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With the Legislature on break until May 1, we hope you’re taking the opportunity to meet with your legislators at local coffees and legislative meetings. Keep your legislators informed and aware of issues important to your city!

## **1 | League Bringing Expert to Leadership Summit to Discuss Healthcare Challenges for Rural Kansas**

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The League recently added a topic to next week’s Leadership Summit in Dodge City (April 21 and 22) focusing on healthcare in rural Kansas. Benjamin Anderson is the CEO of Kearny County Hospital in Lakin and will present on the ways his organization has addressed the topics of physician recruitment, health promotion, women’s health initiatives, rural healthcare delivery innovation and research-based transitions from volume to value. His work has been featured by National Public Radio, Sports Illustrated, ABC News, the Associated Press, and in nearly every major healthcare publication. He regularly leads teams of people to serve at Eden Children’s

Village, an orphanage and medical clinic in northern Zimbabwe. Register today (<https://lkm.site-ym.com/page/LeadershipSummit>) and don't miss this chance to learn about solutions for rural communities to address healthcare challenges!

## 2 | Senate Action to Impact EDX and IRB Exemptions – Take Action Before May 1

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We want to draw your attention to action taken by the Senate in SB 146 ([http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017\\_18/measures/documents/sb146\\_02\\_0000.pdf](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/documents/sb146_02_0000.pdf)) that will impact a city's ability to grant property (IRB) tax exemptions under the Constitutional tax abatement provisions (EDX) and for Industrial Revenue Bond issues.

SB 146 ([http://kslegislature.org/li/b2017\\_18/measures/sb146/](http://kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb146/)), as originally introduced, would have reauthorized the statewide 20 mill school finance levy for school years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. The Senate Tax Committee amended the bill to prohibit any new property tax exemptions granted by the Board of Tax Appeals for EDX or IRB purposes from applying to the 20 mill school finance levy. The prohibition would not apply to exemptions granted by BOTA if, **before May 1, 2017**, a city has:

- 1) passed a resolution of intent to issue bonds and grant an abatement; or
- 2) held the required public hearing under KSA 79-251.

The Senate passed the amended bill and sent it to the House where it was referred to the House Tax Committee.

In other words, although the legislation is not yet effective, we want to be sure you are aware that the "drop dead date" for the city to authorize either the issuance of bonds or granting the exemption will occur in two weeks on **May 1**. Though the bill may not even pass until after this date, the provision as currently drafted is retroactive, so we want to bring it to your attention now. If your city is in the process of taking action under either the IRB Act or Constitutional tax abatements, it is **imperative** for you to take the appropriate action before May 1 to assure that you can abate the 20 mill school levy.

A copy of the bill, as amended by the Senate, is available here ([http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017\\_18/measures/documents/sb146\\_02\\_0000.pdf](http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/documents/sb146_02_0000.pdf)). If you have questions, you can contact Larry R. Baer (<mailto:lbaer@lkm.org>) or Erik Sartorius (<mailto:esartorius@lkm.org>).

## 3 | Kansas Mayors Association Board Nominations

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The Kansas Mayors Association will be having their business meeting at the upcoming Leadership Summit (<http://www.lkm.org/page/LeadershipSummit>) in Dodge City on Friday, April 21. At the KMA meeting you will be electing new officers for 2017-18. If you would be interested in serving on the board or know a mayor in your region who might be interested in getting involved, please encourage them to click here

([http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.lkm.org/resource/resmgr/files/kma/KMA\\_Board\\_Nomination\\_form](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.lkm.org/resource/resmgr/files/kma/KMA_Board_Nomination_form)) to complete the nomination form and return it to Tami Martin (<mailto:tmartin@lkm.org>). There will also be an opportunity to nominate from the floor on the day of the meeting.

## 4 | Is Your City Prepared for an Emergency?

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Wildfires. Tornadoes. Chemical plant explosions. Emergency planners often say that the question is not IF a crisis will occur in your city - it is a question of WHEN a crisis will occur. Are you prepared as an elected or appointed official to respond to a crisis WHEN it happens in your city? Our **May 5 and May 12** Municipal Training Institute (MTI) classes will provide the information necessary for a city to review their preparations for executing pre-disaster and response/recovery operations in a natural disaster. Topics include state and federal requirements and points of contact, local procedures for implementation and planning, and management tools to be able to assess a city to determine if they are prepared to execute recovery operations. Attendees will also receive source documents for the development of template recovery plans and operations, and have a chance to review the Kansas Response Plan. May's MTI is offered in Lyons and Pratt in May. Register today ([https://lkm.site-ym.com/events/event\\_list.asp](https://lkm.site-ym.com/events/event_list.asp))!

## 5 | Election Reminders

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The 2015 changes to the election laws for cities made changes, other than just moving elections from April to November. City clerks are required to certify to the county election officer (county clerk in most counties) a list of all city offices to be voted upon in the upcoming election. The certification date is now no later than May 1 of each year that the city has an election. This is two weeks away. (K.S.A. 25-205)

Deadline for candidates for city office to file with the county election officer is June 1, 2017. This deadline applies whether the candidate is filing by payment of the filing fee or via a nomination petition. (K.S.A. 25-2110) A full election calendar can be found in the 2017 City Clerk's Manual as Form 13, page 10-14.

## 6 | Hometown Showdown 2017 Winner Announced

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The League of Kansas Municipalities, recently completed their third-annual Hometown Showdown photo competition. The Hometown Showdown is a bracket-style competition where Kansas cities go head-to-head to move on in each round until the final round. The final round featured the cities of Plainville and Haysville. Plainville won the final round and was named the winner on April 11. The City of Plainville submitted a photo of their Veterans Memorial in Andreson Park. The memorial was dedicated in 2016 on Veterans Day after years of community fundraising. The memorial honors all five military services: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy. The League will be writing feature articles in the *Kansas Government Journal* on the cities of Haysville, Newton and Marysville who made it to the final and semi-final rounds. The stories each of these cities tell about how they gathered support for the competition is compelling and speaks to their passion for their communities.

## 7 | League's LEAPS Program Helps Cities Find Quality Candidates

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The League Executive/Administrative Position Search (LEAPS) program assists cities in filling city executive positions. The League offers a multi-faceted program that can be tailor-made to fit the needs of your city. Over the years, the League has successfully placed city executives in over 60 cities. The success of our service comes from our familiarity with regional managers and administrators, the time we spend getting to know the community and the applicants, our experience, and our understanding of the skills and qualities needed to operate a city. Any member of the League may obtain a free copy of our Guide to Recruiting a City Administrator/Manager. This guide includes a comprehensive overview of the issues governing bodies should consider when conducting an executive search, along with several sample documents to help facilitate that process. To obtain a copy, please contact Nikki Harrison (<mailto:nharrison@lkm.org>) at (785) 354-9565.

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