

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is owned by its member municipalities and directed by a 13-member Board of Directors.

VLCT's mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. Our members include all 246 Vermont cities and towns, along with 144 other municipal entities, including villages and fire districts.

VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns, so that they may provide their citizens with quality services at affordable costs:

Legal, consulting, and education services. In the past year, VLCT responded to over 3,000 inquiries for assistance from municipal officials. Our Municipal Assistance Center (MAC) conducted 14 workshops and 37 on-site training sessions that attracted over 1,300 people. MAC distributed almost 130 hard copy handbooks to municipal officials, but also made all its handbooks available free of charge on our website at our Resource Library. The Library also contains over 500 other electronic documents currently accessible to all. MAC has also retained the services of professionals in municipal finance, administration, and policing to provide consulting advice to towns.

Advocacy representation before the state and federal governments to ensure that municipalities have the resources and authority they need to serve their citizens. VLCT is a leader in the education finance debate, in land use discussions, and in securing revenues for town highway and bridge maintenance programs. Municipalities will be facing significant challenges in the 2010 legislature assuring that state fiscal woes are not shifted to local governments and property taxpayers.

Purchasing opportunities to provide needed services at the lowest cost. Examples include municipal employee health insurance and liability coverage for town operations. The VLCT Health Trust represents the most affordable option available to provide health insurance to municipal employees. The value of the VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) to all our members is realized daily as members take advantage of loss prevention training and assistance, as well as reasonable insurance rates. These two trusts, with the addition of the VLCT Unemployment Trust, were responsible in 2008 for \$46 million in municipal tax dollars spent for insurance and risk management services. Last summer, VLCT was instrumental in assuring that towns would be able to obtain road salt for winter highway maintenance at an affordable price and in adequate quantities.

Respectfully submitted

William Perkins, President