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Iowa League of Cities Announces Leadership Transition

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Iowa League of Cities Executive Board has announced a planned leadership transition as Executive Director Alan Kemp concludes his tenure with the League on December 1, 2026. The Board has selected Deputy Director, Mickey Shields to serve as the League's next Executive Director beginning on December 2, 2026.

Kemp has served the League for nearly three decades, helping strengthen and support Iowa's cities through advocacy, education and his leadership. He joined the League in 1999 as the Director of Membership Services and was appointed Executive Director in 2007. For the past 18 years, Alan has led the League with a steady hand through significant challenges and opportunities, including navigating legislative issues, expanding membership services, supporting staff and navigating the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It has been an honor to serve Iowa's cities and work alongside so many great leaders during my career. The Iowa League of Cities is well-positioned for the future, and I have great confidence in Mickey and the entire League team as they continue to support our members." - Alan Kemp

Christina Eicher, League Board President and City Council Member for Bennett said, "Alan has been an advocate and partner for Iowa's cities. His passion for local government and genuine commitment to serving others has earned the respect of community leaders across the state. We thank him for his years of service and the positive impact he has made on the League and Iowa's communities."

The League is grateful for the leadership and dedication Alan has demonstrated throughout the years in advancing the League's mission and working to support Iowa's cities. The League will recognize Kemp's years of service throughout the remainder of 2026.

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The Iowa League of Cities is the oldest, continuously operating municipal league in the country. Founded in 1898, the League is a not-for-profit organization that serves as the unified voice for cities, providing advocacy, training and guidance to the cities of Iowa.