

a5 Branding & Digital

Gold Level

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a5 Branding & Digital

a5 Branding & Digital is a Chicago-based design-driven communications and marketing agency dedicated to creating healthy, sustainable communities. We partner with communities, municipalities and organizations to craft and share stories that attract residents, boost economic development and grow tourism.

What We Do

From branding to social media to video production, we help drive transformational change through inspiring design and storytelling:

- Community Branding, Corridor and Business District Branding
- Destination/Tourism Marketing
- Economic Development Marketing
- Integrated Communications Campaigns
- Outsourced Communications, including PR, crisis communications & content development

Let's Build Community Together

At a5, we deliver comprehensive strategic branding and marketing solutions that strengthen civic pride, enhance economic development and promote tourism.

Your community has a story. Let a5 Branding & Digital help you tell it in a way that drives connection and change.



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Ansay & Associates

Ansay & Associates has been building insurance relationships for over 70 years. In that time Ansay has worked its way up to being rated among the top 100 Agencies in the country.

The Ansay model is based on service and knowledge. We are more than brokers, we are insurance/ risk management advisors who are part of your team and community. Small to midsize communities are asked to provide more services with shrinking budgets. That

is why we work hard to be an extension of your team, not just a vendor.



Avila Technologies

Gold Level

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Avila is an AI powered platform that helps cities discover, understand, and win government grants. Our tools match your priorities with the right grants, simplify complex NOFOs, and automate research and proposal writing so teams can move faster with greater accuracy. Municipal teams use Avila to cut research time, improve win rates, and unlock new funding opportunities.



Baird

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Baird was founded in Milwaukee more than a century ago and has grown into a full-service, employee-owned financial firm dedicated to supporting both private and public-sector clients. In Wisconsin, our team partners with cities, counties, and special districts to provide tailored services — including debt structuring, credit-rating strategy, lease and financing options, TID consulting, financial assessments, and capital improvement planning. With deep expertise, independence and an unwavering commitment to our communities, Baird stands ready to help local governments navigate today's financial complexities and strengthen tomorrow's opportunities.



Baker Tilly

Platinum Level

Joshua Davis

Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC (BTMA) is one of the largest municipal advisory practices in the U.S. with more than 80 registered Municipal Advisors. Their dedicated team of Value Architects™ works with public sector

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entities to help improve operations and resolve financial issues to enhance the quality of life for communities. BTMA specializes in serving cities, towns, villages, municipalities, townships, counties, authorities, utilities, public school districts and libraries, as well as economic development organizations, higher education institutions, not-for-profits, healthcare entities and power and water districts, often partnering with its parent entity, Baker Tilly US, LLP, a certified public accounting firm, to solve problems, create opportunities and meet clients' accounting, capital planning and public finance needs.



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Bauman Associates

Bauman Associates, Ltd. is a well-established regional public accounting firm that has been delivering comprehensive services, including attest, accounting, tax, and outsourcing solutions, to our valued clients since 1947.

Our firm is committed to creating life-long relationships to assist each client in achieving their goals. Embracing a teamwork approach, we respond to our clients in a timely manner, offering insights into best practices within their industry. Bauman Associates stands out as a truly unique accounting firm.

For over 70 years, Bauman Associates has specialized in collaborating with municipalities. We offer these entities comprehensive consulting and assistance, addressing a diverse range of operational, audit, and accounting needs.



Baxter & Woodman

Founded in 1946, Baxter & Woodman, Inc. provides consulting engineering and technology

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services to municipalities, state agencies, county governments, and sanitary districts throughout Wisconsin, Illinois, Florida, and Texas. Clients receive planning, design, construction, and operation/maintenance services for a variety of projects including transportation, wastewater, water, stormwater, GIS, operations, IT consulting and SCADA technology, and general municipal public works.



BOLTON & MENK

Real People. Real Solutions.

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Bolton & Menk

Bolton & Menk, Inc. specializes in providing community infrastructure solutions. Since 1949, we have been committed to improving quality of life through engineering excellence and client satisfaction. From advocating for our communities to designing their dreams to finding funding; we take pride in our work because we live in these same communities. Today, Bolton & Menk has more than 1,000 employees throughout more than 35 locations in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Colorado, North Carolina, and South Carolina providing services to more than 400 communities and agencies.



Platinum Level

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Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Co.

Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Company (CVMIC) is a member-owned municipal insurer uniquely equipped to provide comprehensive insurance, unparalleled training and service, and specialized programs, to meet your HR and safety challenges. We invite you to experience the CVMIC Difference.

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Ehlers

A pioneer in municipal advisory services since 1955, Ehlers helps clients build strong, vibrant, and sustainable communities by delivering independent, integrated advice across all areas of public finance. We work with more than 1,500 local governments, schools, and public agencies across five states, placing our clients' needs and best interests at the center of everything we do. Our services include:

- Financial Management Planning
- Economic Development & Redevelopment
- Debt Planning & Issuance
- Investments & Treasury Management
- Arbitrage Consulting
- Continuing Disclosures
- Paying Agent Services



FGM Architects

FGM is a professional service firm with an emphasis on service. Our projects respond to the goals of our clients, the context of their sites, the

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environment that sustains them, and the communities they serve.

We practice architecture, interior design, and landscape architecture.

Our projects touch all aspects of community life—learning, working, protecting, and playing. Learning takes place in our education projects, from elementary schools through high schools to colleges and universities. Working takes place in our public administration facilities and in our spaces for private sector corporations. Protecting is the main purpose of our police and fire stations. And playing occurs in our recreation centers and gymnasiums.

Our portfolio of projects has earned the firm significant recognition. We are particularly proud of the awards from client organizations, as they speak of our commitment to realizing their goals. FGM has also been honored with the Illinois Chapter of the American Institute of Architect's Distinguished Firm Award, recognizing our contributions to communities across the state and to our profession.



Gold Level

Huntington

Huntington Bancshares Incorporated is a \$204 billion asset regional bank holding company headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. Founded in 1866, The Huntington National Bank and its affiliates provide consumers, small and middle-market businesses, corporations, municipalities, and other organizations with a comprehensive suite of banking, payments, wealth management, and risk management products and services. Huntington operates approximately 978 branches in 12 states, with certain businesses operating in extended geographies.

Innovative Public Advisors

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Innovative Public Advisors

Innovative Public Advisors (IPA) is a leading public sector executive recruitment and strategy firm dedicated to empowering municipalities with tailored solutions that enhance leadership, optimize operations, and drive positive community impact. Founded by experienced municipal professionals Jay Shambeau, ICMA-CM, MPA, and Jess Wildes, MPA, IPA offers a wide range of services including executive recruitment, communications strategy, referendum information campaigns, governance training, grant writing, and strategic plan development.

With a focus on delivering innovative, sustainable solutions, IPA is committed to helping local governments navigate complex challenges and strengthen their capacity to serve their communities effectively.

Just Appraised

Silver Level

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Just Appraised

Modern software for the public sector, powered by AI and purpose-built for local government.

Our tools are purpose-built for public agencies. Rather than relying on generic solutions, we use modern AI and design practices to build intuitive, reliable software for government users. Our platform helps assessors process deeds in seconds, manage complex valuations and tax appeals, communicate more efficiently with taxpayers, and deliver better digital experiences for government workers and the community. We've since expanded to help County Clerks and other government agencies streamline their workflows using the same AI and automation tools.

Our team includes engineers, product specialists, and public sector experts

dedicated to building technology that works in the real world of government. Every product is shaped in close partnership with our customers. We're proud to support counties of all sizes—from small rural offices to many of the nation's largest.



Gold Level

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Kapur

Kapur is a full-service consulting engineering firm providing roadway design, capital improvement planning, water/storm/sanitary sewer design, survey, construction inspection and management, grant writing, along with creating and managing TIF districts. Our corporate headquarters is in Milwaukee, with branch offices across the Midwest. Over the last 40 years Kapur has steadily grown to over 350 professionals providing services to municipalities, DOT's, power companies, developers, railroads, school districts and water and sewer districts.



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KerberRose

KerberRose is a certified public accounting firm specializing in accounting, advisory, audit, business strategy and human resources consulting, payroll, retirement plans & benefits, tax, technology, and wealth management services. In 2021 KerberRose was listed on Inside Public Accounting's Top 200 Firms. With more than 190 professional staff members locally serving greater Wisconsin and the U.P., KerberRose is a trusted advisor, combining the expertise of a leading regional firm with the convenience, familiarity and passion of a local provider. Visit kerberrose.com to learn more.



League Insurance

When comparing insurance policies, are you taking coverage, claims experience and policy services into account? League Mutual Insurance is owned by its policyholders – cities, villages, and special districts in Wisconsin. Stable pricing, dividend programs and municipal expertise for over 500 members. Municipalities are our only members.

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McMahon

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McMahon is a full-service engineering, architecture and consulting firm. We provide comprehensive services to our clients, focusing on their unique needs and offering cost-effective solutions. Our team is made up of civil engineers, transportation engineers, environmental experts, water resource managers, architects, structural engineers and electricians. We have expertise in food and beverage processing, GIS/geospatial technologies, land surveying and construction management as well as public safety and emergency management consultation services. Our staff also provides grant writing services to facilitate funding opportunities. Our goal is to deliver results that will last for years to come.



MGT

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MGT is a national technology and advisory solutions leader serving state, local government, education (SLED) and targeted commercial clients. Our specialized solutions address the most mission critical issues that live at the top of our clients' leadership agenda—from network infrastructure, cybersecurity, and technology managed services to human capital, operations, and financial solutions. As trusted advisors to our clients, through research and data, we identify a problem's root cause, co-create solutions, and implement lasting change. Our strategic approach helps clients build resilience, implement systematic change and strengthen their foundations, now and for the future. At MGT, we are committed to impacting communities for good.



MSA Professional Services

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MSA is a 100% employee-owned team of engineers, architects, planners, funding experts, surveyors, GIS experts and environmental scientists. Partnering with us means receiving more than just an end product. It means a commitment to building an honest, open relationship that goes beyond the project, providing a trusted source of expertise and support for immediate challenges and long-term goals. Our Wisconsin offices include Appleton, Baraboo, Beaver Dam, Kiel, Madison, Marshfield, Milwaukee, Rhinelander, Rice Lake and West Bend.



Municipal Property Insurance Co.

Gold Level

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MPIC provides premium property insurance products that are tailored to specifically address the needs and exposures of Wisconsin Municipalities. Our coverages include Comprehensive property for buildings, personal property (contents) and Property In The Open (PITO). We also offer coverages for specialized exposures such as; Contractors Equipment, Equipment Breakdown, Fine Arts, Pedestrian Bridges, Builders Risk, Piers and Wharfs as well as numerous others.

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
**Department of
Public Administration**
School of Public and Global Affairs

Silver Level

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Northern Illinois University Department of Public Administration

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for all in local communities by strengthening professional and ethical public and nonprofit management through our teaching, scholarship and community engagement. As part of the School of Public and Global Affairs (SPGA), we offer graduate courses in public administration to enhance the knowledge, skills and leadership capacity of individuals pursuing public service careers.

Top-ranked Flexible Programs

The NIU Master of Public Administration program is an excellent choice if you are looking to advance your career in the field of public administration. Our M.P.A. degree program outranks all other public and private institutions in Illinois, as well as many other schools nationwide, according to U.S. News & World Report:

3rd in the nation for Local Government Management
14th in Public Finance and Budgeting
49th in overall public affairs by U.S. News & World Report

We also offer our M.P.A. degree online, making it convenient to access our outstanding curriculum. With our flexibility and excellent reputation, it comes as no surprise that one-third of all city and county managers in Illinois are alumni of our program.



PMA[®]
Part of PTMA Financial Solutions

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Josh Barbian

PMA

PMA is a family of financial services companies providing financial advisory and investment services that help municipalities, counties, school districts, and other units of local government build stronger finances. PMA's financial advisory practice includes long-term financial planning, debt transaction management, post-issuance compliance, and economic development services. On the investment side, PMA offers a variety of services and

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investment solutions to best fit our clients' needs including liquid pools such as the Wisconsin Investment Series Cooperative (WISC), cash flow and bond proceeds management, brokerage, and separately managed accounts. With comprehensive financial services and a relentless dedication to your best interests, PMA is your trusted financial partner.

polimorphic

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Polimorphic

MPIC provides premium property insurance products that are tailored to specifically address the needs and exposures of Wisconsin Municipalities. Our coverages include Comprehensive property for buildings, personal property (contents) and Property In The Open (PITO). We also offer coverages for specialized exposures such as; Contractors Equipment, Equipment Breakdown, Fine Arts, Pedestrian Bridges, Builders Risk, Piers and Wharfs as well as numerous others.

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Quarles

Quarles is a multidisciplinary AmLaw 200 legal services provider with 500 attorneys practicing in 13 offices across the country. Quarles is a nationally recognized bond counsel firm and one of the leading bond counsel firms in the Midwest. In 2024, the firm ranked 1st in Wisconsin as bond counsel in terms of number of issues and principal amount, as reported and tabulated by The Bond Buyer. The latest ranking marked the 17th time in 18 years that the firm topped the list of leading public finance legal practices in state rankings and placed in the top 10 in the Midwest region. Quarles has also historically ranked near the top nationally in annual surveys with respect to the number of transactions for which it has rendered approving bond counsel opinions.

The Public Finance Team at Quarles serves as bond counsel, underwriter's counsel, disclosure counsel, and

tax counsel, offering a full range of legal services in the municipal and public finance area. Our clients include municipalities and government agencies, major national and multinational corporations, healthcare, educational, and research institutions. Quarles has the experience, resources, and coverage to serve our clients in nearly every aspect of business law.



CREATIVITY BEYOND ENGINEERING

Gold Level

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raSmith

raSmith is a multi-disciplinary municipal consultant established in Brookfield, Wisconsin in 1978. Our services include civil engineering, structural engineering, municipal engineering, transportation, traffic, surveying, ecological (wetland delineation and permitting), landscape architecture, LiDAR (3D laser scanning), UAS (unmanned aircraft systems), construction services, and GIS. We have offices in Wisconsin (Brookfield, Milwaukee, Madison, Cedarburg and Appleton) as well as Naperville, Illinois, and Irvine, California.



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Retirement Plan Advisors

Retirement Plan Advisors (RPA) was established in 2000 to provide retirement plan investment consulting, employee financial education, and fiduciary services to public sector employers and their employees. As an independent registered investment adviser not associated with any product provider or asset manager, we always operate in the best interest of your retirement program and its participants. We proudly serve over 570 plans with over \$6 billion in plan assets. You don't need more work. You need RPA.



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Ruekert Mielke

Ruekert & Mielke, Inc. (R/M) is a 100% employee-owned civil engineering firm with more than 75 years of service to local communities and organizations. Our engineers, environmental specialists, agricultural experts, and

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samsara

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technology consultants empower our clients to thrive by solving infrastructure challenges.

With the help of our cutting-edge, proprietary technology, our experts take an innovative approach to addressing our clients' specific infrastructure and asset management needs. Through blending experience, vision, and technology, R/M serves as your infrastructure ally to deliver successful, lasting infrastructure strategies.

Samsara

Samsara is the pioneer of the Connected Operations Cloud, which allows public sector organizations to manage physical operations, improve efficiency, and enhance safety across fleets, equipment, and sites. Samsara's suite of AI-powered solutions helps government agencies improve road safety, enhance driver retention, and simplify regulatory compliance.



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Upper 90 Energy

Centrix Partners is a national, privately-held design-build-finance specialty contractor, bond management, and turnkey facilities consultancy firm. We focus on outcomes and hold ourselves accountable to your priorities.

With more than 150 combined years in engineering, construction, finance, energy efficiency, and program management, we leverage our national expertise and network to deliver the right project outcome for you.



Gold Level

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VC3

VC3 is a managed IT and cybersecurity services provider serving municipalities, financial services organizations, and businesses throughout North America. Organizations come to us for technology solutions that build bridges, not barriers, and to get the expertise they need to manage cyber risks and IT infrastructure. Over 1,100 municipalities and 700 businesses rely on VC3's cybersecurity expertise, sector-specific focus, ability to grow with our clients, and relentless automation to manage, protect, and accelerate their organization's technology. We can become your IT department, work alongside your internal IT team to make them more successful, or help you with specialized needs such as cloud hosting, data backup, or application development.



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Veregy

Veregy is an award-winning NAESCO-Accredited decarbonization company focusing on accelerating and simplifying the Energy Transition. We provide turnkey engineering and construction services designed to reduce our clients' energy and operating costs through the implementation of energy efficiency and infrastructure upgrades, smart building technology, fleet EV infrastructure, clean energy generation, and sustainability.



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Vierbicher

Vierbicher assists municipal clients with creating a robust and implementable community and economic development strategy to grow, develop, and revitalize their communities. We utilize a market-based approach with local and expert knowledge to create a realistic plan so that our clients may use their resources efficiently and effectively, to encourage smart development that will enhance their community.

Our community and economic development capabilities include strategy and implementation, community planning, market analysis, CDA/RDA guidance, Tax Increment Financing, urban redevelopment, business park development, stormwater management, flood

mitigation, grant writing and administration, and public funding assistance.

Vierbicher is a team of planners, professional engineers, community and economic development experts, surveyors, GIS, and water resources specialists, committed to providing the highest level of expertise and service to clients in the Upper Midwest.



Whitburn Center for
Governance and Policy Research

Silver Level

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Whitburn Center

The Whitburn Center conducts nonpartisan, practical, applied research focused on evaluating and improving governance, professional management, and public policy in Wisconsin and beyond. Our research and services can be viewed at

<https://www.uwosh.edu/whitburn-center/>.

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