



**LEAGUE OF WISCONSIN MUNICIPALITIES  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



# LEAGUE OF WISCONSIN MUNICIPALITIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## THE OPPORTUNITY

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities (The League) seeks an accomplished, mission-driven executive leader to serve as its next Executive Director. This is an opportunity to lead one of Wisconsin's most respected and influential organizations at a pivotal moment for local government—when effective advocacy, collaboration, and trusted expertise matter more than ever.

As The League's Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Director will set strategy, elevate statewide advocacy, and strengthen The League's capacity to deliver value to members. The successful candidate will build on a solid foundation, deepen relationships with members, policymakers and partners, and sustain The League's reputation as the trusted, nonpartisan voice for over 600 of Wisconsin's cities and villages.

The ideal candidate brings non-partisan collaborative leadership, and the ability to translate complex policy environments into clear priorities and measurable impact. The Executive Director will be a visible, credible leader who communicates with confidence, leads with integrity, and advances effective local government statewide.



## ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WISCONSIN MUNICIPALITIES

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities advances and protects the interests of over 600 of Wisconsin's cities and villages. Through advocacy, analysis, education, and practical guidance, The League equips municipal leaders with timely information, effective tools, and a strong presence in state policymaking.

The League serves members statewide as:

- A statewide hub that connects municipal leaders through high-quality training, conferences, and regional engagement
- A credible, nonpartisan advocate representing municipal interests before the Legislature, Governor, and state agencies.
- A recognized authority on municipal policy, law, and governance for members, media, and partner organizations

The League works with state and national partners, including the National League of Cities, to advance shared priorities and amplify municipal perspectives in public policy.

Headquartered in Madison, the League is supported by a professional staff with deep expertise in municipal policy, government affairs, communications, and member services. The Executive Director will lead the team and ensure the League continues to deliver responsive, high-value support to communities of all sizes. The League 2026 adopted budget is \$3,135,890 million and includes 17 full-time equivalent positions.



## THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROLE

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director serves as The League’s Chief Executive Officer and is accountable for organizational leadership, strategy, advocacy, operations, and long-term financial sustainability. The role requires sound judgment, strong relationships, and the ability to lead both externally—in the public policy arena—and internally through a high-performing, mission-focused team.

## KEY AREAS OF LEADERSHIP

### STRATEGIC & ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Set and advance, in coordination with the Board a clear long-term vision aligned with The League’s mission.
- Build a collaborative, inclusive, high-performing organizational culture.
- Lead short- and long-range strategic planning.

### BOARD PARTNERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

- Work with the Board of Directors to support effective governance and policy direction.
- Support Board recruitment, onboarding, training, and engagement.
- Translate Board priorities into execution and measurable outcomes.

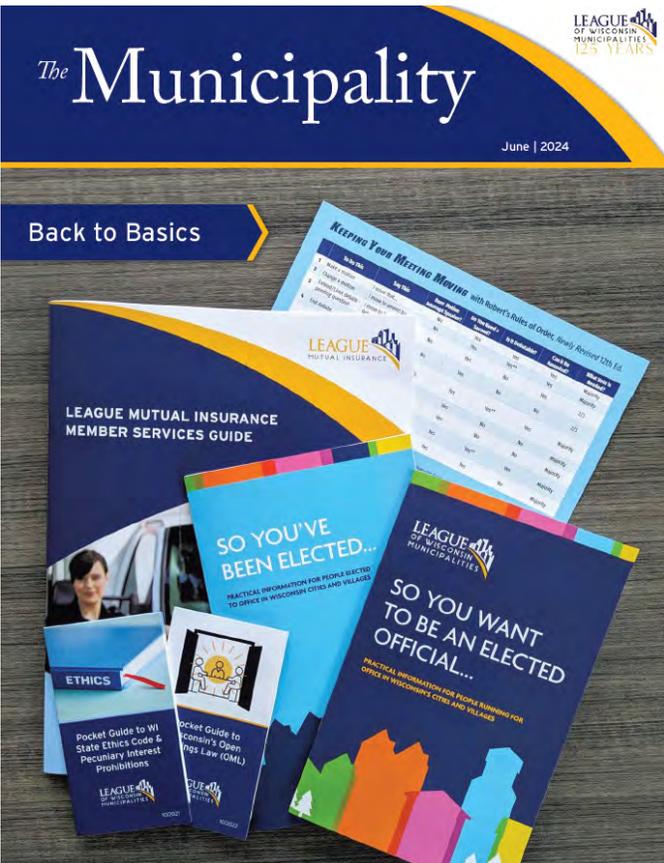
### ADVOCACY, VISIBILITY & INFLUENCE

- Serve as The League’s chief spokesperson and advocate for local government.
- Represent member interests with state, federal, and local officials and agencies.
- Strengthen partnerships with peer organizations, including the National League of Cities.

### FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY & OPERATIONS

- Ensure strong financial stewardship and long-term organizational stability.
- Oversee budgeting, assets, contracts, and revenue-generation.





# OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES AHEAD

The next Executive Director will join a strong, well-regarded organization and guide The League through an evolving environment for local government in Wisconsin. Success will require clear priorities, disciplined execution, and the ability to align diverse member interests around shared outcomes.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- Reinforce The League’s role as a trusted, nonpartisan authority through high-quality policy analysis, communications, and member guidance.
- Lead The League’s next major legislative initiatives by shaping a clear agenda, implementing an educational campaign, strengthening coalitions and advancing practical solutions that improve sustainability for cities and villages.
- Strengthen member engagement across communities of all sizes by listening to evolving needs, demonstrating value, and deepening relationships with elected officials, managers, and staff.
- Modernize operations and services to support long-term sustainability through process improvements, data-informed decisions, and resource alignment.

## KEY CHALLENGES

- Navigate a complex, shifting legislative environment impacting local authority, services, and finances.
- Balance diverse—and at times competing—member needs while maintaining alignment on core priorities and consistent statewide support.
- Sustain organizational stability through staff engagement, strong internal systems, and continued credibility and responsiveness.

## IDEAL CANDIDATE PROFILE

The Board seeks a leader who pairs political acumen with integrity, strategic vision with operational discipline, and a deep commitment to Wisconsin's cities and villages. The following traits describe the successful candidate:

- Proven executive leadership, with the ability to set strategy, deliver results, and lead through change. Experience guiding a similar nonprofit advocacy organization is a plus.
- Government relations or public policy experience, with sound judgment in complex, high-visibility environments
- Demonstrated success building coalitions across diverse stakeholders—members, policymakers, agencies, and peer organizations.
- Exceptional communication skills, including the ability to serve as a credible spokesperson and translate complex issues into actionable guidance.
- Experience partnering with a governing board to support effective decision-making and accountability.
- Financial and operational acumen, including experience overseeing budgets and resources to support long-term sustainability.
- Commitment to building and retaining high-performing teams, fostering an inclusive culture, and investing in professional growth.
- A service-oriented, member-first approach and commitment to strengthening Wisconsin's cities and villages.
- A general knowledge and/or experience with lobbying, insurance and/or risk management is a plus.
- Prior experience working with a board of directors to develop and implement policy.

## CORE QUALIFICATIONS

- At least ten years of relevant experience in local or state government or in a senior leadership position within a private or nonprofit entity, or some combination thereof; or
- Graduate degree in public or business administration, public policy analysis, or a related professional field (Juris doctorate degrees meet this requirement) with five years of experience in municipal or nonprofit management; or
- Any equivalent combination of experience and training that provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.





## COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

The anticipated hiring range is \$200,000 to \$230,000 DOQ, with a competitive benefits package that includes medical and dental coverage, retirement (provided through the Wisconsin Retirement System), paid leave, vehicle allowance, and hybrid work opportunities. Routine and regular travel is required, and the candidate is desired to be able to work at the Madison office at least three days per week.

## HOW TO APPLY

Candidates must apply by April 3, 2026, by submitting a resume and cover letter at [www.GovHRjobs.com](http://www.GovHRjobs.com). For additional inquiries, please contact Charlene Stevens, Vice President of Human Capital; Yolanda Howze, Director of Human Capital; and/or Lee Szymborski, Senior Consultant at 847-380-3240.

