



# News Release



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Local Officials Pledge to Foster Respect Throughout Illinois

*Building Better Communities by Advocating for Civil Engagement*

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois Municipal League (IML) announced a Civility Pledge at its Spring Board of Directors meeting. The pledge seeks to restore civility in local governments, encourage productive dialogue and build public trust in all of Illinois' 1,295 cities, villages and towns.

A growing need for civility has become more relevant and significant at all levels of government, but especially at the local level. Residents and elected officials are often faced with challenging and complex issues that can spark strong emotions and create conflict. Adopting the pledge and putting civility at the forefront provides a foundation for effective community conversations.

The pledge reads, *“In the interest of civility, I pledge to promote civility by listening, being respectful of others, acknowledging that we are all striving to support and improve our community and understanding that we each may have different ideas for achieving that objective.”*

“Even in these times of political disagreement, we believe in finding common ground and engaging in civil discussions about community issues that are important to everyone,” said **IML President, Village President Catherine M. Adduci, Village of River Forest**. “The Civility Pledge is a reminder for all municipal officials and constituents to work together in the pursuit of understanding the points of view of others.”

“The Civility Pledge reminds local officials that they can listen to competing views and respect each other,” said **IML First Vice President, Mayor Mark T. Kupsky, City of Fairview Heights**. “If everyone is willing to follow the pledge, it will lead to a greater dialogue and the betterment of each of our communities.”

All officials in Illinois municipalities are encouraged to incorporate the Civility Pledge wherever possible throughout their respective communities. The pledge can be stated before meetings, signed by each member of the city council or posted at city hall to remind everyone of the value of civil behavior. More information and resources are provided at [iml.org/civility](http://iml.org/civility).

### ABOUT THE ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

The Illinois Municipal League is the statewide association representing local communities throughout Illinois. Founded in 1913, IML has worked continuously for the benefit of all 1,295 municipalities in Illinois to provide a formal voice on matters involving common interests.

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