



131 W. Wilson St., Suite 505
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
phone (608) 267-2380; (800) 991-5502
fax: (608) 267-0645
league@lwm-info.org; www.lwm-info.org

For immediate release October 20, 2021

Contact:

Justin Nickels, Mayor, City of Manitowoc, 920-686-6980, jnickels@manitowoc.org
Maureen Murphy, Mt. Pleasant Village Administrator, 262-664-7818, mmurphy@mtpleasantwi.gov
Emily Berge, City of Eau Claire Council, 715-864-6386, emily.berge@ec-citycouncil.com
Jerry Deschane, League Executive Director, 608-267-2380 jdeschane@lwm-info.org

League of Wisconsin Municipalities Elects Officers at 123rd Annual League Conference

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities elected new leadership today at the League's 123rd Annual Conference Business Meeting in Green Bay. Manitowoc Mayor Justin Nickels was elected President, Mt. Pleasant Village Administrator Maureen Murphy was elected 1st Vice President, and Eau Claire Council Member Emily Berge was elected 2nd Vice President of the League by their peers from cities and villages across the state. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities is composed of more than 600 members – large and small cities and villages representing both urban and rural Wisconsin.

In 2021-2022 the League's 16-member Board will be working to set the strategic direction for the League at a critical time in the organization's history. Cities and villages are facing challenging circumstances not only due to the pandemic, but Wisconsin municipalities also face a dire need to update aging infrastructure and provide vital services, including police and fire services, to their residents.

- **President of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Justin Nickels, Mayor, Manitowoc:** "I am honored to be elected by my peers from around the State of Wisconsin to serve as the President of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. I have been working with the league since 2005 when I was first elected to the Manitowoc Common Council. The league provides valuable resources to our villages and cities, along with support at the capitol in Madison. I am looking forward to working with the league staff to advance our common causes as local municipalities and continue providing valuable services to our member cities and villages."
- **1st Vice President of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Maureen Murphy, Administrator, Mount Pleasant:** "Throughout my career, the League has been my go-to source for all things government. In governments throughout Wisconsin, most everyone knows Jerry, Curt, Claire and Gail and the entire fabulous staff at the League. We just had a 'first time in government' Trustee elected last April and my first piece of advice was to go to the League of Wisconsin Municipalities' website and sign up for a training session and check out the FAQ section too. It is a great honor to be nominated as 1st Vice President of this preeminent government service organization."
- **2nd Vice President of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Emily Berge, Council Member, Eau Claire:** "I am honored to be elected as the 2nd Vice President of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. This opportunity will allow me to deepen my work to support cities and villages across our great state of



131 W. Wilson St., Suite 505
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
phone (608) 267-2380; (800) 991-5502
fax: (608) 267-0645
league@lwm-info.org; www.lwm-info.org

Wisconsin. Local Government is the nuts and bolts of government and it is essential that our municipal public workers have the support and resources they need so your city or village can function effectively.”

###

Background Information on the Newly Elected Officers:

President of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Justin Nickels, Mayor, Manitowoc



Justin Nickels was first elected to represent the second district on the Manitowoc Common Council in 2005 when he was just 18 years old and still a senior in High School. On the Council he served as the Chair of the Personnel Committee and was elected Council President in 2007-2008. Nickels served 2 terms on the council before being elected Mayor in 2009. At 22 years old, he defeated a field of 5 candidates to become the youngest elected mayor in Wisconsin. Nickels is currently serving in his fourth term after winning re-election this past April, earning 70% of the vote. As a full-time Mayor, Nickels is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the City of Manitowoc. He has served on the League of Wisconsin Municipalities Board of Directors since 2012, while also serving as the Vice-President and then President of the League’s Urban Alliance.

Nickels was born and raised in Manitowoc, earning his bachelor’s degree in history from Silver Lake College. In his free time, he enjoys officiating youth sports; football, cross country, track, and basketball – which he has been doing since he was 15 years old. As he would say “officiating and politics are one in the same – half the people like your call – half the people don’t... and in both instances, 90% of the people don’t know the rules.”

1st Vice President of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Maureen Murphy, Administrator, Mount Pleasant



Maureen Murphy serves as the Village of Mount Pleasant Administrator. She has more than 25 years of proven leadership experience having served as county administrator in Door County and village administrator in the Village of Slinger, assistant administrator in Mequon and a department head in Washington County and executive staff in Milwaukee County. As Mount Pleasant Village Administrator, Murphy manages the daily operations of the Village, including overseeing its 180 employees, \$31 million budget and the Foxconn project.

Murphy is an experienced leader who has been an active member of the League, sharing solutions and advocating for positive change, attending trainings and conferences as well as serving on the League’s Advocacy Team.



131 W. Wilson St., Suite 505
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
phone (608) 267-2380; (800) 991-5502
fax: (608) 267-0645
league@lwm-info.org; www.lwm-info.org

2nd Vice President of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Emily Berge, Council Member, Eau Claire



Emily Berge was first elected to the Eau Claire City Council in 2018. Berge has been an active member of the League since being on Council. In 2020, she was appointed to the League's statewide Board of Directors. Emily is committed to building relationships, whether it be between City Hall and her constituents, among neighbors in neighborhood associations, with area people and organizations or amidst municipalities across Wisconsin.

Emily earned her Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees from University of Wisconsin-Stout and currently works as a Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice.

###

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities advocates for Wisconsin's cities and villages, large and small, urban and rural, speaking up for local democracy and common-sense citizen led government. Learn more at <http://www.lwm-info.org/>