



Center for Local Government

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CLG Fall 2026 Newsletter



Corwin Dixon Bridge in Wayne Township

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Annual Meeting & Leadership Academy Graduation

The 2026 CLG Annual Meeting and Leadership Academy Graduation ceremony was held on Thursday, September 10, 2026 at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason, Ohio. Representatives from 33 CLG Member Governments were on hand to celebrate the graduation of the 25 most recent participants in CLG's Leadership Academy program. This program exposes local government staff to six courses designed to give them the skills necessary to thrive in their careers in service to the public.

We are grateful to our partners at the Miami Valley Risk Management Association (MVRMA) for their continued support, as well as to the Seasongood Foundation and the Duke Energy Foundation for their generous contributions.

Congratulations to all of the recent alumni of the program. Next year's Leadership Academy application will be available in late January, so keep an eye out!





Drew Tilow
Executive Director
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NOW HIRING
Program Coordinator



Jodi Puterbaugh
Member Relations
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About Our Organization

The Center for Local Government (CLG) located in Cincinnati, OHIO is a unique non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation, created in 1990 as a clearinghouse for inter governmental collaboration, training and information sharing.

Board of Trustees

Mike Thonnerieux, Washington Township (President)
Jim Lukas, Sharonville (Vice President)
Vicky Earhart, Anderson Township (Secretary/Treasurer)
Noah Powers, Norwood
John Lewis, Liberty Township

**"Effective Government
Through Collaboration."**

New Faces in New Places

The Center for Local Government said goodbye to our Assistant Director, Ziah Huett in September. Ziah moved on to a role in Economic Development at Kroger. We are proud of all the great work he did at CLG and wish him the best in his new position.

We are hiring for a new Program Coordinator!

This part-time position will help CLG to coordinate all of the great programs that we offer to our Members, including the CLG Benefits Pool, SWORRE, JUFS, and many others. You can find the [position description](#) on the Job Postings page on our website to learn more about this position.

We are also proud to announce that our newly redesigned [Membership Directory](#) is live now. With over 70 member governments and 560 employees, CLG's new and improved membership directory streamlines the search process, making it easier and [faster to find what our](#) members are looking for. If you'd like to visit the directory, please reach out to Drew Tilow (DTillow@C4LG.org) for your jurisdiction's login credentials.

Information & Resource Sharing

CLG presented its 2026 Annual Report at the Annual Meeting in September. This report gives examples of the programs we provide to our members and the impact that those programs have on those communities. Our training programs, such as Leadership Academy, are helping to train the staff that serves the public and each other. The information sharing systems we have in place provide the data that our members rely on to make decisions and benchmark their performance. For example, the Pay Database and Spot Surveys are crucial tools in the toolbox of local government administrators to ensure that they are providing the appropriate services to their staff and residents. The shared service programs we manage are making our member governments work more efficiently. The CLG Benefits Pool saw a 0% increase in premiums for its members this plan year and we are looking forward to renewing our commitment to the solid waste consortium, SWORRE, in 2027.

In addition, CLG will continue conducting Pay Data requests during the latter half of 2026. These requests help us gather compensation information across a wide variety of positions, as more than 1,850 are currently included in our database, with the potential to add more as member needs evolve. Please also be on the lookout for another CAO Pay Data request from CLG in October 2026, which will complete our data requests for the year.

If you review your jurisdiction's information and notice any issues or updates that need to be made, please contact Drew Tilow (DTilow@C4LG.org).

CLG 2026 Annual Report



CLG Data Center 2025

Pay Data

Click here to request a Pay Data report from CLG Staff

Access Pay Data

Department	Position	Pay Rate	Pay Grade	Pay Step	Pay Band	Pay Range
Administration	Administrative Clerk	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Administration	Secretary I	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Public Works	Service Maintenance Worker I	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Public Works	Service Maintenance Worker II	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Public Works	Service Maintenance Worker III	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Administration	Administrative Clerk	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Administration	Clerk of Council or Board	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Administration	Council Member	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Public Works	Street Sweeper/Street Worker II	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Police	Detention	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Fire/Police	Dispatcher	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Fire/Police	Dispatcher	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Administration	Executive Assistant/Secretary II	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Finance	Finance Director	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Fire	Fire Chief	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00
Fire	Fire Lieutenant	\$17.00	1	1	1	\$17.00

Welcome to the Annual Survey

Enter your User ID and password to login. These credentials were emailed to you and are different than your personal or business email address.

Email

Password

☐ Remember me

[Forgot password?](#)

Submit



Investment Insights

Yield of Dreams: Making Rising Rates Work for Public Funds

By Joe Violand, RedTree Investment Group

With the MLB playoffs underway, the pressure is rising—and every decision matters. Public finance officials face a similar challenge as interest rates climb: when to take advantage of an opportunity, when to stay patient, and how to keep the fundamentals intact. Higher yields can boost investment income, but chasing every attractive rate is like swinging at every pitch. Making rising rates work for public funds takes a disciplined game plan: protect principal, maintain liquidity, and put available dollars to work when the opportunity fits.

The playing field has changed

The 2-year U.S. Treasury yield provides a clear illustration of how quickly investment opportunities can change. The 2-year U.S. Treasury yield rose from 4.05% in early June to 4.90% by the end of September. That is an increase of 85 basis points, or 0.85 percentage points, since the beginning of summer.

For public entities with cash available to invest, higher yields create opportunities to increase earnings. For portfolios holding securities purchased at lower rates, however, the same movement can produce declining market values. Managing both effects requires looking beyond the yield on the next purchase.

Watch the scoreboard—and understand what it means

Bond prices and yields generally move in opposite directions. When market yields rise, existing fixed-rate bonds become less attractive relative to new investments, and their prices fall. Securities with more time until maturity generally experience larger price movements than those with less time to maturity.

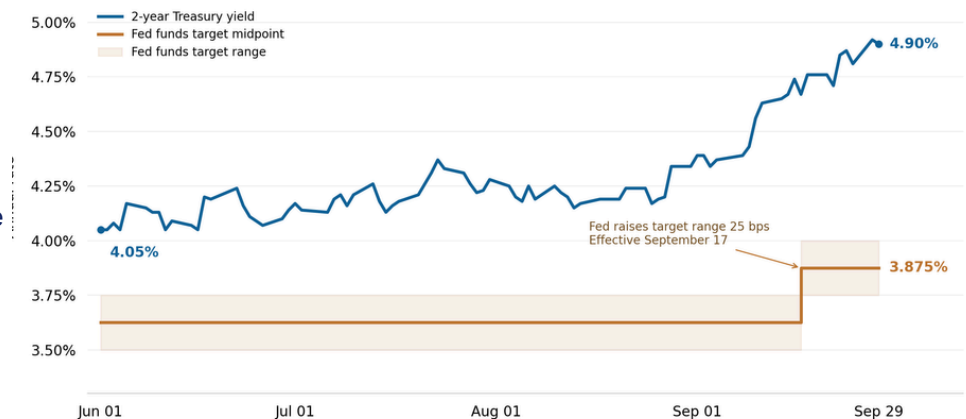
A market value decline does not automatically mean the issuer is less likely to repay the investment. For a conventional bond, contractual interest and principal payments remain due, assuming the issuer meets its obligations. But if the entity sells before maturity, the amount received depends on the market price at that time. This is where market values become especially relevant to portfolio liquidity. A security may be readily saleable while still producing less cash than its purchase price or face value. The ability to sell and the ability to recover a particular dollar amount are separate considerations.

Keep cash needs at the top of the lineup

The best defense against an untimely sale is a reliable cash flow forecast. Identify expected receipts, payroll, debt service, project payments, and other significant expenditures. Update projections as schedules change and maintain a cushion for uncertainty. GFOA best practices recommends ongoing cash forecasting to ensure sufficient liquidity and limit idle cash.

Rising Yields, a Smaller Fed Move

June 1–September 29, 2026 | 2-year Treasury: +85 bps • Fed target: +25 bps



Sources: U.S. Treasury; Federal Reserve.
Fed line shows the target range midpoint, not the effective federal funds rate. Shading shows the target range.



Investment Insights-Continued

Separate funds needed for near-term operations from reserves that can remain invested longer. Match scheduled maturities to anticipated expenditures wherever practical.

Also test less favorable scenarios. What happens if tax receipts arrive late, a grant reimbursement is delayed, or a construction payment comes due early? Evaluate whether accessible cash and upcoming maturities could cover those needs without selling securities at depressed prices.

Build a deep bench of maturities

A maturity ladder spreads investment maturities over time, providing recurring access to principal. Those proceeds can fund expenses or be reinvested as opportunities change. GFOA best practices identifies distributing maturities and maintaining liquid investments as ways to manage portfolio market risk.

Shorter maturities can provide flexibility during rising rates, but keeping everything overnight has tradeoffs. If short-term rates decline, income on those balances can fall quickly. A thoughtful mix of operating liquidity and longer-term investments can balance immediate access with income predictability.

The appropriate mix depends on cash needs, legal limits, investment policy, and tolerance for market value changes.

Be selective at the plate

Higher rates do not make every investment a good fit. Compare opportunities with similar maturities, credit quality, liquidity, and structural features. Some considerations could be fees, transaction costs, and call provisions.

Avoid extending maturities or accepting unfamiliar risks simply to capture a higher quoted yield. Confirm that investments comply with applicable law and policy. For bond proceeds, account for spending schedules, bond documents, and federal tax requirements.

Likewise, selling a lower-yielding holding to purchase a higher-yielding replacement requires evaluating the entire transaction. The additional income should be weighed against any realized loss, costs, and change in risk.

Play for the full season

No one can reliably identify the peak in rates in advance. Staged purchases, regular portfolio reviews, and clear reporting help keep decisions grounded in your entity's needs.

Explain both investment earnings and market value changes to governing officials, including their implications for available cash. A winning public funds strategy combines opportunity with preparation: maintain liquidity, align maturities with obligations, and take the pitches that fit the game plan.



Interesting Facts: We Want to Hear From You!

Does your jurisdiction have an interesting history? We would love to feature some of your stories in upcoming editions of this newsletter. Please send your stories to Jodi Puterbaugh (JPuterbaugh@C4LG.org)



Ohio Goldenrods attract
pollinators

"Solidago ohioensis 5499399"
by Rob Routledge, Sault
College, Bugwood.org is

Guest Article - from Centerville-Washington Park Dist

Pollinators Strike Gold(enrod)

For a lot of gardeners, the definition of a weed — any plant that grows where it's not wanted — applies perfectly to goldenrods. After all, goldenrods disperse widely, grow readily, and look rather unruly, especially after flowering season. On the other hand, goldenrods are such a rich source of pollen and nectar in late-season meadows that they also fit the definition of a keystone species — that is, an organism that plays a critical role in shaping its ecosystem. For late summer/early fall wildlife, there's gold in them thar meadows!

Ohio is home to something like two dozen species of native goldenrods. All are placed in the genus *Solidago* within the family Asteraceae, alongside sunflowers, daisies, asters, and many other wildflowers. Some goldenrods occupy restricted ranges or grow in relatively secluded or specialized habitats. But several species are widespread and provide the glowing yellow hue of Ohio's late-season meadows and woods edges.

The conformation of goldenrod plants varies. Two common local species — Canada goldenrod (*S. canadensis*) and tall goldenrod (*S. altissima*) — have flowers held on feathery, droopy plumes — "a geyser of little gold daisies," in the words of Robin Kimmerer. In contrast, flowering heads of stiff-leaved goldenrod (*S. rigida*) form a platform, while others, like broad-leaf goldenrod (*S. flexicaulis*), blossom on upright spikes. To some extent, that conformation influences the variety of insect visitors. Many larger butterflies and wasps, for example, tend to prefer the more robust platforms over the droopier plumes. On the other hand, monarchs, which visit goldenrods to help fuel their southward migration, commonly hang from the plumed varieties.

Goldenrods produce a large number of flowers, each offering a combination of nectar (sugar water, a great source of calories) and pollen (full of fats and protein). Those nutrients attract a diverse insect community. One citizen science project in Pennsylvania, documented on [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org), identified about 175 species of insects visiting goldenrods. Some of those are generalists that visit a wide diversity of flowers, but others specialize. Locust borer beetles — ornate yellow and black beetles with maroon legs and long black antennae — fall in that latter group. Their larvae feed under the bark of locust trees, but the adult beetles emerge just in time to seek out goldenrod pollen. Likewise, something like 40 species of bees, including several that occur locally, specialize in visiting goldenrods.

It is not uncommon for several species of goldenrods to occupy the same meadow, but a single species may come to dominate. Canada goldenrod, for example, grows tall and dense; it can shade out both other goldenrod species and fall-blooming asters, which are relegated to blooming at the edges where light is more available. In Europe, Canada goldenrod has been introduced and is considered invasive, as its dense growth can crowd out other native plants. Goldenrods deal with highly variable environments. Many goldenrod species thrive in disturbed habitat, which can become available at any time. As late-season bloomers in north temperate climate zones like ours, they also deal with variable weather that can affect availability of pollinators. As a result, goldenrods are thought to benefit from genetic variability, and even within a single species there can be substantial variation in traits like growth rate, the timing and extent of flowering, and the production of chemical defenses. A study in Minnesota documented that early-blooming genotypes of tall goldenrod attracted more pollinators, but later-blooming versions might be able to take advantage of additional disturbance events and insect visitors.

J. R. R. Tolkien, in a play on the famous Shakespeare quote, wrote that "all that is gold does not glitter." His meaning — that an object's true value might not be immediately obvious — could well be applied to goldenrods. Goldenrods are denigrated as weeds, and they are often blamed, undeservedly, for triggering fall allergies (blame Walt Disney and Sneezzy for that one!). Really, though, goldenrods are both beautiful and vital to the late season ecosystem. Worth their weight in pollen, one might say!

Article contributed by Dr. David L. Goldstein, Emeritus Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Wright State University.



News Bits

Knack Tutorial Videos

Ziah Huett created some excellent educational videos to help our Members better navigate the Knack platform, which houses our many Information Sharing databases, as well as the Membership Directory.

[Click here for the Membership Directory video](#)
[Click here for the Data Center video](#)

CLG Board Vacancy

Due to the upcoming retirement of long-time CLG Board member Vicky Earhart from her role as Township Administrator of Anderson Township, CLG is searching for a new board member.

Information on the vacancy was sent to Members via email following the Annual Meeting, but please reach out to Drew Tilow (DTilow@C4LG.org) with any questions.

Pay Data Request

Our pay data has become an increasingly valuable resource for our members, and we are committed to keeping it current and accurate through your continued participation and timely updates.

Please make sure you respond to those requests when you receive them.

Upcoming Events

Free Online Training Courses: Ohio Ethics and Certified Public Records Training.

Free Online Training from MVCC's On Demand Training: 10 Minute Leadership Training

Xavier University Leadership Center, CLG members are eligible to receive discounted tuition for the Public Sector Leadership Certificate (PSLC). Please click here to see flyer with more information and please contact Michelle Debevec if you have questions or would like more information.

Human Resources Luncheon - Workplace Investigations & Employee Relations, October 15th, 11 AM – 1 PM, West Chester Township Administration Building (9113 Cincinnati Dayton Road, Cincinnati, 45069)

Administrative Professionals Luncheon - Practical AI for Ohio Local Governments, October 22nd, 11 AM – 1 PM, Terwilliger Lodge (10530 Deerfield Road, Montgomery, OH 45242)

Payroll Administrators Forum, November 12th, 10 AM – 11:30 AM, ArtsConnect Center (9158 Winton Road, Springfield Township, OH 45231)

Save the Date: CAMA November Luncheon, November 20th, details TBA

Save the Date: CAMA/DAMA Joint Luncheon, December 10th, 11:30 AM - 1 PM, Heatherwood Golf Course (88 Heatherwoode Blvd, Springboro, OH 45066)