. The League of Kansas Municipalities would like to know more about you, and your legislative positions on issues that affect cities. This questionnaire asks your perspectives on state issues that impact Kansas cities and their residents. This information will be shared with cities in your district.

Please complete this questionnaire by Monday, July 15, 2024.

The League of Kansas Municipalities mission is to serve as the convener, advocate, and trusted voice for Kansas local governments. It is a membership association that advocates on behalf of cities, offers training and guidance to appointed and elected officials, and has a clear purpose of strengthening our communities. Since 1910, the League has been a resource for cities and served as a body to share ideas, facilitate communication between members and provide information on best practices for city operations.

Our nearly 550 members consist of the largest and smallest cities. The membership also consists of dozens of Kansas counties. The League is governed through a governing body of elected officials and city-appointed staff. If you have inquiries about this questionnaire, contact Spencer Duncan or 785-354-9565. If you have any technical issues with the survey, contact Wendi Stark or 785-354-9565.

Thank you for running for office, serving the people of Kansas, and understanding the importance of building relationships between our state government and the local governments of Kansas. We appreciate you taking the time to answer these questions.

Spencer Duncan
Government Affairs Director

Q1. **Candidate Information**

Steven Hohe
Kansas House of Representatives, District 18
Libertarian

Q1.1. **Contact Information**

Please provide preferred contact information. This will be made available to cities in your district.

Preferred Email Address	steve@stevehoheforkansas.com
Preferred Phone Number	9139807731
Campaign Website	www.stevehoheforkansas.com

Q1.2. Please list your current occupation.

Semi Retired Businessman

Q1.3. Have you held any elected public office previously?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Q1.3.1. What position(s) did you hold?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q1.4. Please briefly describe why you are running for the Legislature.

*Improving the State Budgeting-Reduce State Spending-Moving toward a better form of Taxation. *Providing control to Parents/StateTaxpayers involvement in the funding of thier children's education. * Safety and Security for all Kansans from Domestic, Foreign,Federal. * Unreasonable Utilities increases Increases *State Entreprenurialism without Barriers. * Creating Kansas into an Economic Powerhouse competing with other States, bringing it to the Top Ten Ranking.

Q2. **Constitutional Home Rule**

City home rule was established by the voters in Article 12, Section 5 of the Kansas Constitution. This reflects citizen's recognition that each city is unique, with differing levels of service, community expectations, and varying geographical and financial circumstances.

Q2.1. Do you support the principle of local control?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Q2.2. Do you oppose state preemption of local authority?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Q2.3. What do you believe is the role of local government?

First of all I'm running for State not Local. My involvement in local taxation, spending and operating would conflict with Kansas Statue 12 Section 5. Everyone who is elected to any Office has to stay in each other's Lane and do thier role. Remember, each of us in each level of government are steward of our Taxpayer's money, not owner's

Q2.4. Provide any additional comments you may have:

This is a Critique, but you leave out one of the levels of local government which is the County. I know we'll be talking about Collaboration, but from my 20,000 foot view I don't see collaboration with the cities vs County in Johnson County. This has caused an Exodus of Johnson County taxpayers out of the County and in turn out of the State of Kansas. In Turn the vaccum of lack of taxpayers pressures exsisting locked in kansans to take the brunt of the tax and bogus increases in Property Tax. I've said my Peace. Thank You.

Q3. **Supporting Your Efforts**

Your vision for Kansas is important, and when in office there will be times cities can support your efforts. The League's members want to make sure we understand your priorities and goals for serving the people of Kansas.

Q3.1. What are the two biggest challenges facing the district you will represent and how would you like to address them?

*The Funding of the Public School System. The State funds over 55% and parents/taxpayers have no control of the spending. It's far past time to provide students Educational Accounts controlled by thier parents for thier public education. *Utility Costs Increases. We all know that our Country is in an Economic situation that brings on inflation, and some of our utility infastructure has been or is needing to be upgraded, but to gouge Kansans by raising rates is incomprehensable to substanually pay thier shareholders.

Q3.2. What ideas do you have for improving quality of life for residents in your district?

Bringing Common Sense back to Kansas. Tranparency in Government. Quit spending on unnecessary state programs/services that Kansans can provide for themselves. Entreprenerialism without Barriers- Free the Market so Kansans can IndependentlyThrive other than Dependently Survive under State Government control. As Benjamin Franklin said in an interview in the 1700's "I wish not to have my people comfortable in thier Poverty but lead them out of it."

Q3.3. What areas of improvement would you like to see from local governments in your district?

Lower the the Outrageous Property Assements which bring higher property tax. Quit these unnessesary Pet Projects like the Johnson County Homeless Shelter placing the tax burden on Johnson County residents which presently have no need for it. Focus on the spending of Public Education, They are top heavy in Administration versus the teachers that educates our children.

Q3.4. What do you believe will be the three most important issues of the 2025 Legislative Session?

Issue #1	Budget- Unnecessary Spending- focus on a different tax structure
Issue #2	Spending on Public Education
Issue #3	Safety and Security for Kansans

Q3.5. Will there be any specific legislation you plan to introduce during the 2025 Legislative Session?

Being that I'll be seen as a Junior Member of the House my first year I'll focus on alliances of other members both new and old who have same ideas about running State Government in Kansas. As 2025 approaches the horizon may drastically change and new challenges will be brought forth that my three key issues may take a back seat. Assure you this, whatever comes up there needs to be focus, transparency, and shielding for Kansas Citizens. I dont do Stupid and I don't run with Fools. My Campaign Slogan "Good Governance Is Government Well Served!"

Q4. **Property Taxes**

City officials are elected to face many community challenges, including maintaining critical infrastructure and public safety. Due to the taxing structure in Kansas and economic realities that differ from community to community, property tax is frequently a primary funding source for local governments. The state also collects property taxes.

Q4.1. Do you believe the state and cities should work together to craft effective property tax policies?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Q4.2. Do you believe when the state passes tax laws it requires local governments to follow, that the same laws should apply to the State?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Q4.3. What strategies do you propose to help lower property taxes for residents, while ensuring the continued funding of essential city services such as roads and public safety?

This a question for the local, city, and of course County. Even if the State Caps property tax- local ,city, and county will raise the assesment of property and increase Mill, these are thier tools to collect revenues. Abusive as it seems, it ends up that Kansas- County/ City/Local citizens who have the means will pull up stakes and leave to another county or even another state.

Q5. **Sales Tax Exemptions**

Each year, the Legislature considers (and adopts) numerous sales tax exemptions. These exemptions apply to both local and state levies. Local sales taxes are voter approved, and often directed not just at essential city services but also specific projects, primarily infrastructure or community development.

Q5.1. Would you support having the exemptions approved by the Legislature apply only to state taxes, while leaving local voter-approved levies intact?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Q5.2. Provide any additional comments you may have:

The 6.5 percent State Sales Tax should be classed/ cataglorized into no tax on food or essential utilities for independent senior citizen on full Social Security and fully disabled veterans. Partial tax on recipeints recieveing food stamps/SNAP on food and essential utilities. Note: Declaration of the reduced tax will have to be recognized by the use of a Kansas Driver's license or Kansas I.D. . In addition the rule for recipients recieving Food Stamps must be gainfully employed part time. Another Note: owners of fully electric vehicles will be disqualified for essential utility tax breaks.

Q6. **Comparable Services**

Cities currently work alongside businesses, including providing numerous incentives and taxpayer-funded development programs. Despite these strong relationships and incentives, there are elected officials who believe businesses should be exempt from property taxes if a government entity supports a comparable service. For example, that a childcare provider should be property-tax exempt if a city supports childcare programs for citizens.

Q6.1. Do you believe businesses should not pay property taxes if they consider a city program comparable to its operations?

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

Q6.2. If a for-profit business no longer pays property taxes because of comparable programs offered by a city, should that business remain eligible to receive other taxpayer incentives and tax breaks?

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

Q6.3. Please provide suggestions for what criteria you believe should be used to determine if a business and city are providing comparable services.

No suggestions on that City Comparable Programs until further studies are done.

Q7. **Collaboration & Cooperation**

State laws that directly impact cities, particularly regulatory issues, and tax policies, tend to be developed

without input from cities. However, by working together, city and state governments can create a more cohesive, effective, and responsive governance system that better serves the needs of Kansans.

Q7.1. Do you believe city and state governments should collaborate in developing policies?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Q7.2. Do you believe collaboration between city and state governments can lead to more efficient use of resources?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Q7.3. Do you support state policies that create unfunded mandates for local governments?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Q7.4. Are you open to ensuring you hear feedback from cities in your district before you vote on legislation that directly impacts those cities?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Q7.5. Explain your answer and/or provide any additional comments:

Collaberation should be between City/ Local and County. Further study must be applied on Article 12, Section 5 of the Kansas Consitution.

Q8.1. **Final Comments**

Please use this final space to provide any comments you would like to add to this questionnaire or add any information you want the cities of Kansas to know about you.

Taxes provide Revenues that provide for Infastructure and Services not accessible to the individual. The Administration of Taxes can either create State Government Heros and/or Villans. Necessary Transparency and the public acceptance of understanding taxation is Key. One area that was left out was the Gas Tax on fuel of motor vehicles in regard to Fully Electric Vehicles, going forward there is Legislation on a tax of less than a penny of kilowatt hour. If EV's are going to use the the roads and highways this needs some sort of taxation on them to support infastructure. Thank You.

Embedded Data

City: Shawnee

District: 18

Office: Kansas House of Representatives

Party: Libertarian

Candidate: Steven Hohe

Location Data

Location: (39.0452, -94.7189)

Source: GeoIP Estimation

