



2026 ALABAMA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

October 20, 2026 ⌕ 3:00 p.m.

Arthur R. Outlaw Conference Center, Mobile

2026 GRADUATION CEREMONIES

AGENDA

9 a.m. —————◇

Check-In for Graduates and Awards Ceremony

3 - 5 p.m. —————◇

Welcome

West Ballroom, Concourse Level

Greg Cochran, Executive Director, ALM

Invocation:

Mayor Theoangelo Perkins, Harpersville

Introduction of Commencement Speaker:

Mayor Rusty Jessup, Riverside, ALM President

Commencement Address:

Mayor Sherry Sullivan, Fairhope, ALM Immediate Past President

Graduation and Awards Categories:

- Certified Municipal Official Program
- Certified Municipal Achievement Awards
- Alabama Communities of Excellence
- ACE Star Awards
- Economic Development Academy
 - Upcoming Class Announcement
- DesignAlabama Mayors Design Summit Graduates

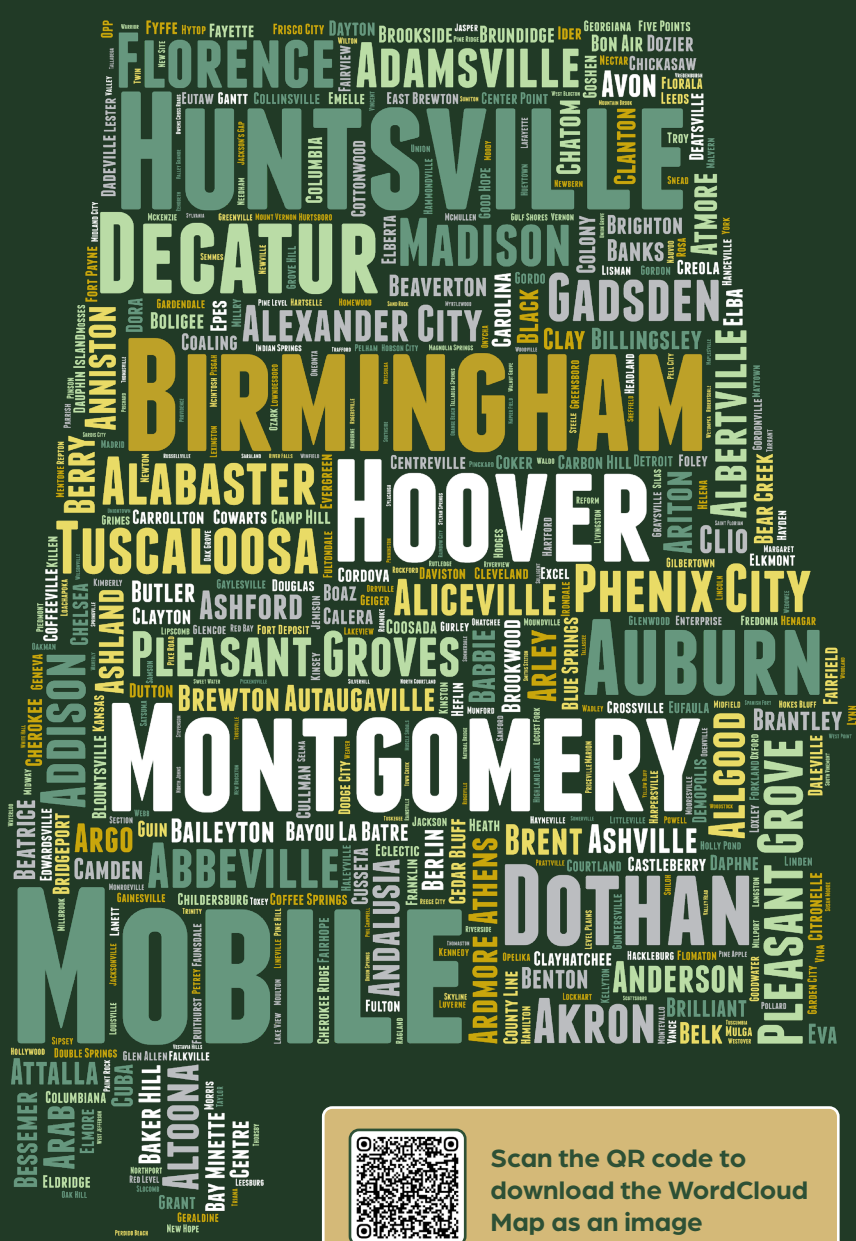
5 - 6:30 p.m. —————◇

Graduation and Awards Reception

East Ballroom, Concourse Level

Hosted bar with beer & wine, light hors d'oeuvres

Since 1935, the Alabama League of Municipalities has proudly supported Alabama's cities and towns. Through decades of changes, the mission has stayed the same: strengthen municipal government through advocacy, training and the advancement of effective local leadership.



Scan the QR code to download the WordCloud Map as an image

PROGRAMS RECOGNIZED DURING THE GRADUATION AND AWARD CEREMONIES:



Design
Alabama

The Certified Municipal Official Program consists of a series of continuing education programs, specialized webinars and online training designed for elected municipal officials – mayors and councilmembers – who are receiving formal training in municipal government.

Officials completing 40 credit hours of training are awarded the professional designation of **Certified Municipal Official**. The **Advanced Certified Municipal Official** designation is earned by completing an additional 40 credit hours of training. Officials who have received both their CMO and Advanced CMO designations can obtain the **Certified Municipal Official Emeritus** designation. The CMO Emeritus is awarded to those who complete a minimum of 120 credit hours of continuing CMO education plus 15 points. CMO Emeritus levels II - IV were created for members who receive over 200 credit hours of training, and 20 points. This expanded recognition of achievement celebrates the lifelong dedication to learning displayed by Alabama's municipal officials.

The first session of the Certified Municipal Official Program was held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Mobile on September 22, 1994, with additional locations in Birmingham, Montgomery and Huntsville. Nearly 200 officials enrolled in the program during the first sessions. As of this year, more than 5,300 municipal officials have enrolled and attended municipal government training provided by ALM.

On May 3, 2024, Gov. Kay Ivey signed the Alabama Municipal Official Training Act ("Training Act") into law. The Alabama League of Municipalities (ALM) drafted the legislation, in partnership with sponsors Sen. Jabo Waggoner and Rep. Jim Hill, to support communities by requiring Alabama municipal officials to complete mandatory training. This training will better position local officials to understand core subjects necessary to maintain their operations, abide by state laws and help their communities prosper.



Certified Municipal Official Program



*Honoring the
31st Graduating Class of Certified Municipal Officials;
28th Graduating Class of Advanced Certified Municipal Officials;
12th Graduating Class of Certified Municipal Emeriti;
and the
3rd Presentation of Certified Municipal Emeriti, Tiers II-IV*

2026 Certified Municipal Officials

- Councilmember Jaime M. Anderson, Trussville
- Mayor Jane Anderton, Clay
- Councilmember Johnna Barnes, Chelsea
- Councilmember Phyllis Barnes, Grove Hill
- Councilmember Verria C. Beckham, Grove Hill
- Councilmember Debbie Byers, Calera

- Mayor Paul Cagle, Fyffe
- Councilmember Mattie B. Calloway, Grimes
- Councilmember Clay Carmichael, Selma
- Councilmember Max Davis, Troy
- Councilmember Betty Jo Dawson, Luverne
- Councilmember Arthur Fisher Jr., Chelsea
- Councilmember William “Eddie” Foster, Grove Hill
- Mayor Josh Gates, Jasper
- Councilmember JoAnn Hamm, Wilton
- Councilmember Laura Barlow Heath, Sylacauga
- Councilmember William House, Oakman
- Councilmember Billy J. Hughes, Fultondale
- Mayor Tim Johnson, Elba
- Councilmember Donna McDougal, Cleveland
- Councilmember Jennifer McGriff, Southside
- Councilmember Richard Meyers, Gurley
- Councilmember Allan W. Rodriguez, New Brockton
- Mayor Blake Rosenkoetter, Ashford
- Mayor Guy Sanders, Eclectic
- Councilmember Paula Sims, Pinson
- Mayor Caleb Skipper, Skyline
- Commissioner David Stock, Dothan
- Councilmember Glenda Taylor, Stevenson
- Councilmember Jacquelyn Long Thomas, Millbrook
- Councilmember Nathan Edward Thompson, Clay
- Mayor Kimberly Trotter, Rehobeth
- Mayor Karen Vest, Valley Head
- Mayor Bill Warren, Cedar Bluff
- Councilmember Steven Warren, Glencoe
- Councilmember Joseph West, Greenville
- Councilmember Jonathan Olease Woodruff Jr., Eutaw
- Councilmember Annie L. Woods, Brighton

2026 Advanced CMOs

- Mayor Terrance Adams, Midfield
- Mayor Brian Baine, Fort Payne
- Mayor Ranae Bartlett, Madison
- Councilmember Chris Bath, Millbrook

- Councilmember Will Battles, Hokes Bluff
- Councilmember Anna S. Bosarge, Adamsville
- Councilmember Kasey Bradley, Evergreen
- Councilmember Al Brewton, Monroeville
- Councilmember Anthony J. Brooklere, Adamsville
- Mayor Jae'Ques "Jay" Brown, Greenville
- Councilmember Linda Crowe, Moody
- Councilmember Alvin Currington, Gardendale
- Mayor Adrain Dudley, Lake View
- Mayor Riely Evans Sr., North Courtland
- Councilmember Donna Fredrick, Scottsboro
- Mayor JoAnn B. Grimsley, Midland City
- Councilmember Marcus Hampton, Pennington
- Mayor Jay Howell, Centre
- Mayor Deborah Hudson, Wilton
- Councilmember Tracey Hunter, Eutaw
- Councilmember Annette E. Johnson, Bayou La Batre
- Councilmember Harrell Lafferty, Butler
- Councilmember Lucille Parker Landrum, Coosada
- Councilmember Sherry Laster, Jacksonville
- Councilmember Randy Little, Satsuma
- Councilmember Chesson McDaniel, Evergreen
- Councilmember Timothy Lamonte McWilliams Sr.,
Fultondale
- Councilmember Greg Meeks, Troy
- Councilmember Dixie Minatra, Gadsden
- Councilmember Donna Denise Pilato, Notasulga
- Councilmember Melissa Rodriguez, Leesburg
- Mayor Donald Sherrod, Pickensville
- Councilmember Walt Simmons, Hokes Bluff
- Councilmember Michael Sizemore, Glencoe
- Councilmember Kathy Snow, Newton
- Councilmember Joseph Sonaty, Leesburg
- Mayor Tracie B. Threadford, Tarrant
- Councilmember Cheryl Tucker, Wetumpka
- Mayor Brandon Van Hook, Semmes
- Councilmember Michael Brad Walker, Pinson
- Councilmember Thomas F. Wilkins, Aliceville

2026 CMO Emeriti

- Councilmember Cheryl P. Barton, Brewton
- Mayor Sheldon A. Day, Thomasville
- Councilmember Danny L. Garnett, Southside
- Councilmember Tammi T. Holley, Roanoke
- Councilmember Clark Duane Hopper, Rainbow City
- Councilmember Katheryne Horace, Daleville
- Councilmember Roy L. Murray, Midway
- Mayor Joseph R. Taylor, Rainbow City

2026 CMO Emeriti - Tier II

- Councilmember Josh Bryant, Fultondale
- Mayor Ruthie Campbell, Robertsedale
- Councilmember Michael Gay, Millbrook
- Councilmember Terry L. Gilliam, Millport
- Mayor Sam I. Heflin, Priceville
- Councilmember Paul Hollingsworth, Robertsedale
- Councilmember Winston Jackson, Ozark
- Councilmember Bridgette Jordan-Smith, Vincent
- Mayor Bobby Scott, Center Point
- Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith, Jasper
- Councilmember Dawn M. Tanner, Pinson

2026 CMO Emeriti - Tier III

- Mayor Allen J. Dunavant, Glen Allen



Certified Municipal Achievement Award



*Recognizing the
9th Class of Certified Municipal Achievement
Award recipients*

2026 CMA Awards

- Glencoe
- Hokes Bluff
- Shorter



An Alabama League of Municipalities Program

Alabama Communities of Excellence



Alabama Communities of Excellence, better known as ACE, is an organization with the mission of helping Alabama's smaller communities (8,000 – 12,000) to plan, grow and prosper. In 2021, the Alabama Communities of Excellence program joined the Alabama League of Municipalities after successfully supporting and strengthening 43 communities for close to 20 years. ACE provides technical assistance to smaller communities through a comprehensive, three-phase approach. Phase I focuses on Assessment; Phase II focuses on Leadership Development and Strategic Planning; and Phase III focuses on Comprehensive Planning and Implementation of the Strategic Plan developed during Phase II.

- Adamsville
- Clanton
- Tarrant

alabamacommunitiesofexcellence.org



An Alabama League of Municipalities Program

Alabama Communities of Excellence Star Awards



The ACE Star Awards celebrates individuals considered as the “shining stars” of the ACE program who have performed beyond the call of duty. ACE recognizes advisory board members, ambassadors, community participants and volunteers for their work assisting the organization and the communities they serve.

- Outstanding Mayor
Josh Gates, Jasper
- Outstanding Mayor
Ralph Hellmich, Foley
- Outstanding Leadership
Councilmember Jennifer Williams Smith, Jasper

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ALM's Economic Development Academy was launched in 2021 and is specifically designed to educate and engage municipal officials on the essential elements and phases of economic development while highlighting their vital role in economic initiatives and projects within their communities.

Developed in conjunction with the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) and supported by an advisory council of industry leaders, the EDA engages elected officials from select cities and towns with municipal peers and colleagues from their region to prepare their communities for growth. Using a collaborative municipal team approach, participants convene four times throughout the year to complete assignments and develop strategies to enhance economic development in their communities. Ultimately, each municipality selected is required to implement a community program/project and to report on its progress. Academy graduates are recognized during the ALM's annual Municipal Leadership Institute each fall with a certification via ACCS and ALM.

While only municipal officials and municipal employees are eligible to receive CMO credit, business leaders and regional economic developers are welcome to participate in the program. All participants will receive a certificate from the Alabama Community College System upon completion.



Economic Development Academy



*Recognizing the 5th Upcoming Class
of the Economic Development Academy*

- Argo
- Chickasaw
- Eutaw
- Fayette
- Fort Deposit
- Jasper
- Mobile
- Opp
- Pinson
- Rehobeth
- Selma
- Tarrant

DesignAlabama is a citizen-led not-for-profit operating in partnership with the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Its primary mission is to advocate for the collaboration of the design arts and their importance in creating and enhancing place in Alabama.

Since 1987, DesignAlabama has helped many communities address their design issues, resulting in increased economic development and enhancing quality of life. Through the initiatives of DesignAlabama, together with citizens, it helps make our local communities across the state desirable, profitable and more livable.

DesignAlabama programs create engagement between civic leaders, citizens and design professionals. DesignPlace and the Mayors Design Summit are annual events hosted by DesignAlabama. It also conducts special programs and events such as DesignVision, DesignDash and ConnectLivity.



**Design
Alabama**

Recognition of the 2026 Philip A. Morris

Mayors Design Summit Graduates



- Mayor Jennifer Andress, Homewood
- Mayor Chuck Ledbetter, Dadeville
- Mayor Laura McKay, Cusseta
- Mayor Audra Raybon, Jackson
- Mayor Stan Simpson, Gurley

designalabama.org

CMO Team

For more information, reach out to one of the following League team members or scan the QR codes below.



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CMO FAQs



**Municipal Training
Act Q&A**



**CMO Core
Curriculum**



Member Portal



Upcoming Training



Find out more about the League at almonline.org.

