

Texas Municipal League and Texas City Attorneys Association
“Legal Defense Program”

Guidelines for Amicus Curiae Support

The Texas Municipal League (TML) Constitution states that the purpose of the League is to "render services which individual cities have neither the time, money nor strength to do alone." The purpose of the Legal Defense Program is to advance and sustain the interests of Texas cities in accordance with the TML Constitution.

Through the Legal Defense Program in coordination with the Texas City Attorney's Association, the TML Legal Department submits amicus curiae ("friend of the court") briefs in state or federal appellate court on behalf of our member cities. The Legal Department receives numerous requests for assistance, and the following information serves as a guide for determining whether TML will employ its resources to provide amicus curiae support.

The Legal Department reviews requests that coincide with our member cities' interests and decides whether to provide amicus curiae support based on the following criteria:

1. Does the case have wide applicability to a broad range of cities of various sizes (both large and small) and in various parts of the state?
2. Does the case address a central municipal value, or is it only indirectly related to municipal government?
3. Is this case, when compared to others, important enough to be part of TML's list of priorities?
4. Is this case one that city officials, more than any other group, should and do care about?

If your case satisfies the above criteria, you are invited to submit a request for support. Cases presenting compelling, unsettled, or new issues of law are of special interest to TML. Requests should include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. legal issue to be resolved and how it relates to the above criteria;
2. summary of the facts;
3. background of the litigants or other parties;
4. summary of past and projected administrative and/or legal proceedings;
5. other sources of legal support; and
6. how TML's support will increase the probability of obtaining a favorable result and the basis for that conclusion.

The Legal Department's staff of four lawyers serves more than 1,050 member cities and upwards of 20,000 city officials. Thus, it is impossible to provide amicus support in every case.

Submit Your Request to:

Texas Municipal League, Legal Department
1821 Rutherford Lane, Suite 400
Austin, Texas 78755-5128

Contact us at:

Email: legal@tml.org
Phone: 512-231-7400
Fax: 512-231-7490