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## First-Class Virtual Convention Coming to You

The Michigan Municipal League's 2020 Convention is coming to you.

After thoughtful consideration, we sadly announce that the Michigan Municipal League's 2020 Convention that was planned for Mackinac Island Sept. 30–Oct. 2 will not be held as an in-person event. Instead, we are transforming Convention into a first-class virtual event, with general sessions, breakouts, an Expo, and networking opportunities.

This decision is made with a heavy heart, but is being done in keeping the health and safety of our members and League staff a top priority.

A variety of factors went into the decision, including attendee safety; uncertainty over the ever-evolving COVID-19 situation and related orders and guidelines for public gatherings; hotel capabilities of practicing social distancing while hosting upward of 600 attendees; inability of local officials to travel per state and local requirements; and budget cuts and furloughs being implemented in many of our members' communities making attending an in-person conference of this nature extremely difficult.

We will continue to serve our members actively and aggressively throughout the coming months, building on our work around COVID-19 issues, including relief to the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information acts, financial assistance, liquor licensing adjustments needed to reopen our downtowns, relief for Main Street businesses, and more. We are currently preparing more webinars and training events related to the coronavirus, as well as a series of trainings on race relations, racial injustice, and police brutality in response to the tragic death of George Floyd. We have a lot in store for the virtual Convention as well, and we'll bring you all the details in the coming weeks.

Thank you for all that you do in your communities and, above all else, stay healthy!

Brenda F. Moore President, Michigan Municipal League Board Mayor Pro Tem, Saginaw Dan Gilmartin CEO and Executive Director Michigan Municipal League

