

Shaping the Future of our  
Cities and Villages with  
Leadership & Vision



# 2024 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 26-27, 2024

CORNHUSKER MARRIOTT HOTEL, LINCOLN



Deb VanMatre  
League President  
Mayor, Gibbon



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# 2024 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

## LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA MUNICIPALITIES

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

February 26-27, 2024



**MUNICIPAL TREASURERS AND MUNICIPAL ATTORNEYS:** The League will let you know as soon as the State Auditor's Office and the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission informs us of the number of hours each will receive.

### Tentative Conference Program (subject to change)

#### Monday, February 26, 2024

- 7:30–8 am**      **Registration:** Visit Display Areas (coffee and rolls available)
- 8–9 am**      **Welcome**  
*League President Deb VanMatre, Mayor of Gibbon*  
**Attorney General's Update:** Be informed about important cases, legislation, and work of the Nebraska Attorney General's Office affecting municipal operations and public safety.  
**Nebraska Attorney General Mike Hilgers**
- 9–9:15 am**      **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 9:15–10:30 am**      **EPIC Option:** Learn more about the consequences of enacting the EPIC Option to “Eliminate Property, Income, and Corporate” (EPIC) Taxes.  
*Korby Gilbertson, Partner, Radcliffe Gilbertson & Brady*  
*Dylan Grundman O’Neill, Senior State Policy Analyst, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy*
- 10:30–10:45 am**      **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 10:45–11:45 am**      **League Legislative Update**  
*L. Lynn Rex, Executive Director, LNM*
- 11:45 am–12 pm**      **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 12–1:30 pm**      **Luncheon**  
**Keynote Address: Understanding the “Art of Compromise” to Minimize the “Politics of Division”**  
*Former U.S. Senator and Nebraska Governor E. Benjamin Nelson*
- 1:30–1:45 pm**      **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 1:45–2:45 pm**      **Concurrent Sessions:**
- A. Community Partnerships:** Learn how the Nebraska Military Department is partnering with municipalities across the state.  
(Session repeated at 3 pm)  
*Major General Craig Strong, Adjutant General of the Nebraska Military Department which includes the Air National Guard, Army National Guard, and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency*
  - B. Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Learn about the practical and transformative potential of AI and how it can benefit your city or village.  
(Session repeated at 3 pm)  
**Google Representative**
  - C. Social Media Policies and Related Issues:** Be informed about the importance of a social media policy and upcoming cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.  
(Session repeated at 3 pm)  
*Moderator: Christy Abraham, Legal Counsel, LNM*  
*Danielle Myers-Noelle, City Attorney, Norfolk*  
*Laura McAloon, City Administrator, Grand Island*  
**Nebraska Information Technology Commission Representative**
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### Monday, February 26, 2024 (con't.)

1:45–2:45 pm

**Concurrent Sessions: (con't.)**

**D. DED Grants:** Update on timelines and requirements for affordable housing grants, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF) grants, and grants related to Creative Districts.

*(Session repeated at 3 pm)*

**Jenny Mason**, Director, Disaster Recovery Division, Nebraska Department of Economic Development

**Rachel Morgan**, Program Specialist, Nebraska Arts Council

2:45–3 pm

**Break:** Visit Display Areas

3–4 pm

**Concurrent Sessions:**

**A. Community Partnerships:** Learn how the Nebraska Military Department is partnering with municipalities across the state.

*(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)*

**Major General Craig Strong**, Adjutant General of the Nebraska Military Department which includes the Air National Guard, Army National Guard, and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

**B. Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Learn about the practical and transformative potential of AI and how it can benefit your city or village.

*(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)*

**Google Representative**

**C. Social Media Policies and Related Issues:** Be informed about the importance of a social media policy and upcoming cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

*(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)*

**Moderator: Christy Abraham**, Legal Counsel, LNM

**Danielle Myers-Noelle**, City Attorney, Norfolk

**Laura McAloon**, City Administrator, Grand Island

**Nebraska Information Technology Commission Representative**

**D. DED Grants:** Update on timelines and requirements for affordable housing grants, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF) grants, and grants related to Creative Districts.

*(Repeat of 1:45 pm session)*

**Jenny Mason**, Director, Disaster Recovery Division, Nebraska Department of Economic Development

**Rachel Morgan**, Program Specialist, Nebraska Arts Council

4–4:15 pm

**Break:** Visit Display Areas

4:15–5:30 pm

**Section Meetings:**

Mayors and Village Board Chairs

Smaller Cities and Villages

Larger Cities

Clerks

City Managers/Administrators

Utilities Section

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### Tuesday, February 27, 2024

7–8 am **NCMA Membership Breakfast**

8 am **Registration:** Visit Display Areas (coffee and rolls available)

8:15–9:15 am **Concurrent Sessions:**

**A. EPIC Panel:** Learn how to educate municipal officials and others about the proposed legislation and constitutional amendments to “Eliminate Property, Income and Corporate” (EPIC) Taxes.

*(Session repeated at 10:45 am)*

**Jeff Hofaker**, City Administrator, Sutton

**Melissa Harrell**, City Administrator, Wahoo

**Layne Groseth**, City Administrator, North Platte

**B. Cybersecurity:** Best practices to prevent cyber threats, important training for employees, and recommendations for employer policies, password management, safe web browsing, secure file sharing, and options for implementing multi-factor authentication (MFA).

*(Session repeated at 9:30 am)*

**Ed Knott**, President, Applied Connective Technologies

**Jarod Dendinger**, Relationship Manager, Applied Connective Technologies

**Kenley Silhacek**, Senior IT Network Engineer, Applied Connective Technologies

**C. Top 10 Questions Asked with No Clear Answer in State Law**

**Christy Abraham**, Legal Counsel, LNM

**Lash Chaffin**, Utilities Section Director, LNM

**D. Effective Security Measures:** Learn how to better protect citizens, municipal officials, and employees attending public meetings and events. *(This session is sponsored by the League Association of Risk Management.)*

**James Kelley**, Loss Control Specialist, LARM

**John Hobbs**, Loss Control Specialist, LARM

9 am–4 pm **Fire Chiefs Section Meeting**

9:15–9:30 am **Break:** Visit Display Areas

9:30–10:30 am **Concurrent Sessions:**

**A. Preventative Internal Controls Necessary to Safeguard Municipal Assets:** What elected and appointed officials need to know.

*(Session repeated at 10:45 am)*

**Craig Kubicek**, CPA, CFE, Deputy Auditor, Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts

**B. Cybersecurity:** Best practices to prevent cyber threats, important training for employees, and recommendations for employer policies, password management, safe web browsing, secure file sharing, and options for implementing multi-factor authentication (MFA).

*(Repeat of 8:15 am session)*

**Ed Knott**, President, Applied Connective Technologies

**Jarod Dendinger**, Relationship Manager, Applied Connective Technologies

**Kenley Silhacek**, Senior IT Network Engineer, Applied Connective Technologies

**C. Infrastructure:** Learn about the importance of creating an ongoing infrastructure maintenance plan.

**Lash Chaffin**, Utilities Section Director, LNM

**D. Strategic Planning:** How to develop a vision and blueprint of your municipality's goals, planned projects to achieve these goals, and benchmarks to increase success!

*(Session repeated at 10:45 am)*

**Steve Rathman**, Police Chief, Plattsmouth

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### Tuesday, February 27, 2024 (con't.)

- 9:30–10:30 am** **Concurrent Sessions: (con't.)**  
**E. League Insurance Government Health Team (LIGHT) Board of Directors Meeting:** Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about LIGHT and the partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska and Mutual of Omaha. (This meeting may last more than one hour.)
- 10:30–10:45 am** **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 10:45–11:45 am** **Concurrent Sessions:**
- A. Preventative Internal Controls Necessary to Safeguard Municipal Assets:** What elected and appointed officials need to know.  
(Repeat of 9:30 am session)  
**Craig Kubicek**, CPA, CFE, Deputy Auditor, Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts
  - B. EPIC Panel:** Learn how to educate municipal officials and others about the proposed legislation and constitutional amendments to “Eliminate Property, Income and Corporate” (EPIC) Taxes.  
(Repeat of 8:15 am session)  
**Jeff Hofaker**, City Administrator, Sutton  
**Melissa Harrell**, City Administrator, Wahoo  
**Layne Groseth**, City Administrator, North Platte
  - C. Risk Management:** Learn why markets are hardening in Nebraska and across the United States with increasing costs for property coverages. *(This session is sponsored by the League Association of Risk Management.)*  
**Justin Swarbrick**, Senior Vice President, Alliant Insurance Services
  - D. Strategic Planning:** How to develop a vision and blueprint of your municipality’s goals, planned projects to achieve these goals, and benchmarks to increase success!  
(Repeat of 9:30 am session)  
**Steve Rathman**, Police Chief, Plattsmouth
- 11:45 am–12 pm** **Break:** Visit Display Areas
- 12 pm** **Designated Delegates with White Ribbons on Their Name Badges:** Greet your State Senator.
- 12–1:10 pm** **Senator Appreciation Luncheon**
- 1:10 pm** **Adjournment – Thank you for coming! Please drive safely!**
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### Delegate Registration

Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as you want it to appear on name tag): \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (if attending): \_\_\_\_\_

First League Conference? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Advanced payment encouraged)

Billing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference:	Through Feb. 9	After Feb. 9
(Includes electronic handbook; meals are extra)		
Per city/village official, League member	_____ \$395	_____ \$425

Partial conference attendance:	Through Feb. 9	After Feb. 9
(Includes electronic handbook; meals are extra)		
Monday sessions	_____ \$300	_____ \$330
Tuesday morning only	_____ \$150	_____ \$170

Conference Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Meals: (not included in registration fee; indicate number needed by Feb. 9)

Monday Luncheon	_____ \$30
Tuesday Senator Appreciation Luncheon	_____ \$30

Meals Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Conference Information

- Preregistration deadline is **Feb. 9**. Registrations received after this date will incur higher registration costs.
- Advance registrations not cancelled by this date or "no shows" will be billed since the sessions will be recorded and sent to registered delegates.
- If you need special accommodations or equipment at this conference, contact the League office by **Feb. 9**.

**Mail registration and payment to:** League of Nebraska Municipalities, 1335 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, or fax 402-476-7052

[Click here](#) to register online with a credit card. \*\*\*PLEASE NOTE -- There is a credit card processing fee included for each item.\*\*\*

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### Conference Information

Designed for elected or appointed officials, the focus of the **2024 Midwinter Conference** will be current and proposed legislation and how it affects local governments. A highlight of the two-day conference will be the Senator Appreciation Luncheon, which offers municipal officials an opportunity to meet and visit with their State Senators.

- ❑ All conference sessions will be held at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, 333 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.
  - ❑ To make room reservations at the Cornhusker, call 1-866-706-7706 or 402-474-7474 or [book online](#). When calling to reserve a room, please state that you are attending the League's conference to obtain the special room rate. The deadline for reserving a room is **Feb. 5**.
  - ❑ The room rate is \$112 for a single or double room with Government ID card. If you need an ID card, contact the League office. Individual guest accounts are payable at check out by cash or credit card.
  - ❑ Check in time is approximately 4 p.m.; check out time is 11 a.m.
  - ❑ The preregistration deadline is **Feb. 9**. Registrations received after this date will incur higher registration costs. Advance registrations not cancelled by this date or "no shows" will be billed since the sessions will be recorded and sent to registered delegates.
  - ❑ If you need special accommodations or equipment at this conference, contact the League office by **Feb. 9**.
  - ❑ To meet printing schedules for the conference materials, sponsor fund or display table information must be returned by **Feb. 9**.
  - ❑ For your comfort, we recommend that you wear layered clothing or bring a jacket because heating and cooling conditions may vary.
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