

Vermont League of Cities and Towns 2018 Overview

Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities and directed by a 13-member Board of Directors that is elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state.

VLCT's mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. It is the only statewide organization devoted solely to delivering a wide range of services to local officials who serve municipalities of varying populations and geographic regions but face similar requirements with disparate resources. All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 139 other municipal entities, including villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts.

Local governments in Vermont provide essential services to residents and visitors alike. From managing budgets, conducting elections, assessing property and maintaining roads to providing public safety services, recreational programs, water and sewer infrastructure, street lighting, and libraries, the work carried out by appointed and elected officials and community volunteers is both critical and challenging. The demands on local government are complex and require resources that are not always available in every city, town or village in the state.

VLCT provides legal, consulting, and education services to its members, offering important advice and responses to direct inquiries, as well as training programs on specific topics of concern to officials as they carry out the duties required by statute or directed by town meeting voters. We represent cities and towns before the state legislature and state agencies, ensuring that municipal voices are heard collectively and their needs are met. VLCT also advocates at the federal level, primarily through its partner, the National League of Cities, and directly with Vermont's Congressional delegation.

VLCT offers opportunities to purchase risk management products and services that directly meet the specific and specialized needs of local government through the VLCT Employee Resource and Benefit (VERB) Trust and the VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF).

During the 2018 calendar year, *VLCT News* converted to a magazine style publication from its newsletter format, with the intent to provide more content and diverse information in each edition.

VLCT also finalized the details of moving its digital data to the "cloud," thereby increasing operational efficiency and enhancing cybersecurity and redundant protection of information. This move also reduced the need to acquire, maintain, and replace costly capital equipment. Improvements to the website are ongoing, and in concert with this effort is the research into a new customer relations management system, designed to help VLCT provide important information to members, but also to simplify ways that members provide information to VLCT that is shared among all municipalities.

VLCT conducted a series of Listening Sessions in 12 communities around the state to hear directly from local officials about services received from VLCT and whether any changes are needed, including whether new services should be initiated or outdated ones eliminated. Further discussions will be held with the Board of Directors. Members will be kept apprised of progress in setting future goals and priorities.

At the heart of all these activities is VLCT's commitment to serving as a good steward of member assets, and we are proud of the continued progress being made in that effort. Members are welcome to visit the VLCT office anytime to review the operations of the organization, to ask questions, and to access resources that can help each individual official and employee carry out the important work of local government.

To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, including its audited financial statements, visit the VLCT website at www.vlct.org.