

PREFACE

In 1997 the Center for Governmental Training & Technology (CGT) in the Mississippi State University Extension Service (MSU-ES) published *Municipal Government in Mississippi: A Handbook for City Officials*. This handbook was the successor to four earlier editions, all now out-of-print. The 1997 edition of the handbook was not a revision of the earlier publications. The extensive changes in municipal law and practice which occurred during the 1990's necessitated a new handbook.

The present publication is a revised and expanded version of the 1997 handbook. Given the acceptance and use of the 1997 publication by the general public, various professionals who work or consult with municipalities, educators from the high school through the college and university levels, and elected and appointed state officials, as well as municipal officials, the title of the 2001 edition has been changed to *Municipal Government in Mississippi, 2nd Edition, Revised and Expanded* to reflect its audience.

This book is one of the several publications in the Local Government Series published by the CGT. A complete listing of the publications in the series and other CGT publications is found on the inside back cover.

Writing this publication was a collaborative effort of nineteen individuals – all knowledgeable about municipal government and all expert in their professions. Brief biographies of the contributing authors are found starting on page vii. The efforts of these individuals in making this book possible and their daily contributions to improving the operation of local government in Mississippi are to be commended.

In addition, we would like to thank three individuals – two former staff members and the other a current staff member, in the CGT for contributions to the book. MM. R. David Crowder, Jr., Michael D. Garriga, and Terrence A. James provided research and editorial assistance and also helped in the production and distribution of the book.

A special word of thanks is due a number of individuals in the Support Services unit of the MSU-ES. Going above and beyond what is specified in their job descriptions, as they always do, were Support Services Officer Peggy Branch; Print Manager Sid Fondren and Winston Moucha, “Charlie” Lindsey, Vanessa Bush, and Kathleen Jones of the printing staff; and Chris Sowers, Inventory Clerk. Without their team effort in the areas of production and distribution, this publication would not have been possible.

Finally, appreciation is due Dr. Joe H. McGilberry, MSU-ES Interim Director. Understanding the importance of municipalities to the continued development of the state and to the well-being of the citizenry, he supported this project in word and in deed.

In editing this book, we have chosen to employ the masculine pronoun in its traditional universal use to denote both the masculine and feminine gender. Using the masculine gender is less cumbersome than using other alternatives such as “he/she,” “he and/or she,” or “s/he.”

Responsibility for the final draft of the book, including any errors or shortcomings, falls to the editors. Readers of this publication who discover errors or who have suggestions for improvement are asked to communicate with the editors so that changes can be made when the book is next revised.

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P. C. (Mac) McLaurin, Jr., Leader and Extension
Professor of Local Government

Michael T. Allen, Extension Instructor and Govern-
mental Training Specialist

Center for Governmental Training & Technology
Mississippi State University Extension Service