

LEAGUE NEWS



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1 | Legislative Updates

Senate K-12 Plan – Items Concerning Cities

Rarely do cities have direct concerns with K-12 education bills, but the plan to be debated by the Senate next week, HB 2186 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2186/), has had an element in it directly affecting cities and one other that has been considered. Debate on HB 2186 is expected on Wednesday, May 31.

- Property Tax Abatements – The legislation would limit cities’ ability to abate the statewide 20 mills for school finance. Abatements for industrial revenue bonds (IRBs) or economic development (EDX) granted after May 1, 2017, would not be allowed to apply to the 20-mill levy. Additionally, this legislation prohibits abatement of a school’s 8 mills for capital outlay for IRBs, EDX, and TIF districts. When a bill with these similar provisions was heard by the House Tax Committee, the committee removed the abatement provisions before sending it to the full House. That bill, SB 146 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb146/), has not yet been debated.

- **Utility Fees** – The Senate K-12 plan originally included a \$2.25 monthly fee on electric, gas, and water bills. The League joined a coalition of approximately 15 businesses and organizations opposing this fee. In particular, we believed it would be difficult to administer for municipal utilities. Further, the fee would apply to local governments, with little clarity as to whether a city would pay a single fee or a fee on multiple utility bills. While this provision was removed from the K-12 legislation in committee, we are watching the legislation because we don't want to see the utility fee resurrected as an option.

KPERS – Working After Retirement: The Conference Committee on House Substitute for SB 21 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb21/) agreed to broad changes to the rules for working after retirement for KPERS retirees. In addition to changes in the earnings limits, waiting period and employer contributions for retirees, the bill also contains the independent contractors and third party entity fix advocated by the League. Both the House and Senate have voted to concur on the conference meeting report. It is awaiting signature by the Governor.

Firearms: The Senate Ways and Means Committee agreed to amend the language of SB 108 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb108/) into S. Sub for HB 2278 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2278/) and passed the amended bill out to the full Senate favorable for passage. SB 108 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb108/) would provide immunity to cities from the negligent action of employees not required to carry a weapon but who choose to carry a concealed weapon.

Tax Lid Bill Update: The League requested bill, HB 2424 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2424/), that would add an additional exemption to the tax lid for increases in costs of employee benefits, health care, etc., has been sent to the full House with a favorable recommendation for passage by the committee. The League continues to talk to House Leadership to get HB 2424 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2424/) acted upon and passed on to the Senate.

Common Consumption: The Senate and House have both passed Sub for HB 2277 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2277/) and the measure is on its way to the Governor. The bill will allow cities and counties to establish areas for the consumption of alcohol known as common consumption areas. The local government would create a defined area with specific boundaries. The purpose of this bill will be to allow individuals to step out of a drinking establishment that adjoins the consumption area without violating current law.

2 | Filing Deadline for Local Office is June 1

In 2015, the Kansas Legislature approved changes to local elections which 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>).

3 | New Webinars Offered

The League is pleased to announce two new webinars. One June 20, the Johnson County Manager's public information staff will present on Engaging & Educating Votes About Ballot Initiatives Using Social Media (register online (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4456842178820223745>)) and on July 17 Alan Conroy, Executive Director with KPERS will co-present a webinar with League staff on KPERS and changes made this legislative session (register online (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5363127832154304001>)).

4 | Personnel Management MTI – CLEs Approved

Our MTI on Personnel Management for June 14 and 15 has been approved for **3.5 hours of Continuing Legal Education** (CLE). 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. IIMC credit for those seeking their CMC or MMC certification has been requested. The June MTI is offered in two locations: Phillipsburg on June 14 and McPherson on June 15. Register online for the training (https://lkm.site-ym.com/events/event_list.asp). Cost to attend this course is \$75 for members, \$100 for nonmembers. Lunch and materials provided.

5 | KDOT Rail Service Improvement Fund

Effective July 1, 2017, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will have up to \$5,000,000 available through the State Rail Service Improvement Fund (SRSIF) for railroad rehabilitation, capacity improvement and construction projects. Read the notice online (http://www.lkm.org/resource/resmgr/files/league_news/KDOT_Notice_May_2017.pdf).

6 | Help the Census Bureau Accurately Count Your Community

The U.S. Census Bureau requests help from tribal, state and local governments in the 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses program. This program is the **only opportunity** for governments to verify residential addresses, ensuring a complete and accurate 2020 Census.

The Census Bureau mailed advance notifications about participating in the program to tribal, state and local governments in January 2017. If you did not receive the notification, you may find information about the program on the LUCA website at www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/luca.html (<http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/luca.html>).

Invitation letters will be mailed in July 2017 and the final participation materials will be mailed in February 2018. Governments can take the following steps now to prepare:

- Participate in the 2017 Boundary and Annexation Survey (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas.html>), which is the annual update for the legal boundaries and names of all governmental units.
- Start preparing your address list — make sure your list identifies multiunit structures and distinguishes between residential and nonresidential addresses.
- Identify local address sources, such as building permits, local utility records, annexation records and other files.
- Attend one of our workshops (<https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/luca.html>) to learn about the program.

Participation in the Local Update of Census Addresses program can help ensure a complete and accurate 2020 Census in your community. For more information, visit the program website (<https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/luca.html>).

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