

The South Dakota Municipal League
CONNECT. EDUCATE. ADVOCATE.



What is the South Dakota Municipal League (SDML)?

- The SDML is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization.
- Founded in 1934, it represents the interests of cities and towns across South Dakota.
- Serves as an educational resource, advocate, and voice for local governments.
- Includes 309 incorporated municipalities in South Dakota.

Key Functions of SDML

1. Legislative Advocacy

- Acts as lobbyist for municipalities during legislative session
- Testify on bills, draft proposed legislation, and build and participate in coalitions
- Maintain close relationships with state lawmakers and state agencies

2. Educational Resource

- Provide training for local government officials, including elected leaders, city managers, finance officers and other staff
- Host conferences, workshops, and seminars on municipal governance and best practices

The SDML's Mission

To provide services that strengthen and advance the capacity of local governments in South Dakota.

Key Goals

1. Connect members, partners and ideas to foster growth and innovation
2. Educate members to develop effective public servants and leadership skills
3. Advocate for the people of our cities with a strong, collective voice



CONNECT



SDML Collaboration with State Agencies

- Work frequently with Department of Revenue, Department of Legislative Audit, Department of Transportation, Attorney General's Office, Department of Public Safety to ensure effective policy implementation at the local level.
- Assist municipalities in preparing for and responding to state-level disasters by connecting them with the appropriate divisions at the Department of Emergency Management.
- Aid in finding and accessing state grant programs and funding.

SDML Engagement Opportunities

1. Legislative Rib Dinner & Local Government Day

An annual event where municipal leaders meet with state lawmakers to discuss priority issues – February 4 and February 5, 2025

2. District Meetings

Post-session meetings in our ten districts where members can connect with legislators, as well as other local leaders and share ideas.

3. Annual Conference

Provides educational sessions, networking opportunities, and updates on key state issues.



EDUCATE



Training Programs

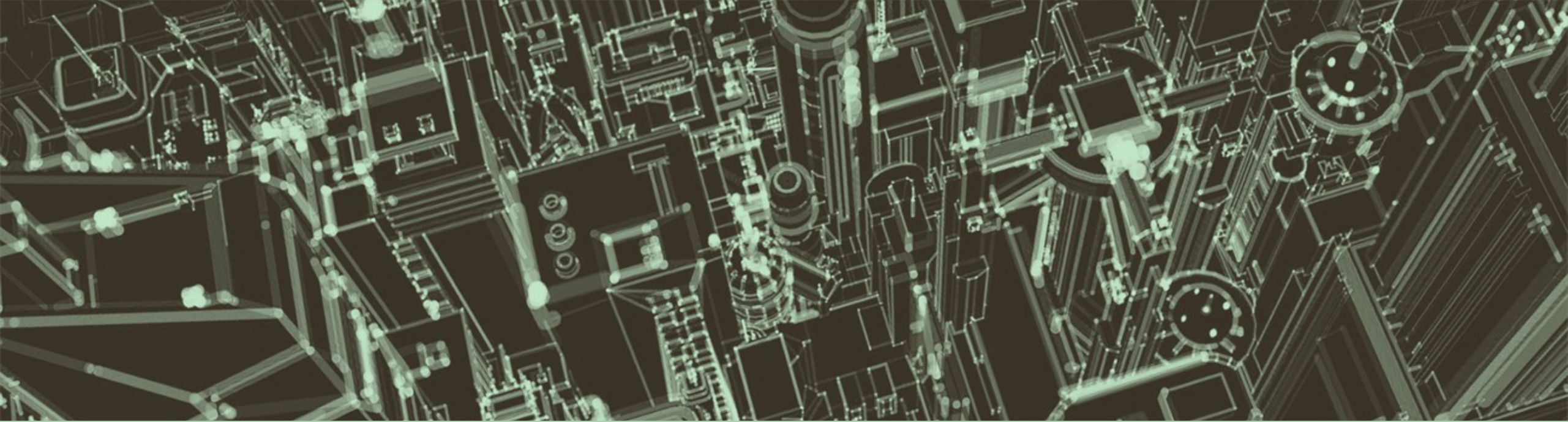
Organize training workshops, seminars, and conferences on a variety of topics including local governance best practices, financial management and budgeting, public safety, land use planning and zoning and public works and infrastructure management

Publications and Resources

Produce newsletters, a monthly magazine and legislative updates to keep members informed about trends, changes in state law, new legislation and emerging issues in local government.

Advocacy and Legislative Education

Educating members on how proposed state law could impact municipalities is a key aspect of our advocacy efforts.



ADVOCATE



SDML Advocacy Team

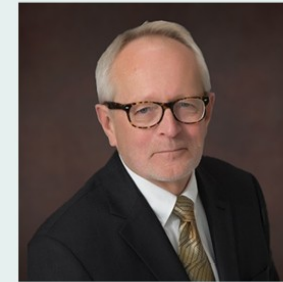
2025 SDML ADVOCACY TEAM



SARA RANKIN
SDML Executive
Director



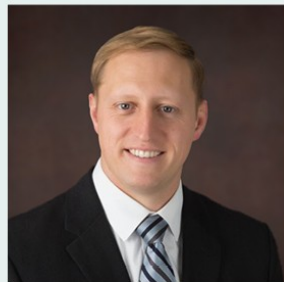
YVONNE TAYLOR
SDML Consultant



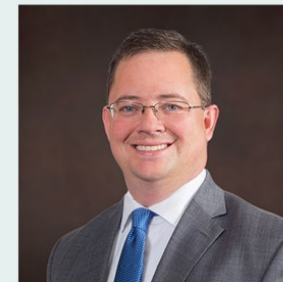
LARRY NELSON
Attorney,
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& Ask



JESSICA CARR
SDML Director
of Member
Engagement



SAM NELSON
Attorney,
Frieberg, Nelson,
& Ask



ERIC ERICKSON
Attorney,
Cutler Law Firm

Advocacy & Legislative Representation

- Work to advocate for local government priorities in the state legislature
- Provide legislative updates, resources and guidance to local leaders
- Monitor and work legislation affecting municipalities

Policy Influence

- Develop policy positions based on feedback from member cities and towns
- Engage with lawmakers and state agencies to ensure municipal needs are addressed
- Work to preserve local control, ensuring that municipalities have the flexibility to address local challenges

Conclusion

Summary

The SDML play a vital role in representing South Dakota's municipalities at the state level by advocating for municipal interests, providing educational resources, and fostering collaboration.

Key Takeaways

SDML serves as the primary liaison between local governments and the state, ensuring that municipalities have a strong voice in the policymaking process.

Questions?