

Governing Body Meeting

League Annual Conference
Hyatt Regency Wichita, Walnut Room
Thursday, October 8, 2026

The League Governing Body Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at the League Annual Conference in Wichita. President Kessler will convene the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Call to Order

5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

President:

Russ Kessler, Mayor, Haysville

Vice President:

Vacant

Immediate Past President:

Roy Cessna, Commissioner, Garden City

Past Presidents:

Daron Hall, City Manager, Pittsburg
Terry Somers, Mayor, Mount Hope

Executive Director:

Nathan Eberline, The League

Directors:

John Bacon, Mayor, Olathe
Bob Becker, Mayor, Stockton
Tim Berry, Councilmember, Andover
Christy Gibson, City Clerk, Greensburg
Nick Hernandez, City Manager, Dodge City
Michelle Hoferer, Deputy Mayor, Topeka
Jenny Landers, Mayor, Otis
Lee Leiker, Mayor, Colby
Stan Luke, Mayor, Burlington
Curt Skoog, Mayor, Overland Park ❖
Austin St. John, City Administrator, Mulvane
Lou Thurston, Mayor, Hillsboro
Christal Watson, Mayor, UGWC/KCK
Lily Wu, Mayor, Wichita
La Rochelle Young, Mayor, Atchison

Staff to be Present:

John Goodyear, General Counsel
Rynae Redd, Finance Manager

Spencer Duncan, Government Affairs Dir.
Kerry Pancoast, Administrative Specialist

Key:

- ❖ Unable to Attend
- ▲ See Attached

Opening Matters

- **Issues and Trends - Local Matters of Statewide Concern**

Action Agenda

- **Review and Action on 2027 Statement of Municipal Policy ▲**
 - **Governing Body Discussion and Possible Amendment of Policy Statement**
 - **Action to Forward Policy Statement to Convention of Voting Delegates**
- **Strategic Plan Update▲**
- **Western Kansas Summit**

Information/Discussion Agenda

- **2026 Conference Update ▲**
 - **Key Governing Body Events**
- **2027 Governing Body Meetings**

Consent Agenda

- **Minutes of September 11, 2026 Governing Body Meeting ▲**
- **Financial Report for period ending August 31, 2026 ▲**

Wrap Up

- **Other Business**
- **Dates & Locations for Remaining 2026 Governing Body Meetings**
 - **December 11; Topeka**
- **Adjournment by 5:30 p.m.**

2027 Statement of Municipal Policy

State Issues

League of Kansas Municipalities

RED = Edits

BLUE = New Language or Addition

Legislative Priorities

The success of Kansas is dependent upon the prosperity of its cities. More than 84% of Kansans live in an incorporated city. To promote healthy and sustainable communities, the elected and appointed city officials of Kansas establish the following as 2027 legislative priorities:

Home Rule. Consistent with the Home Rule Amendment of the Kansas Constitution approved by voters, we support local elected officials making decisions for their communities, particularly tax and revenue decisions.

Sales Tax & Exemptions. Cities should continue to retain revenues from voter-approved local sales taxes. The Legislature has the authority to make decisions regarding the statewide sales tax, while local voters have the authority to determine whether to approve local sales taxes. This distinction between state and local decision-making should be respected and preserved.

Mental Health. We support allocating additional resources for mental health programs. Funds should be allocated for community mental health centers and additional bed space for patients with mental health issues.

Housing. A lack of quality housing creates an impediment to growth and economic development. The League supports programs that encourage access to quality housing.

Water. Access to water is paramount for the growth and viability of communities. Government at all levels should pursue the conservation, protection, and development of current and future water supplies to ensure access to clean, safe, and affordable water for all Kansans. We support state action, in consultation with municipal providers, to address surface and groundwater resources.

KPERS: The state should consider a rollback from KPERS 3 to a model closer to KPERS 2 for municipal employees and public employees should be eligible for the DROP program.

Land Use, Zoning, and Development Regulation. Cities should retain local control over planning, zoning, permitting, and development standards. State housing policy should support additional housing without overriding community input or local authority to plan for infrastructure, public safety, neighborhood compatibility, and responsible growth. By-

right housing policies should not be mandated by the state and local due process policies should not be overridden by the state or state mandates.

Franchise Authority. We oppose any legislation restricting the current franchise authority for cities, including limits on franchise fees. **Public Property & Rights-of-Way.** We support the right of cities to control and manage public property and rights-of-way and to impose franchise or use fees on entities that utilize rights-of-way. *(Combine, Topeka, Aug. 27)*

KORA: The League supports modernizing the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) to promote meaningful access to public records for Kansas residents while establishing clear, consistent, and administratively workable requirements for public agencies. *(Wichita, Aug. 20)*

Finance & Taxation

Each city has unique service responsibilities, community needs, and financial capacity. Local governing bodies should retain maximum flexibility to determine the appropriate level and sources of funding for municipal services. The League supports the long-standing principle of maintaining a balanced mix of income, sales, property tax, and other revenue streams to ensure that state and local governments have the fiscal capacity to provide the essential services their residents need.

Tax Policy & Spending. Local taxing and spending decisions are best made by locally elected officials who are directly accountable to the residents they serve. The League opposes state-imposed restrictions on municipal taxing and spending authority. Any change to tax policy should be considered only after a comprehensive evaluation of its effects on taxpayers, taxing jurisdictions, and the sources and amounts of revenue that would be generated, shifted, or eliminated. **This includes the authority of locally elected governing bodies to establish and adjust reasonable development excise taxes without a state-mandated election.** *(Overland Park, August 25)*

Property Taxes. All property-taxing entities — including cities, counties, the state, school districts, special districts, and community colleges — should operate transparently and be subject to consistent limitations, requirements, and standards. Any new transparency measures should be practical and not impose unnecessary administrative or financial burdens. The League encourages state and local governments to improve efficiency and collaborate on innovative solutions that responsibly reduce property taxes.

Property Tax Exemptions. We encourage the legislature to resist any proposal to further exempt any specific property classification from taxation, including industry-specific exemptions. We support the current statutory definition of machinery and equipment, and the exemption should not be expanded. The legislature should review existing exemptions to determine if they should continue or be repealed.

Sales Tax & Exemptions. Cities should continue to retain revenues from voter-approved local sales taxes. The Legislature has the authority to make decisions regarding the statewide sales tax, while local voters have the authority to determine whether to approve local sales taxes. This distinction between state and local decision-making should be

respected and preserved.

Property Valuation. We support appraisals based on fair-market value as historically used in Kansas. We oppose caps in property valuations and limitations on valuation methods that shift the property tax burden, benefiting one category of property to the detriment of all others, as unconstitutional and inequitable.

Taxes Paid Under Protest. The state and county where a city are located should be required to notify cities when taxes, including compensating use and ad valorem taxes, are paid under protest or a large tax exemption is filed so cities have accurate data when making budget decisions.

Countywide Sales and Use Taxes. Since 1977, Kansas has successfully used a city-county revenue-sharing formula that benefits residents throughout both jurisdictions. The existing formula provides a fair and consistent method for distributing voter-approved revenues generated primarily within cities. The Legislature should fully fund existing city-county revenue-sharing programs in accordance with state law.

~~**Sales Tax Revenue in STAR Bond Districts.** The reduction and elimination of the state food sales tax threatens the viability of existing STAR Bond project districts that include groceries by eliminating a source of revenue pledged to repay bonds. We support creation of a long-term funding mechanism to ensure state reimbursement of lost funds caused by reduction and elimination of the state share of food sales tax in impacted STAR Bond districts.~~

Revenues & Spending. We oppose any law requiring a city to spend a certain threshold to receive and maintain state dollars. All spending decisions should remain at the local level. Cities should be authorized to approve alternative revenue sources to maintain appropriate levels of funding for the health, safety, and welfare of citizens. Cities should be allowed to set financial policies in-line with bond rating requirements and other accepted best practices for municipal management.

EMS/Hospital Funding. The League supports Medicaid expansion to provide hospitals and emergency medical services with access to federal funding needed to maintain critical services for Kansans. In the absence of expansion, the state should provide additional funding to help rural hospitals remain open, retain healthcare professionals, support local economies, and protect the health and lives of Kansas residents

Unfunded Mandates & Loan Programs. We oppose unfunded mandates. If the state or federal governments seek to promote particular policy objectives, such mandates must be accompanied by an appropriate level of funding. We support changes to allow local governments to participate directly in federal loan programs.

Local Authority. We support cities' ability to impose and collect taxes and fees on telecommunications providers. All cities should have the same banking and investment authority as the state grants itself. We support Kansas statutes being modernized to reflect revenue neutral rate requirements when determining a public library's eligibility for state funding.

Public Safety

Cities play a vital role in protecting the health and safety of their residents. All levels of government should collaborate in developing and implementing effective public health and safety programs.

Homeless/Unsheltered: Unsheltered individuals are living in cities across Kansas in growing numbers, putting strains on local budgets, law enforcement agencies, first responders, and mental health professionals. The state should enhance local initiatives by providing resources and coordination with local providers.

Asset Forfeiture. All assets forfeited, or proceeds of the sale of the same, should remain with the local government that seizes the property.

Municipal Court. All assessed court funds under a municipal court order, other than restitution collected and payable to a third party and state assessments paid under K.S.A. 12-4117, should be retained by the local municipality. We support municipalities' ability to set appropriate fines and fees.

Emergency 911 Services. Cities and counties should retain local control over administration of 911 systems. The 911 fee should continue to apply to wireline and wireless communications, and local governments should have sufficient flexibility to use these revenues to support emergency communications and response services. All 911 revenues should remain dedicated to their intended public safety purposes and not be diverted by the Legislature for unrelated uses.

Emergency Management. Implementation strategies must promote cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local governments. Changes to the Emergency Management Act should consider the role of a city in responding to disasters.

Medical Charges. The first person responsible for payment of medical costs should be the individual in custody. Clarification is needed that the entity charging for a crime is responsible in the event those costs cannot be recovered. We support the pooling of resources between state and local law enforcement agencies.

Law Enforcement Discretion. We support local governments' discretion in establishing law enforcement vehicle pursuit policies and the ability of law enforcement officers to use discretion in determining when to make an arrest.

Service Animal Fraud. We support strengthening and redefining the crime of service animal fraud to disincentivize individuals from asserting an animal is a service animal to avoid vicious animals, exotic, livestock, or breed-specific ordinances.

Alcohol & CMB Regulation. We support the authority of cities to license and regulate alcoholic liquor and cereal malt beverage retailers and establishments.

Medical Marijuana. Medical marijuana should remain subject to all applicable state and local sales taxes. Cities should also have the authority to impose local excise fees and receive

an equitable share of state-generated revenues to offset regulatory, enforcement, public-health, and other local impacts. Dispensaries should be permitted only in cities that affirmatively opt in. Cultivation and processing of medical marijuana and THC products should be limited to licensed facilities, with residential grow operations prohibited.

Homeland Security. Local first responders are the front-line defense in the prevention and response to terrorism and security risks. Local governments should be granted maximum flexibility over implementation of monies and strategies regarding homeland security.

Cybersecurity. We encourage the State to provide collaborative discussions, training programs, and feasibility studies for the impact of cyber- attacks on cities. Cities will use information provided by the state to determine best practices and policies for municipal implementation.

Mental Health. We support allocating additional resources for mental health programs. Funds should be allocated for community mental health centers and additional bed space for patients with mental health issues.

Medical Workforce Initiative. Kansas hospitals and healthcare facilities face a critical shortage of licensed medical, clinical, and behavioral-health professionals. The League supports increased state investment in programs that recruit and retain healthcare workers, the development of behavioral-health technician certificate programs at community and technical colleges, and the establishment of a rural psychiatric residency program.

Infrastructure & Transportation

Cities construct, operate, and maintain the infrastructure essential to residents' quality of life, including transportation networks, municipal utilities, energy systems, water facilities, and environmental infrastructure. Local officials must retain authority and flexibility to determine the investments best suited to their communities. Meeting these responsibilities requires strong state and federal partnerships, including the full and timely funding of infrastructure programs established by law.

Connecting Links. The State should maintain KDOT's funding for connecting link programs at a minimum of the FY 2020 level for cities to provide for the maintenance of state highways within city limits. We support full funding of the City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP).

City-County Highway Fund. The City-County Highway Fund should be fully funded and not diverted for other purposes. Such funding should include the transfer of fees from the registration of out-of-state commercial vehicles, as directed by K.S.A. 79-3425i. Proceeds from increases to the motor fuel tax rates should be allocated in accordance with current statutory provisions. The state needs to evaluate and study the reduction in this fund, and its impact on cities, and collaborate with local governments on future investment in the projects supported.

Comprehensive Transportation Program. The League supports a safe, efficient, accessible, and comprehensive transportation system. The state should fully fund the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE) and partner with local governments to maintain and improve transportation infrastructure. We support continued investment in multimodal transportation networks and local transportation districts that give cities the tools to advance community transportation priorities. Transportation projects involving shared infrastructure should be planned and funded collaboratively by all participating entities.

Modern Transportation Development. We support a modern and sustainable transportation system that meets the needs of all Kansans. The state should invest in expanding electric charging station infrastructure, enhancing airport facilities and services, developing recreational trails, and improving passenger and freight rail service. We also support changes to state law that make it easier and more affordable to develop these projects.

Electric Vehicle Charges. Any fees or taxes imposed on charging stations or Electric Vehicle (EV) fees remitted to the state should be put into the Special Highway Fund, not the general fund. The state should study the impacts of assessing a tax or fee on users of EV charging stations, to offset declines in motor vehicle gas taxes.

Uniform Traffic Code. We support a comprehensive review and recodification of the Uniform Traffic Code.

Matching Funds. We support allocating surplus state fund revenues to cities to maximize federal discretionary grant funds.

Utilities

Broadband. Access to reliable, high-speed broadband is essential to the economic vitality of cities. The League supports continued broadband grant funding to expand service, particularly in underserved areas. Grant requirements and broadband-related laws should recognize local governments as essential partners and preserve their authority over community planning and the management of public rights-of-way.

Service Territory. Municipalities must retain authority to purchase, construct, or extend infrastructure necessary to supply cities and their inhabitants with public utilities, including electric services. Cities should have the freedom and flexibility to grow and expand service territories.

Municipal Operation. We support the ability of cities to operate municipal gas, water, electricity, sewer, telecommunications, broadband, solid waste, stormwater, and other utility services. We further support the ability of cities to set and control rates for locally owned and operated utilities.

Right of First Refusal. We support municipal utilities having the ability to invest in new electric/transmission projects to provide reliable, affordable service to customers. We

oppose efforts prohibiting competition for transmission projects.

Franchise Authority. We oppose any legislation restricting the current franchise authority for cities, including limits on franchise fees.

Mandates. Any mandates passed down to cities by the state or federal government on utility services should not be imposed without a cost-benefit analysis and accompanied by appropriate funding. Regulations should be reasonable in overall scope and timing of implementation.

Right-of-Way. Cities must maintain the ability to regulate public right-of-way and recover reasonable compensation for use of the right-of-way. Kansas policy should not be dictated by federal mandates. We oppose efforts to codify at the state level federal directives limiting cities' powers. *Taxpayers should not be required to pay for relocation costs for private businesses. (Overland Park, Aug. 25)*

Large Load Development. Cities should retain authority over the siting, zoning, utility and water service, infrastructure, public-safety standards, and local economic-development incentives associated with data centers. State approvals and incentives should include notice to affected municipalities, consideration of local fiscal and resource impacts, and safeguards against shifting infrastructure and utility costs to cities, taxpayers and ratepayers. *(Colby, August 19)(Topeka, Aug. 27)*

Energy

Electric Utility Deregulation. Community-owned and operated municipal electric utilities make long-term power supply decisions and investments to benefit the overall community. We support continued local control over power supply decisions.

Statewide Energy Policy. We support development of a coordinated and comprehensive Energy Plan. Further, we support creative and cooperative implementation of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies that are environmentally sustainable and economically successful. We support public and private incentives to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Building Codes. Cities should continue to be allowed to shape local codes to incentivize net zero or net-zero ready building requirements.

Propane. We support cities' authority to protect public safety by regulating the capacity of propane units/facilities for residential or commercial purposes. State laws restricting the municipality's ability to put local regulations in place, particularly inspections, should be repealed.

Water and Environment

Water Quality. We support a clean and safe public water supply and the protection of public health and aquatic life. We endorse regional and cooperative solutions to water quality challenges that address point and non-point source pollution while balancing municipal cost

and water rights concerns.

Water Quantity. The League supports efforts to extend the useful life of reservoirs and increase storage capacity for municipal water supplies. The state should act promptly, in consultation with municipal water providers, to protect and manage surface-water and groundwater resources while preserving established water-right priorities. Existing water-management tools should be expanded or modified to provide all water-right holders with comparable flexibility and authority, regardless of classification.

Water Re-use: We support the development of standards and an approval process for the re-use of wastewater effluent for consumer use.

Public Water Supply Supervision Program. We support changes to the statutory language, increasing the funding stability for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Public Water Supply Supervision program. These changes must balance municipal concerns while recognizing the state has a responsibility to contribute to these public health matters.

Water Planning. We support increased municipal representation on the Kansas Water Authority; broad-based revenue sources and distribution for the state Water Plan Fund; and a re-evaluation of the process for adopting the annual state Water Plan Fund budget.

Infrastructure Funding. We support increased federal and state funding to assist local communities with water, wastewater, stormwater, levee and dam infrastructure and associated security needs. We call for loan terms of up to 40 years when the usable lifespan of an improvement will exceed the term of the loan.

Stormwater Management. We endorse regional and cooperative solutions to stormwater quality and quantity challenges that address point and non-point source pollution. We further endorse state measures to incentivize and enable investment in green infrastructure to support sustainable communities.

Solid Waste. Home rule powers of cities to dispose of and manage municipal solid waste should not be restricted. This includes recycling, electronic waste and composting programs.

Hazardous Waste. We support a comprehensive state and local cooperative approach to aid in identifying hazardous waste and to develop programs to monitor and dispose of such waste. Appropriate education and training should be provided prior to implementation of such programs.

Clean Air. We support a state-developed air quality plan that protects the health and safety of Kansans while balancing municipal cost concerns.

Water and Wastewater Certification. The League supports water and wastewater operator certification programs that align examination requirements with the practical knowledge and skills needed to operate modern utility systems. Certification standards and examinations should be regularly reviewed to ensure they are relevant, consistent, and

reliable measures of professional competency. We encourage contracting, regional partnerships, and other collaborative approaches that help utilities obtain the expertise and certified personnel needed to serve ratepayers effectively.

Human Resources

City employees are the foundation of city government. City governing bodies must have authority to develop local personnel policies to attract and maintain a high-quality workforce.

Workers' Compensation. We support reasonable and just benefits for employees injured within the course and scope of their public employment, and effective enforcement of the Workers' Compensation Act.

KPERS & KP&F. The League supports full actuarial funding of the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) and Kansas Police and Firemen's Retirement System (KP&F), as well as honoring all benefit commitments made to employees and retirees. The local KPERS group should remain separate from the state and school groups. Any changes to KPERS should strengthen cities' ability to recruit and retain qualified employees, avoid unnecessary barriers to hiring KPERS retirees, and protect promised benefits. The state should consider replacing KPERS Tier 3 with a model more closely aligned with Tier 2 for municipal employees and expanding eligibility for the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) to other public employees.

Public Employer-Employee Relations Act (PEERA)/Collective Bargaining. We oppose any federal or state mandate requiring collective bargaining at the local level.

Mandates. We oppose state and federal mandates involving public personnel. We oppose federal and state mandates requiring or prohibiting the payment of prevailing wages.

Weapons and Firearms. We support the ability of local governments to set policies regarding the carrying of weapons, [knives](#), and firearms by municipal employees while engaged in their work. ([Wichita, Aug. 20](#))

Health Care & Other Benefits. The League supports collaboration and continued study of strategies to reduce the cost of employee health coverage, including preserving the option for cities to participate in the state employee health plan. We support repealing mandates that require cities to subsidize post-retirement health coverage. Federal law already provides eligible retirees with an avenue to continue coverage without requiring local property taxpayers to bear these substantial costs.

Unemployment. We support reasonable and just benefits for employees who are qualified individuals under the Kansas Employment Security Law. We oppose the finding that volunteers, who are paid a nominal stipend, are considered qualified individuals. We support legislation to define "volunteer" in Kansas employment law that is consistent with federal law.

Government Policies & Procedures

Abiding by constitutional Home Rule, there is a need to ensure local governments maintain autonomy and the authority of self-governance to create a safe and sustainable quality of life for residents.

Home Rule. Consistent with the Home Rule Amendment of the Kansas Constitution approved by voters, we support local elected city officials making decisions for their communities, particularly tax and revenue decisions.

Government Competition. Local governments should retain the authority to determine which services are necessary to meet the needs of their residents and businesses. Competitive markets are generally the most effective means of providing goods and services. However, when the market fails to provide an essential service, does so inefficiently, or creates adverse effects that threaten public health, safety, or welfare, local governments must have the flexibility to respond. Because municipal services are provided for the public benefit, local governments should retain the tax exemptions and other financial protections necessary to deliver those services affordably.

Protection of the First Amendment. The right of the people through democratically elected and appointed officials to petition and speak to government officials shall not be abridged. We support cities' First Amendment right of freedom of association to work together to accomplish common goals.

Police Powers. We support the authority of cities to regulate to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. No municipal police department should be mandated to enter into any agreements with other agencies.

Non-Discrimination. We oppose discrimination against any person by reason of their race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, or sexual orientation), age, national origin, ancestry, disability, military/veteran status, or genetic information.

City Elections. Local elected officials should retain authority over whether municipal elections are partisan or nonpartisan, the timing of elections, terms of office, and other elements of local government organization. We oppose state mandates moving city elections to different election cycles or imposing uniform terms of office without local approval. State election-law changes that impose additional costs on local governments should be accompanied by sufficient funding.

Filing for Office. To encourage a higher number of candidates to file for office, we support the filing location for city elections being available in the city clerk's office. The state should evaluate remote filing options.

Filling of Vacancies. Vacancy filling should remain the responsibility of local governing bodies made up of duly elected officials.

Annexation. We support local jurisdictions' ability to make their own decisions regarding

orderly growth through annexation.

Sign Regulation. We support the authority of local government to regulate signs in compliance with federal law.

Public Property & Rights-of-Way. We support the right of cities to control and manage public property and rights-of-way and to impose franchise or use fees on entities that utilize rights-of-way.

Eminent Domain. We support flexibility for local governments to use eminent domain for economic development purposes, including blight remediation, without seeking legislative approval.

Governmental Immunity. We support continued immunity for cities from tort liability and legislation strengthening the Kansas Torts Claims Act.

Interlocal Cooperation. We support the principle of voluntary cooperation among all levels of government.

City/County Consolidation. We support processes for local consolidation without undue statutory barriers. Voters should be allowed to determine whether consolidation with another unit of government occurs.

Private Cemetery Liability. We support removing the requirement for cities to care for and maintain formerly private cemeteries that have been dissolved.

Municipal Contracting and Legal Authority. Cities support transparent and accountable contracting and should retain the authority to select legal counsel, negotiate contracts, establish procurement and construction terms, manage risk, and pursue appropriate claims and legal remedies, including public-nuisance actions. We oppose one-size-fits-all contract requirements, unnecessary approval by state officials, and restrictions on municipal access to the courts that interfere with a city's ability to protect its residents, property, and financial interests.

Statutory Clarity and Finality. State laws governing municipal procedures should provide clear and practical standards for determining when action by a local governing body is final. When judicial decisions reveal ambiguity or uncertainty in those laws, the Legislature should clarify the statutes to promote certainty, timely resolution, and effective local decision-making. *(Overland Park, August 25)*

Community Development

Child Care: Recognizing that accessible childcare is essential to children's well-being, family economic stability, and workforce participation, the state should partner with cities to address a growing childcare shortage. State funding should support the development and expansion of childcare facilities, workforce training and professional development, and technical assistance for childcare providers.

Housing. The League supports programs that encourage access to quality housing,

including but not limited to, the Housing Investor Tax Credit Act, the Kansas Affordable Housing Tax Credit Act, the Kansas Rural Home Loan Guarantee Act, guaranteeing appraisals in rural counties, the Historic Kansas Act, and the Reinvestment Housing Incentive Districts.

Short-term Rentals. Cities should retain authority to adopt housing policies responsive to local needs, including authority to regulate short-term rentals through reasonable zoning, licensing, inspection, occupancy, safety, fee, and taxation requirements. The state should avoid one-size-fits-all restrictions that prevent cities from addressing neighborhood, housing, tourism, and public-safety conditions within their communities.

Reinvestment Housing Incentive Districts. We support the creation of a State low interest revolving loan fund to finance development in Reinvestment Housing Incentive Districts.

Abandoned and Blighted Housing. We support streamlining and expediting the process for local governments, neighborhood organizations, and private businesses to deal with the blight of abandoned, nuisance, foreclosed housing, and commercial structures to protect the rights and property values of surrounding property owners. Cities should continue to retain the ability to manage vacant property registry programs to counter blight.

Housing-Rental Inspections. We support giving cities authority to require inspections of rental housing for the safety of tenants and to protect the rights and property values of surrounding property owners.

Revitalization Tools. We support continued use of the Neighborhood Revitalization Act, Downtown Redevelopment Act, Transportation Development District Act and Community Improvement District Act to promote local neighborhood development.

Economic Development Tools. Cities should retain broad authority and maximum flexibility to use tax abatements, tax increment financing (TIF), STAR bonds, industrial revenue bonds, tax credits, and other lawful economic-development tools. Local officials are best positioned to determine which tools are appropriate for attracting investment, supporting businesses and nonprofit organizations, partnering with community stakeholders, creating jobs, and meeting the needs of their residents. The state should preserve these programs and avoid preemptions or restrictions that unnecessarily limit their local use. Communities should remain empowered to evaluate each opportunity and select the tools that best advance their economic and community-development priorities.

Licensing, Permitting, and Inspection. Cities should retain the authority to license, permit, inspect, and reasonably regulate businesses, occupations, trades, structures, and activities affecting public health, safety, and welfare. Statewide licensing standards should not eliminate locally administered qualifications, inspections, or enforcement where local conditions warrant. We support cooperation and reasonable reciprocity that improve credential portability without diminishing local public-safety authority.

~~**Tax Abatements.** We support the authority of cities to offer tax abatements to encourage business investment in communities.~~

~~**Tax Increment Financing (TIF).** We support the continued use of TIF to promote economic development. TIF laws should allow maximum flexibility for efficient use by communities.~~

~~**STAR Bonds.** We support the ability of cities to utilize STAR bonds to promote economic development in communities.~~

~~**Land Use and Zoning.** We support the ability of local officials to make land use and zoning decisions within their community, including decisions about location, placement, size, appearance, and siting of transmission and receiving facilities and any other communications facilities.~~

Land Use, Zoning, and Development Regulation. Cities should retain local control over planning, zoning, permitting, and development standards. State housing policy should support additional housing without overriding community input or local authority to plan for infrastructure, public safety, neighborhood compatibility, and responsible growth. By-right housing policies should not be mandated by the state and local due process policies should not be overridden by the state or its mandates. *(Overland park, Aug. 25)*

Building and Fire Codes. We oppose any measures to preempt local building and fire codes. *(Topeka, Aug. 27)*

Tourism. We support cooperative ventures between state and local government to promote tourism as an industry vital to growth and development.

~~**Tax credits.** We support the continued availability of tax credits as a tool for economic development.~~

Program Development: Consistent and predictable access to development funding, including programs that provide resources directly to businesses through state-administered grants or loans, strengthens local economies and enhances quality of life. We encourage the legislature to maintain its commitment to these programs and investment in communities.

Transparency in Government

Open Meetings. All levels of government should be subject to the same open meetings requirements. These laws should not be unduly burdensome.

Open Records. All levels of government should be subject to the same open records requirements. State laws governing open records should balance the public's right of access, with the necessity of protecting the privacy of individual citizens, and the ability of public agencies to conduct essential business functions. We support a city's ability to recoup reasonable costs associated with requests.

Intergovernmental Dialogue. We support current law regarding the use of state and local public money to provide information on behalf of our cities and citizens. No reporting system should increase the administrative burden on local governments.

Audio/Visual Recordings: We support the ability of local governments to determine when and how audio/visual recordings will be used by law enforcement officers, including the

regulations concerning public access to those recordings, balancing the needs of law enforcement and the individuals whose images and sounds are captured in the recordings.

KORA: The League supports modernizing the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) to promote meaningful access to public records for Kansas residents while establishing clear, consistent, and administratively workable requirements for public agencies. KORA should address the burdens of AI-generated, out-of-state, and foreign records requests by limiting requests to Kansas residents and establishing reasonable standards for voluminous, complex, bulk, or electronic requests, including native files and metadata. Agencies should be permitted reasonable time and cost recovery and should not be required to produce non-substantive information that creates cybersecurity, privacy, fraud, or document-integrity risks. *(Wichita, Aug. 20)*

To: League of Kansas Municipalities Executive Committee
From: Nathan Eberline, Executive Director
Date: August 3, 2026
Re: League Strategic Plan – KPI Extension

Introduction

This draft reflects a proposed extension of the current strategic plan through December 31, 2028. The intent is to keep the League’s core goals largely intact while updating the performance measures, so they better reflect member value, organizational effectiveness, and the League’s evergreen service model. The League staff also recommends adding a new goal that addresses public understanding of local matters, as this theme was consistent in our surveys and group discussions.

Goal 1: Strengthen relationships among members and promote public service

The goal tightens the original goal of “*Build relationships among members to foster collaboration at the local level and promote public service.*” The purpose of this goal is to help cities learn from one another, strengthen regional relationships, and increase member awareness of the League’s value and services.

Updated Strategies

1. Support regional roundtables, member-hosted meetings, and other organic regional convenings.
 - *Originally 1.1:* Provide regional roundtable opportunities for members to discuss specific issues and solutions with their neighbors. (2023)
2. Publish issue briefs, infographics, and practical tools that help members understand statewide issues before and during the legislative session.
 - *Originally 1.2:* Publish policy papers or infographics to proactively equip city leaders before the legislative session with information beyond the Statement of Municipal Policy on issues carried over from the prior session or anticipated for action (e.g., groundwater management districts, RNR, government competition bill). (2025)

3. Strengthen League communications, so members understand not only what the League does, but how those efforts connect to local government outcomes.
 - *Source:* Feedback from surveys and League meetings
4. Original Remaining Strategies for Goal 1 have been incorporated below:
 - *Original 1.3:* Partner with businesses that can assist in developing solutions to critical and/or difficult issues. (2025) *See Goal 3, Strategy 1.*
 - *Original 1.4:* Engage with regional and university partners (e.g., REAP, SEK, MARC) to share information, identify challenges and best practices, and find solutions. (2025) *See Goal 3, Strategy 1.*
 - *Original 1.5:* Enhance public awareness about the value of cities. (2025) *See Goal 4*
 - *Original 1.6:* Work with the Kansas Department of Education to enhance education requirements and curriculum opportunities to promote engagement with local governments and civics education. (2025) *See Goal 4*
 - *Original 1.7:* Work with UnitedWE or other outside organizations to target women encouraging service as local officials. (2026) *See Goal 2, Strategy 5*

Updated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- Annual member satisfaction with the League’s ability to address critical statewide issues remains at or above the prior baseline and trends upward over time.
- Results from satisfaction survey show increasing member awareness of key League services and resources.
- A clear majority of members report that the League is accessible, responsive, and relevant to their city’s needs.
- Member feedback shows that the League is helping communities of different sizes and regions feel represented in League work.

Goal 2: Strengthen leadership capacity, empower local officials, and support effective governance in Kansas communities.

This updated goal both broadens and supports important strategies for the League’s effectiveness and captures the idea of equipping our cities with sound leadership. It replaces the original Goal 2, “Enhance member orientation and professional development to empower elected and administrative officials to improve effective governance and management of Kansas communities.” The purpose is to focus on equipping elected officials and administrative staff with practical education, useful tools, and timely guidance that improve local governance and management.

Updated Strategies

1. Increase member awareness of League resources and improve access to make them easier to find and use.
 - *Originally 2.1:* Increase efforts to ensure members are aware of services and resources provided by the League to assist in governing and managing cities. (2024)
2. Expand online and in-person educational resources and improve access to online information.
 - *Retains Goal 2.4.* (2026)
3. Produce practical technical guidance on essential operations, statutory responsibilities, and core city services.
 - *Originally 2.3:* Provide additional resources and technical guidance to members. (2024)
4. Use peer learning, model materials, and examples from Kansas cities to make the League's education more practical and transferable.
 - *Originally 2.2:* Partner with member cities, universities, and other organizations to create, promote, and provide regional training opportunities for members on relevant topics including the basics, advanced topics for those in office for longer periods of time, and emerging issues.
5. Support partnerships that encourage a broad range of Kansans, particularly women and younger citizens, to prepare for public service and participation in local governance.
 - *Originally 1.7:* Work with UnitedWE or other outside organizations to target women encouraging service as local officials. (2026)

Updated KPIs

- Participant satisfaction with professional development offerings remains consistently strong.
- An increasing number of participants report that League education improved their understanding, confidence, or ability to apply what they learned.
- Annual survey feedback shows that members can identify and access League tools, training, or guidance that helped them govern or manage more effectively.
- The Governing Body receives a clear and regular summary of which topics produced the most useful member response and which areas need refinement.

Goal 3: Strengthen strategic partnerships that advance effective local government in Kansas.

The objective of this change is to build and maintain year-round relationships that help the League advance municipal interests, explain local government, and work proactively with state partners. It

replaces the narrower goal three, “Build relationships with state officials and statewide associations to increase efforts to strengthen Kansas.”

Updated Strategies

1. Develop and strengthen strategic partnerships with governmental, educational, nonprofit, and private-sector organizations that complement the League's mission and enhance its ability to serve Kansas cities.
 - *Originally 3.1:* Strengthen relationships among League staff, local elected officials, and associations of city professionals. (2024)
2. Maintain year-round relationship-building with legislators, state officials, and statewide associations.
 - *Originally 3.3:* Encourage members to host social events throughout summer and fall for members to interact with state legislators and families (e.g., tour new city facility, invite to ribbon cutting event, take a behind-the-scenes zoo walkabout, create an event to celebrate a state grant or completion of a project funded by a local tax [especially critical infrastructure or housing] to help them understand how property taxes are used).
 - *Originally 3.5:* Build relationships with statewide associations and state officials. (2025)
 - *Originally 3.6:* Increase engagement of local elected officials with the League and with state legislators. (2026)
3. Continue creating plain-language materials that help explain property taxes, home rule, city services, reserve accounts, and the real costs of municipal operations—all with a legislative focus.
 - *Source:* Feedback from surveys and League meetings
4. Support member storytelling so cities can share concrete examples of how municipal services affect residents' daily lives.
 - *Originally 3.6:* Increase engagement of local elected officials with the League and with state legislators. (2026)
5. Increase opportunities for members and legislators to interact outside the Capitol, including tours, local visits, and community-based events.
 - *Originally 3.4:* Convene conversations between members (rural, urban, east, and west) to address statewide issues; recognizing issues may differ by size of community. (2024)
6. Support regional engagement that enhances existing organic meetings, strengthens current regional networks, and builds new network development.

- *Originally 3.2 & 3.4:* Create and fill part-time regional ambassador positions in each KDOT region to build relationships with all levels of government and enhance communications between the League and its members. (2026)

Updated KPIs

- Annual survey feedback shows that members believe the League effectively represents municipal interests with state officials.
- Governing Body review indicates that the League is increasingly proactive, rather than defensive, on priority state issues.
- Members report stronger understanding of how the League communicates municipal priorities to state leaders.
- The Governing Body can identify clear examples of effective relationship-building, public education, and issue advancement during the year.

Goal 4: Promote Public Understanding of Local Government

This theme dominated our meetings more than any other aside from property taxes. It came up in the context of home rule, public finance, telling our story, high school civic education, in addition to property taxes. The idea that “citizens don’t understand” may not be something that the League can directly address, but we need to equip our members to help their citizens understand and engage. This new goal addresses that objective and should be part of our efforts in the upcoming years.

Updated Strategies

1. Prioritize programming that helps members explain local government clearly to citizens and other stakeholders.
 - *Source:* Feedback from surveys and League meetings
2. Develop communication toolkits cities can customize that help members better tell their story.
 - *Source:* Feedback from surveys and League meetings
3. Produce short videos and other accessible resources to better explain municipal services.
 - *Source:* Feedback from surveys and League meetings
4. Partner with schools and civic organizations to promote knowledgeable and engaged citizens
 - *Source:* Feedback from surveys and League meetings

Updated KPIs

- Annual survey asks whether cities have useful communication tools.
- Member feedback identifies examples of successful public education.
- Governing Body annually reviews new educational resources developed.
- Cities report increased confidence explaining complex municipal issues.

Conclusion and Next Steps

As we discussed during the 2025 Annual Conference, the 2023 Strategic Plan has provided a strong and evergreen framework for guiding the League's work, while allowing the organization to respond to new opportunities and member needs. The proposed extension retains the plan's core goals and strategic direction while incorporating refinements that reflect member feedback, particularly in strengthening public education, strategic partnerships, and the League's ability to communicate the value of local government.

League staff offers this proposal to the Executive Committee for review in preparation for our September meeting. Upon the Executive Committee's approval, we propose forwarding the revised strategic plan to the Governing Body for consideration at its next meeting before presenting the final document to the League membership in October.

Appendix A – Clean Copy for Member Presentation

In 2023, the League's Governing Body presented a three-year strategic plan to the full membership for adoption. During the League's 2025 Annual Conference, the Governing Body met and determined that the goals and strategies remain essential for the League's service to our member cities. With this idea in mind, the Governing Body voted to extend the strategic plan for two additional years subject to recommendations by local officials from across the state. While largely the same strategic plan as 2023, there is an increased focus on providing resources to our members and the public to help demonstrate to Kansans all the important work that our cities perform. The League's Governing Body submits this plan to the membership for adoption and execution through 2028.

Goal 1: Strengthen relationships among members and promote public service

Strategies

1. Support regional roundtables, member-hosted meetings, and other organic regional convenings.
2. Publish issue briefs, infographics, and practical tools that help members understand statewide issues before and during the legislative session.
3. Strengthen League communications, so members understand not only what the League does, but how those efforts connect to local government outcomes.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)/

- Annual member satisfaction with the League's ability to address critical statewide issues remains at or above the prior baseline and trends upward over time.
- Results from satisfaction survey show increasing member awareness of key League services and resources.
- A clear majority of members report that the League is accessible, responsive, and relevant to their city's needs.
- Member feedback shows that the League is helping communities of different sizes and regions feel represented in League work.

Goal 2: Strengthen leadership capacity, empower local officials, and support effective governance in Kansas communities.

Strategies

1. Increase member awareness of League resources and improve access to make them easier to find and use.

2. Expand online and in-person educational resources and improve access to online information.
3. Produce practical technical guidance on essential operations, statutory responsibilities, and core city services.
4. Use peer learning, model materials, and examples from Kansas cities to make the League's education more practical and transferable.
5. Support partnerships that encourage a broad range of Kansans, particularly women and younger citizens, to prepare for public service and participation in local governance.

KPIs

- Participant satisfaction with professional development offerings remains consistently strong.
- An increasing number of participants report that League education improved their understanding, confidence, or ability to apply what they learned.
- Annual survey feedback shows that members can identify and access League tools, training, or guidance that helped them govern or manage more effectively.
- The Governing Body receives a clear and regular summary of which topics produced the most useful member response and which areas need refinement.

Goal 3: Strengthen strategic partnerships that advance effective local government in Kansas.

Strategies

1. Develop and strengthen strategic partnerships with governmental, educational, nonprofit, and private-sector organizations that complement the League's mission and enhance its ability to serve Kansas cities.
2. Maintain year-round relationship-building with legislators, state officials, and statewide associations.
3. Continue creating plain-language materials that help explain property taxes, home rule, city services, reserve accounts, and the real costs of municipal operations—all with a legislative focus.
4. Support member storytelling so cities can share concrete examples of how municipal services affect residents' daily lives.
5. Increase opportunities for members and legislators to interact outside the Capitol, including tours, local visits, and community-based events.
6. Support regional engagement that enhances existing organic meetings, strengthens current regional networks, and builds new network development.

KPIs

- Annual survey feedback shows that members believe the League effectively represents municipal interests with state officials.

- Governing Body review indicates that the League is increasingly proactive, rather than defensive, on priority state issues.
- Members report stronger understanding of how the League communicates municipal priorities to state leaders.
- The Governing Body can identify clear examples of effective relationship-building, public education, and issue advancement during the year.

Goal 4: Promote Public Understanding of Local Government

Strategies

1. Prioritize programming that helps members explain local government clearly to citizens and other stakeholders.
2. Develop communication toolkits cities can customize that help members better tell their story.
3. Produce short videos and other accessible resources to better explain municipal services.
4. Partner with schools and civic organizations to promote knowledgeable and engaged citizens

KPIs

- Annual survey asks whether cities have useful communication tools.
- Member feedback identifies examples of successful public education.
- Governing Body annually reviews new educational resources developed.
- Cities report increased confidence explaining complex municipal issues.



2026 League Annual Conference

Key Governing Body Events

Thursday, October 8

Legislative Policy Committee Meeting: Hyatt Regency Wichita (Promenade level) - Cypress AB
12:00 p.m. - 1:20 p.m. **meeting will begin at 12:00 p.m. and lunch will be served at 11:45 prior to the meeting.*

Governing Body Meeting: Hyatt Regency Wichita (Promenade level) - Walnut Room
5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

League Governing Body & Staff Reception: Hyatt Regency Wichita - Suite 1701
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, October 9

Nominating Committee Meeting: Hyatt Regency Wichita (Promenade level) - Walnut Room
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

General Session: Hyatt Regency Wichita - Eagle Ballroom
Keynote speaker: Peter Kageyama
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Lunch & Trade Show Opening: Century II Convention Center - Bob Brown Expo Hall
12:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Trade Show Reception & Vendor Prize Giveaway: Century II Convention Center - Bob Brown Expo Hall
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

League & Host City Social Event -
Hyatt Regency Wichita - Eagle Ballroom
Dinner and entertainment Annika Wooton: 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
Wind Surge Stadium
Late night happy hour and fireworks: 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
**Wear your new League shirts to this event*

Saturday, October 10

Public Service Awards General Session: Hyatt Regency Wichita - Eagle Ballroom
8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. **breakfast buffet will open at 7:45 prior to the start of this session.*

Closing Business Meeting/Convention of Voting Delegates: Hyatt Regency Wichita - Eagle Ballroom
12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Governing Body Meeting

Topeka, KS

Friday, September 11, 2026

The League Governing Body Meeting was held on Friday, September 11, 2026, at the League of Kansas Municipalities in Topeka.

President Kessler called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.; the meeting began with a moment of silence to honor the lives lost during the 9/11 tragedy.

Call to Order

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

President:

Russ Kessler, Mayor, Haysville

Vice President:

Vacant

Immediate Past President:

Roy Cessna, Commissioner, Garden City

Past Presidents:

Daron Hall, City Manager, Pittsburg

Terry Somers, Mayor, Mount Hope

Executive Director:

Nathan Eberline, The League

Directors:

John Bacon, Mayor, Olathe

Bob Becker, Mayor, Stockton

Tim Berry, Councilmember, Andover

Christy Gibson, City Clerk, Greensburg

Nick Hernandez, City Manager, Dodge City

Michelle Hoferer, Deputy Mayor, Topeka

Jenny Landers, Mayor, Otis

Lee Leiker, Mayor, Colby ❖

Stan Luke, Mayor, Burlington

Curt Skoog, Mayor, Overland Park

Austin St. John, City Administrator, Mulvane

Lou Thurston, Mayor, Hillsboro

Christal Watson, Mayor, UGWC/KCK

Lily Wu, Mayor, Wichita ❖

La Rochelle Young, Mayor, Atchison

Staff to be Present:

Kate Cooley, Deputy Director

Rynae Redd, Finance Manager

John Goodyear, General Counsel

Spencer Duncan, Government Affairs Dir.

Key:

❖ Unable to Attend

▲ See Attached

○ **Issues and Trends - Local Matters of Statewide Concern**

- Mayor Kessler brought up the use of Flock cameras in Haysville, as those seem to be a common concern in multiple cities. Nathan reported at the NLC meeting, a rep from Flock had reached out asking to meet. Mayor Skoog reported OP does not use Flock, but they do have plate readers. Mayor Skoog offered that Overland Park has a policing transparency page, which includes policies regarding how long they keep and use data in case anyone is interested in creating a similar resource. Nick Hernandez shared that Dodge City does utilize Flock, with their data stored for 30 days, and they also have a transparency reporting function. Nathan confirmed plate readers and similar use of cameras did come up in the Statement of Municipal Policy (SMP) meeting process, so we will continue to look at that and may need additional feedback. Mayor Bacon's concern was how do we reassure citizens that when the data is gone, it's gone? Nathan said he would reach out to the State Office of Information Technology Services for additional information.
- Mayor Skoog discussed CDGB Funds and new rules; required to use the registration process and providing funding i.e. rent or utility assistance, most commonly claimed by non-residents; he indicated Overland Park is no longer passing that money through to individuals due to the requirement to turn over records to the Federal government. Nathan and Spencer reported they were recently on a call with NLC about the new rules surrounding federal grants and potential claw-backs imposed by the Trump Administration. The main concern from members is that it's already challenging to apply for and administer grants, so many will just stop applying because of all the strings attached and consequences. Nathan will continue to monitor to bring attention to our federal delegation.
- Daron Hall asked about data centers, which is currently an issue in Pittsburg. The city already has one and has been approached about more. A few on the board indicated they already have one (Dodge City and Olathe) or they have been approached (Hillsboro); Atchison has not been approached. Mount Hope reported that the NW section of Sedgwick County is trying to get two tracts approved for use, but there is a moratorium for now. Nick encouraged those who are opting into the idea of a data center to tell them what you want when

negotiating, and they will work with you (i.e. limited to no water use, franchise fees, no tax abatements, etc.) - Roy Cessna reported that near Garden City, micro data centers (100 ft shipping containers) already exist and are used only at night. The discussion mostly centered around the citizenry, who might not have all the facts or don't understand but can sometimes be the loudest voices in opposition. Nick offered the advice to not dismiss them but rather invite them for a civil conversation to help answer their questions and quell their fears. Bring those folks down to look at folks to take care of their concerns. The final piece of advice from Nick is to NOT work with the developers/fly-by-night companies, but rather to work directly with the client that is actually coming to you.

Action Agenda

○ **Governing Body Updates**

- **Bylaws President Transition:** John Goodyear reported that Mayor Kessler has assumed the role of president; pursuant to League Bylaws. The sitting Vice President becomes the president if the current president vacates their role or changes cities. Mayor Kessler assumed the role of president in late August, due to the departure of Amy Lange. He will fulfill the remaining month of Amy's term, and then the full membership will approve the slate of officers at the October conference.
- **Reappointment of Katie Jackson to Governing Body:** Russ Kessler reminded the board that Katie Jackson recently left her position with the City of Manhattan. However, Katie, along with the City of Lawrence, expressed interest in her being reappointed once she began her position with the city. The President has the privilege to reappoint. President Kessler called for a vote of the board for approval for Katie to continue her service. Curt Skoog made a motion to accept with Austin St. John seconding. The motion carried unanimously.
- **Upcoming Vacancies:** Nathan reminded the board of the Administrative Policies and the goal to have geographical representation on the board. He shared that Bob Becker will not be running for reelection, so he will not continue his service beyond his term. Lou Thurston also is not seeking reelection; however, he still has one year remaining on his term and will continue until that expires. Stan Luke's term will also conclude at the end of 2027, so there will be several upcoming vacancies. Nathan asked the board for future consideration for the board and to begin to think about filling those seats.

- **Review and Action on 2027 League Budget:**
 - **Report of League Budget Committee:** Rynae gave an overview of the budget committee report and Capital Improvement Plan for 2027 and how all line items impact the overall budget. Nathan mentioned, based on the board turnover, that we do this budget presentation every year and reminded the board about their fiduciary responsibility to the organization. Nathan wanted to make sure we were spending the time on it and not just relying on the budget committee. Nick: historical tax credits went to 40% - might be time to look into them again, as Trey had checked it when he was here, and it was not worth the effort at the time. Mayor Somers – important for our smaller cities to understand the value of the League and the role we play in their day-to-day, even if they do not realize it. Make sure we are telling the story / promoting the wins. President Kessler called for a motion to approve the 2027 budget as presented; Jenny Landers / 2nd La Rochelle – motion passed unanimously.
- **Review and Approval of the League’s Strategic Plan**
 - **Executive Committee Action and Amy Lange’s Comments:** Nathan called attention to the packet and the memo included. He reminded everyone that the current strategic plan expires at the end of this year, and at the June meeting the vote was taken to extend for another two years. The memo lays out the 2023 plan and the refinements we are proposing as we look ahead. The clean copy that we would present to the membership at the business meeting during the October conference is in the appendix. The executive committee is putting forward the updated four goals in the memo. Nathan asked the board if this document captures the goals of the strategic plan extension, and asked whether we changed anything we should not have, and if we are headed in the right direction. Mayor Somers replied that goal number four is especially an important addition. The board would like to see additional focus on youth civic education, and Nathan reported back he had recently met with the new department of education contact. The question was asked whether the League should work more closely with the school board or the legislature to change the rules on when the last time a government class is required ahead of graduation. Nathan mentioned the new tool kit for city officials to engage students. Mayor Watson asked about inviting other taxing entities, including school boards, and having them join the League. We confirmed that they have a membership option with similar benefits to county members. Mayor Kessler asked for a vote to approve the extension of the strategic

plan as presented. Lou Thurston made a motion and Cristal Watson seconded to approve as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Review and Action of 2027 Statement of Municipal Policy (SMP)**
 - **Statement of Municipal Policy as Revised:** Spencer reviewed the major points of the SMP as presented. This will remain in draft form until the Convention of Voting Delegates meeting at the conference where the full membership will vote to adopt. John covered the desire to seek legislation to modernize KORA. One-sheet on ROW / educating legislators. Mayor Watson – abandoned cemeteries (WYCo has over 20 abandoned cemeteries they are maintaining – need more language and clarification. Nathan asked for Mayor to help identify). Spencer provided an update on the Property Tax Work Group, and discussed how the League will be more proactive on that issue, and others, during the 2027 Legislative session. Jenny Landers made a motion to approve the amended SMP and Terry Somers seconded; motion carried.

Information/Discussion Agenda

- **Awards Committee Update**
 - Rynae Redd reported the awards committee met ahead of the meeting, and the winners would remain anonymous until conference.
- **Building Maintenance Update**
 - Rynae reported the HVAC project was underway; the boilers were recently replaced, and work is being done re-wiring the systems which should be completed by the end of the year. The other project currently underway involves trying to figure out where the water is coming from in the bottom of the elevator pit.
- **Annual Conference Update & Upcoming Events**
 - Kate Cooley called attention to the Governing Body events flyer as it relates to the annual conference, as well as the reception invitation for anyone planning to attend the National League of Cities conference in Nashville. She also discussed the ‘Meeting in a Box’ concept, with the hope of hosting the first regional meeting later this fall. The idea is that cities can work together to host regional gatherings without the need to have League staff present, but the League would help facilitate from afar. Nathan discussed more of this concept in his Executive Director’s report.

- **Executive Director's Report**

- Nathan touched on meeting in a box and the previously scheduled policy meeting in Colby that was canceled due to low turnout. He asked the board to be thinking about how the League can better engage western Kansas specifically. This will be part of the focus during the first meeting in a box. The goal is to help engage more communities out west and gauge what are we doing to help them better serve and thrive.
- City Forums and policy meetings – Nathan discussed that we've seen consistency in the city forums and the ability to report back with what is happening after session. However, it is the policy meetings lately that have had low numbers depending on where we go. Nathan asked that we pick up the discussion at a future board meeting, how we are presenting the information to the membership and how these meetings are described. Is there a better way to package or restructure these meetings, and how can we better speak to the members and provide good service. Follow up on Mayor Watson's question on schools can join; John looked it up and they are eligible for research subscriber status.

Consent Agenda

- **Minutes of June 5, 2026 Governing Body Meeting: Minutes of August 27, 2026 Budget Meeting ▲**
- **Financial Report for period ending July 31, 2026 ▲**
 - Terry Somers made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. La Rochelle Young, seconded, motion carried unanimously.

- **Other Business:** President Kessler called for other business from the body, and there was none.
- **Dates & Locations for Remaining 2026 Governing Body Meetings**
 - **October 8; Wichita (League Annual Conference)**
 - **December 11; Topeka**
- **Adjournment by 12:00 p.m.**
 - **Motion to adjourn;** Christal Watson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by La Rochelle Young. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**League of Kansas Municipalities
2026 Budget Monitoring**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	2026 YTD	ADOPTED BUDGET 2026
REVENUES										
General Operations										
Dues and research	988,692	283,862	26,488	3,045	1,570	428	-	253	1,304,337	1,305,000
Rent receipts	14,995	14,995	14,995	14,995	14,995	14,995	14,995	14,995	119,961	181,788
Kansas Government Journal	14,265	5,195	5,443	3,780	4,723	5,233	5,540	3,804	47,983	66,000
Publications	12,739	10,747	3,369	3,155	1,306	2,392	52,259	17,576	103,541	107,250
Advertising	15,250	4,520	2,810	2,380	1,720	3,770	4,490	2,770	37,710	37,000
Conference and service awards	35,174	6,552	16,010	8,100	11,250	17,612	109,111	46,010	249,819	275,000
Transfer from General Operating Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,331
Interest earned	1,500	1,409	1,505	22,319	1,100	4,005	16,269	7,871	55,979	80,000
Sub-total: General Operations	1,082,615	327,280	70,620	57,773	36,664	48,434	202,664	93,279	1,919,329	2,064,369
Special Programs										
Personnel programs	4,030	3,998	8,258	4,030	3,998	4,576	3,907	4,361	37,159	25,000
Workshops and seminars	12,090	20,775	10,655	11,660	5,435	3,310	9,100	4,975	78,000	63,750
Affiliate services and other programs	14,946	1,025	5,350	1,725	825	(275)	5,050	1,225	29,871	49,100
Codifications	2,290	743	(3,020)	-	-	-	-	-	13	1,000
Sub-total: Special Programs	33,356	26,542	21,243	17,415	10,258	7,611	18,057	10,561	145,043	138,850
Other Revenue										
KMIT	36,831	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,831	36,831
Commissions	-	89	-	270	106	-	104	207	775	1,000
MBA Sponsorships	10,130	70	2,310	-	20	2,320	1,650	-	16,500	13,000
Miscellaneous	-	10,000	-	-	-	6,497	-	-	16,497	-
Sub-total: Other Revenue	46,961	10,159	2,310	270	126	8,817	1,754	207	70,603	50,831
TOTAL REVENUES	1,162,932	363,980	94,173	75,458	47,048	64,862	222,474	104,047	2,134,975	2,254,050
EXPENSES										
Personnel Services										
Staff salaries	90,663	90,717	45,368	88,380	84,656	86,290	143,628	43,142	672,845	1,119,000
Staff benefits	36,639	33,555	25,082	33,179	29,630	29,770	46,906	14,744	249,506	379,000
Contracted services	800	2,815	800	4,752	4,162	3,174	5,264	4,934	26,701	23,500
Professional memberships	18,635	140	-	-	500	550	350	-	20,175	22,500
Registrations, travel and training	4,877	124	2,669	2,607	582	5,822	3,469	3,643	23,793	43,500
Sub-total: Personnel Services	151,613	127,351	73,919	128,919	119,531	125,606	199,617	66,463	993,020	1,587,500
Contractual Services										
Building expenses	9,222	8,193	9,286	7,452	8,221	7,640	9,237	12,137	71,388	122,000
Equipment related	3,286	3,804	3,720	3,617	3,500	3,238	5,646	2,789	29,601	52,500
Publications and printing	19,927	920	237	62	9	219	13,470	8,622	43,465	36,500
Kansas Government Journal	5,749	-	18	6,118	242	6,354	2	6,333	24,815	43,500
Board expenses	(851)	223	1,932	315	277	450	-	92	2,438	5,000
Conference and service awards	6,000	509	3,950	(140)	6,883	3,855	1,797	21,878	44,732	217,500
Sub-total: Contractual Services	43,334	13,648	19,143	17,425	19,131	21,757	30,151	51,851	216,439	477,000
General Expenses										
Office supplies and paper	94	-	87	1,953	-	134	-	188	2,457	9,500
Books, software and subscriptions	9,932	3,199	4,492	5,071	3,267	4,313	2,885	2,685	35,845	45,500
General office expense	8,219	1,122	1,073	1,262	5,376	1,331	1,577	1,111	21,071	35,250
Sub-total: Commodities	18,246	4,320	5,652	8,286	8,643	5,778	4,462	3,985	59,373	90,250
Capital Outlay										
Equipment purchases	-	1,739	59	-	-	-	-	-	1,798	8,000
Building improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
Tenant related expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total: Capital Outlay	-	1,739	59	-	-	-	-	-	1,798	18,000
Special Programs										
Workshops and seminars	140	435	144	9,282	4,326	3,652	1,242	1,120	20,342	15,750
Legislative programs	8,639	734	2,948	(1,455)	500	-	(5,000)	437	6,803	15,250
Personnel programs	1,505	680	1,434	69	(745)	(1,495)	(1,273)	85	259	1,250
Special services	-	-	-	1,153	39	-	-	3,155	4,347	4,050
Sub-total: Special Programs	10,283	1,850	4,526	9,050	4,119	2,157	(5,032)	4,796	31,750	36,300
Transfer to BRF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,000
Transfer to MPIF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	223,476	148,909	103,300	163,679	151,424	155,298	229,199	127,094	1,302,380	2,254,050
NET INCOME	939,456	215,071	(9,127)	(88,221)	(104,376)	(90,436)	(6,725)	(23,047)	832,595	-
Non Budget Items										
Depreciation Expense	8,458	8,458	8,458	8,458	8,458	8,458	8,458	9,458	68,663	-
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MPIF	-	4,815	2,115	-	3,330	-	-	243	10,503	-
	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	August 2026	YTD 2026	ADOPTED 2026

League of Kansas Municipalities Cash Position as of August 31, 2026

General Operating Fund (GOF)	
Petty Cash	203
Checking Account	556,311
GOF #1 (11 mo CD) (9/29/2026)	225,000
GOF #2 (21 mo CD) (12/21/2026)	200,000
GOF #3 (11 mo CD) (6/15/2027)	225,000
GOF #5 (12 mo CD) (1/13/2027)	225,000
GOF #6 (12 mo CD) (1/14/2027)	225,000
GOF #8 (6 mo CD) (9/7/2026)	225,000
General Operating Fund Total	1,881,515

Major Policy Initiatives Fund (MPIF) - Restricted	
Checking Account	40,073
Major Policy Initiatives Fund Total	40,073

General Reserve Fund (GRF) - Restricted	
GORF #1 (11 mo CD) (9/9/2026)	225,000
GORF #2 (12 mo CD) (1/22/2027)	225,000
GORF #3 (11 mo CD) (9/30/2026)	225,000
General Reserve Fund Total	675,000

Building Reserve Money Market	
Money Market Account	297,502
Building Reserve Money Market Total	297,502

Total Cash Change	
from one year ago	164,815
from one month ago	34,023
Total Cash	2,894,090

