

LEAGUE NEWS



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1 | Legislative Updates

As the legislature closes in on wrapping up week 2 of their veto session, we encourage you to have the contact information for your legislators on hand and quickly accessible. As this week ends, the vast majority of legislators will lose their support staff, meaning calls to their offices and emails to their legislative addresses may not be seen and responded to. We would encourage you to check with your legislators for the best way to contact them as the wrap up session drags on. As we saw in 2015 with the tax lid, new issues can arise in this period, and the ability to connect to your representatives and senators is crucial.

House Taxation Action on Tax Lid, Abatements: Please contact your House members and urge them to support two bills forwarded to the full House by the House Taxation Committee this week. First, the committee passed out House Bill 2424 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2424/) on a strong vote. This legislation

exempts from the tax lid employee benefits – health care, retirement/pension, social security, workers compensation and unemployment. (This language was taken from the pre-1999 tax lid law.) Prospects for the bill are unclear; if it proceeds, it may do so either through floor debate or as part of a conference committee report.

The committee also passed SB 146 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb146/), which primarily reauthorizes 20 mills for K-12 funding. In the Senate, the bill picked up an amendment which would have prohibited cities from abating these 20 mills as part of any industrial revenue bonds (IRBs) or for economic development purposes (EDX). The League and several cities testified in opposition to this amendment, and it was removed by the House committee. Please ask House members to not add this amendment back to the bill when they debate it.

Erik Sartorius (<mailto:esartorius@lkm.org>) is the League contact on House Bill 2424 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2424/) and SB 146 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb146/).

Changes to the amusement ride act could be delayed: On Thursday, May 11 the House Federal and State Affairs Committee met to discuss creating a trailer bill to make changes to House Substitute for SB 70 (H Sub SB 70 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb70/)). H Sub SB 70 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb70/) makes major changes to the amusement ride act and has already been signed by the Governor. The Committee removed the contents from SB 86 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb86/) and used the bill to make amendments to H Sub SB 70 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb70/). Most of the changes are technical in nature with the major change being a delay in implementation to July 1, 2018. Eric Smith (<mailto:esmith@lkm.org>) is the League contact on this issue.

2 | Valuation Information Due to Cities June 15

Under the tax lid statute, changes have been made regarding the type of information cities are to receive and when they are supposed to receive it. The League recommends cities be in contact with their county clerks to make sure they are aware of these changes and will be providing you valuation information **by June 15**. With this information, cities will also need to receive notation of any real property which has changed in use (such as going from agricultural use to residential) in the past year. Valuation increases due to such changes are exempt from the tax lid, making it imperative cities have this information to correctly calculate their property tax revenue limit under the lid. Budget calendars are available in our 2017 Budget Tips publications (<http://www.lkm.org/page/BudgetTips>), which is online for members to access.

3 | League Offering Fireworks Webinar on May 23

The regulation of fireworks by a city can be a difficult issue at times. This webinar will provide discussion about the statutes and regulations that control local authority. You will also be provided examples of local code provisions and sample forms. The State Fire Marshal has recently issued an interpretation of a statute related to the sale of fireworks as a fund raiser. There will be an analysis of the position taken by the Fire Marshal and suggestions on addressing this issue with the public. Webinar Registration is required ahead of time (limited to 100 participants). Webinar cost is \$25 for member cities, \$35 for non-member cities. Register online at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8457154651917005570> (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8457154651917005570>).

4 | Filing Deadline for Local Office is June 1

In 2015, the Kansas Legislature approved changes to local elections which changed moved elections from the spring to the fall. The deadline for filing for local office in Kansas is June 1, 2017. Candidates are also now required to register at their county election office (not the city). The League's Candidate Guide is available online (<http://www.lkm.org/page/citycandidateguide>).

5 | Personnel Management MTI set for June

The League's June Municipal Training Institute will focus on a popular subject – personnel management. This course covers the basics of personnel management in today's changing municipal workplace. Topics include: hiring and firing, discrimination and harassment, and personnel policies and guidelines. **This course has been submitted for CLE credit for attorneys and IIMC credit for those seeking their CMC or MMC certification.** The June MTI is offered in two locations: Phillipsburg on June 14 and McPherson on June 15. Register online (http://www.lkm.org/events/event_list.asp) for the training. Cost to attend this course is \$75 for members, \$100 for nonmembers. Lunch and materials provided.

6 | City Managers Recognized in House & Senate

The Kansas Legislature recognized 100 years of city management in Kansas with special recognitions on the House and Senate floor on Thursday, May 11. Several city managers and professionals in the field attended the event. The city manager form of government was authorized in 1917; Wichita and El Dorado were the first cities to adopt this form of government.

Today, the city or county manager form of government has been adopted by voters in 73 Kansas cities and 2 counties. Additionally, cities in Kansas have 97 cities and 20 counties with professional administrators. View the photos and video of the event online at the League Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/LeagueofKansasMunicipalities/>).

7 | League Seeking Deputy Director

The League of Kansas Municipalities is seeking a Deputy Director to advocate for and support the cities of Kansas and their interests. The Deputy Director role particularly focuses on representing Kansas municipalities before state and federal legislators and agencies. The deputy director oversees the League's public policy development process, and also crafts and directs strategies to advocate for the policy priorities determined by our member cities. Successful candidates will show the ability to build and maintain collaborative working relationships with state officials, legislators, member cities, representatives of other units of government, other professional organizations, the League's affiliate organizations, and the League staff.

The deputy director serves as a critical member of the League's management team, working closely with the executive director to implement the League's strategic plan. The deputy serves as staff liaison to affiliate organizations for Kansas mayors and city managers, while also administering aspects of League operations and coordinating special projects. The position has 3 direct reports, 3 indirect reports and dotted-line oversight with other employees. The full job description (http://lkm.site-ym.com/networking/apply_now.aspx?view=2&id=431378) is online.

8 | Conference is coming...any topic ideas you want to share?

The League will announce the conference schedule and hotel information in the June edition of the Kansas Government Journal. We're currently scheduling speakers and selecting topics. Please let us know if you have ideas for the conference or speakers you've seen that would be beneficial to elected or appointed leaders in the state. Submit comments online (http://www.lkm.org/surveys/?id=Conference_Topics).

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