



THE LEAGUE News

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Elections are the most essential aspect of our democracy and the next opportunity to designate decision makers for your community is less than a month away (November 7). While you still have time to learn more about the candidates and issues on your ballot, the deadline to register is coming soon!

October 17, 2017 is the last day to register to vote for the 2017 November elections. You can [register online](#) or register at your county election office.

Check out the October 2017 edition of the *Kansas Government Journal* for more information on voter engagement and increasing voter turn-out.

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REGIONAL SUPPERS – UPDATE & WHERE WE'RE HEADING NEXT

Many League staffers hit the road last week to travel to Hays, Derby, Cimarron and Colby, with many stops in between, for the League's 2017 Regional Suppers. Thank you to those members and legislators who came to visit us at the Regional Suppers. We had great conversations about the upcoming 2018 Kansas Legislature and talked about important issues affecting local government. We reviewed the League's 2018 Statement of Municipal Policy, our guiding document during the Legislative Session.

We will continue our Regional Suppers this week in **Lawrence on Wednesday, October 11** and **Coffeyville on Thursday, October 12**. We look forward to seeing you there!



NEW MUNICIPAL TRAINING INSTITUTE: HIRING PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS

Attracting, hiring and maintaining quality public safety officials is an issue of great importance to cities. The League is offering a NEW Municipal Training Institute class for municipalities to learn the best practices for Kansas cities to use throughout the hiring process specific to public safety positions. This class will discuss:

- Recruitment strategies for public safety officials;
- Processes and procedures to use when performing background checks;
- Interview and hiring tips and techniques for public safety staff; and
- A discussion about the role of management and elected officials for oversight.

The class will be offered in two locations:

Thursday, October 26 in Belle Plaine

Friday, October 27 in Leavenworth

We encourage the following city officials to attend this course: city managers/administrators, human resource staff, city attorneys and elected officials. The course will be a coordinated effort taught by Jason Sharp, City of Parsons Chief of Police; Tammy Seely, City Clerk/Human Resource Officer, City of McPherson; and Amanda Stanley, Legal Counsel, League of Kansas Municipalities. This course has been submitted for IIMC and CLE credit.

The MTI will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost to attend this course is \$75 for members, \$100 for nonmembers. Lunch and materials provided. Register online at www.lkm.org/events.



"It is important for municipal officials, both elected and appointed, to participate in the Municipal Training Institute. By completing all three levels, one has a better understanding of local government focus and the laws that govern municipal conduct and operations. This creates a better environment for their residents and community."

*-Richard U. Nienstedt,
City Manager,
City of Ottawa*



THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES

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NEW WEBINAR!

CYBERSECURITY: SIMPLE STEPS FOR PROTECTING YOUR ORGANIZATION

The League is partnering with Midwest Public Risk (MPR) to offer a one-hour webinar for municipalities on cybersecurity and best practices for protecting your city network and customer base from cyber-attacks. Cybersecurity threats can include identity theft, data theft, damaged business or personal reputation, lost revenue or income, spam and malware/network intrusions. This webinar will provide information that cities can use to discuss cybersecurity concerns with employees and/or elected officials, tips to reduce risk within your organization and more valuable information on cybersecurity concerns.



Who should participate? We recommend any elected or appointed official with organizational risk responsibilities should attend. This webinar will be taught in an understandable, non-technical manner. The League will be developing more, in-depth cybersecurity resources in the coming months but this is a great primer and introduction into basic steps your organization should take to form a first-line of defense against cyber-attacks.

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 for the webinar.](#)

LEAGUE LAUNCHES NEW YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Citizen engagement is a priority for Kansas cities and the best place to start is with our youngest community members. This fall, the League is re-launching our youth civic education program. We started by crafting a Civic Learning Path to frame the new program and demonstrate a progression of civic growth. We expanded the program to include interactive lesson plans and a civic resource guide. To increase participation, we created an activity book, changed our “If I Were Mayor” writing contest to align with Kansas Department of Education guidelines and added new social media platforms to capture the interests of high schoolers. Download all of the files, curriculum and instructions for the program [on our website.](#)



KDHE OFFERING NEW SOLID WASTE GRANTS

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is launching a new grant program focused on recycling and composting. The competitive Solid Waste grants are designed to support existing recycling and composting programs, and encourage the development of new programs. Kansas counties, municipalities, solid waste management regions and private entities may apply for grants to fund new or existing waste reduction projects and associated public education materials.

These competitive grants are authorized by state law and funded by the \$1.00 per ton landfill tonnage fee. Hundreds of communities received waste reduction grants in the late 1990s and early 2000s to help start local programs. Those grants along with local commitments to reduce waste and years of technical training has yielded a statewide recycling rate of about 31 percent. This new round of grants is designed to help sustain community programs, especially small and medium-sized communities with limited resources. We are excited this opportunity is available for our communities.

The application period is October 1, 2017 through December 15, 2017. Grant awards will be announced in March 2018. Forms and guides can be [downloaded online.](#) For more information call the Bureau of Waste Management at (785) 296-1600.

