

From: Rose Vaughn Williams, NCLM Executive Director rwilliams@mail.ncml.org
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NC Towns Well Represented at NLC's City Summit

Roughly 150 municipal officials from North Carolina made for a great showing of leadership and teamwork this week in Kansas City, Missouri, where the National League of Cities held its core conference, [City Summit](#), focused on pressing issues and ideas for cities and the chance to network with peers from across the nation.





Durham Council Member Leonardo Williams and Concord Mayor Bill Dusch at City Summit in Kansas City, Missouri. Photo by Derrick Applewhite.

The event also featured a special reception, brought together by the League's Board of Directors and President Scott Neisler, for the Tar Heel State's conference attendees.



The conference's programming began Thursday, runs through Saturday, and welcomed a nationwide spread of municipal officials from cities and towns of all sizes. Programming included ways to address substance-use and overdose deaths in the community, infrastructure ideas for small cities, transformative investments, ways to counter misinformation at the local level, equitable broadband expansion, and various other focuses.

ARPA, Viable Utility Reserve Key Topics at Partnership Meeting

American Rescue Plan funding of water and sewer infrastructure was a key topic on Thursday as a partnership group that includes the NC League of Municipalities met for a quarterly meeting in Chapel Hill. The Resource Agency Partnership for Water Utilities, organized by the state Division of Water Infrastructure, connects organizations from around the state involved in water utilities. It has been meeting for several years to further discussions regarding local water and sewer utilities challenges and the programs that are addressing them.

At Thursday's meeting, partnership members expressed concerns about federal spending deadlines for ARP funding and the potential of complex water infrastructure projects being unable to meet those deadlines. Discussions also included the process that the state division is undertaking to keep legislatively earmarked projects on track, as well as distressed utilities' compliance with training requirements under the state's Viable Utility Reserve. The state division and NCLM have partnered to set up that training, and Jennifer

Reserve. The state division and NCLM have partnered to set up that training, and Jennifer Haynie with DWI indicated that she expects to have a comprehensive listing of those that have met the requirements in the spring. Meeting the requirements, which also involve local elected officials, is crucial to receiving funding under the Viable Utility Reserve legislation.

Disagree With Your Census Count? File a Challenge

The demographic team at the N.C. Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) has been fielding calls from many N.C. towns and counties that are not happy with their 2020 Census counts. While they have provided a lot of information for filing challenges to the Census counts, the U.S. Census Bureau has only received one challenge from North Carolina at this time.

The Count Question Resolution (CQR) program is a free challenge to 2020 Census counts based on limited criteria. We encourage any and all NC local governments to take advantage of this **free challenge before the submission deadline of June 30, 2023.**

The State of North Carolina is allowed to file Census challenges for local areas as well. OSBM will file CQR challenges for North Carolina, will notify the appropriate local governments, and will post the list of challenges on the [NC Census Data website](#).

[More Information](#)



434 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1900 | Raleigh, NC 27601 | www.nclm.org | (919) 715-4000

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