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This Week's League News



Volume 22 - Number 8 - February 24, 2017

Published by the League of Kansas
Municipalities

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1 | Legislative Updates

The Legislature is on break – Take the opportunity to meet them!

The Legislature arrived at the “turnaround” point of the legislative session yesterday. All bills, except those exempt from deadlines, had to have been passed by their house of origin to remain alive for the balance of the session. Though topics can always be resurrected, turnaround means the end for many ideas. Legislators are taking a much longer break than usual. Having left yesterday, they will not return to Topeka until March 6.

This break is a prime opportunity for city officials to meet with their legislators to get an update from them and ask them about issues important to cities. We encourage you to get to any Eggs and issues, legislative coffees or other events they have scheduled. Better yet, invite them to meet you at city hall!

In addition to visiting about legislative issues, update them on what’s going on in the city. What capital improvement projects are you planning for 2017? Do you have any recent awards or recognitions they should know about? Updates on housing starts and new or growing businesses

are good to share, too. Discussing your budget process and how you believe 2018's budget is shaping up can be a good educational opportunity for them. Make sure to document visiting with them and share this on social media or in your city newsletter.

Mid-Session Legislative Webinar from the League (March 1): Next week, the League legislative staff will offer a webinar for members on Wednesday, March 1 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. for cities to hear a recap of the current Legislative session as well as a forecast for the weeks to come. You can register online (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7117526175430653187>) for the webinar. We have 100 slots available for the webinar; sign up (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7117526175430653187>) today!

Yard Sign Bill Passes House (HB 2210): This week, HB 2210 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2210/) passed the House on final action 100-25. The bill repeals action from 2015 (K.S.A. 25-2711) which limited cities from regulating political signs. The 2015 law quickly came into conflict with a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, leaving cities in a challenging position during 2016 campaigns. HB 2210 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/hb2210/), as passed, resolves the conflict between the statute and the Court's ruling with respect to the First Amendment. The Senate will now take up this legislation after turn-around. Cindy Green (<mailto:cgreen@lkm.org>) is the League contact on this issue.

Abandoned Property & Blight Legislation (SB 31): SB 31 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb31/), the bill that gives cities a process for dealing with abandoned and blighted housing, will not be considered by the full Senate until after turnaround. Look for League legislative alerts in your e-mail when this issue goes to the Senate floor. SB 31 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb31/) is one of the League's action items for the 2017 session. When visiting with your Legislator, please ask them to favorably support SB 31 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb31/). League testimony and other information regarding SB 31 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb31/) may be found online (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb31/). If you have questions, please contact Larry Baer (<mailto:lbaer@lkm.org>).

When referencing SB 31 (http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/sb31/), here are some talking points:

- SB 31 gives flexibility to cities when dealing with abandoned housing;
- SB 31 allows cities to seek authority to rehab abandoned housing; and
- SB 31 is the result of negotiation and consensus of many interested stakeholders.

KPERS; Working After Retirement: On Wednesday, February 22, HB 2268 passed the House on final action by a vote of 116-9. The bill includes an exemption for independent contractors and employees of third-party entities from the compensation limit, required employer contributions and certification and reporting requirements under current working after retirement law. The bill has now been directed to the Senate committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance for potential action. For a quick understanding of the bill, the League has created a fact sheet ([/resource/rosmar/files/league_news/2017/Additional_Documents/KPERS_Understanding_Workin](http://resource/rosmar/files/league_news/2017/Additional_Documents/KPERS_Understanding_Workin))

that offers a bit of detail. Brock Ingmire (mailto:bingmire@lkm.org) is the League contact on KPERS issues.

Medicaid Expansion Update: On Monday, February 20, the House Committee on Health and Human Services voted to table HB 2064 (Bridge to a Healthy Kansas) until the beginning of April. Effectively ending any chance the bill had at moving to the House floor for a vote. However, on Wednesday, February 22, Rep. Susan Concannon (R-Beloit) offered an amendment during floor deliberation on HB 2044, a bill concerning clubhouse rehabilitation services, that incorporated the contents of HB 2064 into HB 2044. Following hours of deliberation on the floor, the House ultimately voted to pass the amendment by a vote of 83-40. On final action, HB 2044, now considered the Medicaid Expansion bill, was approved by the House 81-44. It now moves to the Senate for consideration. Amanda Stanley (mailto:astanley@lkm.org) is the League contact on this issue.

Veto Override Fails in Senate, Passes in House: This week, the Governor vetoed a bill that would have reversed many of the tax cuts created in 2012. Both chambers of the Legislature then took to the floor in an override attempt of the veto. The veto override passed in the House 85-40 but then failed in the Senate by three votes. When lawmakers return from turnaround, they'll be faced with coming up with alternative plans to solve the state's budget deficit.

For a full look at the week after turnaround, download the League's Legislative Activities Calendar (/resource/resmgr/files/league_news/2017/Additional_Documents/LegislativeActivitiesFebruar.pdf)! We've added an icon to show which committee meetings can be heard online with the new live audio streaming function.

2 | Hometown Showdown Kicks Off with Wildcard Round

The Hometown Showdown for 2017 is underway. We had such an incredible response we added a wildcard round which started on February 23. Twenty cities are competing in that round to continue to the final bracket of 64 cities. Voting for the final 64 cities begins next Tuesday, February 28. Megan Gilliland (mailto:mgilliland@lkm.org) is the League contact for the competition. Voting is now open on the League's Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/LeagueofKansasMunicipalities/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1110454639083913
(https://www.facebook.com/pg/LeagueofKansasMunicipalities/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1110454639083913)

3 | Census 2020 Informational Meeting

The League is co-hosting a meeting next week on March 1 with the U.S. Census to educate cities on the steps leading up to the Census count in 2020. The meeting will be from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Kansas State Capitol Visitor Center Auditorium. City administration and elected officials (or a designee) are welcome to attend. Megan Gilliland (mailto:mgilliland@lkm.org) will be the League contact on the Census 2020 effort.

4 | Kansas Mayor of the Year Nominations

Do you know a mayor who has done wonderful things to promote, encourage and facilitate good local government in their community? Please submit their name along with a brief description of their accomplishments for the KMA "Mayor of the Year" Award. Nominations are accepted through March 10. The award will be presented at the Leadership Summit & Mayors Conference which will be held in Dodge City on April 21 and 22. Click here (<http://www.lkm.org/?page=MayorOfTheYear>) for nomination form. Click here (<http://www.lkm.org/page/LeadershipSummit>) to register for the conference.

5 | Leadership Summit Keynote to Explore Your Behavior DNA

We hope you are making plans to join us in Dodge City later this April. Shelley Row, our keynote speaker for Leadership Summit will present a session on Friday late afternoon, plus a follow up Saturday morning. At her Saturday session, Shelley will explore the DNA Behavior Self-Assessment tool (provided to all registered attendees) so participants can learn more about their natural workplace behavior for communication and work preferences. Participants will discover how this awareness will assist to enhance communication and decision-making while reducing anxiety. Click here (<http://www.lkm.org/page/LeadershipSummit>) to register for the conference.

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