule approved last session, rank-and-file members of the legislature may only file 12 bills – down from a previous limit of 15 – while subcommittee chairs can file 2 additional bills and chairs of full panels can file an additional 5 bills.

See **SESSION** on Page 8

## Make plans to attend TML's Legislative Conference March 2-3 in Nashville

The Tennessee Municipal League (TML) looks forward to welcoming members to the 2026 Legislative Conference.

The event will be held March 2-3, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown Nashville hotel.

The First General Session will focus on key legislative priorities impacting Tennessee towns and cities, followed by timely Conversations with the Candidates for the 2026 gubernatorial race. Candidates will share what matters most to them and, if elected, how they plan to partner with local governments to meet the needs of municipalities.

The Second General Session will offer a CMFO education credit-eligible panel discussion on the financial outlook for bond and lending markets. It will also include

explanation of bond ratings, how they are determined, and why they matter to your municipality.

Full registration includes Monday lunch and Tuesday breakfast with a cost of \$165 for municipal officials and staff and \$185 for state agency representatives.

The deadline to register is Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2026.

Municipal leaders and staff are invited to attend. A conference rate is available for hotel rooms, with the room block closing on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, or when blocked rooms sell out.

Visit [TML's website](#) for additional information and to register for the conference. Registration is done through Engagifi, TML's new platform for managing member information and event registrations.

Registration is best completed on a desktop or laptop computer for the easiest experience. Please create or access your Engagifi account using your official city or organization email address.

Once logged in, you will be prompted to review your profile information and make any necessary updates to ensure your details are accurate and up to date. After completing your profile, you will be directed to the conference registration page to finalize your registration.

If you experience any issues with registering, accessing your account, or updating your information in Engagifi, please contact Corinne Gould at [cgoold@tml1.org](mailto:cgoold@tml1.org) or Kelly McKinley at [kmckinley@tml1.org](mailto:kmckinley@tml1.org) for assistance.

## Cities essential to state, federal celebrations of America's 250th

By KATE COIL  
TT&C Assistant Editor

As countrywide celebrations of America's founding kick off, municipalities across Tennessee are showcasing how local stories are an important part of national history.

Known as a semi-quincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4 is being honored in various ways across the U.S. through the federal America 250 initiative and on the state level with [Tennessee America 250](#) (TN250). TN250 Coordinator Carrie Tipton said that while Tennessee history does stretch back to the American Revolution, the commission decided to focus on Tennessee's impacts on the larger narrative.

"This is going to be a commemoration of the state's broader history, especially its contributions to American democracy from ratifying the 19th Amendment to the contributions of different civil rights activists in Tennessee," Tipton said. "It really is about trying to preserve and interpret local history, and how it shaped American history. Even if you just look at Revolutionary period history, it isn't just the Eastern part of the



A display of what various Tennesseans wore during the American Revolution at the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville. Leading up to the Fourth of July, Tennessee municipalities will play a vital role in semi-quincentennial celebrations. (Photo by Tennessee State Museum)



state who can engage with that. A lot of Tennessee was settled through

land grants to Revolutionary War veterans. Tennessee is a microcosm of how the U.S. expanded."

Local events and projects will make up the bulk of Tennessee's celebrations. Tipton said the commission has awarded two rounds of grants and is maintaining a statewide event calendar. There is also a place on the commission website for **See 250** on Page 5

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## BRENTWOOD

The Brentwood Police Department has retained its Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation. The designation followed a multi-year self-assessment phase and a meticulous site-based assessment of community engagement, policy, procedures, equipment, and facilities by CALEA assessors, attending CALEA conferences, and a review from the CALEA board of commissioners. The Brentwood Police Department first received CALEA accreditation in 1989 and has been reaccredited 11 times since.

## CLARKSVILLE

Korea Zinc announced the company will invest more than \$6.6 billion in new production facilities in Clarksville and rural Smith County. The facilities are first U.S. locations for the world's leading comprehensive nonferrous metal manufacturer and the largest single private corporate investment made in state history. Korea Zinc will create 420 new jobs in Clarksville as well as an additional 320 jobs in Smith County in the next 5 years. The company will construct a new facility in Clarksville to house their U.S. headquarters as well as manufacturing operations. The company, known for its commitment to community engagement, education, and environmental sustainability, plans to acquire and invest in several locations statewide.

## CLARKSVILLE

T.RAD officials announced the company is expanding to Tennessee with Clarksville as the company's first location in the state. T.RAD will create 928 new jobs and invest \$90.2 million by constructing a new facility at the Clarksville-Montgomery County Corporate Business Park South, a [Select Tennessee Certified Site](#). Upon completion, the additional investment and staffing will support increased production and expand the company's customer base across the Southeast. T.RAD North America, headquartered in Hopkinsville, Ky., is a subsidiary of Japanese manufacturer T.RAD. The company was founded in 1936 as a radiator manufacturer in Kawasaki, Japan, and has grown into a global corporation, operating across four continents.

## COLUMBIA

The city of Columbia has once again been recognized for excellence in public finance, earning the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) prestigious Triple Crown designation for the sixth consecutive year. The Triple Crown distinction is awarded to governments that receive all three of the GFOA's top honors: the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, and the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award. In the most recently reported year, Columbia remained one of only three cities in Tennessee to achieve this level of comprehensive financial recognition.

## DICKSON

The first phase of improvements to Dickson's J. Dan Buckner Park has been completed as the city moves toward the second phase of renovations. The first phase of the project saw a new fenced playground, pavilion with restrooms, two basketball courts, and two courts striped for both tennis and pickleball, along with parking and ADA-compliant sidewalks on the eastern side of the park. A formal ribbon-cutting is expected in the spring. The city has contracted with Hoar Construction, LLC, for the second phase of the project, which will reconfigure a larger ballfield into three smaller fields and see the construction of a new concession stand, restroom facility, covered batting facility at the site of the former municipal pool, and a new playground. Financing for the park projects has come in part from a \$5.25 million grant provided by the Local Parks and Recreation Fund.

## GALLATIN

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in partnership

with the city of Gallatin, will begin construction this year on a major stormwater improvement project at Triple Creek Park aimed at reducing flooding impacts in downtown and other downstream areas along Town Creek. The project includes construction of a large stormwater berm upstream of Town Creek, which parallels Highway 31E through the city. While the berm is located within Triple Creek Park, its primary purpose is to reduce flood severity in low-lying commercial and industrial areas downstream, including portions of North Water Avenue, Lyons Street, and surrounding corridors. Construction is expected to begin in the first half of the year and be completed during the summer. The project is part of a USACE stormwater initiative focused on Town Creek and supports future recreational development adjacent to Triple Creek Park.

## GATLINBURG

The Gatlinburg Golf Course was named the top public golf course in the state by the Tennessee Turfgrass Association. The city-owned course was recognized with the 2025 Public Course of the Year award for excellence in groundskeeping and overall player experience. The course has become a popular destination for visitors and locals alike. City Manager Greg Patterson said the course is "an important community asset and a major contributor to our local tourism economy." The year-round, 18-hole course was designed by noted architect William Langford with major renovations from Atlanta-based Bob Cupp and Associates in 2007.

## HALLS

ALUKO Group officials announced the company has selected Halls for its second U.S. manufacturing facility. ALUKO Group will create 285 new jobs and invest \$107.7 million to locate its integrated aluminum manufacturing operations in the former Tupperware building in Halls. Once operational, the retrofitted facility will further support and expand the company's customer base across the electric vehicle, solar energy, construction and building industries. Based in South Korea, the ALUKO Group consists of ALUKO, Hyundai Aluminium, Gogang Aluminium, Alutec, KPTU, Hyundai Aluminium Vina and Alutec Vina. Today's announcement marks the company's second project to locate in Tennessee in the last year. In December 2024, ALUKO Group [announced](#) it would establish its first U.S. manufacturing facility in Jackson.

## GREENEVILLE

American Greetings has announced plans to add more than 100 jobs at its Greeneville manufacturing facility in 2026. The facility primarily produces wrapping paper and ribbons, and said the growth was prompted by the acquisition of new gift wrap equipment. The new positions include press operators, machine operators, power truck operators, and maintenance roles. Based in Westlake, Ohio, American Greetings sells paper greeting cards, electronic greeting cards, gift packaging, stickers, and party products.

## MONTEREY

The city of Monterey is working with ERP Holdings to develop a 27-acre piece of property into a new industrial park following the closure of longtime local employer Perdue. City officials announced the new industrial park called The Summit near Exit 301 on I-40, with room for 10,000-square-foot to 40,000-square foot facilities. Officials are targeting green in-

## Ground broken on new MTSU aerospace facility in Shelbyville



Officials with the city of Shelbyville, Shelbyville Municipal Airport, and Middle Tennessee State University broke ground on a \$73.4 million state-of-the-art aerospace facility. The new aviation hub will address critical needs for expanding MTSU's Department of Aerospace and its pilot training program, both of which are among the nation's most highly-recognized aerospace and aviation programs. The facility is financed through federal, state, and university funding and will provide a permanent home for all MTSU aircraft as well as hangars, classrooms, offices, and ramp space. The program has 20 full-time faculty, more than 100 flight instructors, and more than 1,400 students who represent 32 states and 10 countries. (Photo by MTSU)

## Collierville opens Fire House No. 6



More than 200 people gathered for the grand opening of Collierville's Fire House No. 6, the town's first new fire house in 24 years. The ceremony included a ribbon-cutting, a hose disconnection, and a traditional truck push-in by members of the department and the public. The two-story facility is designed to provide safe, responsive service to the community while ensuring a safe environment for firefighters to work and live. The first floor includes a living room, kitchen, work areas (including a police office space), a three-bay drive-through apparatus bay, and support spaces. The second-floor features sleeping quarters with 10 dormitories, individual restrooms, a laundry room, and storage. (Submitted by Collierville)

## Construction underway at new Franklin City Hall



Progress is being made on the new Franklin City Hall building with the first-floor concrete pour recently completed. Targeted for opening in 2027, the new structure will meet the long-term growth needs of the city and house about 250 employees in addition to offering various public meeting spaces. The new city hall will also feature several commercial tenant spaces, an enlarged plaza on the Franklin square, ADA accessibility, a one-acre public park, a subgrade parking garage adding 200 spaces to the downtown area, and utility streetscape improvements. The new city hall will replace a 1970s shopping mall that the city converted for use in 1981. Demolition of the former structure was completed in June to allow for the redevelopment. The entire project scope is estimated to cost between \$104 million and \$112 million, with the city stating the project is \$3 million under budget so far. (Submitted by Franklin)

dustry companies at the site and have begun construction on a spec building expected to be complete by the fall of 2028.

## NEWPORT

Two Newport-based businesses have received grants as a result of impact from Hurricane Helene

in September 2024. The two grants represent more than \$4.5 million in funding, with each company receiving at least \$2 million to directly aid in retaining or retraining employees previously terminated due to the destruction of company facilities by the storm. Eastern

Plating will receive \$3.3 million to retain 141 positions at the electroplating manufacturer, which has operated in Newport since 1983. American Appliance will receive \$15.7 million to retain 160 positions at the manufacturer of racks and components for heating and air conditioning systems.

# WAUFORD

J. R. Wauford & Company, Consulting Engineers, Inc.

# Municipal IT Budgeting in Three Parts: From Broken to Visionary

VC3

Information technology is a major component of every municipality's annual spending, yet many towns and cities struggle with where to begin.

A thoughtful IT budget helps uncover inefficiencies, reduce unnecessary expenses, and support operational and strategic goals.

This overview explains how to use the budgeting process to fix broken systems, maximize long-term investments, and align technology with municipal vision.

## Part I: Fixing What's Broken

Outdated or unreliable technology quietly drains budgets. Your IT budget can highlight where underinvestment is costing you time and money. Start by asking:

*Is our data backup reliable and tested?*

A single data loss incident can halt operations and lead to major recovery costs. Municipalities with inadequate backup solutions often face the highest emergency expenses.

*Is our hardware older than five years?*

Equipment more than 3–5 years old becomes slow, unreliable, and expensive to maintain. Delaying replacement may seem frugal, but outdated hardware reduces productivity and increases risk.

*Have we reviewed our ISP or telecom contracts recently?*

Long-term contracts or years of auto-renewing service may mean you're overpaying for low-quality service. Even if you have limited provider options, revisiting this line item can uncover potential savings.

*Are IT support costs unpredictable?*

Reactive IT vendors often appear inexpensive at first, but drive-up yearly costs with unpredictable billing. A proactive, fixed-fee model provides stability and reduces emergency spending.

Addressing these foundation-



As budget cycles begin, many municipalities nationwide are tightening their IT budgets in response to financial concerns. However, cybersecurity and attacks are also a growing concern for many cities and some federal government departments are cutting off access to those entities without certain security protocols. As leaders begin the budget process, it is important to consider what IT spending will get both employees and residents the most bang for their buck. (Photo by National League of Cities)

al issues often uncovers immediate, meaningful savings—even for smaller municipalities.

costly downtime and maintenance.

## Part II: Maximizing IT Investments

Long-term strategic planning ensures you're spending wisely and taking advantage of modern technologies. Consider:

*Do we need all our onsite hardware?*

Cloud solutions reduce—or even eliminate—the need for many onsite servers. With adequate internet bandwidth, municipalities can simplify infrastructure and maintenance.

*Do we follow a hardware lifecycle plan?*

Replacing equipment every 3–5 years ensures reliability and avoids

Have we reviewed software recently?

Many traditional software programs now have affordable cloud-based subscription models that reduce upfront licensing and server costs.

*Are our IT support needs fully covered?*

Minimal or reactive IT support can lead to recurring issues. Investing in proactive maintenance solves problems before they impact operations.

*Are we still relying on manual data backups?*

Manual backups are time-consuming and risky. Automated solutions offer greater reliability and efficiency.

## Part III: Let Technology Fuel Your Vision

Municipal visioning and technology planning should go hand-in-hand. Align IT with your strategic goals by:

- Bringing visionaries and IT experts together to connect goals with technology.
- Breaking long-term goals into projects and exploring cost-effective alternatives.
- Identifying operational improvements across departments.
- Enhancing resident services through better websites, communication tools, and online services.
- Embracing IT budgeting as part of your broader planning process empowers your municipality to advance operationally, strategically, and financially.



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## FEMA announces \$9 million in Helene recovery funds for Tennessee communities

The Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA) has approved nearly \$9 million in federal funds to help communities across Tennessee rebuild following Hurricane Helene and other recent disasters.

The funds are part of FEMA's Public Assistance program, which is funded at a minimum of 75% federal share, typically with states incurring the remaining cost.

Projects being funded as part of the \$9 million include:

- \$3.7 million for emergency protective measures taken by Humphreys County School District following

catastrophic flooding.

- \$1.4 million for various road repairs in Carter, Haywood and Unicoi counties and the city of Dyersburg.

- \$1.3 million for various electrical and utility repairs for Bolivar Energy Authority, Nashville Electric Service, Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Cooperative, and Unicoi County Gas Utility District.

- \$268,000 for building repairs to the Tennessee Department of Correction.

- \$1.2 million to remove debris from Cheatham and Tipton counties and the city of Grand Junction.

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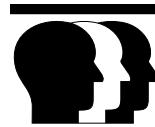
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# PEOPLE

**Joy Baker** has retired after 44 years of service as the risk management director for Johnson City. Baker joined the city in 1981 in the newly created risk management position for the city and developed numerous policies for the city to ensure risk minimization, including daily training, job site inspections, checklists used in purchasing processes, and more. She also has overseen the city's workers' compensation program and has been a member of the state's Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation. During her career, Baker has become regarded as an expert in the field and is frequently consulted by insurers in both the public and private sector.



Joy Baker

as director of transportation for Virginia's District Three Governmental Cooperative and eight years with the city of Bristol, Va., in various roles, including as a transportation planner. Fleenor holds a bachelor's degree from Hollins University and a master's of business administration from American National University. She also holds certifications from the National Transit Institute.



Melanie Fleenor

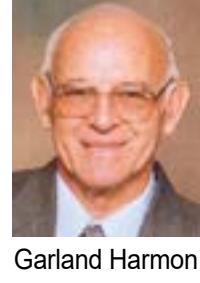
**Crissy Fletcher** has been hired as the new town recorder for Farragut. Fletcher previously retired after spending



Crissy Fletcher

more than 17 years as the city clerk for Hopkinsville, Ky., and a further 10 years as the assistant city clerk. She holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from Austin Peay State University. She is both a certified municipal clerk and a master municipal clerk in the state of Kentucky and through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

**Garland Harmon**, former Pigeon Forge commissioner and director of the city's public works department, died Dec. 30,



Garland Harmon

2025, at the age of 98. Harmon helped start the Pigeon Forge Volunteer Fire Department, serving for years as a volunteer fireman. He was also a supporter of the city's incorporation and served on the Pigeon Forge City Commission from 1969 until 1977. He then helped create and led the city's public works department from 1977 until his retirement in 1997.



Tessa Cortes

**Tessa Cortes** has been hired as the new finance director for Farragut. Cortes joins the city from Maryville College where she spent nine years in various financial roles, including assistant controller, accounting controller, and director of financial reporting. Prior to that, she spent nearly 10 years as a staff accountant at Knoxville-based Brown, Jake, and McDaniel. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Carson-Newman University and is a certified public accountant.



Andrew Kiepe

**Andrew Kiepe** has been selected as policy director for the city of Memphis by Mayor Paul Young. Kiepe will help advance

smart policy, secure competitive funding, and deepen partnerships that move Memphis forward. Kiepe previously served as director of development for the Memphis River Partnership, overseeing projects such as the redevelopment of Tom Lee Park and the Memphis Flyway. He holds a degree in leisure and sports management from the University of Memphis.

**Dean Dickey**, former mayor of Columbia, died Jan. 8, 2026, at the age of 92. Dickey was first elected to the Columbia City Council



Michael Lankford

in 2008 and then elected mayor in 2010. He served two terms as mayor, leaving office in 2019. The Championship Field at Ridley Park in Columbia was named in Dickey's honor for his work bringing the sports complex to the city. Dickey served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and then owned and operated seven supermarkets in Middle Tennessee from 1973 until 1997. During his career, he also held management positions in the Tennessee Department of Labor and served as the business services manager at the Maury County Career Center. He was also on the boards for the Columbia State Foundation and National Grocers Association, and was instrumental in establishing the Tennessee Grocers Association.

**Melanie Fleenor** has been selected to fill the newly created position of transit manager for the Bristol Department of Public Works. Fleenor will oversee the day-to-day operations of the city's bus system, including policies and procedures and promotional efforts to increase ridership. Before coming to Bristol, Fleenor spent nearly three years

**Jill Lewis** has joined UT-MTAS as a finance and accounting consultant for East Tennessee. She will be based in Johnson City.



Jill Lewis

## Tullahoma announces public works changes

The city of Tullahoma has announced the retirement of Director of Public Works Butch Taylor and the appointment of Eric Pierce as his successor.

Taylor dedicated 30 years of service to the city of Tullahoma. A reception in Taylor's honor was held at the city's public works facility prior to his last day on Dec. 9.

Prior to being selected as the new public works director, Eric Pierce served as the city's public works superintendent since 2019. In this role, he has managed staff and day-to-day operations, coordinated construction projects, and



Butch Taylor



Eric Pierce

overseen subdivision inspections.

Before he came to Tullahoma, Pierce served as the public works director for Shelbyville

from March 2016 to 2019 and was a storm water coordinator and inspector for Shelbyville from 2006 to 2016.

## West Tennessee Mayors Assoc. honors Mayors McTizic, Griffin



Outgoing West Tennessee Mayor's Association President and Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic, left, receives a plaque from incoming President and McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin at the group's January meeting. The association is dedicated to supporting the communities in the region and convenes quarterly to address and promote issues specific to West Tennessee.

**Tommy Thompson**, one of the longest-serving district attorneys general in the state of Tennessee, died Dec. 12, 2025, at the age of 78.



Tommy Thompson

Thompson held office for 44 years representing the 15th Judicial District, which includes Trousdale, Jackson, Macon, Smith, and Wilson counties. He retired from the role in 2021. A native of Hartsville, Thompson earned his law degree from Vanderbilt University in 1969 and served as a legal officer at Fort Bragg, N.C. for three years. He then began working as an assistant district attorney in Nashville, returning to Hartsville for two years to teach and practice law. He joined the 5th District Attorney's Office in 1975 and then joined the 15th after its creation the following year. He was appointed head of the district in 1977.

**Kevin Wilson** has been selected as the new director of finance for the city of Alcoa. Wilson



Kevin Wilson

has more than 30 years of progressive accounting and financial leadership experience. He comes to the city from H.T. Hackney, Inc., where he served as corporate controller of brands. Prior to that role, he spent nearly three decades at Denos Manufacturing where he held several leadership positions, including plant accounting manager and controller.

A Blount County native, he holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in accounting from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Kevin Wilson**, longtime municipal judge for the city of Collegedale, died Friday, Jan. 9, 2026. Wilson served as the municipal judge since 1990, when

the position became an elected one. Wilson earned his bachelor's degree in business management from Southern Adventist University in 1978, followed by a law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1982. He practiced for one year in Knoxville before opening the practice of Wilson and Wilson in 1982 with his wife, Scarlett T. Wilson. In addition to being a member of both the Chattanooga Bar Association and Tennessee Bar Association, he was a member of the Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference, Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference, and the American Collectors Association International.



Kevin Wilson

**PACE**

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# Cities essential to state, federal celebrations of America's 250th

**250, from Page 1**  
cusing on local landmarks, events, and people who were influential in local, state, and national history.

"The commission is really taking a grassroots approach," she said. "We are trying to empower communities across the state to enact their own unique visions for their communities. We want to amplify and support what people out there want to organize. If a community is creating an event, we want to know about it. We will add it to our calendar, amplify it on social media, and may even include it in our newsletter. Our Voices and Volunteers section of our website is also taking submissions."

On the national level, Tipton said communities may also be interested in the [America Gives](#) initiative, which aims to make 2026 a record-year for volunteer service.

"It encourages all Americans to find some group in their local area – it can be a chapter of a national organization or a truly local organization – and donate some volunteer hours," she said. "Municipalities can look at the initiative, and they can start to think about how we can overlay the America Gives initiative with our volunteer needs. It could be a cleanup day for a local park, a downtown beautification project, or tree planting. They can leverage that call to volunteerism at the local level."

Municipalities will play a valuable role in both localizing the national and state story and instilling civic pride through these events.

"What is going to make this a vibrant celebration is when people look at what is unique about their community," Tipton said. "Sometimes the things we commemorate are difficult and commemoration can be different than celebration. It can also recognize something more positive, like a local agricultural product."

## COLLIERVILLE

Ashley Carver, tourism director for Collierville, said the town has been planning their celebrations for about a year, getting funding from Shelby County to create a logo for 250th events, and kicking off celebrations on Veteran's Day with their annual parade.

"The town leadership has been eager to celebrate this milestone," she said. "We see this as a great opportunity to bring the community together."

The Morton Museum, Collierville's local history museum located off its downtown square, is also highlighting the town's history this year with particular emphasis on how Collierville celebrated the nation's bicentennial in 1976. The town was officially chartered in 1870, but its history goes back to 1836. Despite not having Revolutionary War connections, Carver said it is just as important for towns like Collierville to reflect on their place in the national story during this time.

"Collierville's story is the American story," Carver said. "We are a community full of diversity that comes together through shared values. When you look throughout our history, you see those challenging times in America. You see how the boll weevil coming through caused farmers to diversify, the rise of the dairy industry in the area, as well as how we navigated the Great Depression. You can tell the story of industrialization through civil rights at a local level. Local history makes things so personal and relatable."

For their TN250 grant project, the town is combining a local music



As Tennessee's oldest town, Jonesborough will be celebrating its own 250th birthday in three years. To honor America, the town is using a TN250 grant to stage a play taken from the words and deeds of famous and unassuming figures from local history. The play incorporates how Jonesborough fits into the larger American story, as well as the town's reputation as the Storytelling Capital of the World. (Photo by Jonesborough).



With their TN250 grant, the town of Collierville is utilizing a local music tradition to showcase American history. Informal downtown bluegrass jams have become a staple, and the town is bringing together a 3-day jam on the square highlighting 250 years of music history. In conjunction, the town's Morton Museum of History off the square is also showcasing how residents celebrated the bicentennial in 1976. (Photo by Collierville).



The city of Goodlettsville's story began when longhunter Kaspar Mansker built the fortified Mansker's Station on the Avery Trace in 1779. The city has since recreated it, seen here, and moved the city's oldest residential home, the Bowen House, to Moss-Wright Park. Adjacent to the park and historic sites is the Goodlettsville Visitor's Center where TN250 grant funds will be used to create new displays highlighting Goodlettsville's story. The display cases will allow the city to showcase delicate artifacts and digital records that bring local history to life. (Photo by Goodlettsville).

tradition with 250 years of American music titled "Sounds Like Collierville: 250 Years Through Song."

"This project connects Collierville's stories and traditions to that broader American story by bringing people together through music," she said. "For the past 30 years, bluegrass musicians have

come from across the region and gather Friday nights from April to October in informal bluegrass jams. To highlight a beloved tradition that is authentic to Collierville, we decided to make a three-day bluegrass festival. You can explore history through fiddle tunes from the 1760s. There are a lot of songs we hope to feature from different milestones and moments in American history as part of this acoustic bluegrass music."

The hope is to combine old and new in a way that will bring multiple generations of residents together.

"Music has such a unifying quality about it," she said. "It allows us to talk about the bluegrass traditions, and how our square has been witness to that for more than 150 years. Whether you're a sixth generation Collierville and just moved six months ago, I think this is a great time to expose our residents to all that history and bring them together."

## GOODLETTSVILLE

Kimberly Lynn, director of tourism for the city of Goodlettsville, said TN250 grant funds are being used to develop "Goodlettsville: A Small Town View,"

provides the City of Goodlettsville with the opportunity to showcase how Goodlettsville began and developed into the flourishing city that it is today. Mansker's Station and the Bowen House remain vital parts of our story."

One of the goals of the projects is to educate modern-day Goodlettsville residents about residents who came before them.

"This project is fundamentally about Goodlettsville's community," she said. "This city developed because citizens from Virginia, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina moved their families to this newly discovered area. These settlers communed with one another, they shared meals, they traded goods, they formed government, they built homes, planted gardens, and laid roads. Goodlettsville became a small manufacturing town that pioneered wool and lamb sales nationally. This museum exhibit serves the current community by linking them to a long heritage of families who worked and served alongside each other."

Lynn said the hope is the exhibits will help tell American and Tennessee history through the unique lens of the city of Goodlettsville as well as build community connection between residents and their heritage.

"America is full of historic sites and landmarks that are spread across small towns and big cities," Lynn said. "Those sites and landmarks each tell unique parts of the story of American independence. Individual families are trying to make this new nation their home. Cities like Goodlettsville remind us of the human element in history. This exhibit highlights the individual and communal efforts to build houses, start businesses, and form governments in modern day Tennessee."

## JONESBOROUGH

Known as Tennessee's oldest town, Jonesborough was officially founded in 1779 – 17 years before Tennessee became a state. In 1784, Jonesborough became the seat of the State of Franklin, an attempted succession from North Carolina that is considered a precursor to Tennessee.

Anne Mason, program manager for Jonesborough's McKinney Center, said the town is bringing together history and storytelling traditions for a play.

"It's interesting how the major events like the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Civil Rights movement, and the Folk and Storytelling movement all played through Jonesborough," Mason said. "There is a reflection of that great national history in Jonesborough, and we wanted to show it all off. The McKinney Center – through the Story Town Program – has been doing community plays for more than 10 years now. This initiative has collected oral histories from the area and put them together in plays and other programs. We wanted to take the stories of the past and the present and look toward the future."

The play will feature figures integral to local history including John Sevier, David Deadrick, and Julia Bullard Nelson. The play will run in February and March in Jonesborough and will feature citizens in various roles. The play offers a chance to involve residents and educate residents and visitors about the town's history.

"We want to connect people to their history, the area around them, and the ideas America represents and how those have played out over time," Mason said. "A lot of people who live in the area don't know that history, because we have a lot of people who have recently moved to the area. This is a great way to get them involved. History is so much more than names and dates. It's the story of people who have faced challenges and tough decisions. When you can connect to the past on an emotional level, it doesn't make it seem so foreign."

The city is also hosting its Jonesborough Days celebration around the Fourth of July and special events at the Jackson Theatre. Mason said she hopes these events will help instill a sense of community.

"I hope we take lessons from the past into the future and continue to build on this great American experiment, as the forefathers called it," Mason said. "The future of the country is ours, so where do we want to take it?"



The Tennessee State Museum has recently unveiled its own TN250 exhibit: "Tennessee Voices, American Stories." The exhibit will include some unique artifacts from Tennessee history as it relates to the national story. (Photo by Tennessee State Museum).

**STATE BRIEFS**

Tennessee's November 2025 unemployment rate was recorded at 3.6%, which has remained unchanged since July. No unemployment rate was recorded for the state in October 2025 due to a lack of data resulting from the federal government shutdown. The 3.6% rate was also one-tenth of a percentage point lower than the rate recorded in November 2024. Tennessee's nonfarm employment grew by 7,600 jobs in November with the largest increases in private education and health services, other services, and administrative, support, and waste services sectors. A comprehensive analysis of Tennessee's November 2025 statewide unemployment data is available [at the state's website](#).

**Tennessee is the state with the fourth-highest number of inbound movers**, according to data released from U-Haul. The company [tracks annual in-migration](#) and found the top five states for movers in 2025 were Texas, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina. While the same five states have been the most moved to for both 2024 and 2023, the order has changed with Tennessee moving up from fifth last year. California was the state with the least number of inbound movers followed by Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts.

**Tennessee recorded a significant decline in traffic fatalities in 2025**, according to year-end data released by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security. The Tennessee Fatality Analysis Reporting System shows 1,045 traffic fatalities statewide in 2025, down from 1,194 in 2024, a reduction of approximately 14%. Much of the statewide improvement was driven by significant progress in Memphis and Shelby County, where

coordinated enforcement and safety initiatives, including the Memphis Safe Task Force and the Tennessee Highway Patrol's Bluff City Task Force, contributed to a substantial reduction in fatalities. Urban areas accounted for the largest share of statewide improvement, with 128 fewer fatalities compared to last year. Rural fatalities also declined, though at a smaller rate, reinforcing the need for continued focus on rural road safety.

**The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has opened applications for the state's Tire Environmental Act Program (TEAP)**. The grants are to fund projects that create or support beneficial uses for waste tires. Such projects include tire recycling and processing, using materials such as aggregate that are derived from tires, initiating research and development in tire management, using tires for alternative fuels, or promoting innovation in infrastructure. The deadline for submission of grant applications is April 15. Further information on the program is available [online at the TEAP website](#). Information about the TDEC grants management system is also available online.

**One of Tennessee's newest state parks just got bigger**. A private donation has added 670 acres of dense forest on the Cumberland Plateau to Savage Gulf State Park near Beersheba Springs. Located in Grundy and Sequatchie counties, Savage Gulf State Park was created from the 19,000-acre Savage Gulf Natural Area that was formerly a non-contiguous part of the South Cumberland State Park. The area is also a National Natural Landmark because of the Great Stone Door, a cliff with a top-to-bottom crack resembling a doorway.

**Downtown grants awarded to 16 communities**

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development has awarded more than \$4.3 million in Downtown Improvement Grants to 16 municipalities in the Tennessee Main Street and Tennessee Downtowns programs.

The Rural Economic Opportunity funding was awarded to organizations that illustrated the need for improvements and the ability to execute an effective design plan for building facades, wayfinding signage, gateways, and streetscapes. As part of the program, each new grant recipient will be required to match 25% of the funding received.

South Pittsburg received a \$500,000 grant through the program. Pulaski received a \$464,000 grant, Shelbyville a \$450,000 grant, and a \$400,000 grant was awarded to Elizabethton.

Athens, Crossville, and Waverly each received \$30,000 grants totaling \$300,000. A \$300,000 grant was also awarded to the Joint Economic Board of Unicoi County, which includes the municipalities of Erwin and Unicoi. Brownsville and Rogersville each received \$250,000



Downtown Elizabethton (Submitted by State of Tennessee)

grants while Monterey received a \$240,000 grant.

A \$150,000 grant was awarded to Jefferson City, while Alexandria, Celina, and Rockwood each received \$100,000 grants. Clifton received a \$97,500 grant.

**DRA awards funds to four Tennessee municipalities**

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) has announced more than \$6.3 million in investments in West Tennessee communities, including four municipal projects.

The funds were awarded as part of the [States' Economic Development Assistance Program](#) — one of DRA's main investment tools.

The Covington Industrial Development Board was awarded \$509,000 to complete critical soil stabilization for a multimillion-dollar manufacturing expansion project that will strengthen local infrastructure, and advance regional goals of job creation, workforce competitiveness, and community resilience.

The Jackson Regional Airport Authority was awarded more than \$1.1 million to demolish an outdated, underutilized aircraft hangar to allow for the construction of a new passenger terminal to enhance regional transportation infrastructure, support economic growth, and improve access to essential services.

Lexington was awarded more than \$1.5 million to support a climate control project that will improve an existing manufacturing facility's need for climate control measures that will help create an environment conducive for retaining employees, ensuring the manufacturing company can attract and retain its much-needed workforce that is critical to the

economic vitality of the city.

The Savannah Industrial Development Corporation was awarded approximately \$1 million to aid in the acquisition of a vacant facility to help support the expansion needs of two locally owned manufacturing companies, which is critical to the community's economic well-being.

The other entities awarded funds from the DRA included \$635,000 to McNairy County, \$350,000 to the Floor Covering Education Foundation, \$375,000 to the Boilermakers and Welding Institute, \$349,000 to CodeCrew, and \$465,000 to LaunchYourCity in downtown Memphis.

**Tennessee November revenues \$156.1M above estimates**

Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Jim Bryson announced revenues for November were \$1.5 billion, which is \$156.1 million more than November of last year, but \$49.9 million less than the budgeted estimate.

The total growth rate for the month was 11.54%.

General fund revenues were \$58.2 million less than the November estimate, while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$8.3 million more than the estimates.

On an accrual basis, November is the fourth month in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

"Consumer spending has remained strong, as evidenced by

robust sales and use tax collections linked to October's taxable sales activity," Bryson stated. "However, lower-than-expected corporate tax receipts led to November revenues falling below forecasted estimates. Although year-to-date totals continue to exceed our estimates, we will continue to monitor economic conditions and consumer demand to meet our budgeted targets."

On a year-to-date basis, August through November, total tax revenues are 0.51 percent greater than the budget estimate, or \$34.9 million above expectations. When compared to this same period last year, total tax revenues have grown 4.96 percent or \$327.6 million.

General fund revenues are 0.13% greater than the year-to-date budgeted estimate, or \$7.1 million higher. Likewise, general fund collections compared to this same period last year have increased 4.54% or \$246.2 million.

**Individual tax performance compared to November 2025 Budgeted Estimates:**

- Sales Taxes: Above estimate by 3.73% or \$46.2 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Below estimate by 214.18% or \$121.1 million
- Fuel Taxes: Below estimate by 3.00% or \$3.2 million
- All other taxes: Above estimate by 18.01% or \$28.1 million

**Year-to-date performance compared to Budgeted Estimates:**

- Sales Taxes: Above estimate by 2.52% or \$125 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Below estimate by 16.94% or \$140 million
- Fuel Taxes: Above estimate by 0.76% or \$3.3 million
- All other taxes: Above estimate by 6.97% or \$46.5 million

**Individual tax performance compared to November 2024:**

- Sales Taxes: Up 4.07% or \$50.3 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Up 56.50% or \$83.8 million

**Individual tax performance compared to August through November 2024:**

- Sales Taxes: Up 4.69% or \$227.8 million
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Up 7.81% or \$49.7 million
- Fuel Taxes: Up 0.30% or \$1.3 million
- All other taxes: Up 7.34% or \$48.8 million

Monthly estimates for fiscal year 2025-2026 are available on [the state's website](#).

**No loan is too large or too small**

The city of Collegedale has used various TMBF loan programs 15 times since December of 1988. The latest is for a \$3 million sewer system note issue, which closed in December of 2026. Seated: Collegedale Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Michelle Toro, left, and Collegedale Mayor Morty Lloyd, right. Standing: TMBF Marketing Representative Steve Queener.



The city of Munford has used the TMBF loan programs 11 times since December of 2005. The latest was for a public building authority loan in the amount of \$1.2 million for water and sewer system projects. Seated: Munford Mayor Dwayne Cole, left, and Munford City Recorder/Treasurer Sherry Yvelington. Standing: TMBF Marketing Representative Justin Hanson.



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## How government leaders can balance the pros and cons of data center development

Policy and partnerships with tech companies can give state and local leaders a lever to ensure data centers are developed responsibly and sustainable, experts said during a recent webinar.

By KAITLYN LEVINSON  
*Route Fifty*

The demand for data centers continues to grow as government and tech leaders turn to artificial intelligence to improve daily operations and services.

But how data centers are developed in communities can significantly impact residents' lives and policymakers must consider how to responsibly support their expansion, experts warned.

With the data center industry projected to reach [\\$7 trillion](#) in global investments by 2030, governments and businesses are prioritizing where to allocate resources for data center development efficiently, Kate Stoll, project director at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Center for Scientific Evidence in Public Issues, said during a [webinar](#) hosted this week by the Brookings Institution.

While the data center boom may seem promising for the tech industry and governments, leaders must also consider the facilities' long-term effects, she said.

Data centers will have major impacts on local workforce and economic development, the [environment](#) and [resident well-being](#) across the U.S., said Nicol Turner Lee, director of the Brookings Institution's Center for Technology Innovation. Balancing the potential harms and benefits of these facilities will be critical to ensure equitable and sustainable data center development, she said.

Tax incentives are one "area where states and coun-



Construction of Microsoft Azure data center campus in Leesburg, Virginia, on Oct. 19, 2024. (Source: *Route Fifty*)

ties can be thoughtful about how they're negotiating ... ways they want to bring community benefits in exchange for the tax abatements," Stoll said.

In Iowa, for instance, the Cedar Rapids City Council approved [a tax deal](#) with Quality Technology Services in January to build a data center campus in the city. Under the agreement, the \$750 million project is not only projected to create more than 500 construction jobs over the next decade, but also generate \$18 million that the company will pay to Cedar Rapids to help fund city improvement projects and nonprofit agencies over the next 20 years.

Government leaders should also consider how the introduction of data centers can help boost tech workforce development, said Darrell West, a senior fellow in Brookings' Center for Technology Innovation.

The U.S. is experiencing [a shortage](#) of electricians, construction workers and other trade professionals needed to build and maintain data centers, but government leaders can leverage those projects to help fill those gaps, he said.

In Janesville, Wisconsin, for example, city officials are con-

sidering a company's proposal to purchase a brownfield site to build a data center campus, the [GazetteXtra](#) reported. The company's letter of intent includes a commitment to partner with a local technical college to develop workforce training programs aimed at building a pipeline of students to enter the data center industry. The Janesville City Council approved the letter of intent [last week](#).

Leaders can also address environmental concerns about data centers through policy, such as states' efforts to integrate the development of data centers and clean energy sources, West said.

He pointed to the Nevada Public Utilities Commission as an example. The PUC approved a ["clean transition tariff"](#) in May that enables large energy users, such as data centers, to pay a premium for energy generated from more sustainable sources like geothermal. The tariff is an agreement among Google, NV Energy and Fervo.

Such initiatives can help address concerns about data centers' negative impacts on public utility usage and ensure that "data centers pay their fair share for the infrastructure upgrades that are required to operate data centers," West said.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



Unemployment reached a four-year high of 4.6% in November 2025 with the economy adding 64,000 jobs. No job numbers will be released for October 2025 due to the government shutdown, the first time in nearly 80 years the federal government has not collected such data. However, data collected by the business sector indicates the economy shed some 105,000 jobs in October, largely related to the government shutdown. Revisions also suggested job growth in prior months was weaker than previously reported, including a combined decrease of 33,000 jobs for August and September.

The U.S. economy grew at its fastest rate in two

years during the third quarter of 2025, according to the U.S. Commerce Report. The 4.3% annual growth rate was largely buoyed by increases in government and consumer spending as well as increasing exports. The report – which was delayed due to the October government shutdown – showed that the total economic output from July through September rose from its 3.8% growth rate in April through June. Despite this, inflation remains higher than the Federal Reserve would like, climbing to 2.8% over the same period, up from 2.1% in the second quarter. Taking out more volatile food and energy prices, inflation grew at a 2.9% rate, up from 2.6% in the previous quarter.

The U.S. added 50,000 jobs in December, with 2025 the

worst year for hiring since the pandemic. Save for 2009, 2025 was also the worst year for job creation since 2009 and the global recession. The U.S. Labor Department reported 584,000 jobs were created in 2025, far fewer than the more than 2 million added in the two prior years and the more than 4 million at the height of post-pandemic recover. The labor market only averaged 48,000 new jobs created per month. Economists attributed decreases in government employment on the federal level, immigration restrictions worsening persistent labor shortages, and conflicting political signals to reasons for the overall decrease.

In 2025, across the United States, there were 23 individual natural disasters that cost more than \$1 billion in damage, the third-highest year on record for



### TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

#### Jan. 30-31: Knoxville ChocolateFest

ChocolateFest is a deliciously focused celebration of all things chocolate, featuring timed tasting sessions where guests can sample treats from the area's best chocolatiers, bakers, and candy makers.

#### Feb. 14: Johnson City Maple Syrup Festival and Pancake Breakfast

The 23rd Annual Maple Syrup Festival and Pancake Breakfast unveils the history, lore, and method of making maple syrup from the site's historic trees. See how sap is extracted and turned into flavorful maple syrup along with a pancake breakfast as part of this annual tradition.

#### Feb. 21: Townsend Tennessee Winter Beerfest

Celebrating its 14th year, Tennessee Winter Beer Fest brings together locally-brewed beers, residents, and visitors to Townsend to raise money for New Hope Blount County Children's Advocacy Center. Attendees can promote regional craft beer culture and raise money for a great cause.

#### Feb. 28: Sevierville Appalachian WordFest

We're excited to introduce Appalachian WordFest, Rose Glen Literary Festival's newest iteration. This one-day event celebrates the words and creativity emerging from our beloved Appalachian Mountains.

#### Feb. 28: Oak Ridge International Festival

Join us for our 27th annual International Festival, a Children's Museum of Oak Ridge tradition.

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# 114th Tennessee General Assembly reconvenes

## SESSION, from Page 1

Committee assignments for the legislative session can be viewed at the Tennessee General Assembly's website:

- [Senate Committees](#)
- [House Committees](#)

Gov. Bill Lee is expected to outline his legislative priorities at the annual State of the State Address, which has been scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2026 at the Tennessee State Capitol.

Find more information on TML's legislative priorities, as well as how TML members can help advance these causes by educating their citizens and legislators, [at the TML website](#).

**Right:** Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, left, and Memphis Mayor Paul Young, right. (Photo by Mayor Kincannon).

**Far Right:** From left to right, Bolivar's Demetria McTizic, TML President and Bolivar Mayor Julian McTizic, and TML Director of Digital Strategy Kelly McKinley.



Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee arrives for the first day of the legislative session. The governor's State of the State is scheduled for Feb. 2, 2026. (Source: Nicole Hester/The Tennessean)



TML Second Vice President and Lawrenceburg Mayor Blake Lay, left, and TML Director of Digital Strategy Kelly McKinley, right.



From left to right: Manchester Mayor Joey Hobbs, Colette Hobbs, and State Rep. Rush Bricken, R-Tulaloma. Hobbs was acknowledged during the opening ceremonies. (Source: City of Manchester)



Members of the Tennessee State House prepare for the first session of the year in the House Chambers.



Members of the Tennessee State Senate ready for Lt. Gov. Randy McNally to officially gavel in the first session of the year. (Photo by TN GOP Caucus.)