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June 27, 2018  
For immediate release

## **Sen. Cowles & Rep. Steffen Honored as League Legislative Champions**

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Ashwaubenon – The League of Wisconsin Municipalities awarded Sen. Rob Cowles and Rep. David Steffen the League’s Municipal Champion award at last night’s meeting of the Ashwaubenon Village Board. The League’s Deputy Director, Curt Witynski joined Village President Mary Kardoskee in presenting both Legislators with plaques in honor of their strong support for Wisconsin’s municipalities and local control.

Both Municipal Champions were highlighted in June’s *The Municipality* magazine:

Senator Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay) has throughout his long tenure in the Senate consistently supported municipalities and opposed efforts to infringe on local control and municipal home rule powers. This session, Sen. Cowles authored and guided through the legislative process Act 137, the “Get the Lead Out Act,” allowing municipalities and their water utilities to create financial assistance programs for helping home owners replace private lead water service pipes. He also was the Senate lead author of Act 167, exempting from the competitive bidding process any improvements constructed by a private person and donated to the city or village.

Rep. David Steffen (R-Howard) is a former trustee for the Village of Howard. This was his second term in the Legislature and as in his first, he unfailingly supported League bills and opposed bills limiting municipal authority. Rep. Steffen was a particularly strong and vocal supporter of the dark store and Walgreens reversal bills, which the League initiated. He participated in our Dark Store Day news conference in Ashwaubenon. As chair of the Local Taxation and Funding subcommittee of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee he reached out to the League and other local government associations and welcomed our ideas and proposals for improving the state local financial relationship.

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities advocates for Wisconsin’s cities and villages, provides legal services to members, as well as training and networking opportunities. Established in 1898 for purposes of advocacy, the League continues that strong legacy.

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