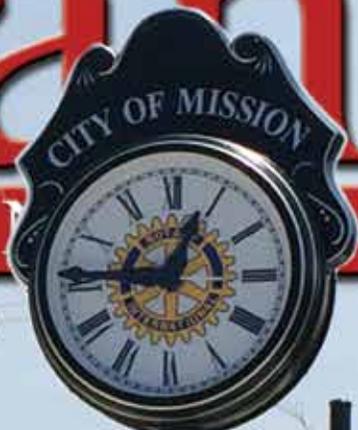


# Kansas

## GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 101 NUMBER 10

DECEMBER 2015



Mission:Forward

Growing Public  
Servants

Demand Transfer  
Losses

ROTARY PLAZA



JANUARY 27, 2016

**Save the Date!**

Additional Details to follow.

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**Kansas Association of Counties  
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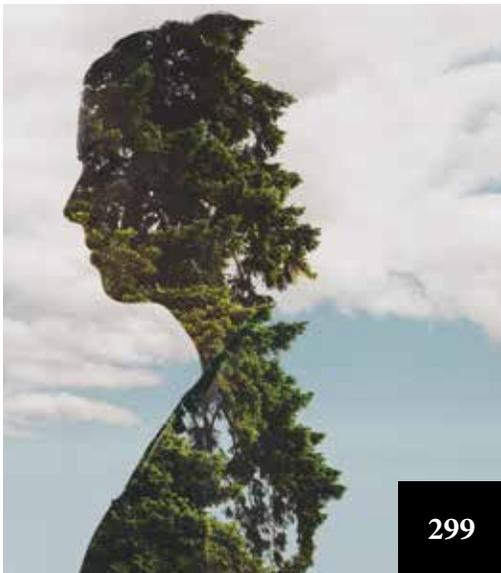
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*About the Cover:*

*The new plaza in City of Mission that features the clock donated by the Shawnee Mission Rotary Club. See related article on page 294. Photo by Emily Randel.*

# Kansas

## GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

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*The mission of the League shall be to strengthen and advocate for the interests of Kansas municipalities to advance the general welfare and promote the quality of life of the people who live within our cities.*

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## 2015 League Events Calendar

### December

24 - League Holiday: 1/2 Day Christmas Eve

25 - League Holiday: Christmas

### January

1 - League Holiday: New Year's Day

18 - League Holiday: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

27 - Local Government Day

## Obituaries

**Joe Allen Lang**, 71, died November 5, 2015. Mr. Lang, retired Chief Deputy Attorney, grew up in Jetmore, Kansas, and was a graduate of Jetmore High School, Sterling College, Emporia State University and Washburn University School of Law. Joe served in the United States Army 6th/27th Infantry Division and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was an elder and deacon at Wichita First Presbyterian Church; a member of Wichita North Optimist Club and Sterling College Board of Trustees and Alumni Council, a Sedgwick County Extension Master Gardener, 4-H photography leader, and a member of both the Wichita and Kansas Bar Associations.

**W.R. "Bill" Holdeman**, 91, died October 20, 2015. Mr. Holdeman proudly served in the United State Marine Corps during WWII as a member of Carlson's Raiders. He was wounded in combat and received the Purple Heart. Bill was a life member of both the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was the former Mayor of Newton and a former Newton City Commissioner, as well as a former Marion City Commissioner.

**Clarence Eugene "Gene" Williams**, 67, died November 16, 2015. Gene worked for the City of Holton as Production Superintendent, City Manager, Utilities Manager, and retired after almost 40 years as Electric Production Superintendent. Gene was the longest serving employee for the City of Holton, and was committed to both his community and his family. He had served in many capacities for the Evangel United Methodist Church, and was currently serving on the Youth Leadership Team. He was also a member of Holton V.F.W. Post 1367, a former Holton Volunteer Fire Fighter, and a former member of Holton Lion's Club, Holton Rotary and Holton Country Club.

# Director's Foreword

by Erik Sartorius

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What should I prognosticate next? I was correct about the Royals winning the World Series, so I might as well see what else my powers can handle!

The outpouring of Royal pride seen in Kansas City for the victory parade and rally was unreal. I heard national commentators amazed that the estimated attendance was much larger than the population of Kansas City, Mo. For most of us in Kansas, however, the Royals are OUR team, too, and I suspect the crowd contained Kansans who had traveled several hours to be part of history.

(I am sure our son will give me grief at some point for not taking him to that event. I was at least a good enough parent to wake him up and let him watch the final three outs of the clinching game.)

As you probably know, most of the *Kansas Government Journal* content is developed by League staff or member cities. We use articles from other sources pretty infrequently. However, we felt the article, "Growing Public Servants," written by Brian Whelpey for *The Journal* of the Kansas Leadership Center, was too valuable not to share. (See page 299.) Several seasoned elected officials share their experiences and wisdom, much of which I believe applies not only to elected officials but anyone working for a government entity.

I noted in last month's column that we were about to embark on our annual Regional Suppers tour. Close to 2,000 miles and four weeks later, I am a little pudgier (darn you, Brookeville fried chicken!), but am also very excited by what we saw in our journeys. Staff visited 34 cities during our travels. What we witnessed were cities providing great services and working to maintain a vibrant community for the future.

The Regional Suppers had great turnouts at every location. 150 city officials from 58 cities came together to share their concerns and hear from League staff. We had several state senators and representatives join us, as well. This year, we also invited representatives of our federal officials to join us at our stops. We received positive feedback both from them and member cities for creating that opportunity to meet and network.

I want to be sure you are aware of two upcoming events in January. First, please join us for a preview of the upcoming legislative session. This free webinar will occur on Jan. 7. Once you have become informed of the issues, please plan to attend Local Government Day in Topeka on Wednesday, Jan. 27. This year, we are co-hosting the event with the Kansas Association of Counties. Consider reaching out to your commissioners – maybe you can get them to drive you! Both of these events have online registration, so please head to [www.lkm.org](http://www.lkm.org) to sign up.

While signing up for these events, think about the state representatives and state senators representing you. Do you know them well? If so, please contact deputy director Cindy Green ([cgreen@lkm.org](mailto:cgreen@lkm.org)) and become part of our "Key Contact" initiative. One of our goals for 2016 is to have at least one city contact for each state senator and representative. The time commitment is simply a phone call to your "Key Contact" when a critical city issue is coming before the legislature. Meanwhile, please work to invite them to city hall or a governing body meeting, and make sure you keep them abreast of happenings in your community.

In recent years, we have had special, recurring features in the *Kansas Government Journal*. For 2014, "A Look Back" celebrated 100 years of the *Journal* by pulling articles and photos from older issues. This year, "League Profiles" highlighted our governing body members and staff. For 2016, we want to showcase some Kansas cities' sister city relationships. We know many of your cities have forged strong ties with cities around the globe. In some cases, you have multiple sister cities. If you would like to share with Kansas cities a story about your global relationships, please contact Andrey Ukrazhenko of our staff at [andrey@lkm.org](mailto:andrey@lkm.org).

As we approach the holiday season, I would like to extend from the entire staff of the League our best wishes. We feel fortunate to serve the citizens of Kansas by assisting your work in your cities. 2015 has had plenty of excitement in it from the League perspective, and I am certain 2016 will follow suit!

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or comments – I'd love to hear from you: [esartorius@lkm.org](mailto:esartorius@lkm.org) or 785-354-9565.



by Emily Randel



Mission Mayor Steve Schowengerdt takes a swing at a prop barricade as part of festivities celebrating the end of construction on Johnson Drive. Photo by Travis Young Photography.

**M**ission, Kansas (pop. 9,516), just 10 minutes from downtown Kansas City, Missouri, benefits from having maintained its small-town charm while offering great access to big city amenities. Johnson Drive, the corridor that runs through the heart of Mission, has the historic feel of main street so desirable to today's city planners. However, those visiting Mission over the last two years may best remember a downtown district scattered with orange cones. The pedestrian-oriented buildings and good connections to the surrounding residential neighborhoods were being overshadowed by cracked, uneven sidewalks, aging utilities, and a neglected streetscape. Bringing the area back up to its potential was a substantial effort involving the entire community.

In 2012, the Mission City Council approved a plan to renovate an eight block section of Johnson Drive. The project included stormwater upgrades, new sidewalks, streetlights, seat walls, landscape beds, trash and recycling receptacles, street signage, and three new pedestrian beacons to aid crossing at intersections. The \$10.8 million project cost included design, easement and right-of-way acquisition, construction and inspection with the following outside funding partners contributing over 50% of the total project costs:

- \$2.85 million from the Johnson County County Assistance Roads System (CARS) Program,
- \$2.8 million from a Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) grant, and
- \$345,000 reimbursement from Johnson County Wastewater

The project scope was significant to start with, even more so considering that the underground work had to be completed before the road construction could begin. The utility companies - water, gas, wastewater, and telecommunications - started upgrades and

relocations in the summer of 2013. This kicked off frustrations for area business owners and visitors even before the City's portion of the project, expected to last eight months, could begin. Collaboration was critical, but not easy. Two large water main upgrades closed the street entirely, just as the holiday shopping season began. The local merchants had a mess, right at their front doors. Robert Hartman, whose family has owned Hartman Hardware on Johnson Drive for 38 years, said the challenges of that time were significant. "When they had the street completely closed, that was a real problem," says Hartman. "We didn't have the regular drive-by traffic, and it was a hassle to get anywhere. It's been better since they finished, but that was tough."

City leaders were determined to encourage shoppers to continue supporting local businesses during construction. During the summer months, the City hosted a weekly drawing where shoppers entered to win \$100 in "Mission Dollars" redeemable at any of the service or retail shops participating in the program. Each week, City staff, area business owners and City Councilmembers gathered at a different business to draw a winner. The contest brought people to the street to have fun, and with a relatively small financial contribution, provided an incentive for continued shopping in the district.

### Community Partners

Branding and marketing was a key component of the project's anticipated success. A local brand and communication design company, Springboard Creative owned by Kevin Fullerton, offered the City Council two years of pro bono assistance during and after the construction period. Thanks to the Springboard team's creative vision, the concept that emerged was "Mission:Forward" - a flexible, positive brand intended to serve the community long after the project was completed. Mission:Forward became Mission:Proud at the conclusion of the construction and continues to be modified depending on the need. Springboard Creative's professional



*Parking stalls are poured on Johnson Drive. Photo by Travis Young Photography.*



*The new streetscape includes enhanced landscaping, streetlights, seat walls and A.D.A. compliant sidewalks. Photo by Pond Photography.*

photographer captured images throughout construction and took portraits of many of the downtown business owners and their shops. The images were shared on social media and were compiled into a book commemorating the project. Springboard Creative still maintains a Mission:Forward Facebook page which highlights new businesses, building improvements and other stories of local interest. The campaign brought favorable attention to the project at a time when the local media seemed more interested in highlighting the negatives. Thanks to the personal commitment of Fullerton and his company, Mission has a successful brand that can help to tell the right story well into the future.

A long-time community partner also found a notable way to contribute to the project. The local Shawnee Mission Rotary Club donated a decorative clock for the project in memory of three prominent Rotarians. The clock, added at a corner in the heart of the district, denotes the new “Rotary Plaza” and is a constant reminder of the club’s outstanding community support. A dedication ceremony for the plaza, attended by the families of the three honorees, city officials and Rotarians, helped to establish an important gathering place along the newly renovated street.

### **Celebrating the End of Construction**

With only a few punch list items remaining, the street re-opened in November 2014 in a community celebration that honored everyone’s spirit and perseverance. Recognizing that a normal ribbon cutting ceremony wasn’t fitting, Mission’s twist was a “Barricade Breaking” event where Mission Mayor Steve Schowengerdt, the Mission City Council and area business owners broke through the construction barricades with sledgehammers. “Shop Mission Saturday” followed the next day with businesses featuring sales and specials, live music, receptions and other special events up and down the street. The Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce joined in to host a “Member Hop” passport game that offered prizes for those who

visited the most Chamber members that day.

### **Continuing the Momentum**

After construction, Mayor Schowengerdt appointed a Downtown District Task Force to identify strategies that would capitalize on the momentum that had been building during the project. The Task Force included area business owners, property owner representatives, and residents. Over six months, they heard from neighboring downtown associations and a prominent area real estate developer, and held listening sessions with Downtown Mission business owners. Their recommendations were approved in a resolution by the Mission City Council in August 2015. Among the recommendations was the creation of a formal business association, establishing a Business Improvement District to secure a sustainable funding source for promoting the district, and an increased staff emphasis on facilitating the process of starting a business in Mission. The recommendations also included support for the work of an earlier task force that met to address concerns about parking availability.

June 2015 brought the launch of a farmers market in the heart of downtown. A first for Mission, the market was established in a grassy area fronting Johnson Drive that formerly housed buildings demolished to remove them from the floodplain. Although not officially deemed a City park, the location provides a highly visible space for public events such as the market. The Mission Farm and Flower Market was scheduled every Saturday from June to September, and has been a popular addition to the downtown. Over the course of its first season, the market has averaged 12 food vendors each week and featured local music acts and a “Community Tent” hosted by various non-profit organizations. Residents identified the market as a top priority in a community survey, and the City looks forward to building on its tremendous success.

## Business Growth and Positive Trends

The public investment in the corridor continues to pay dividends in terms of private investment. Historically, the area saw relatively frequent turnover. Since March 2014, businesses moving into the district or those coming soon have outpaced those moving out nearly 2:1. Four buildings have sold to new owners, and existing property owners are renovating their buildings as well. The owners of the district's historic theater initiated an extensive remodel, and in total, the area has seen nearly \$620,000 (estimated project valuation) in building permit activity since the project began. Clark Davis and his family, owners of *Mélange Dance + Events*, purchased and renovated their building, a former grocery store, in 2013, when the street construction was planned, but not underway. "The kind of investment that the City was committing to the project was the best indicator we had of where this area was heading," says Davis. "Mission has always had a great feel, and this improvement to the infrastructure made us confident that the next phase of success was coming. We wanted to be a part of that."

Signs are strong that the entire community has been energized by the Johnson Drive project. The attention the area received during the hardest days of construction helped to keep Mission top of mind throughout the greater Kansas City region. As Mayor Schowengerdt reflects on the past two years, he is encouraged by what he sees. "The construction period was hard on our businesses, there's no question about that," says Schowengerdt. "But the area looks great and we're seeing things improve with more people visiting with the farmers market and the building improvements that are going on. It's heading in the right direction." A renewed sense of pride for locals in Mission is aimed now at creating the next phase of success for the district. The community has never shied away from ambitious and challenging projects, and there's a distinct "buzz" in Mission these days. You get the feeling the best is yet to come.

 *Emily Randel is Public Information Officer for the City of Mission. She can be reached at [erandel@missionks.org](mailto:erandel@missionks.org) or (913) 676-8368.*



*Bob Bradwell, known as "The Jelly Man," helps a customer at the new Mission Farm and Flower Market. Photo by Springboard Creative.*



*Bob Hartman, owner of Hartman Hardware, on Johnson Drive since 1977. Photo by Travis Young Photography.*



*Tara, Clark, and Jaye Davis of *Mélange Dance & Events*. Photo by Travis Young Photography.*

# Legal Forum

by Nicole Proulx Aiken

## Recent Kansas Cases

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Over the last six months, the Kansas Supreme Court and Kansas Court of Appeals have issued several cases that affect cities. This article addresses two of those cases. A synopsis of the other cases may be found on the City Attorneys Association of Kansas' website at [tinyurl.com/hxyk3az](http://tinyurl.com/hxyk3az).

The first case, *State v. Tims*, 355 P.3d 660 (Kan. 2015), addresses a defendant's right to counsel for DUI diversions. In *Tims*, defendant Daniel Tims entered into an uncounseled DUI diversion agreement with Topeka Municipal Court in 2002. In 2004, Tims was convicted of another DUI. In 2012, the State charged Tims with a felony third DUI based on his previous diversion and conviction. Tims filed a Motion to Strike Diversion from Consideration of Defendant's Criminal History and Discharge from Felony Charges. The district court granted Tims' motion and found him guilty of a second misdemeanor DUI conviction. The State appealed on a question reserved, asking the Court of Appeals to determine "(1) whether a defendant has a right to counsel in a DUI diversion proceeding and (2) whether a defendant entering into a DUI diversion, if uncounseled, must waive their right to counsel in front of a judge." *State v. Tims*, 49 Kan.App.2d 845, 850 (Kan. Ct. App. 2014).

On appeal, the Court of Appeals held Tims did not have a Sixth Amendment right to counsel when entering into the DUI diversion agreement. The Court of Appeals further held that although Tims had a statutory right to counsel as provided in K.S.A. 12-4414(c), Tims validly waived that right when he entered into the diversion agreement. The Court of Appeals reversed the district court's decision and directed the court to reclassify and resentence Tims' conviction as a felony third DUI. Tims filed a petition for review, which the Supreme Court granted.

On petition for review, the Supreme Court agreed Tims did not have a Sixth Amendment right to counsel when entering into a DUI diversion agreement. The Court noted all defendants have a Sixth Amendment right to counsel if their sentence may include imprisonment. The Sixth Amendment right to counsel is not invoked, however, until the adjudication stage. By entering into the diversion agreement, Tims avoided the adjudication stage and thus did not establish a constitutional right to counsel. The Court also held that while Tims had a statutory right to counsel as provided in K.S.A. 12-4414(c), he knowingly and voluntarily waived that right by signing the diversion agreement, which stated:

"[he had] . . . the right to be represented at all stages of this case by a lawyer of his/her own choosing or; if without funds with which to hire a lawyer and found by the Court to be indigent, by a court-appointed lawyer. Knowing these rights, the defendant by signing this agreement, knowingly and voluntarily gives up these

rights, including the right to a lawyer if not represented by one in this case." *Tims*, 355 P.3d at 667.

Despite affirming the Court of Appeals' analysis, the Supreme Court vacated the Court of Appeals' order to remand the case for resentencing, because the case was considered on a question reserved.

**Takeaway for cities:** Every city should ensure its diversion agreements contain language indicating the defendant voluntarily and knowingly gives up the right to be represented by an attorney.

The second case involves restitution. In *State v. Miller*, 355 P.3d 716 (2015), Gregory Miller was discovered in Clifford Slocum's vacant home. Slocum inspected the home and discovered a large amount of copper piping was missing. Police arrested Miller and found a receipt for the sale of copper piping in his possession. The State charged Miller with burglary and theft of property valued at less than \$1,000. The State's complaint stated that Miller was charged with theft for stealing a machete and baby powder. Miller pleaded guilty to both charges. At sentencing, the parties had not agreed on restitution as provided in the plea agreement. The judge ordered an evidentiary hearing on the matter of restitution and later ordered Miller to pay Slocum \$4,700 in restitution for the damages he caused by removing the copper wiring and pipes. Miller appealed the district court's decision of restitution.

On appeal, the Court of Appeals analyzed K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 21-6607(c)(2), which allows a district court judge to order restitution as a condition of probation "for the damage or loss caused by the defendant's crime." The Court of Appeals determined that because Miller pleaded guilty to the theft of a machete and baby powder, the district court judge could not order restitution for the damages due to the removal of the copper wiring, unless Miller agreed. Thus, the Court of Appeals vacated the district court's restitution order.

**Takeaway for cities:** While this case analyzes K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 21-6607(c)(2), K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 12-4509(f)(12) allows municipal courts to order restitution as a condition of probation or suspension of sentence "for the damage or loss caused by the defendant's crime. . ." Because K.S.A. 21-6607(c)(2) and K.S.A. 12-4509(f)(12) have similar language, it is important that municipal judges only order restitution for damage or loss caused by the defendant's crime, unless the defendant agrees to the restitution.

In summary, Kansas courts have recently issued several opinions affecting cities. Please visit [tinyurl.com/hxyk3az](http://tinyurl.com/hxyk3az) for a full synopsis of those cases and contact a League attorney with any questions.

 Nicole Proulx Aiken is Deputy General Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at [naiken@lkm.org](mailto:naiken@lkm.org) or (785)354-9565.

# Best Practices

by Michael Koss

## Setting Goals for Your City

With the new year fast approaching, along with discussions about New Year's resolutions, it may also be a good time to consider what goals your city should pursue in 2016. Although many cities have formal strategic plans and detailed implementation strategies, creating goals does not have to be a tedious or time-consuming process. It can be helpful to simply have one annual planning session to identify objectives the governing body wants to accomplish in the next year. Below are some tips for holding these planning sessions.

- 1. Call a Special Meeting.** The first step in setting city goals is holding a governing body meeting to discuss those potential goals. The Kansas Open Meetings Act prohibits the discussion of city business by a majority of a governing body unless proper notice has been given to those members of the public who have requested it. Therefore, a council or commission will need to call a special meeting if a majority of its members will be involved in a discussion of potential city goals. This meeting should also include city staff and any other community stakeholders that the governing body wants to invite.
- 2. Identify Goals.** At the special meeting, the group should start with a discussion about recent accomplishments; issues, concerns, trends and opportunities that may affect future city services, finances or operations; and on-going priorities. These discussions should allow the governing body to identify a number of programs, policies, projects, or initiatives that they would like to pursue in upcoming years. These goals should be SMART: Specific (the desired outcome or results should be clearly defined), Measurable (there should be concrete criteria for measuring progress and completion of each goal), Achievable (the goals should be challenging but realistic given time and resources), Relevant (the goals should be aligned with any other city objectives), and Time Bound (there should be approximate deadlines for each goal).
- 3. Quantify Success.** If the governing body followed the SMART framework, then each goal should have a corresponding metric to measure performance. The next step is to actually quantify what level of performance that equates to success, and what specific milestones should be accomplished at given times.
- 4. Identify Priorities.** Once goals have been identified and successful completion has been quantified, the governing body should prioritize each goal based on the urgency of the project and the city's resources. Money will obviously have a bearing on what projects can be tackled and when, but this portion of the discussion should probably be reserved for the end. The primary concern should be on what is critical, and then it should be determined how to allocate resources.

- 5. Develop Objectives.** Next, the group should establish objectives for each goal. Objectives are specific, measurable statements of what will be done to achieve goals within a designated time. These should be the sub-tasks that, once completed, will result in the completion of the corresponding goal. Objectives should focus on results, not effort, and be expressed in quantities, percentages, or dollars. An example is below:

Goal 1: Reduce the negative impacts of heavy-truck travel on major streets.

- Objective 1.1: Divert heavy-truck traffic to alternative routes. This should result in a 50% decrease in heavy truck traffic on major streets.
  - Objective 1.2: Reduce the speed limit on major streets from 40 MPH to 35 MPH.
- 6. Plan Implementation.** The final part of the initial planning process is determining how the city will achieve the goals and objectives. For each activity, the group should determine specific staff member responsibilities, actions that will need to be taken, potential resources, and timelines. One of the best ways to do this is by working backwards to connect the goals with objectives, objectives with outputs needed to complete each objective, outputs with activities necessary to produce the outputs, and activities with the resources needed to conduct the activity. Below is an illustration of the model.



### Conclusion and Farewell

The steps discussed in this article can help provide a framework for your city to begin an annual goal-setting process. Although the more difficult step is actually implementing the plan, a productive planning session can make the rest of the process go more smoothly. At the League's Leadership Summit next April, attendees will have a chance to work through a similar goal-setting process, and participate in team-building sessions to help with achieving city goals. Regrettably, I will not be able to attend this exciting event. I have accepted a position with the City of Overland Park, and this will be my final Best Practices column. I've enjoyed working with the great city officials in our state, and all of the wonderful staff at the League. I wish you the best, and hope this article helps in your efforts to build a great community.

 *Michael Koss is the Assistant City Attorney II Law for the City of Overland Park. You can contact him at [michael.koss@opkansas.org](mailto:michael.koss@opkansas.org).*

#### Source

Schott, J. (2012, March). Goal-Setting and County Effectiveness. *The Iowa County*, 41(3), 5-6.



# GROWING PUBLIC SERVANTS

*What does every local elected official need to know about leadership? Experienced ones say that the secret to being truly effective is focusing more on engaging effectively with others instead of only trying to push your own agenda.*

A PLAYBOOK FOR  
LEADING WITH AUTHORITY

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by *Brian Whepley*

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**Editor's Note:** This article was reprinted with the permission of the Kansas Leadership Center. It is reprinted from the Summer 2015 issue of *The Journal*.

**A**s an elected official, you're uniquely positioned to shape your community for the better, whether you're serving on a school board, city council, county commission or community college board. But you're also set up perfectly to speak before thinking and get in over your head, all while fully exposed in the public eye. The decisions you're making affect not only you but friends, strangers, neighbors, co-workers, people who voted for you and people who didn't.

Some of the advice from those veterans involves sticking with the things we all should have learned in kindergarten: work hard, listen closely, don't yell, be careful what you say about others, say you're sorry when you make a mistake, and don't sigh and roll your eyes.

But the truth about leadership, they say, is that success is often based more on how you do things than what you do.

For instance, when Patrick Woods was first elected to the Topeka school board in 2007, he threw himself into advocating on issues that had been part of his campaign: early childhood education, a dual-language school, improving enrichment programs for all students.

He drew on knowledge gained through personal interest and as education policy adviser in Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' administration. He used facts and figures to trumpet his case for the long-term benefits of preparing children for school before they reached kindergarten. He put out his own news releases and went on TV. And he didn't really get anywhere.

Entrenched interests believed already scarce resources would be further diluted. Child-care providers thought the district would take away customers. Some parents feared changes in their local schools.

Woods backed up and advocated approaches he was learning while pursuing his master's in public administration, where he focused on leadership. Engagement and ownership were essential tools, with the district using its citizens advisory council as a starting point. Parents, business people and many others were brought into discussions that included early childhood education, enrichment programs, career training, shifting some schools to a K-8 model, and redrawing school boundaries and closing small, inefficient elementary schools. The conversations involved public forums, community meetings, television and other tools.

"The lesson that I learned – after beating my head against the wall initially with early childhood education – was that when I'm pushing really hard for what the science says and am expecting people to trust me (even if making sense), they're still not always going to trust me," Woods says. "It wasn't until we started putting information in front of them and allowing them to arrive at their own conclusions that we made progress."

In 2014, with the district and stakeholders having worked through discussions about closing smaller schools, voters approved a \$143 million bond issue that expanded early childhood education, built a new elementary school and added a career training center, among other projects.

"They only did that because they trusted us with all this other stuff. Ten years ago that couldn't have happened," says Woods, who won re-election to the board in April.

## ON-THE-JOB TRAINING AND TEAMWORK

Being an elected official is even harder work than you can imagine it is, veterans say. You'll learn about budgets, ordinances, state and federal policies, and a whole lot more, with much of it spoken in a language seemingly imported from Planet Jargon and written in a shorthand bureaucratese that can be deciphered only through time and questions. Lots of them.

Furthermore, if you sought office because you wanted to clean up city hall, fight off Wal-Mart or think that shifting school boundaries might harm your child, take a deep breath and open your eyes – and your mind. The job is broader than that one issue, and residents – your neighbors – and other board members are going to expect you to care about more than that one thing. If you aren't willing to work across factions and adapt your approach, you're probably going to get shut out, feel frustrated and somewhat lonely, and, even worse, be an ineffective leader on that issue and others.

"If you run for political office, you have signed on with that team," says Erik Sartorius, executive director of the League of Kansas Municipalities. "And the credibility of the entire organization is at risk if you can't disagree in an agreeable manner."

You might not agree with a stance, or even comprehend how a person could have reached it, but the great majority of officeholders – and paid staff – have the best interests of their city, county or school district at heart, veteran officeholders say.

"Everybody likes to take a side and think the other side is evil. For the most part, I really think both groups of people want to do the right thing, but they have their own perceptions of what that is," says Joy Eakins, who started her first term on the Wichita school board in 2013 and has tried to build bridges with legislators on school finance and other issues. "When you start walking with those people and you get to know them, you know a lot of them really are good people."

### GET TO KNOW THOSE AROUND YOU

Racquel Thiesen was first elected to the Newton City Commission in 2007 and served for eight years before losing a re-election bid this past spring. She remembers well a situation when she lashed back at a fellow candidate during an "ugly campaign" several years ago, regretted it and resolved to change her approach.

"I fired off a letter saying that I wasn't going to do business with him any longer. Then he got elected," says Thiesen, recalling that she had thought the candidate knew about claims some supporters made.

Now, "I wouldn't call us friends by any stretch, but I sit next to him on the bench, and I have worked really hard to build a rapport with him because I acted too hastily. ... Judging people too early was one of the mistakes I made. I didn't like my behavior, but I wanted to be better for my sake and the community."

Thiesen and other veterans say that the value of knowing people and where they come from – that doesn't mean you have to have dinner with them – cannot be minimized. It's not as easy as one might think, as the majority of time spent together is while conducting business. Open meetings rules, too, can have a downside, in that unofficial gatherings can readily turn into a law violation if officials start talking shop.

"One thing we don't do very well, especially in local government, is develop personal relationships with others on the board," says Greg Musil, a member of the Johnson County Community College board of trustees who also serves on the Kansas Leadership Center's board. "I have developed a pretty good relationship with a person I had been at odds with. Our daughters played softball together. It's just amazing to me when you have something in common like that. You don't call each other names."

Being disagreeable and closed to alternative points of view can have consequences, says Musil, who also served on the Overland Park City Council from 1993 to 2001. "If you come in with an agenda that you are going to do X, then you don't do A, B, C or Y and you tend to not listen to other members of your body, you tend to isolate yourself. There may be five different ways to get to X, but you don't pay heed to the other four ways to get there."

### DON'T BE DISMISSIVE

Just as a new elected official should take care not to hastily judge fellow board members, neither should you form snap judgments regarding professional staff – the city manager, the college administrator, the streets superintendent, rec director and others who handle day-to-day operations. Sure, those professionals may have a different perspective from elected officials – you have to worry about voters; they don't – but they often care just as deeply about the community and have years of expertise.

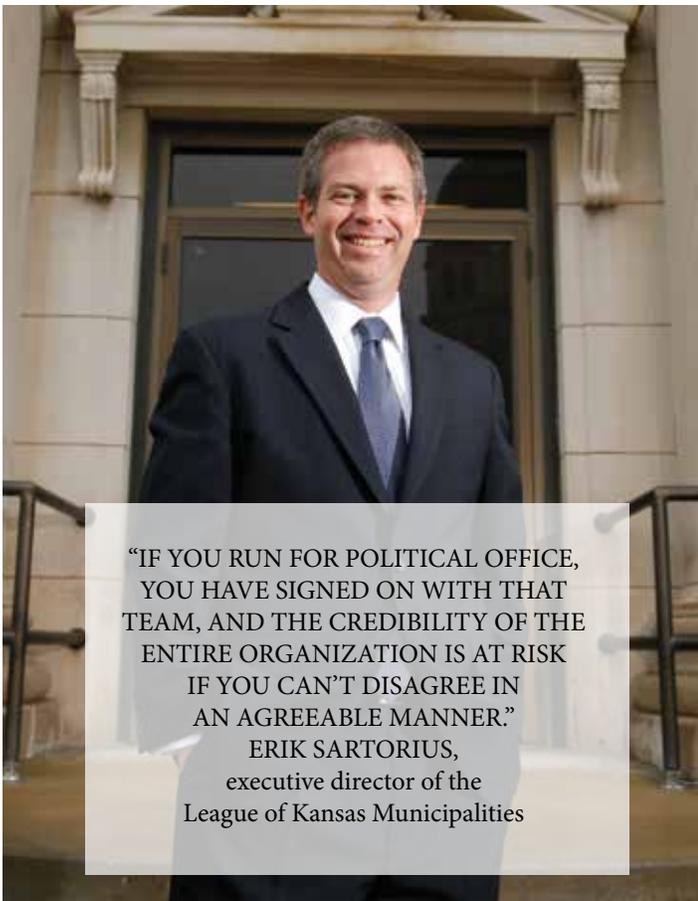
Sometimes, though, staff gets lumped into the "them" in any "us vs. them" issue.

"The biggest mistake I've seen over the years is coming into office and not listening to advice from professional staff, the individuals working for the city, for the taxpayers every day," says Dave Drovetta, who served for nearly two decades as a council member and mayor in Gardner until losing a close race in 2013. "They either have a wealth of experience or have access to a wealth of materials that we don't as elected officials."

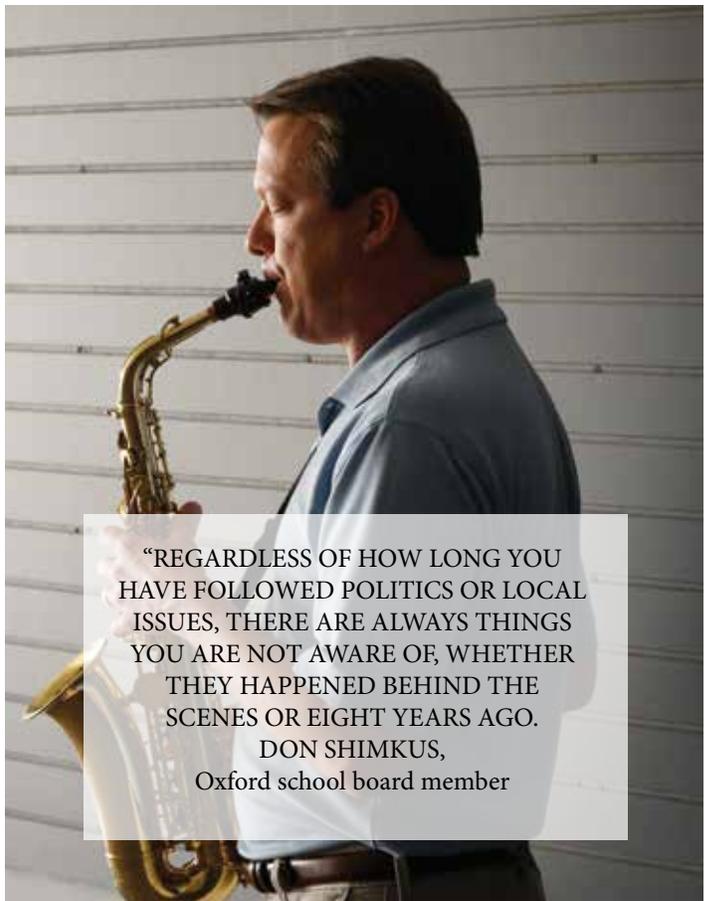
Trust, respect and civility are words veteran officeholders mention frequently when discussing effective boards. Musil, looking back to his city council days, chuckles when recounting a tale of how not to treat a fellow board member. Musil had immersed himself in a budget issue and – good literature or not – decided to put his argument into rhyme. Another board member's reaction was to borrow from Shakespeare: "It is a tale. Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury. Signifying nothing."



“JUDGING PEOPLE TOO EARLY WAS ONE OF THE MISTAKES I MADE. I DIDN’T LIKE MY BEHAVIOR, BUT I WANTED TO BE BETTER FOR MY SAKE AND THE COMMUNITY.  
 RACQUEL THIESEN,  
 former Newton city commissioner



“IF YOU RUN FOR POLITICAL OFFICE, YOU HAVE SIGNED ON WITH THAT TEAM, AND THE CREDIBILITY OF THE ENTIRE ORGANIZATION IS AT RISK IF YOU CAN’T DISAGREE IN AN AGREEABLE MANNER.”  
 ERIK SARTORIUS,  
 executive director of the League of Kansas Municipalities



“REGARDLESS OF HOW LONG YOU HAVE FOLLOWED POLITICS OR LOCAL ISSUES, THERE ARE ALWAYS THINGS YOU ARE NOT AWARE OF, WHETHER THEY HAPPENED BEHIND THE SCENES OR EIGHT YEARS AGO.  
 DON SHIRKUS,  
 Oxford school board member

“It was the most dismissive thing that has ever been said to me in a public meeting,” Musil says. “That didn’t help our relationship.

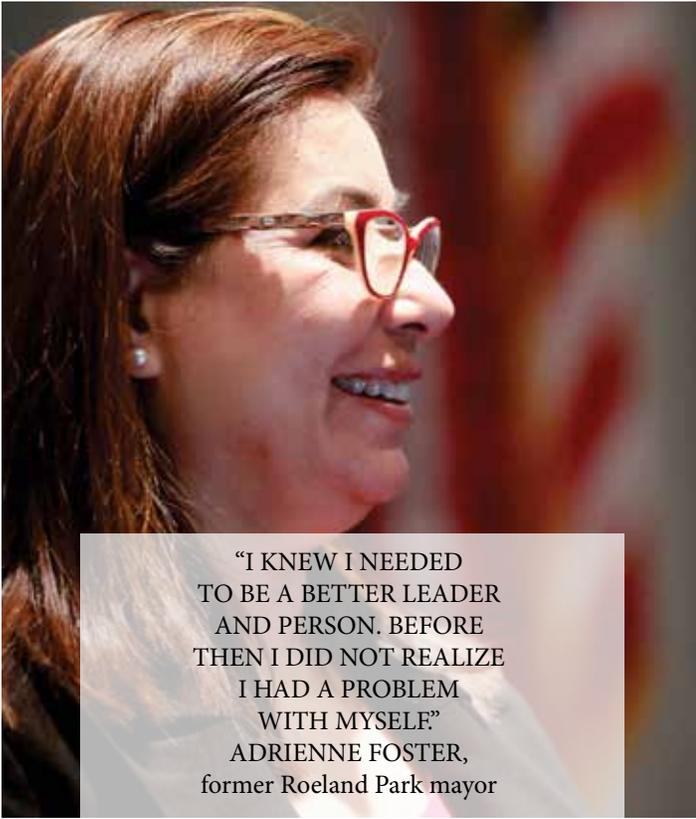
“One of my partners said, ‘Man, you got dissed.’”

Getting past slights and differences isn’t easy. Adrienne Foster, executive director of the Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission, served four years on the Roeland Park City Council and from 2009 to 2013 as the city’s mayor. Her community and neighboring Mission “did not get along.” But relations improved, she says, after an initial face-to-face encounter – and a hilarious role-playing song – with Mission’s then-city administrator

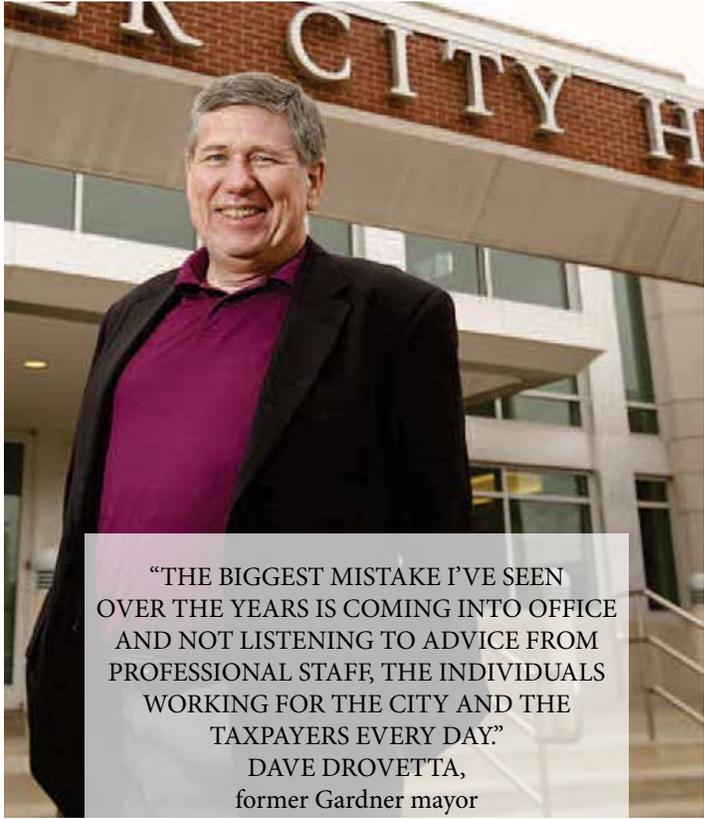
at a Kansas Leadership Center training session several years ago.

Setting aside the history, “the next morning we started talking and developing a better relationship,” Foster says. “I never gave up my values or beliefs, but I was able to say we can talk to each other.”

Two people talking led to substantive progress on issues both small (paving a shared section of Johnson Drive, a major thoroughfare) and large (coordinating efforts on Johnson County’s comprehensive plan).



“I KNEW I NEEDED TO BE A BETTER LEADER AND PERSON. BEFORE THEN I DID NOT REALIZE I HAD A PROBLEM WITH MYSELF”  
ADRIENNE FOSTER,  
former Roeland Park mayor



“THE BIGGEST MISTAKE I’VE SEEN OVER THE YEARS IS COMING INTO OFFICE AND NOT LISTENING TO ADVICE FROM PROFESSIONAL STAFF, THE INDIVIDUALS WORKING FOR THE CITY AND THE TAXPAYERS EVERY DAY.”  
DAVE DROVETTA,  
former Gardner mayor

“THE LESSON THAT I LEARNED ... WAS THAT WHEN I’M PUSHING REALLY HARD FOR WHAT THE SCIENCE SAYS AND AM EXPECTING PEOPLE TO TRUST ME (EVEN IF MAKING SENSE), THEY’RE STILL NOT ALWAYS GOING TO TRUST ME.”  
PATRICK WOODS,  
Topeka school board member



“The epiphany was with Mission,” Foster says. “I knew I needed to be a better leader and person. Before then I did not realize I had a problem with myself.”

## STUDY UP AND ASK QUESTIONS

Eakins, the Wichita school board member, hopes to visit every district school before her term expires in 2017. That’s nearly 100 schools – she recently reached three dozen – but she also wants to

visit every school in her own district each semester to better know the issues, concerns and people. That’s a bit more work than twice-monthly Monday agenda reviews and meetings, which bring plenty of homework themselves with a sizable packet of information to read and digest.

“I think the workload surprised my family,” Eakins says. “I think they thought it would be a couple nights a month. But it was their idea” for her to seek office.

Newton’s Thiesen says the learning curve of being involved in city government was greater than she anticipated. Not only does it take awhile to learn the ins and outs of aspects such as budgeting, but the pace at which change occurs can also be challenging.

“For really good and not-so-great reasons, government moves kind of slow, and that’s part of the learning curve,” she says. “You can’t fix things overnight. There’s a process involved, and that’s hard to see until you get into it. You have to build your muscle for tolerance and patience while you work hard to make progress.”

Don Shimkus, an Oxford school board member and president of the Kansas Association of School Boards, agrees. “There’s a lot of institutional history and memory that you can’t get until you’ve been there awhile. Regardless of how long you have followed politics or local issues, there are always things you are not aware of, whether they happened behind the scenes recently or eight years ago.”

Like Eakins, Sartorius, Thiesen, Drovetta, Musil and Foster, Shimkus has also learned the Kansas Leadership Center’s curriculum through one of its training programs. New board members can also learn the ropes of their roles through classes offered by state associations, which can provide a primer on budgeting and other issues.

Training and other resources – such as seeking out a mentor, as Thiesen has – are valuable, but nothing replaces listening, learning and raising your hand.

“Rather than sitting back, I usually counsel the opposite,” Shimkus says of newcomers. “Speak up and ask any questions you may have, because, of course, that’s the way you learn.”

## IN THE PUBLIC EYE, MAKING HARD DECISIONS

As anyone with a computer knows, anything you say or do can spread like lightning via email or social media. Being careful what you “like” on Facebook is just one of many ways public officials must manage themselves in the spotlight. You can’t make jokes the way you used to before you took office, and as Thiesen found out, you’ll quickly undermine your position by rolling your eyes and sighing heavily.

“You really realize there are people in that room taking down every word you say, and it may show up tomorrow in the newspaper or on TV,” Eakins says.

## BEING A GOOD CONSTITUENT

*Elected officials aren’t the only ones who can benefit from engaging with others more effectively. While it’s impossible to avoid conflict and disagreement on some issues, the following approaches will put you on solid ground as a constituent trying to influence the thinking of your elected officials.*

### 1.

#### STAY CALM AND RESPECTFUL:

“We were at a meeting and people wanted ... something. They came up and were very concise and presented their point in a very calm way. And I said, ‘That, ladies and gentlemen, is how you complain.’”

– Dave Drovetta, former Gardner mayor

### 2.

#### REALIZE YOU MAY NOT HAVE ALL THE FACTS:

Joy Eakins, a Wichita school board member tells of a parent approaching her last year during a teacher’s forced transfer: “She says, ‘Look, I love this teacher. But I also know I don’t know everything. My goal is to help all of us walk through this so the administration hears our concerns.’ ... She just wanted to help.”

### 3.

#### DON’T RUSH TO JUDGE:

“Nothing feels worse as an elected official than when people automatically assume you don’t want to help them, that you’ve sought this office for the wrong reasons.”

– Patrick Woods, Topeka school board

### 4.

#### DON’T WAIT TO ENGAGE:

“A good constituent is someone who is interested in what’s going on when nothing is going on.”

– Dave Drovetta

“There’s nothing worse than the constituent who didn’t get what they wanted and doesn’t tell anybody until it’s time to come to the public comments part of a board meeting and then wants to shout and yell about it. It could be that if they had told us, we could have done something about it.”

– Patrick Woods

Foster says that, even with training, she must actively remind herself of the need to “manage self,” especially when the public is watching. The effort has paid off, though, as others noticed a change, including a one-time political adversary whose neighbor went before the Roeland Park City Council with a complaint about trash. “She came up to me a few months later and said, ‘I heard a lot of good things about you. What are you doing different?’”

“Even if you are in a town of 300, you are a different creature now,” Sartorius says of holding office. “Your words now carry more weight on everything.”

Reflecting the spotlight shining on officials and how technology has changed the scrutiny, Sartorius’ organization is “looking to do some training on ‘before you hit send’” and “understanding the consequences of being in the public eye.”

One of those consequences can be explaining your views and votes to your neighbors.

“My first hard vote was on a residential day-care program, and 25 people in my ward were against it,” Musil recalls. “I ended up making a motion for it, because I thought it was the right thing. It’s hard for you to vote for what’s right when you know those people. Someone may pull up while you’re washing your car and say, ‘Aren’t you on the city council?’ You are on the front lines.” Part of the equation can involve weighing your personal opinions and values against the best interests of the community as a whole.

“I have a framework for my decision-making, but it includes my values and beliefs. But that may get in the way of making the right decision,” Thiesen says. “Just because I can pay more taxes doesn’t mean the folks I represent can.”

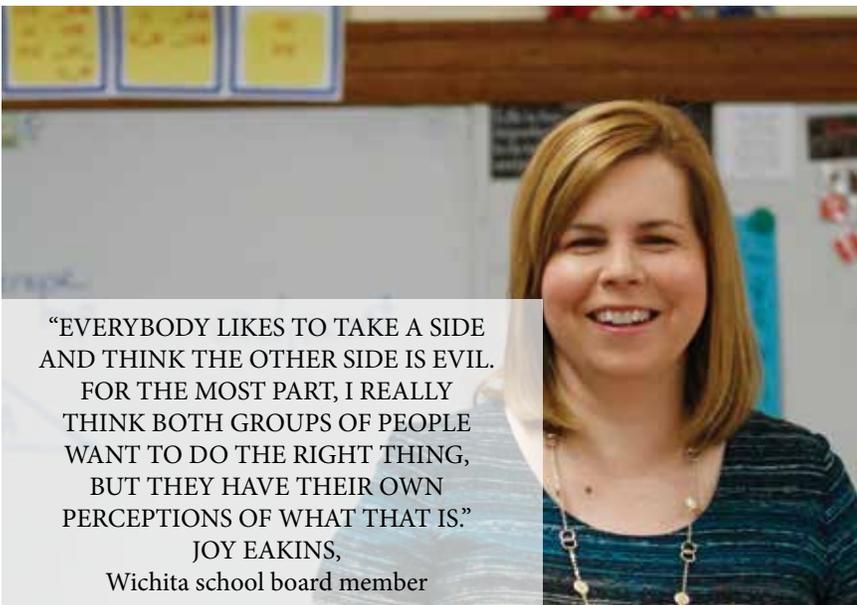
#### LISTEN FOR THE VOICES

Eakins thinks officials must remind themselves that, by the very fact they hold office, they may not have difficulty obtaining information or resolving a problem. That’s why, she says, it’s necessary to find ways to hear constituents’ concerns. “I have to know parents in schools and people who work in those schools so I can get an accurate picture of other people’s experiences,” she says. With a district parent’s help, for example, she had members of parent-teacher groups and school site councils to her home.

“The unusual voices are the people who aren’t in authority in the district, because they have a high stake – the highest stake for a parent is what they do with their child’s education and their life,” Eakins says.

A healthy public discussion is a broad one, Drovetta says. “Contrarians are the ones who are going to push us to make better decisions. The person that wants the shopping center is not going to rush right out and point out the flaws. The person who doesn’t want it will point out the flaws, and we have to consider those to make the best decisions. A person has to be open to all sides and listen to those unusual voices.”

Drovetta acknowledges that a big mistake in his tenure was not asking a member of a vocal opposition group to join a review committee assessing a controversial railroad intermodal facility in Gardner. “We had people who were opposed, but they weren’t ones out front with the T-shirts and signs. If we had brought someone in from that organized effort, it would have been more challenging and taken longer, but I think those folks would have at least recognized that they had a voice.”



“EVERYBODY LIKES TO TAKE A SIDE AND THINK THE OTHER SIDE IS EVIL. FOR THE MOST PART, I REALLY THINK BOTH GROUPS OF PEOPLE WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING, BUT THEY HAVE THEIR OWN PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT THAT IS.”  
JOY EAKINS,  
Wichita school board member



“THE LAST FOUR-PLUS YEARS HAVE BEEN A BLAST. IT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE.”  
MICHAEL ASHCRAFT,  
Johnson County commissioner

## Anatomy of a Public Servant (Who Leads)

by Pat Byrnes

No matter how an issue is resolved, or how well it is handled, officeholders must realize and accept that someone likely will take them to task for it.

“It can be frustrating as hell, but I absolutely love the work,” Thiesen said. “You can see results and see that it matters.”

Michael Ashcraft, another alumnus of KLC, spent many years working in local government before seeking public office as a Johnson County commissioner. Sure, he says, it involves work and sacrifice, but it’s worth it.

“The last four-plus years have been a blast,” Ashcraft says. “It’s the most rewarding and challenging experience of my life.”

 Brian Whepley is a contributing editor for The Journal, the Kansas Leadership Center’s quarterly magazine. He spent 16 years working in daily newspapers, including The Wichita Eagle, and now writes and edits for nonprofits, businesses and individuals. A passionate music fan, he is married to Kathy, a teacher, and has two children, Erin and Drew. He can be reached by email at [bwhepleycomm@gmail.com](mailto:bwhepleycomm@gmail.com).



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# Demand Transfer Losses

by League Staff

The Kansas Legislature continues to create budget and tax policies with negative repercussions on local governments' finances. During the 2015 session, the legislators placed a property tax cap on cities that require them to hold an election if they intend to increase their budget above the consumer price index (CPI) for all urban consumers. Numbers were cited showing property tax increases, but those figures did not take into account the legislature's decision to not fund demand transfers at all for the past 12 years, and only partially in most years prior to that.

Since 1997, cities and counties in Kansas have lost at least \$2,048,290,545 as a result of the State's decision not to fund demand transfers. It is very important to note that while some of these monies are often referred to as "state aid" in budget documents, the history of these funds does not support that classification. The LAVTRF and the CCRS funds (explained below) were part of an agreement between the State and local governments that involved the loss of local revenue sources in exchange for the establishment of these funds. The past 18 years are illustrated below.

## LAVTRF (Local Ad Valorem Property Tax Reduction)

Established under K.S.A. 79-2959, LAVTRF is currently supposed to transfer 3.63% of state sales and use taxes to cities and counties. Revenue sharing in this manner dates back to the 1930s with the current statutory framework being established in 1965. At that time, the local share of certain cigarette revenue stamp taxes and cereal malt beverage taxes were rolled into the state general fund and a direct transfer was made into the LAVTRF to replace the loss of these funds (Kansas Session Laws, Chapter 530, 1965).

## CCRS (County City Revenue Sharing)

Established under K.S.A. 79-2964, CCRS is supposed to transfer 2.823% of state sales and use taxes to cities and counties. CCRS was established in 1978 as part of an agreement between the State and local governments regarding a number of different taxes. In particular, the local share of cigarette and liquor enforcement tax revenues was traded for the establishment of the CCRS (Kansas Session Laws, Chapter 401, 1978).

Reduction in LAVTRF			
Fiscal Year	Statute	Actual	Loss
1997	\$48,661,000	\$46,949,000	\$1,712,000
1998	\$50,688,000	\$47,771,000	\$2,917,000
1999	\$55,122,000	\$55,122,000	\$0
2000	\$57,903,000	\$57,903,000	\$0
2001	\$60,315,000	\$54,139,000	\$6,176,000
2002	\$61,980,000	\$54,680,000	\$7,300,000
2003	\$62,431,000	\$26,247,000	\$36,184,000
2004	\$64,636,000	\$0	\$64,636,000
2005	\$66,521,000	\$0	\$66,521,000
2006	\$66,682,000	\$0	\$66,682,000
2007	\$71,233,000	\$0	\$71,233,000
2008	\$71,063,598	\$0	\$71,063,598
2009	\$69,860,878	\$0	\$69,860,878
2010	\$67,430,000	\$0	\$67,430,000
2011	\$81,788,000	\$0	\$81,788,000
2012	\$87,665,000	\$0	\$87,665,000
2013	\$92,021,000	\$0	\$92,021,000
2014	\$88,644,600	\$0	\$88,644,600
2015	\$90,203,785	\$0	\$90,203,785
Total Thru FY 2015	\$1,314,848,861	\$342,811,000	\$972,037,861

Reduction in CCRS			
Fiscal Year	Statute	Actual	Loss
1997	\$37,117,000	\$35,095,000	\$2,022,000
1998	\$38,570,000	\$35,709,000	\$2,861,000
1999	\$41,376,000	\$36,566,000	\$4,810,000
2000	\$44,359,000	\$36,932,000	\$7,427,000
2001	\$46,004,000	\$34,531,000	\$11,473,000
2002	\$46,901,000	\$34,876,000	\$12,025,000
2003	\$47,868,000	\$16,741,000	\$31,127,000
2004	\$51,564,063	\$0	\$51,564,063
2005	\$53,422,952	\$0	\$53,422,952
2006	\$56,609,567	\$0	\$56,609,567
2007	\$57,920,881	\$0	\$57,920,881
2008	\$55,206,431	\$0	\$55,206,431
2009	\$54,329,823	\$0	\$54,329,823
2010	\$52,570,000	\$0	\$52,570,000
2011	\$63,606,000	\$0	\$63,606,000
2012	\$68,175,000	\$0	\$68,175,000
2013	\$71,563,000	\$0	\$71,563,000
2014	\$68,937,660	\$0	\$68,937,660
2015	\$70,150,216	\$0	\$70,150,216
Total Thru FY 2015	\$1,026,250,593	\$230,450,000	\$795,800,593

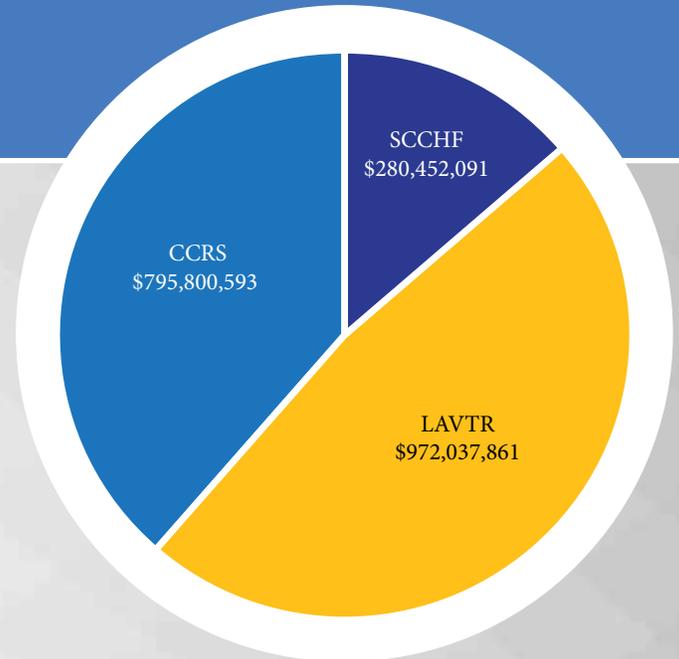
## SCCHF (Special City-County Highway Fund)

Established under K.S.A. 79-3425(i), this portion of the Special City-County Highway Fund is funded by the motor vehicle property tax. The other portion of SCCHF is funded by the motor fuels tax and transfers from that portion of the fund have not been reduced to date.

Reductions in SCCHF			
Fiscal Year	Statute	Actual	Loss
1997	\$15,998,000	\$10,553,000	\$5,445,000
1998	\$15,683,332	\$10,737,000	\$4,946,332
1999	\$16,124,589	\$10,995,000	\$5,129,589
2000	\$17,920,464	\$11,182,000	\$6,738,464
2001	\$18,068,010	\$10,343,000	\$7,725,010
2002	\$15,729,000	\$10,447,000	\$5,282,000
2003	\$19,498,652	\$10,063,000	\$9,435,652
2004	\$20,454,000	\$5,032,000	\$15,422,000
2005	\$22,056,000	\$10,064,000	\$11,992,000
2006	\$25,811,513	\$10,064,000	\$15,747,513
2007	\$29,031,000	\$10,064,000	\$18,967,000
2008	\$29,685,531	\$10,064,000	\$19,621,531
2009	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
2010	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
2011	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
2012	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
2013	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
2014	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
2015	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
<b>Total Thru FY 2015</b>	<b>\$268,060,091</b>	<b>\$119,608,000</b>	<b>\$280,452,091</b>

\* The Kansas Department of Transportation has quit calculating this number, so it represents a conservative estimate of the amount that should have been transferred.

**Total of All Demand Transfer Losses Since 1997**  
**= \$2,048,290,545**



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# 2016 LEAGUE OPERATING BUDGET

As approved by the League Governing Body in Salina on September 11, 2015.

REVENUES	2015 Budget	2016 Budget
General Operations		
Dues and Research	815,000	813,000
Rent Receipts	155,000	155,000
Kansas Government Journal	115,000	120,000
Publications and Advertising	130,000	115,000
Conference and Service Awards	275,000	280,000
Interest Earned and Other Revenue	6,000	6,500
Sub Total - General Operations	1,496,000	1,489,500
Special Programs		
Ordinance Codification	23,000	15,000
Personnel Programs	20,000	30,000
Workshops and Seminars	65,000	30,000
Affiliate Services and Other Programs	38,000	38,000
Sub Total - Special Programs	146,000	113,000
Endorsements / Sponsorships		
KMIT	70,000	70,000
Sponsorships	-	-
Sub Total - Special Programs	70,000	70,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>1,712,000</b>	<b>1,672,500</b>
EXPENSES		
Personnel Services		
Staff Salaries	735,000	750,000
Staff Benefits	235,000	258,000
Professional Memberships	18,000	19,500
Training and Travel	45,000	40,000
Sub Total - Personnel Services	1,033,000	1,067,500
Contractual Services		
Building Maintenance	60,000	60,000
Equipment Related	59,000	56,500
Publications and Printing	51,500	30,000
Kansas Government Journal	75,000	62,000
General Overhead	30,000	23,000
Conference and Service Awards	225,000	230,000
Meeting Expense	25,000	25,000
Sub Total - Contractual Services	525,500	486,500
Commodities		
Office Supplies and Paper	17,000	12,500
Books, Software, and Subscriptions	20,000	15,000
Utilities, Telephone, and Postage	55,000	53,000
Sub Total - Commodities	92,000	80,500
Capital Outlay		
Equipment Purchases	17,500	10,000
Building Improvements	-	-
Sub Total - Capital Outlay	17,500	10,000
Special Programs		
Personnel Programs	2,000	2,000
Workshops and Seminars	37,000	25,000
Affiliate Services and Other Programs	5,000	1,000
Sub Total - Special Programs	44,000	28,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,712,000</b>	<b>1,672,500</b>

# Kansas Government Journal

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## Kansas

### Regional Truck Parking Information and Management System Project Received \$25,000,000

The Regional Truck Parking Information and Management System Project sponsored by the State of Kansas, in partnership with Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, received \$25,000,000 to implement existing ITS technology on major truck freight routes in eight states at both State Department of Transportation-owned and private truck rest areas. The project includes traveler information websites, dynamic truck parking signage along interstates, and smart phone applications to inform truck drivers of parking availability to optimize truck parking facility utilization and performance. The project's innovative approach of developing a multi-state coalition to achieve system interoperability across an eight-State region will represent one of the largest geographic areas of ITS deployment of truck parking technology in the country.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/no7wpph>

## Wichita

### Wichita Pays \$1.7 Million to Study City's Utilities System

With a 7-0 vote, the council unanimously approved the contract with CH2M Hill for Phase One of the project. The \$1,721,800 project will be paid out of the operating budget of the Water and Sewer Utility Funds

"We know it's getting older. We're starting to see some failures. We want to make sure that we have a good plan on how to replace that infrastructure, capital improvement plan," said Alan King, Director of Public Works & Utilities for the City of Wichita. "Want to make sure that we compliment that with the right operating plan to do temporary repairs and a good financial plan to be able to pay for all of that."

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/o486kde>

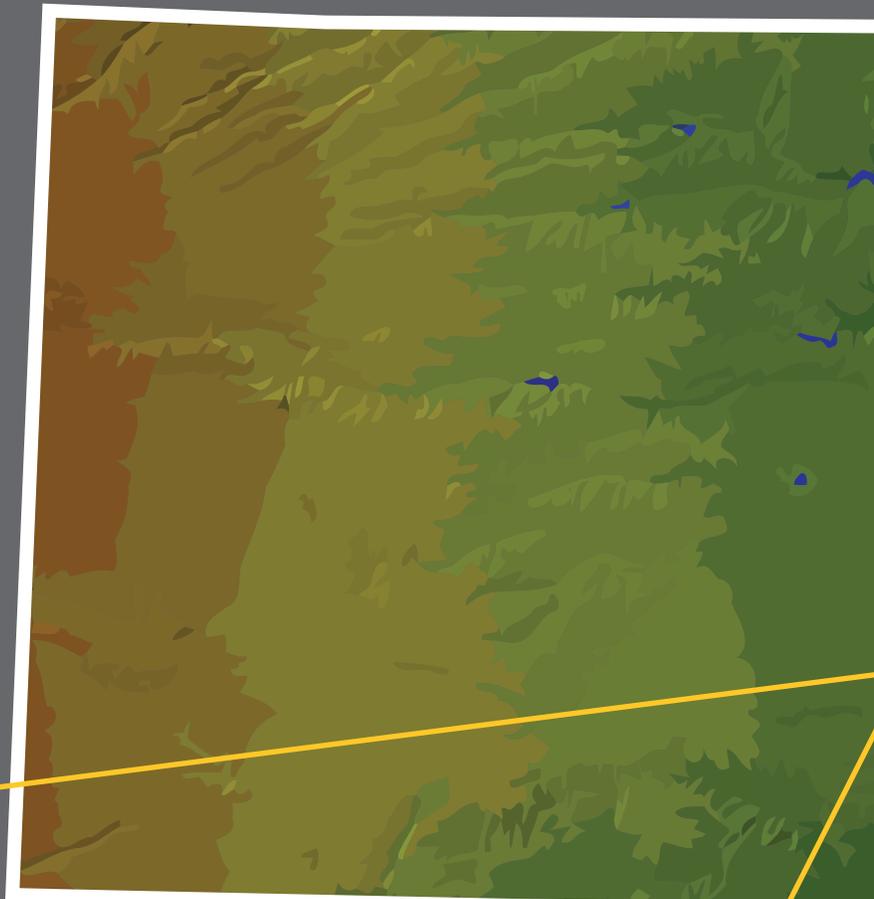
## Hutchinson

### Council Establishes Housing Incentive in Hutchinson City

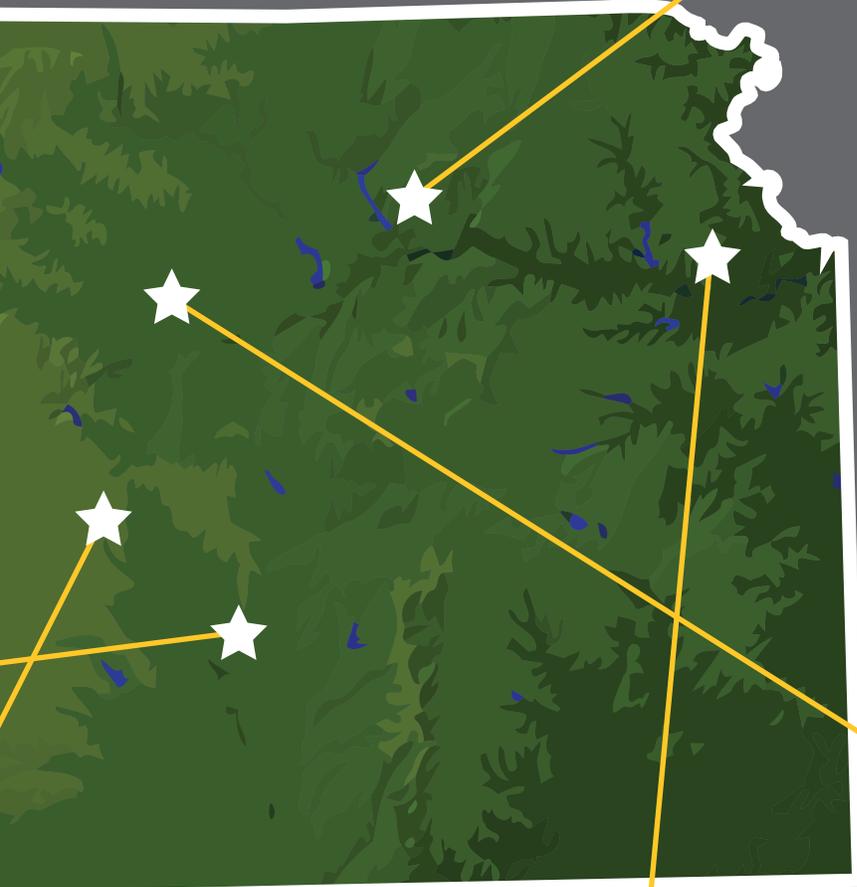
Hutchinson City Council approved a program that could replace special assessments for new housing developments in some parts of the city.

Incentive districts would pay for streets, water, sewer and stormwater drainage without the use of special assessments, which can raise house payments by hundreds of dollars a month, Director of Planning and Development Jana McCarron said.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/qc7bjfv>



# GOVERNMENT NEWS



## Manhattan

### State Unveils Water Project Task Force

A task force that will make recommendations for how to fund the state's water projects was unveiled. The Blue Ribbon Task Force is part of the 50-year plan to secure the state's water supply that Gov. Sam Brownback's administration rolled out last year.

Tracy Streeter, director of the Kansas Water Office, told a crowd of hundreds at the conference that the panel intends to work quickly.

"We will get our work done in 2016," Streeter said.

There are two main water challenges in Kansas: conserving the underground Ogallala Aquifer that sustains the western Kansas agriculture economy and preserving the above-ground reservoirs that supply the eastern Kansas population centers.

The reservoirs are losing storage capacity as they fill with sediment. Some need expensive dredging to increase the amount of water they can hold. The banks of some streams that feed the reservoirs also need to be shored up to prevent further sedimentation.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/o98d4vx>

## Salina

### Salina Saving Money and Hours with Program

The Continuous Process Improvement plan implemented three years ago has saved the city of Salina 22,529 man hours, the equivalent of 12.7 employees, Bryon Johnson, director of process improvement, told the Salina City Commission in a study session.

The program, which uses a five-step process to allow city employees to develop ways to improve performance and save money, is expected to save the city \$814,833 this year and an estimated \$3 million over a six-year period, he said.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/nemwg2c>

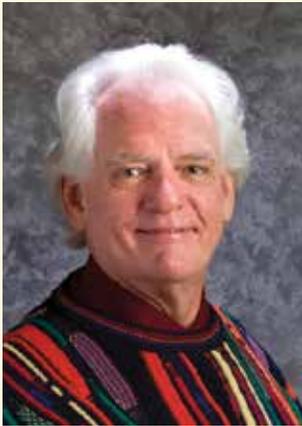
## Lawrence

### Parks and Rec Drafting Tobacco Ban for all Department-Operated Land, Including all Parks

The Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department is drafting a policy that aims to ban tobacco use on any of the department's land, including all 54 parks.

Interim Parks and Recreation Director Ernie Shaw told members of the department's advisory board that a written proposal would be presented at their December meeting. It's expected to go to the Lawrence City Commission early next year, he said.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/paxvcd>



**Mayor  
John McTaggart**  
City of Edwardsville  
League Director

**What do you think is the primary role of municipal government?** The Primary role of municipal government is to provide the basic services that the citizens could not do on their own. Police, fire, and roads. In addition they provide quality of life services such as parks and recreation.

**What is your position and what are your typical duties?** As Mayor I represent the city public functions, on boards and presiding over the city council meetings.

**What is your favorite thing about Kansas?** Kansas has very friendly and what is called “down to earth” people. I somewhat enjoy the four seasons and when it’s green it’s just gorgeous!

**Please share a little personal information about yourself.** I was born and raised in Kansas... what we call an Original Dotte. I am self-employed and have been in the sign business for 53 years, 43 running my own business and 37 years at my home in Edwardsville.

**What is your favorite thing about your community?** Edwardsville is just a great community... and I quote from our recent 100th Anniversary Celebration: Small town livin’, Big City Pride.

**What made you want to join city government?** As a citizen and business owner I was always interested in the functions of city government and the services it provides. And I felt that my experience of running my own business would give me background in being a part of leading the community.

**Is this your first time on a statewide board?** I have served on the League Board for five years. I’m currently the 2015 President of Kansas Mayors Association, a position I also held in 1997. And I also was chosen Kansas Mayor of the Year for 2011-2012.



**Mayor  
Jeff Longwell**  
City of Wichita  
League Director

**What do you think is the primary role of municipal government?** The mission of the City of Wichita is to provide an environment to protect the health, safety and well-being of all who live and work in the community. We strive to help make our community a better place to live through whatever means best serves the lives of our citizens.

**What is your position and what are your typical duties?** I am the Mayor of Wichita, elected in April of 2015. I’ve taken a hands-on approach in my role. My favorite part of being mayor is being able to get out in the community and interact with my fellow Wichitans. It’s amazing how much we have going on. A typical weeknight for me consists of perhaps attending a ribbon cutting for a new business, then having a dinner meeting before attending a fundraiser or one of the many cultural attractions Wichita has to offer.

But it’s not all community events and hand shaking. The City Council and I are working diligently on economic development and continuous quality of life improvements for our city. I look forward to the bright future ahead of Wichita.

**What is your favorite thing about Kansas?** I couldn’t pick one thing. When thinking of Kansas, many people think of expansive farmland and wide open prairie. I think, instead, of big cities, situated within driving distance of industrious small towns. I think of entrepreneurial startups and big business. So perhaps my favorite thing about Kansas is the variety of opportunity which can be found here.

**Please share a little personal information about yourself.** I’ve been married to my wife Susie for over 34 years. Together we have a daughter, Angela, and son-in-law, Scott Pankratz, and a granddaughter Marissa and twin sons, Ryan and Bryan and daughter-in-law, Alana.

**What is your favorite thing about your community?** My favorite thing about Wichita is the people. There’s no contest. I love getting out in the community and meeting people. It always amazes me how hardworking and innovative the individuals in and around the Wichita community are. Wichita is made great by the citizens who live here. As Charles Koch shared on “Morning Joe” and which I will paraphrase, it’s a great place to raise a family and a better place to grow a business.

**What made you want to join city government?** Wichita is my home. It’s where I started my business, where I raised my family and where my heart is. I started my political career on the Maize School Board of Education while my children were in school. During my 12 year tenure, I liked that I was helping to make a difference not only in the lives of my children, but children across the district. That led me to run for city council in 2007 and eventually for Mayor. Effecting change has become my passion.

**Is this your first time on a statewide board?** Yes



**Erik Sartorius**  
League  
Executive Director

**What is your position and what do you do?** I am the League's Executive Director. In addition to overseeing daily operations, my primary focus is implementing the strategic plan developed by League members and the Governing Body.

**What is your favorite thing about Kansas?** The people. We have a powerful combination of friendliness and a great entrepreneurial spirit that's difficult to beat.

**A little bit of information about you.** Most of my career has involved public service. I spent four years in Washington, D.C., working for U.S. Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum. While obtaining my Master's in Public Administration from KU, I had an opportunity to enter the government affairs field. After some time with the Johnson County Realtors, I joined the City of Overland Park and for a decade worked with the city manager's office. Our family moved to the St. Louis area in 2011, where I engaged in industry relations activities for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. I'm addicted to BBQ, enjoy running, love watching Sporting KC play and have become quite adept in building Star Wars-inspired Legos (with careful guidance from our son)!

**Have you always lived in Kansas?** By and large. I grew up in Wichita. I went to college in Texas, and then went to Washington, D.C. We moved back to Kansas and lived for about 15 years in Topeka. After four years in Clayton, Missouri, my wife (Kelly), son (Jack) and I are now in Lawrence.

**What is your favorite scenic part of Kansas?** Whichever city I'm in at the time! If we're talking about nature, I must say that the Flint Hills are amazing, especially if they're burning the range.

**How long have you been with the League?** Since May 2014.

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# Classified Advertising

## City Clerk

The City of Mount Hope, Kansas is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Clerk. This is an administrative position with oversight responsibilities for the daily operation of the city. Take a look at our website here.

Under the direction of the Mayor and City Council, the City Clerk is responsible for payroll, accounts payables, accounts receivables, minutes of the City Council, personnel records, purchasing, records retention, financial accounting, budget preparation and monitoring of financial condition, as well as zoning administration. As a city officer, the City Clerk is the official custodian of municipal documents and is responsible for various city records. In addition, this position is responsible for, and maintains control of all municipal, fiscal and legal records. This employee will have a substantial amount of public contact regarding the furnishing of information concerning city ordinances and policies.

Applicant must possess excellent communication skills and strong interpersonal skills and have the ability to communicate with council, staff, and residents in order to manage planning and operation of day to day activities to ensure efficient, effective delivery of city services. The successful applicant will adapt well to change, have a positive attitude, be proactive, self-directed, self-motivated and detail oriented.

Computer skills are a necessity with proficiency in Microsoft Office and training and/or experience with accounting software. An Associates degree and/or work experience in public administration, accounting, or business administration is preferred, but not required. Applicants who are engaged in or have completed the Municipal clerks Certification Institute are encouraged to apply. It is expected this employee can acquire the necessary skills and certifications to perform the job reasonably well within one year of employment.

Successful applicant must reside within the Greeley Township, or move to this location within six months after initial appointment.

Applications must be received before Friday, December 18, 2015.

Submit cover letter, resume and 3 references to Mayor Terry Somers, 112 W Main, Mount Hope, KS 67108, or e-mail to

tssomers1@gmail.com.

## City Clerk

Performs a variety of routine and complex clerical, secretarial, professional, administrative, and technical accounting and finance functions in maintaining the fiscal records and systems of the City. Assists with the processing of all purchase orders, including data entry.

Requirements: Education and Experience: Graduation from High School or GED equivalent and an Associate's degree or equivalent in business management; More than one (1) year and up to and including three (3) years of experience or Any equivalent combination of education and progressively responsible experience, with additional work experience substituting for the required education on a year for year basis. Certified Municipal Clerk designation desired.

Working knowledge of computers and electronic data processing, working knowledge of modern office practices and procedures; some knowledge of accounting principles and practices. Skill in operating the listed tools and equipment. Working knowledge of the principles and practices of modern public administration and a thorough knowledge of modern records management techniques, including legal requirements for recording, retention, and disclosure. Ability to accurately record and maintain records; effectively meet and deal with the public; communicate effectively, verbally and in writing; work independently; and handle stressful situations.

Must be bondable. Must have notary public certification within six months. Must reside within 30 minutes of Junction City.

This position requires a valid driver's license, must pass an extensive background check and strive in providing excellent service to the public.

APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED ON-LINE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSITION.

Applications accepted until December 18, 2015. Application link available at [www.junctioncity-ks.gov](http://www.junctioncity-ks.gov) on the "How Do I?" page or at [www.hrepartners.com](http://www.hrepartners.com)

Questions? Please contact Dawn C. Van Horn @ 785.238.3103

The City of Junction City is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Community Development Director

City of McPherson

Public Works

### POSITION SUMMARY

Under the supervision of the Public Works Director, the Community Development Director is an exempt position under FLSA. The Community Development Director will be responsible for overseeing a results-oriented, customer-centered approach to development-related services such as land use, development and floodplain regulation administration, nuisance abatement and code enforcement, residential and commercial economic development, and community data analysis, administration of community grant and incentive programs. Providing supervisory authority and guidance to the Code Enforcement Officer/Sanitation Officer and Building Inspector(s), administering zoning and subdivision regulations, assisting the city on matters of physical development of the City and other development policies are the primary responsibilities of this position. Also supervises and assists the City Planning Commission and the City Board of Zoning Appeals. Coordinates and organizes the city's project review team. This employee should possess excellent communication, organizational, and public relations skills.

## WaterOne - Director of Human Resources

WaterOne, one of the most respected utilities in the water industry, is seeking a Director of Human Resources and Administration to serve as a key member of its leadership team. This award winning organization provides exceptional service to 400,000+ customers in the Johnson County, Kansas area of metropolitan Kansas City. The area offers outstanding quality of life and excellent schools. This position reports directly to the General Manager and will provide expert advice to the Leadership Team on human resources concepts, laws and best practices. An ability to suggest organizational development strategies needed to sustain a high performing team of 375 full-time employees, and the experience and confidence to work in both a professional and operational environment is critical. Experience and knowledge in the areas of health insurance, compensation and benefits, employee relations, retirement plans, and

a willingness to consider new ways to utilize technology in the implementation of traditional HR functions is important. The successful candidate will possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills and a successful track record of team work and continuous improvement. The HR Director is responsible for overseeing the functional area of Personnel Administration, and depending on their skill set, may be assigned additional areas of management responsibility.

A Bachelor's Degree and a minimum of 10 years HR experience, including five years in a managerial role, is required.

Qualified candidates please submit your resume online by visiting our website at <https://waters-company.recruitmenthome.com/postings/695>. This position is open until filled; however, the first review of applications will take place on December 14, 2015. For more information, please contact Art Davis at [adavis@waters-company.com](mailto:adavis@waters-company.com), or by calling (816) 868-7042. WaterOne is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity at all levels of its workforce!

### **Electric Lineman**

The City of Kiowa, Kansas, is seeking a full-time Electric Lineman. High school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license required. Vocational degree in electricity or additional training preferred. Excellent benefits. Call 620-825-4127 for job description, application, and more information. Applications must be in by December 30, 2015. EOE.

### **Public Works Director/City Engineer**

The City of Louisburg is seeking a professional, team oriented and focused Public Works Director/City Engineer. Inter-organizational partnership and cooperation among the Governing Body, city staff and citizens empowers Louisburg to continue to be a community of choice. Louisburg has taken recent steps toward revitalizing the downtown area, reinvesting in the community and planning for the future, and we look forward to a promising future.

This position is responsible for supervising: essential public works and utility functions (gas, water and sewer systems), employees within those same departments and building and zoning activities. Additionally, this position fields questions, concerns and complaints

from the general public, reviews plans for subdivision infrastructure, and meets with developers to plan for and facilitate development projects. Marginal duties include assisting other departments as needed, website and social media updates/communications, and other duties as assigned.

#### **Job Requirements**

Immediate Supervisor: City Administrator

Department: Public Works FLSA Classification: Exempt Status

Classification: Full-time (40 hrs. per week, flexible w/ some weekends and evenings)

Education: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university is required.

A master's degree in public administration and current Kansas professional engineering license are preferred.

Experience: Seven years of municipal management and/or engineering, as well as some supervisory experience is preferred. Additional technical skills and aptitude are expected and laid out within the full job description.

Compensation: \$58,799-\$82,257 DOQ

Position open until filled. Full job description available upon request. Please submit application and resume to Nathan Law, City Administrator, at 5 S. Peoria, Louisburg, KS 66053 or e-mail to [nlaw@louisburgkansas.gov](mailto:nlaw@louisburgkansas.gov).

### **Public Works Director**

The City of Topeka is seeking qualified candidates for a Public Works Director.

The Public Works Director is responsible for the overall administration, development and direction of public works programs including Facility Operations, Traffic Operations, Street Maintenance, Forestry and Fleet Services and reports directly to the City Manager.

Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or closely related field, valid driver's license (KS license by hire date); licensed professional engineer in the state of Kansas (or reciprocal) preferred and five (5) years managerial experience in the public works field; or any combination of education, training and experience that provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities.

Additional duties include:

Plans, organizes, prioritizes, provides leadership and directs the broad scope of activities of the department; assures total

operational effectiveness.

Serves as the principal advisor to the City Manager, and other City officials regarding public works activities; confers as appropriate regarding Public Works policy, programs and activities.

Interprets and enforces City Manager directives and administrative policy.

Develops long-range strategic and master plans for department policies and programs, outlines program objectives and works with appropriate staff to implement plans. Oversees the preparation and implementation of plans Public Works projects.

Prepares and presents the annual department budget; determines resource needs and financing requests; oversees department budgetary administration.

Entry annual salary range: \$81,538 - \$123,595, DOQ

A City of Topeka employment application is required. A full position description, along with application information, can be accessed at [www.topeka.org/employment](http://www.topeka.org/employment).

### **Public Works – Public Service Worker**

This position is responsible for maintenance of the City water, sanitary sewer, streets, and natural gas systems. Preferred applicant should have knowledge of pumps, motors and controls. Water or Wastewater licensing and/or CDL is a plus. Backhoe experience working around utilities is preferable. This is a full time position that reports to the Public Works Supervisor. Employee must reside within a 20 minute drive time to Louisburg. The City offers a competitive compensation package including paid employee health, vision and dental insurance, paid leave, and Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs). Salary DOQ. Drug/Alcohol screening required. Applications are available at City Hall 5 S Peoria Suite 104. For information contact Nathan Law at (913) 837-5371. The City of Louisburg is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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**Salary Survey**  
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*The warm glow of the Santa Fe Depot as fresh snow falls covering the Prairie Spirit Trail in Garnett Photo submitted by the City of Garnett.*

**Columbus  
Christmas Parade**

**December 2**

Theme will be “Santa Claus Is Coming To Town.” In addition to the parade there will be a visit from Santa and activities for all age groups.  
(620) 429-1492

**Oswego Christmas Parade - theme  
- Storybook Christmas**

**December 2**

Free Chili Dinner sponsored by the Oswego Rec Commission, then the Christmas Parade starts at 7:00. Afterward, the children meet with Santa.  
(620) 795-4433 | [www.oswegokansas.com](http://www.oswegokansas.com)

**Merriam 19th Annual High School  
Visual Arts Show**

**December 3 - January 2**

Check out 157 local high school artists displaying art work in 3D, 2D, Computer Generated Art and Photography at the Tim Murphy Art Gallery located on the third floor of the Irene B. French Community Center in Merriam, Kansas  
(913) 322-5550 | <http://www.merriam.org/> park

**Shop Derby**

**December 4 - 7**

Shop Derby is held the first weekend in December. The event features unique merchants and restaurants, two craft fairs, and an antique market and prizes.  
[www.derbyks.com/shopderby](http://www.derbyks.com/shopderby)

**Merriam Sundown with Santa/  
Mayors Tree Lighting**

**December 5**

Holiday Games, Holiday Music by Crestview and East Antioch Schools, Visit with Santa  
(785) 322-5550 | <http://www.merriam.org/> events

**Williamsburg Holiday Weekend**

**December 5 - 6**

Celebrate a holiday weekend in the heart of downtown Williamsburg on Saturday, December 5, 2015 with a Christmas Parade and Soup Dinner. Parade starts at 4:00 p.m. with a Special Appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Parade Line up will be at 3:30 p.m. at the Williamsburg Community Library. After the parade come join us for a warm bowl of soup in the Community building. Come back on Sunday, December 6, 2015 for a Holiday Homes Tour and Tea where local residents open there homes to mingle and spread holiday cheer by displaying there homes decorated up for the Holiday Season. After the tour join us at Pass the Time Coffee Shop for a hot cup of tea and cookies and participate in a silent auction for decorated Christmas Trees, Wreathes, and Christmas Center Pieces. Proceeds from Holiday Homes Tour and Tea support our local historical society.  
(785) 746-5578 | [www.williamsburgks.us](http://www.williamsburgks.us)

**Andover Hometown Christmas**

**December 10**

From 5:30-8 p.m. at Central Park in Andover! Events take place at the Library, City Hall and The Lodge! Santa arrives at 5:30 outside City Hall for the official lighting of the 22-foot Christmas tree. Then Santa will be inside City Hall for pictures. There will be crafts and cookie decorating

in the Library, s'mores at the bonfire, horse-drawn hayrack rides, the chili cook-off in the Lodge (tasting kits are only \$2), barrel train rides, dance performances, and carolers - plus free coffee, hot chocolate, and hot cider! Drink stations will be at all three buildings - the Library, City Hall and The Lodge! Admission to the evening of family fun is a donation of toys, non-perishable pantry items, or a monetary donation. These items can be dropped off at The Lodge on the south side of the building.

(316) 733-1303 | [www.facebook.com/HometownChristmasAndover](http://www.facebook.com/HometownChristmasAndover)

**Wilson  
Christmas Festival**

**December 12**

Santa, Vendors, Food, Music  
(785) 658-2111 | <http://www.wilsonkansas.com>

**Ness City Dick Wagoner Memorial  
Christmas Parade**

**December 19**

The afternoon starts with a movie for the youth at 3:00 pm at the High School Auditorium. At 4:00 pm there will be a Run, Santa, Run! A holiday 5K starting at the Ness County Bank Building. Join us at 6:30 pm for the Dick Wagoner Memorial Christmas Parade followed by Hot Cocoa and Cookies along with entertainment at the Ness County Bank Building. Might even be a visit from Santa!  
(785) 798-2413

Does your city have an event that you would like to advertise? See and submit City Events at [LKM.org/events](http://LKM.org/events).

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