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This Week's League News



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Headlines

1 | Legislative Updates

2 | Local Officials in D.C.

3 | Mayor of the Year Voting and KMA Board Nominations Now Open

4 | Kansas Certified Public Manager Program

1 | Legislative Updates

Tax Lid: On Thursday, March 16, the League testified at two hearings regarding the tax lid. Twenty-two cities provided testimony on each bill. We will continue to work on this critical issue for cities. HB 2376 (http://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://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://kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb31/) next Tuesday, March 21st. If you have not contacted your Senator yet on this issue, we encourage you to contact them and ask for favorable passage out of the Senate for debate in the House. Rep. Williams introduced a companion bill for SB 31 (http://kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb31/) in the House today, and hearings are expected on Thursday, March 23rd in the House Local Government Committee. If you have questions about this legislation, please contact Larry Baer (<mailto:lbaer@lkm.org>).

Handguns (Public Employer Immunity): SB 108

(http://kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb108/) and HB 2081 (http://kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2081/) are identical bills that would provide immunity to public employers from any negligent act committed by an employee related to the employee carrying a concealed handgun. On March 14, the Senate Federal and State Affairs committee worked SB 108 (http://kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb108/). During the debate on the bill, some committee members had concerns with the potential of amendments before the full Senate and the committee chose to table the bill. However, the House Federal and State Affairs Committee passed out HB 2081 (http://kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2081/) favorably for passage on March 17. The full House may consider their bill as early as next week. The League supports this legislation. If you have questions about this legislation, please contact Eric Smith (<mailto:esmith@lkm.org>).

Working After Retirement (KPERS): This past Tuesday, March 14, the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance held a hearing on HB 2268 (http://kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2268/), the Working After Retirement bill. Should the committee decide to work the bill, it's likely to occur next week. Additionally, the House Committee on Financial Institutions and Pensions will introduce language into a Senate bill that is likely to change the employer contribution rate for those applicable to working after retirement requirements.

Under current law, employers would just be required to pay the statutory rate of 8.46% on any dollar earned. Under the proposal, it would look to change to a 0% contribution rate on the first \$25,000 earned in compensation, but then a 30% surcharge on any compensation earned above that \$25,000 threshold. The League is actively engaging with stakeholders to determine the best route forward. Should you have an opinion on the employer contribution proposal based on your own experience with working after retirement applicable employees, please contact Amanda Stanley (<mailto:astanley@lkm.org>).

Make sure to check out our weekly legislative activities calendar (/resource/resmgr/Legislative_Activities_March.pdf) for important hearings and discussions.

2 | Local Officials in D.C.

This week elected and appointed officials from ten Kansas cities, along with League staff attended the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. In addition to attending sessions, to learn more about issues impacting cities, officials went to Capitol Hill to advocate on issues with the delegation and their staff.

The hot topics discussed were maintaining the tax exemption for municipal bonds and retaining funding for Community Development Block Grants. Officials shared the impact on their communities if either program was eliminated.

The cities represented were Lawrence, Lenexa, Manhattan, Mission, Olathe, Ottawa, Prairie

Village, Roeland Park, Shawnee and Wichita.



Members of the Kansas delegation attending the NLC Conference met with Senator Pat Roberts this week.

Seated L to R: Councilmember Serena Schermoly, Prairie Village; Councilmember Jim Neighbors, Shawnee; Senator Pat Roberts; Councilmember Brandon Kenig, Shawnee, Councilmember Ted Odell, Prairie Village.

Standing L to R: Erik

Sartorius, League Executive Director, Ava Caylor (Mayor Caylor's daughter), Mayor Sara Caylor, Ottawa; Councilmember Stephanie Meyer, Shawnee; Cindy Green, League Deputy Director, City Administrator Quinn Bennion, Prairie Village; City Manager Carol Gonzales, Shawnee.

3 | Mayor of the Year Voting and KMA Board Nominations Now Open

Nominations for Mayor of the Year Award have concluded and ballots are in the mail (mayors only receive a vote). Mayors, please be on the lookout for your ballot. To view the nominations, please take a moment to visit the Kansas Mayors Association (KMA) page (<http://www.lkm.org/page/ksmayors>) and read about all the outstanding nominees. Complete the ballot and either mail or fax it back to the League office by March 31, 2017. The Award will be presented at the Leadership Summit & Mayor's Conference (<http://www.lkm.org/page/LeadershipSummit>) on April 21-22 in Dodge City.

Also, KMA invites you to submit nominations for the KMA Board of Directors. You may nominate yourself or another KMA member to any eligible seat (eligibility rules are listed for each Board position). Voting will take place at the Leadership Summit & Kansas Mayors Conference on Friday, April 21st, at 3:00 p.m. Each position serves a term of one year. For more information please click [here](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.lkm.org/resource/resmgr/files/kma/KMA_Board_Nomination_form_)

4 | Kansas Certified Public Manager Program

The Kansas Certified Public Manager® (CPM) program is a professional education opportunity for managers working in government agencies, nonprofits, and organizations that contract to provide public services and meet community needs. CPM is a nationally accredited management program and certification in which participants develop and strengthen their management skills through our competency based curriculum (<http://kupmc.org/cpm-competency-model>). The program can fill a training gap for staff with significant technical expertise who seek to further their knowledge of current management practices.

The Kansas Certified Public Manager program was established in 1993. Since that time, close to 1,700 public managers from across the state have completed certification. The CPM certificate is a nationally recognized emblem of management excellence.

In 2018, the Kansas Certified Public Manager® program will be offered in three locations: the Kansas City area, Topeka and Valley Center and El Dorado hosting the Wichita area class. For more information or questions, please contact Terri Callahan (<mailto:tcallahan@ku.edu>), CPM Program Director or visit www.kupmc.org (<http://www.kupmc.org/>) for more information.

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