

TML Leadership Academy

Course Two: Ethical and Influential Leadership



Stepping Up: Finding Purpose in City Leadership

Bennett Sandlin, former executive director, Texas Municipal League

City leadership comes with big questions—and even bigger responsibilities. Whether you're managing public safety, overseeing infrastructure, guiding a department, or serving on council, the challenges and the impact are real.

In this energizing session, Bennett Sandlin will unpack what it truly means to lead in local government. How do your day-to-day decisions fit into the bigger picture? What's the right balance between solving immediate issues and planning for long-term success? And why does the work often feel so hard—and so important—all at once?

With two decades of experience advising cities across Texas, Bennett brings clarity, perspective, and a good dose of humor to this must-attend session. Through real stories and straight talk, you'll walk away with a clearer understanding of your role, your impact, and how to lead with purpose—no matter your position in the organization.

***Bennett Sandlin** was the executive director of the Texas Municipal League for more than 15 years. Prior to being named executive director in 2010, he was General Counsel of the League, where he helped cities primarily in the fields of tax, economic development, budget, and finance issues, including the municipal hotel occupancy tax and the economic development sales tax. Bennett authored the Revenue Manual for Texas Cities and was an instructor in Public Funds Investment Training. Bennett is a 1993 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law and has previously worked in the Municipal Affairs Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office.*