

Mickey Wright, Mayor, Town of Torrey: Questionnaire for ULCT Board Nomination

1. Why do you want to serve as a Board member or Officer (2nd VP)?

Serving on the Board over the past two years has given me valuable insight into the operations of both local and state government. This experience has strengthened my ability to communicate with community leaders and residents about how and why state policies and legislation are developed. As the mayor of a national park gateway town, I bring the perspective of Utah's resort communities and can advocate for the unique concerns and challenges they face. I believe this voice is essential to the League's work, and I would be honored to continue representing these communities as a Board member.

2. What do you see as the biggest challenges (legislatively and generally) facing cities and the League and how do you want to be part of the solution?

One of the greatest challenges facing Utah's cities is managing growth—both from visitors drawn to our state's natural beauty and from new residents seeking the quality of life provided by our public lands and open spaces. This growth places significant strain on essential services such as water, fire, law enforcement, sanitation, and search and rescue—services that smaller towns and counties often struggle to fund adequately. In addition, growth is no longer limited to traditional gateway communities; it is expanding into areas unaccustomed to such pressures, creating tension between long-time residents and new arrivals with different expectations and lifestyles.

Addressing these challenges requires thoughtful leadership and collaboration. Through my service on the Board, I can bring the perspective of a gateway community, share experiences, and learn from others facing similar issues. By working together, we can find practical and sustainable solutions to support both our communities and the residents we serve.

3. What goals for the League would you like to initiate or support during your time on the Board?

My goal is to increase state leaders' awareness of the unique challenges faced by small towns and rural counties. These communities often confront growth-related demands that are costly and beyond their financial capacity to address. Yet current state and federal processes treat them the same as large municipalities with dedicated staff and resources to navigate complex grants and loan programs. Small towns often lack this expertise, which makes compliance burdensome and puts essential funding at risk. For example, the annual reporting requirements for ARPA grants would have been difficult without the League's support—many communities, including Torrey, may have lost critical funds.

I would like to continue supporting the Resort Communities Caucus in elevating these issues to state leadership. Personally, I am committed to strengthening my advocacy on behalf of resort towns and small communities in southern Utah, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are addressed.

4. What specific skillsets or interests do you have that you feel you can contribute to the League? (Note: ULCT appoints more than 70 city leaders to state boards and commissions as well)

I am a retired software engineer and co-founder of two computer and network security companies, Senforce and Panoptic, both of which were successfully acquired. My work at Panoptic focused on credit card security services using early forms of Artificial Intelligence, giving me valuable insight into how AI has evolved into today's large language and deep learning models that are reshaping our economy. I continue to volunteer at Capitol Reef National Park, providing computer system support to park employees.

At the local level, I actively advocate for expanding the use of state government services available through online platforms. In Wayne County, I participate in monthly Commissioner and Mayor meetings where we discuss how to better connect residents with these resources. In Bicknell and Torrey, I have led efforts to move forms processing—such as agenda requests, building permits, and other applications—onto town websites. This shift increases transparency, convenience, and citizen engagement. My technical background and willingness to assist have helped overcome hesitation about adopting new technologies, and I am eager to share this experience with other communities through the League.

5. There are designated seats on the board for the 8 geographic regions of the state as well as cities of the first and second class and towns. The remaining seats are at-large. How would you engage with your region (including with state and federal leaders) and/or city leaders around the state?

I actively participate in the monthly Wayne County Commissioners and Mayor meetings, led by our R6 AOG Local Administrative Assistant (LAA). These meetings provide a forum to exchange ideas, discuss local challenges and potential solutions, and learn about state resources available to municipalities. Congressional staff members also attend, which helps us stay informed about federal actions while giving us the opportunity to share local concerns directly with their offices.

Beyond Wayne County, R6 workshops and activities allow me to collaborate with leaders from other areas and learn how different communities are addressing similar issues. The League's Annual and Mid-Year Conferences further expand these connections, offering valuable opportunities to both learn from and build relationships with leaders across Utah.

In addition, Torrey's Economic Development Director, Nan Anderson, is working to arrange meetings with State Senator Owens and Representative Monsoon to discuss the unique challenges facing Torrey and Wayne County. Building and maintaining strong relationships with state leaders remains one of my highest priorities, and I would continue to strengthen those connections on behalf of my region through service on the Board.

6. Please describe you and/or your city's past and/or current participation within the League.

Before my election as mayor, Torrey was a League member but had only limited involvement. Since joining the Board, I have gained a much deeper understanding of the League's work and the valuable resources it provides for cities and towns. As a result, Torrey is now actively engaged—we participate in the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC), I regularly attend Board meetings, and I am involved in the Resort Communities Caucus.

Through this engagement, I continue to learn how the League advocates for municipalities across the state. Looking ahead, I want to expand my role by supporting the Board during legislative sessions and strengthening advocacy on behalf of rural and resort communities.

7. When does your term of office expire? Do you intend to seek re-election?

My term expires September 2025, and I am seeking reelection.

8. What else do you want the Nominations Committee to know about you and your city?

I have greatly valued my experience on the Board and would welcome the opportunity to continue serving. I am a passionate advocate for rural and resort towns and believe it is important that their unique perspectives and challenges are represented at the League.

My goal is to be a strong voice for these communities and to help identify practical solutions that support their

long-term sustainability and quality of life.