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## This Week's League News



# LEAGUE NEWS



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## 1 | **Legislative Updates**

There are two hearings on two pieces of legislation in the Kansas Legislature next week regarding the tax lid. We are asking cities to provide written testimony on both bills since this is a critical issue for cities and is included in the League's Statement of Municipal Policy. HB 2376 ([http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017\\_18/measures/hb2376/](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2376/)) is a bill that would allow a protest petition to retain local control of property taxes while still respecting the Legislature's desire to ensure voters have recourse to limit property tax revenue. SB 167 ([http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017\\_18/measures/sb167/](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb167/)) is full repeal of the Tax Lid (enacted in 2015, revised in 2016). If you have questions about this legislation, please contact Larry Baer (<mailto:lbaer@lkm.org>).

**Abandoned & Blighted Property:** The League anticipates the full Senate will debate SB 31 ([http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017\\_18/measures/sb31/](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb31/)) in the coming week. Thank you to the cities who have submitted testimony on this issue. We encourage you to contact your Senators and ask them to favorably pass SB 31 out for debate in the House. If you have questions about this legislation, please contact Larry Baer (<mailto:lbaer@lkm.org>).

**Working After Retirement (KPERs):** On Tuesday, March 14, at 9:30 in room 546-S the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance will be holding a hearing on HB 2268 ([http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017\\_18/measures/hb2268/](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2268/)). The bill includes an exemption for independent contractors and employees of third-party entities from the compensation limit, required employer contributions and certification and reporting requirements under current working after retirement law. For a quick recap on the bill, the League has created a fact sheet. For further questions on this bill and how you can get involved, please contact Amanda Stanley (<mailto:astanley@lkm.org>).

Make sure to check out our weekly legislative activities calendar ([/resource/resmgr/files/league\\_news/2017/Additional\\_Documents/Legislative\\_Activities\\_March.pdf](/resource/resmgr/files/league_news/2017/Additional_Documents/Legislative_Activities_March.pdf)) for important hearings and discussions.

## 2 | **2017 Property Tax Report**

As a key investment in Kansas communities, local government property taxes play a large role in funding the essential services residents have come to both rely on and appreciate as part of a high quality of life. However, the ability to maintain those high-quality city services – such as police, fire, infrastructure or parks – is subject to the ability of cities to collect adequate revenue to invest in these services. With the state-mandated property tax lid nearing

implementation, it is important to understand the challenges already facing cities as they try to balance budgets with community needs. The unfortunate reality is that limiting the ability of local governments to fund essential city services stands to diminish those high-quality services that property owners currently receive when paying their property tax bill. Read the League's 2017 Local Property Tax Report (<http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.lkm.org/resource/resmgr/media/Property-Tax-Brief-March1020.pdf>) for policy considerations, data and analysis of this issue.

### 3 | Municipal Revenue Practices Survey

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For the first time since 2014, the League is conducting a Municipal Revenue Practices Survey. This survey is intended to provide our members with a comprehensive analysis of municipal revenue practices within Kansas. Each city that completes the survey will have free access to the final report and data, which the League will provide after the survey is complete. Cities will have up through mid-April to complete the survey, but are encouraged to complete it at their earliest convenience. This information not only helps city officials make important municipal finance decisions, but assists the League's advocacy efforts. Of note, the survey is lengthy – similar in nature to the length of the League's Salary Survey. However, there will be some revenue questions that do not pertain to each individual city's operations. If you come across such a section or an individual question that does not pertain to your city's revenue practices, please feel free to skip over that section or question. Thank you in advance and to access the survey, please click here: 2017 League Municipal Revenue Practices Survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017MRPS>).

### 4 | Local Officials in D.C.

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Elected and appointed officials from Kansas are in Washington, D.C. to meet with our federal delegation. Over 50 elected leaders and staff from Kansas cities are attending the Congressional City Conference with the National League of Cities. We will post information and photos from their visit on the League's social media pages (<https://www.facebook.com/LeagueofKansasMunicipalities/>).

### 5 | Hometown Showdown Update

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The Hometown Showdown Round 2 continues through Monday morning! 32 cities are competing in this round to make it to Round 3 (16 cities). The competition has been fierce and there have been some Cinderella stories and squeakers! Megan Gilliland (<mailto:mgilliland@lkm.org>) is the League contact for the competition. Voting open on the League's Facebook Page ([https://www.facebook.com/pg/LeagueofKansasMunicipalities/photos?tab=album&album\\_id=1122045494591494](https://www.facebook.com/pg/LeagueofKansasMunicipalities/photos?tab=album&album_id=1122045494591494)).

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