

2015 Fiscal Conditions Survey

User ID:

Please complete the survey by December 10th!

Save time and postage by completing this survey online!

Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SOTC2015> & enter the User ID found on the top of this page.

1. Overall, would you say that your city is better or less able to...

- a. Meet financial needs in fiscal year 2014 than last year? *(check one)* Better Able Less Able
- b. Address its financial needs in the next fiscal year (2015) compared to this fiscal year? *(check one)* Better Able Less Able

2. Please indicate whether FY2013 revenue shortfalls in the following areas were less than 10% or greater than 10% as a percentage of funding expected from each revenue source:

Check one box for each item on the list below. Shortfall = actual receipts fell below predicted or budgeted receipts. Not all revenue sources are available to cities in all states—in this case, please mark “not authorized.”

	No Shortfall	Shortfall <10% of Expected	Shortfall >10% of Expected	Not Authorized in my City
a. Property tax revenues.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Fees, charges, license revenues.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Sales tax revenues.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Local income/commuter tax revenues.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Lodging, restaurant, amusement, other tourist-related taxes..	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. State revenues.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Federal revenues.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Please complete both Part A and Part B below.

Indicate in Part A whether there has been an increase, a decrease, or no change in an item between FY2013 and FY2014 for your city.

Indicate in Part B whether it had no impact, a moderate impact, or a major impact on your city’s overall FY2014 budget.

Select ONE response in Part A: Change for each item.

Select ONE response in Part B: Impact for each item.

	PART A: CHANGE				PART B: IMPACT		
	Increase	No Change	Decrease		No Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact
a. Value of city tax base...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to Part B ➡	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Service needs of new development.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to Part B ➡	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Amount of federal aid to city.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to Part B ➡	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Federal environmental mandates.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to Part B ➡	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Federal non-environ. mandates.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to Part B ➡	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. State environmental mandates.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go to Part B ➡	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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5. If you would like to clarify or explain any of your responses to questions 1-4, please use the space below.

The following sections address different topics on which the League is working to better serve member cities. Your responses will help the League develop a richer understanding of issues facing cities. Thank you in advance for taking the time to respond.

The first section addresses the topic of incivility.

6. Which strategies has your city employed to address incivility and/or foster civility? Please check all that apply.

- Publish rules for meetings (public comment section)
- Schedule events where council members and staff can get to know each other
- Schedule council work sessions
- Training for newly elected officials
- Adopt a code of ethics
- Adopt a behavior policy
- Bring in a mediator
- Other (please specify)

The next section relates to changes in the number of full-time equivalent employees (FTEs).

7. How many FTEs does your city have? _____

8. Has your city increased the size of the city workforce over the past year?

- No
- Yes

If YES, how many additional workers were hired

to fill new positions? _____

to fill vacant positions? _____

The next few questions relate to elements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

9. Please rate how prepared your city is for the “pay or play” provisions of the ACA.

- Very prepared
- Somewhat prepared
- Somewhat unprepared
- Very unprepared
- Don't know/not sure
- Not subject to “pay or play”

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10. What benefit (or other) changes, if any, have you made to eliminate/reduce potential penalties under the "pay or play" provisions? (e.g., restricting hours of part-time employees, extending benefits to additional employees, discontinuing group health benefits, etc.)

11. Will your city have to pay the Cadillac tax in 2018? The Cadillac tax is a 40% tax for employers imposed on the portion of the benefit cost (premiums, flex account contributions, etc.) above the federal limits.

- No
- Yes
- Don't know/not sure

12. Which of the following League resources on complying with the ACA have you used? Please check all that apply.

- Training
- Website
- Webcasts (linked from ACA web-page)
- Webinars
- Free ½ hour consultation with Gallagher Benefits
- Discounted retainer with Gallagher Benefits
- None

13. Briefly describe what is most challenging about the implementation of the ACA for your city.

The next few questions relate to performance reviews of chief appointed staff.

14. Do your elected officials conduct a periodic performance review with the chief appointed staff member?

- No
- Yes
- Don't know/not sure

If NO, please briefly explain why not.

If YES, which of the following best describes your level of satisfaction with the evaluation process or tool that you use?

- It is great – wouldn't change a thing
- It is alright – it does what we need it to do and nothing more
- It is inadequate – we need to make a change

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15. If the League were to develop a model performance evaluation tool for elected officials to use with chief appointed staff, how likely would your city be to use it?

- Very likely – that would be great
- Somewhat likely – we would take a look to see if it was better than what we have now
- Not at all likely – we are happy with what we have now to handle evaluations in our city

One of the League board's priorities is to increase the use of technology in different aspects of the League's work. The next few questions will help guide the League as it considers ways to better serve cities using technology.

16. Help the League prioritize its use of resources for new technology initiatives. Rate the following potential initiatives according to how useful each would be for your city using a scale from 1-5 with 1 being *not at all useful* and 5 being *very useful*.

	1 (Not at all useful)	2	3	4	5 (Very useful)
Additional online training courses available on demand	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Additional live webinar presentations delivered at a particular time	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Live two-way online training events with participants joining <u>individually</u> from their computers	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Live two-way online training events with participants joining <u>as a group</u> from a particular location	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Bite-sized "snack" learning broadcast at intervals to participants' computers and mobile devices	<input type="checkbox"/>				

17. Which, if any, of the following technology functions are areas where the League should develop new services for member cities? Please check all that apply.

- General consulting or network administration (e.g. software upgrades, hardware upgrades)
- Selecting software
- Selecting hardware/equipment
- Performing needs assessments
- Installing/using security systems
- Training staff on technology
- Implementing employee technology policies

18. Please briefly describe what difficulties or frustrations you have in using technology to meet the needs of residents in your community:

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- 19. Does your city have adequate Internet service in order to access the League's webinars?**
- No
 - Yes
 - Don't know/not sure

- 20. If your city has a comprehensive use plan/long-term plan, does it include issues related to high speed Internet/broadband?**
- No
 - Yes
 - Don't know/not sure
 - We don't have a comprehensive use/long-term plan

The final section of this survey relates to your experience using the 4M Investment Fund offered by the League.

- 21. Does your city use the 4M Fund?**
- No
 - Yes
 - Don't know/not sure

If YES, how satisfied are you with the 4M Fund?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

If NO, please indicate the reasons you do NOT use the 4M Fund. Please check all that apply.

- Don't know about it
- It is not appealing to us
- We prefer to support local banks
- Other (please specify)

If it is okay for LMC staff to follow-up/use your responses in talking to legislators please be sure to provide your contact info below:

Your name: _____ Title: _____

City: _____ Phone: () _____

Email: _____

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To complete this survey online, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SOTC2015>
Enter your user ID when prompted.

OR

Mail or fax your completed survey to:

Lena Gould
League of Minnesota Cities
145 University Ave W
Saint Paul MN 55013-2044
Fax: 651-215-4143

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.