



Wyoming
Association of
Municipalities
Building Strong Communities

2025 Annual Report

Maximizing Resources and Advancing Communities



WYOMUNI.ORG

As we look back on 2025, I am proud to share that the Wyoming Association of Municipalities continues to stand as a strong and reliable partner for every city and town in our state. WAM remains rooted in its mission and driven by the goals set by each region and its members. The clearest measure of our success is our membership, and this year we welcomed Rock Springs back into the fold. That step reflects trust in our work, confidence in our direction, and the belief that WAM is delivering real value.

Education and professional development remain central to our purpose. We are strengthening the tools our members rely on by advancing conferences, targeted learning programs, and everyday resources that support effective local government. From meaningful sessions at the Winter Workshop and Summer Convention to expanded training partnerships with WAMCAT and WYOCMA, our focus is on equipping municipal leaders with knowledge they can apply immediately. We also broadened our delivery methods to include webinars, videos, newsletter resources, scholarships, and new in-house materials. The Leadership Training Services Committee is once again active and positioned to play a larger role in 2026.

This has also been a year of significant strides in communication. We launched a brand-new website that enhances user experience, strengthens our public presence, and provides measurable engagement data. We upgraded to a modern content management system that allows better tracking and more consistent outreach. We have published a Local Election Guide and are well underway with a Municipal Finance Book that will provide the most comprehensive overview of municipal budgeting in a single place. These tools promote transparency, enhance public trust, and provide communities with the information they need to make informed decisions.

WAM's representation at the Wyoming Legislature continues to be one of our most impactful efforts. Throughout the General Session, we worked to ensure that state policy supports effective local governance and service delivery. We engaged members through organized outreach, introduced initiatives like Lunch with the Locals, and hosted a Winter Conference that connected municipal leaders directly with statewide elected officials and agency heads. Our weekly "This Week at the Capitol" updates strengthened communication, while video recaps added a personal and accessible touch to the session. These efforts translated into meaningful results, reflecting priorities established through WAM's member-driven legislative process, including passage of the local government investment in equities bill, successful opposition to the governmental claims increase, progress on gaming policy, and support for several bills enhancing local operations and emergency response.

Our presence across the state grew through strategic outreach and strong partnerships with organizations that share our commitment to community and economic vitality. Guided by our "start with yes" approach, we've deepened alliances with groups like Wyoming Business Alliance (WBA), Wyoming Energy Authority (WEA), Wyoming Mining Association (WMA), Petroleum Association of Wyoming (PAW), and tourism partners—relationships that strengthen business development, bolster local economies, and expand the tax base. These connections enhance our visibility, validate our role, and ensure we have a unified and influential voice at the table when it matters most.

In 2026, we will begin realigning our priorities to reflect new leadership, staff, and board direction. This transition will set the stage for a refreshed strategic plan that strengthens our ability to defend local control, advocate for flexible revenue tools, and elevate our brand through meaningful engagement. We will complete and launch the Municipal Finance Book, host a board retreat to define long-term goals, and deepen partnerships at the state and federal levels—ensuring our voice remains strong during this pivotal shift.

Together, we will continue to build strong communities across Wyoming.



Ashley Harpstreith
Executive Director





About Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM)

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to empower member communities by delivering education, training, and resources that foster professional growth and municipal excellence. Through these learning opportunities, we strengthen local leadership and build capacity for effective governance. We serve as the unified voice for Wyoming's cities and towns, advocating shared interests at the state and federal levels. Through strategic partnerships, legislative engagement, and policy leadership, we ensure municipalities have the knowledge and tools they need to thrive and serve residents effectively.

WHO WE ARE

We are proud to represent all 99 incorporated municipalities across Wyoming, from the smallest rural towns to our most vibrant cities. Together, these communities make up nearly 68% of Wyoming's population, meaning our work impacts the majority of residents across the state.

Our members include elected officials, municipal staff, and community leaders who share a common goal to build stronger communities. We provide services tailored to Wyoming's municipal leaders, including legislative tracking, training programs, networking opportunities, and exclusive member resources. When decisions are being made that affect Wyoming's cities and towns, we make sure your voice is heard.

In addition to our municipal members, we also welcome affiliate members and sponsors who share our commitment to supporting Wyoming communities. These alliances, ranging from private businesses to nonprofit organizations and industry professionals, play a vital role in strengthening our mission. Through sponsorships and affiliate members, we can expand resources, enhance training opportunities, and create mutually beneficial connections that support both our municipal members and the organizations that work alongside them.

PARTNERSHIPS

This year, we worked hard to strengthen relationships with key agencies and organizations so that municipalities remain part of critical conversations.

Wyoming

- Airports Coalition
- Association of Municipalities Clerks and Treasurers
- Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police
- Business Alliance
- County Commissioners Association
- Department of Audit
- Department of Revenue
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Workforce Services
- Economic Development Association
- Mining Association
- Office of State Lands and Investments
- Office of Tourism
- State Fire Marshal's Office
- State Loan and Investments Board
- The University of Wyoming

Federal & National

- Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
- Department of Energy
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Delegation
- National League of Cities
- White House Intergovernmental Agency

This is a representative selection, not a comprehensive list of WAM partners.

Why WAM?

All WAM services and policy positions are guided by its members through regional meetings, committee review, and board approval. At WAM, we're more than a supporter; we're a partner in building stronger Wyoming communities. Every service we offer is designed to equip local leaders with the tools, knowledge, and confidence they need to govern effectively and respond to challenges head-on. From legal guidance and professional development to crisis response and community-building resources, our goal is simple: to strengthen municipal leadership and foster collaboration across the state.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

City officials and employees receive technical training and professional development, ensuring knowledgeable leadership, efficient governance, and better service to residents. From a bootcamp program for newly elected officials that fulfills the state's mandated fiscal officer training requirement, to two weeks of in-person ongoing training and educational opportunities at our Summer and Winter Conferences, and a multitude of webinar opportunities throughout the year, WAM's core interaction with its members is aimed at making them more effective local leaders.

LEGAL GUIDANCE

WAM helps cities navigate complex legal challenges, avoiding costly missteps, and ensuring adherence to state and federal laws. This new addition has supported our efforts to help communities comply with the repeal of the gun-free zones legislation passed in the recent legislative session.

NETWORKING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Membership allows cities to exchange ideas and best practices with other municipalities, leading to smarter governance and improved local services.

COMMUNITY MEDIATION AND TEAM BUILDING

In communities experiencing extreme discord to the point of dysfunction, WAM offers mediation and team-building assistance from a neutral third-party perspective.

EMERGENCY AND CRISIS SUPPORT

WAM coordinates disaster recovery efforts and resources, ensuring cities have the tools to respond effectively to natural disasters, public health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and economic downturns.

EDUCATION AND DOCUMENTS

Access toolkits, legislative updates, and policy guides to strengthen your local governance.

COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

Explore active job postings and community classifieds, or submit your own listing using the Municipal Job Search Tool.



INITIATIVES

WAM-Joint Powers Insurance Company: Since 1985, WAM-JPIC has empowered over 66 municipalities and Joint Power Boards to take control of their health insurance costs through a self-insured pool. Members benefit from comprehensive coverage options, including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, administered by a trusted third-party partner, Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Energy Lease Program (ELP): The WAM-WCCA Energy Lease Program provides funding for municipal energy-saving projects, fostering sustainability and cost efficiency. Overseen by a joint board of county and municipal officials, the program offers flexible lease terms and renewal options to ensure long-term impact.

SERVICES MUNICIPALITIES PROVIDE

Municipal services form the foundation of strong, vibrant communities—covering essentials like public safety, clean water, waste management, transportation, parks, and community programs. These services ensure residents enjoy safe neighborhoods, reliable infrastructure, and opportunities for recreation and growth. At WAM, our work centers on equipping members with education and policy support so they can deliver these services transparently, effectively, and in ways that reflect local priorities. By strengthening municipal capacity, we help communities remain healthy, sustainable, and connected.

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

We proudly represent 3,555 members from all 99 municipalities across Wyoming—those governing closest to the people. Our members are devoted public servants committed to maintaining and improving Wyoming's cities and towns. Learn more about their dedication and the vital role they play in maximizing resources and advancing communities throughout the state.



Without other perspectives, it's all too easy for our local communities to become insular and disregard the issues facing our neighbors. As part of the greater Wyoming community, we need to ensure that statewide policies are fair for all. WAM ensures equal representation from all of the 99 municipalities.

Stuart McRae, City of Sheridan

Our Team

Executive Committee

Mayor Matt Murdock, President, Pinedale
 Mayor Kim Pexton, Vice President, Douglas
 Mayor Kelly Krakow, Past President, Albin
 Mayor Ernie Beckley (Town), Ten Sleep
 Councilman Dr. Mark Rinne (City), Cheyenne

Board Members

Region 1

Town: Councilwoman Allie Leitza, Pine Bluffs
 City: Councilman Dr. Mark Rinne, Cheyenne
 At Large: Mayor Patrick Collins, Cheyenne

Region 2

Town: Mayor Chris Schock, Clearmont
 City: Mayor Shay Lundvall, Gillette
 At Large: Mayor Kim Pexton, Douglas

Region 3

Town: Mayor Ernie Beckley, Ten Sleep
 City: Councilwoman Kelly Tamblyn, Cody
 At Large: Clerk/Treasurer Tracy Glanz, Worland

Region 4

Town: Mayor Joel Highsmith, Shoshoni
 City: Mayor Tim Hancock, Riverton
 At Large: Councilman Kyle Gamroth, Casper

Region 5

Town: Mayor Brian Ayres, Mountain View
 City: Mayor Arne Jorgenson, Jackson
 At Large: Mayor Matt Murdock, Pinedale

Region 6

Town: Councilwoman Ellen Freeman, Hanna
 City: Councilman Steve Sanger, Rawlins
 At Large: Mayor Chuck Davis, Saratoga

WAMCAT

Clerk/Treasurer Penny Robbins, Mountain View

WYOMCA

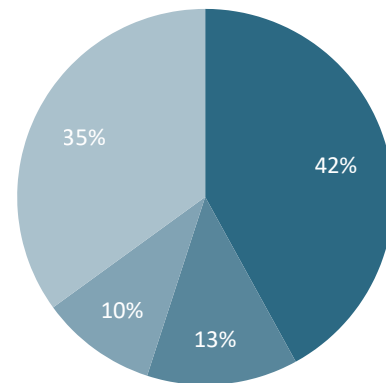
City Administrator Stuart McRae, Sheridan

WAM FY2025 Financials

Fiscal Year of July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025
 Audited Income and Expenses: \$1,112,675

REVENUE

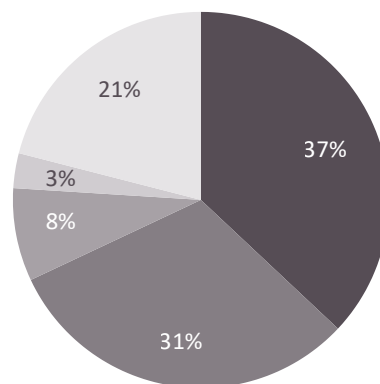
- Membership Dues
- Meetings
- Business Partnerships
- Interest/Other Non-Dues



Membership dues support training, education, operational services, and member-approved governance functions.

EXPENDITURES

- Personnel
- Operations
- Events/Member Services
- Advocacy
- Special Projects



Advocacy efforts are funded exclusively from nongovernmental funds and dues.

All financial statements are reviewed and verified by an independent third party.

Highlights of the Year

2025 was a year of growth, connection, and innovation for the Wyoming Association of Municipalities.

- In January, we educated most of Wyoming's newly elected municipal officials through our Bootcamp program, providing essential training for effective leadership. Additionally, we launched a Lunch & Learn webinar series covering various topics, including infrastructure funding and community engagement.
- Throughout the legislative session, our Lunch with Locals event was well attended and well received, offering a valuable opportunity for municipal leaders to engage directly with legislators.
- Our Winter Conference brought together municipal leaders from across the state for a dynamic and well-attended event focused on policy, leadership, and community development.
- Our Summer Convention was another standout success, providing a platform for networking and professional development, and celebrating municipal achievements.
- WAM was selected to assume management of the Wyoming Economic Development Association (WEDA), strengthening our role in supporting economic growth across the state.
- We hosted a three-part webinar series on Communications Planning for Municipalities to enhance transparency, outreach, and public trust among local leaders.
- In collaboration with the University of Wyoming, we created a Municipal Finance Handbook to assist local governments with budgeting, revenue, and financial planning.



National Recognition for Leadership

Rapid Grants, Innovative Ideas: Pinedale, Wyoming

Under the leadership of Mayor Matt Murdock, Pinedale has secured a coveted spot in the National League of Cities' 2025 Advancing Economic Mobility Rapid Grant cohort. This achievement reflects Mayor Murdock's commitment to fostering opportunity in his community. With grant funding and expert support, Pinedale will launch a centralized digital platform designed to streamline permitting and empower young entrepreneurs to start growing their businesses easily. By prioritizing economic mobility, Mayor Murdock is ensuring that Pinedale's residents have the tools to build financial stability and strengthen the local economy, proving that smaller communities can lead the way in innovation and resilience.

Educational Programs and Efforts

WAM remains committed to partnering with state leaders, municipalities, and community members to ensure Wyoming communities thrive. Our focus on education and professional development empowers municipal leaders with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed.

Our collaborative approach emphasizes the continued alignment of educational priorities through strong partnerships with WAMCAT and WYOCMA. To ensure accessibility and engagement, we are expanding training options by incorporating webinars and video resources, regular newsletters, and targeted member messaging. We are committed to supporting professional development through scholarships for training events and the creation of high-quality in-house materials.

RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

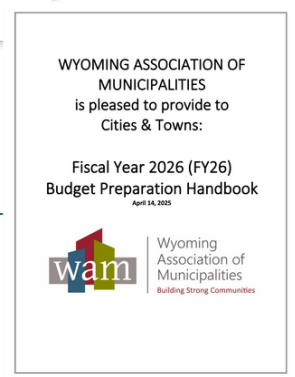
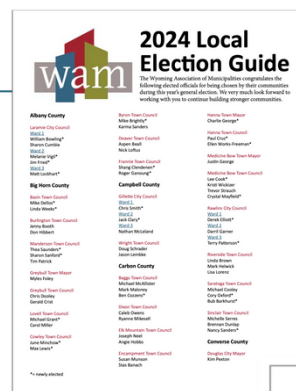
This year, we continued to strengthen Wyoming's municipalities by providing resources, tools, and guidance that help local leaders govern effectively and build secure communities. Among this year's highlights is the **Local Election Guide**, a comprehensive tool designed to help communities navigate the complexities of local elections. By promoting transparency and accessibility, this guide ensures every voice in Wyoming has the opportunity to be heard.

To support fiscal planning, WAM released the **Budget Preparation Handbook**, a detailed resource offering explanations, reference materials, and revenue projections to guide municipalities through the FY2026 budget season. The Mayor-Council Handbook continues to serve as an essential reference for both newly elected officials and experienced leaders, outlining responsibilities, duties, and key provisions of Wyoming municipal law.

Beyond these core publications, WAM offers several toolkits and guides covering critical topics such as

effective meetings and procedures, open meetings, municipal finance, home rule, forms of government, and ethics and conflict of interest. These resources provide practical insights and legal context, empowering municipal leaders to govern with integrity and confidence.

Recognizing the importance of accessibility and engagement, WAM launched a **redesigned website** this year, a major initiative to improve access to resources, strengthen public engagement, and enhance the user experience. This new platform serves as a central hub for municipal information, training materials, and statewide collaboration. Members can now access advocacy updates transparently online, register for upcoming events in one convenient location, and utilize a dedicated portal designed to streamline communication and support. More than a website, it's a gateway to connection and collaboration across Wyoming's municipal network.



TRAINING PROGRAMS

The Wyoming Association of Municipalities proudly hosts its Newly-Elected Bootcamp every year, designed to equip municipal leaders with the knowledge and tools needed to serve their communities effectively. This program meets the state statute requirement, covering essential topics such as ethics and integrity, government operations, financial management, and municipal budgeting. Participants also explored strategies for community and economic development and engaged in discussions on strategic planning. By providing this training, WAM ensures that newly elected officials are prepared to lead with confidence, transparency, and a vision for sustainable growth.

The 2025 WAM Summer Convention served as a center for education and innovation, empowering Wyoming's municipal leaders with knowledge and practical tools. Over three days, participants accessed several learning opportunities and resources. From the Newly Elected Bootcamp and economic development tours to comprehensive breakout sessions, the convention delivered actionable guidance on fiscal management, federal funding strategies, strategic communication, and infrastructure planning. Attendees tackled issues such as emergency funding gaps, tax policy impacts, and local investment approaches, while engaging with experts and peers through interactive panels and workshops. Our goal was to equip every member with insights and resources that strengthen communities and ensure Wyoming municipalities remain strong.

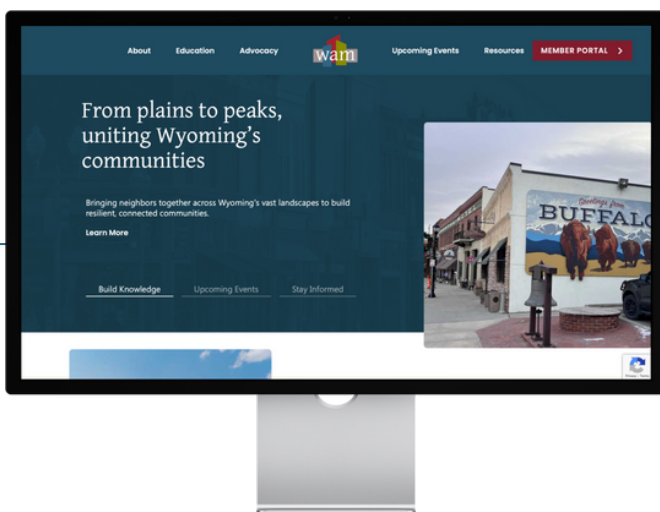
WAM's 2026 Winter Conference agenda is packed with opportunities to strengthen governance and collaboration, including sessions on Local Government Budget Planning, WAM Regional Meetings, and the new WAM & WCCA Co-Hosted Legislative Reception. The agenda also includes the Local Government Budget Training, followed by an Ask the Experts panel.

Guests will benefit from leadership training and several dynamic breakout sessions, including "Powering Possibility: Nuclear Energy's Local Impact," "What Lies Beneath: PFAS and the New Age of Water," "WEDA Track: The Role of Sales Tax Exemptions in Economic Development," and "Tech That Serves: AI's Role in Responsive and Transparent Government." This conference shows our commitment to providing local governments with the tools and knowledge to lead confidently.

In 2025, WAM continued its commitment to member engagement through regional meetings held in both virtual and in-person formats. The Spring Regional Meetings were hosted virtually, providing members with a convenient, travel-free way to participate and stay connected. A highlight of the season was when Region 3 brought together the Worland City Council and Cody City Council, both calling in from their respective council chambers, a true example of collaboration. In the Fall, WAM hosted in-person regional meetings across the state, featuring legislative champions in each region to foster dialogue and strengthen collaboration efforts.

Leadership Training Services Committee

The revitalized Leadership Training Committee is leading a major push to strengthen our local government leadership curriculum. This program provides essential municipal government training, equipping you with the tools and knowledge to succeed in community leadership.



Explore WAM
Educational
Resources





Legislative Overview

In 2025, WAM changed how local voices influence Wyoming's legislative agenda by adopting a more open, inclusive process. Its regional outreach engaged communities through listening sessions and direct involvement, helping municipalities identify needs, refine proposals, and highlight priorities. Led by the Legislative Leadership Committee (LLC), discussions built consensus and incorporated diverse local views, resulting in a more transparent, collaborative set of legislative goals.

At its core, WAM believes the best government is closest to the people. Supported by Article 13, Section 1 of the Wyoming Constitution, which affirms home rule and municipal decision-making, WAM advocates for local voices in state laws. During the legislative session, WAM works with the Legislature to share municipal input, ensuring local input shapes bill and policy discussions. WAM also serves as a technical and data resource, responding to inquiries about impacts and needs.

Our goal is not to grow government but to protect local autonomy, reduce taxpayer burden, and ensure policies reflect real community needs. Whether it's infrastructure, emergency services, or land use, local governments are where policy meets people. Local governments are not just stakeholders—they are essential partners in shaping Wyoming's future.

2025 GENERAL SESSION PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

Over the past year, WAM has made significant strides in advancing legislative priorities that directly benefit Wyoming's municipalities.

- Supporting home rule and defending local decision-making
- Passing additional investment legislation in equities
- Protecting local government revenues
- Defending current liability limits
- Pursuing legislation aimed at regulatory reductions

These priorities reflect our commitment to empowering local governments, safeguarding financial stability, and minimizing regulatory burdens. During a historic legislative session with 556 bills introduced, WAM actively tracked 116 and successfully opposed numerous proposals that threatened local autonomy, imposed unnecessary regulations, or jeopardized municipal revenues.

Enhancing Municipal Operations

Several new bills signed into law will make local governments more efficient and responsive. Updated land processes reduce delays, emergency provisions protect water systems, and electronic payment options improve transparency. Expanded licensing supports economic growth, while new investment tools strengthen financial stability. Together, these changes help municipalities deliver services more effectively.

- SEA 0089/SF 0171 - Boundary Survey Amendments
- HEA 0004/HB 0022 - Emergency Response for Water & Wastewater Operators
- HEA 0018/HB 0214 - Electronic Payments for Local Governments
- SEA 0007/SF 0042 - Resort Hotel Liquor Licenses
- SEA 0056/SF 0145 - Local Government Investments in Equities

The signing of SEA 0056/SF 0145 on March 3 marked a proud milestone, granting local governments new financial tools to better serve their communities.

Lunch with Locals

WAM held the last Lunch with Locals event for this session at the Capitol on Feb. 27. The three events, held throughout February, allowed the legislature to connect with WAM members to share a meal and discuss issues important to our 99 cities and towns.

FEDERAL UPDATES

Federal engagement is essential for Wyoming municipalities because federal policy decisions directly affect local infrastructure, public services, and long-term financial stability. WAM continued active federal engagement in 2025 through the National League of Cities Washington, D.C. Fly-in, collaboration with the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and ongoing communication with Wyoming's Congressional Delegation. Key federal issues included monitoring H.R. 1, "The One Big Beautiful Bill," which preserves critical municipal tools such as tax-exempt municipal and private-activity bonds, while also raising concerns related to funding clawbacks, changes to clean-energy tax credit access, a proposed 10-year moratorium on local artificial intelligence regulation, and potential reductions to the Community Development Block Grant program and Medicaid flexibility. WAM also advocated for protecting the Riverton Job Corps, maintaining Surface Transportation Block Grant funding, and supporting federal actions advancing Wyoming's role in nuclear energy development.

Infrastructure, Regulation, and Economic Development

Wyoming communities continue to face significant regulatory and financial pressures tied to EPA's Lead Service Line Replacement requirements and the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, unfunded mandates that require more realistic timelines, metrics, and federal support. Federal Opportunity Zone reforms, which extend the program through 2033, introduce new rural-focused criteria, potentially expanding investment opportunities for Wyoming communities. Across all federal actions, WAM remains focused on protecting local authority, ensuring predictable funding streams, and advocating for policies that reflect the needs and realities of rural municipalities.

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WAM believes the most effective government is one that governs closest to the people, grounded in simplicity, accountability, and community self-governance. WAM is dedicated to preserving local governments' constitutional authority to serve their communities effectively and independently. Visit our website to review the 2026 WAM Legislative Agenda, the Legislative Tracker, and several FAQs about WAM advocacy.

Note: WAM's position on any bill is based on the most recent draft available on the Legislative Service Office (LSO) website and may change as amendments are introduced.



Access Legislative
Positions & the New
Legislative Tracker





Wyoming Association
of Municipalities

Building Strong Communities

WYOMUNI.ORG