

WELCOME

EXECUTIVE FORUM

2026

LIVINGSTON, MT



DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, March 4

Shane Center

415 E. Lewis Street, Livingston, MT 59047

Mayors & Managers 1:00PM - 3:00PM (Meet in Ballroom)

Economic Development Tour: food-waste composting site, housing developments, wellness center, Northside Soccer Park, Love's truck stop, and more.

3:00PM - 3:15PM Break

Mayors & Managers 3:15PM - 4:30PM (Ballroom)

Land Use: How the League and MMIA can be a resource. Kelly A. Lynch, Executive Director, League | Mark Gauthier, Liability and Property Claims Manager, MMIA.

Mayors & Managers 5:00PM - 6:30PM (Ballroom)

Social Hour Sponsored by Montana Department of Transportation - Whose mission is to plan, build, operate, and maintain a safe and resilient transportation system to move Montana forward.

DAY 2

THURSDAY, March 5

Shane Center

Mayors & Managers 7:30AM - 8:30AM (Ballroom)

Breakfast Sponsored by Great West Engineering - A firm dedicated to delivering high-quality, sustainable engineering solutions.

Mayors & Managers 8:30AM - 9:00AM (Ballroom)

Introductions - MMIA, League, MSU LGC

Mayors & Managers 9:00AM - 10:30AM (Ballroom)

League Interim Update and Upcoming Priorities: This session will provide insight into the League's advocacy work, recent legislative outcomes, and ongoing interim committee discussions. Attendees will learn how interim committee work impacts the next legislative session, how the League develops its legislative priorities, and how local officials can shape policy at the state and federal levels. Kelly A. Lynch, Executive Director, League | Jennifer Olson, Government Affairs Director, League.

10:30AM - 10:40AM Break

Mayors & Managers 10:40AM - 12:10PM (Ballroom)**Under Pressure - Threats Against Public Officials and the Modern Risk Landscape:**

Municipal leaders are operating in an increasingly complex and polarized environment where public engagement, free speech, and personal safety intersect. This session brings together a distinguished and experienced panel of state and local law enforcement leaders from Montana with extensive experience addressing First Amendment-protected activity, constitutionalist movements, threats directed at the judicial system, and other forms of radicalized behavior impacting public officials and institutions. While particularly relevant for mayors, city managers, and chief executives, this session is valuable for nearly anyone working in the public sector who interacts with the public or supports government operations. The discussion emphasizes situational awareness, emerging patterns, and sound decision-making—not enforcement tactics—offering practical insight into how concerning behaviors develop and escalate, how lawful dissent differs from true risk, and how public servants can respond thoughtfully while upholding democratic norms, public access, and community trust. This session's panel will include: Bryan Lockerby, Lockerby Leadership | Jordan Venezia, Police Chief, City of Kalispell | Doug Overman, Safety and Security Coordinator, State of Montana Judicial Branch | Catalina McCarthy, DHS Intelligence Officer, Office of Intelligence and Analysis.

Mayors & Managers 12:10PM - 1:00PM (Ballroom)

Lunch Sponsored by Charter Communications - Spectrum Business®, a Charter Communications brand, unites enterprise technology and expertise to achieve your vision with networking, voice, collaboration, security, and TV services tailored to your city's needs.

Working Lunch with Montana Disaster and Emergency Services:

The intent of the Emergency Management Modernization Project is to outline the fundamental functions that state, county, and tribal emergency management programs currently perform and identify possible solutions to improve these systems. This listening session will offer attendees an opportunity to provide input on how to adapt to changing priorities and strategically invest time and resources. The session will be led by local and state DES representatives including DES Administrator Delila Bruno, Preparedness Bureau Chief Burke Honzel, and Recovery & Mitigation Bureau Chief Jake Ganieany.

Mayors 1:00PM - 2:30PM (Ballroom)

Municipal Government 101: Understanding the powers and functions of municipal government and the duties and responsibilities of the mayor. Dan Clark, Director, Local Government Center.

City Managers 1:00PM - 2:30PM (Rehearsal Hall)

Beyond the Table: Advanced labor negotiation strategy for city managers. Jason S. Ritchie, Attorney, Ritchie, Manning, Kautz, PLLP.

2:30PM - 2:40PM Break**Mayors Option 1 2:40PM - 4:30PM (Ballroom)**

Mayor to Mayor Discussion: This facilitated discussion brings together newly elected and experienced mayors in a structured, peer-to-peer learning environment designed to foster mentorship, shared insight, and practical problem-solving. The session is intentionally conversational rather than instructional, recognizing that mayors learn best from one another's experience. Dan Clark, Director, Local Government Center.

DAY 2

THURSDAY, March 5

cont.

Mayors Option 2 2:40PM - 4:30PM (Jill's Veranda)

From Strategy to Settlement: Labor relations responsibilities for mayors. Jason S. Ritchie, Attorney, Ritchie, Manning, Kautz, PLLP.

City Managers 2:40PM - 4:30PM (Rehearsal Hall)

Department Head Performance Reviews: How to navigate department head reviews, and sharing notes from past experiences. Panel Discussion with Derrek Shepherd, Human Resource Consultant, MMIA | Dana Meeker, City Manager, City of Whitefish | Chuck Winn, City Manager, City of Bozeman | Greg Doyon, City Manager, City of Great Falls.

Mayors & Managers 5:00PM - 6:30PM

Thursday Evening Social sponsored by NorthWestern Energy - Committed to delivering safe, reliable, and innovative energy solutions for more than 100 years.

DAY 3

FRIDAY, March 6

Shane Center

Mayors & Managers 9:00AM - 10:00AM (Ballroom)

Collaboration in Local Government Leadership: Every state has a municipal league that provides technical support, training, advocacy, and other support for its member municipalities. Many states also have a city managers association that provides training and sharing to support the professional education of its member administrators and managers. Finally, some states also have a mayors association dedicated to increasing the knowledge and ability of mayors and provide collective efforts for influencing state programs and legislation. As Montana enters a new phase of growth and local government engagement, it can look to Oregon to hear how its municipal, manager, and mayor state associations work to achieve their own missions while acting collectively to impact state and federal policy impacting municipalities. Panel includes: Nina Vetter, City Manager, Newport, Oregon – President of the Oregon City County Management Association | Jim Trett, Mayor, Detroit, Oregon – President of the Oregon Mayors Association | Patty Mulvihill - Executive Director of the League of Oregon Cities.

10:00AM - 10:10AM Break

Mayors & Managers 10:10AM - 12:00PM (Ballroom)

MMIA and LGC Updates: Get the latest insights from MMIA and LGC leadership as they share key updates, what's happening now, and what's on the horizon for 2026.