



Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

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MARCH 2017



Tax Rate & Fiscal Data Book

If I Were Mayor

League Profiles

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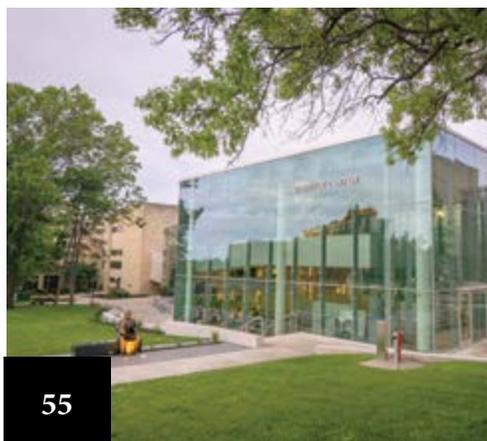
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On our cover this month are the Winners of League's annual "If I Were Mayor" Contest with League President, Kim Thomas and Executive Director, Erik Sartorius. See the full article on page 40.

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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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2017 League Events Calendar

March

- 12-15 NLC Congressional City Conference, D.C.
- 15-17 City Clerks Spring Conference, Wichita
- 30 MTI - Municipal Finance, Russell
- 31 MTI - Municipal Finance, Marysville



April

- 21-22 Leadership Summit, Dodge City
- 27-28 KACM Spring Conference, Lawrence

Obituaries

Myra F. Jenks died January 21, 2017. She was 93. Myra graduated from Shawnee Mission Rural High School in 1942. After high school, Myra worked for Lowell and Campbell until she enlisted in the Army Medical Corp, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. She married Harry L. Jenks on June 30, 1946, and made their home in Merriam. They had three children together, Sherry Lynn, Harry Lee Jr., and Julie Ann. When Harry Sr. was elected to the Merriam City Council, Myra also became active in the city. She was President of Historic Merriam, on the advisory board of the Irene B. French Community Center and a member of the Merriam Visitors Bureau. Myra, along with the late Mayor, Irene French, wrote the History of Merriam. She is survived by her three children.

Bernie Krug died January 4, 2017. He was 72. Krug graduated from Kansas State University and flew missions as an Air Force pilot in Vietnam. He was dedicated to supporting veterans services and was an owner of the Patriot House in Summerfield to provide housing for veterans. A lifelong sports enthusiast and advocate for public sports facilities, Krug helped promote construction of a new swimming pool and tennis courts while he served as Marysville's mayor from 2007 to 2011. Voters would later approve a new pool. Those who sat through City Council meetings with Krug as mayor recall he always liked to move meetings along to get home in time for part of Monday Night Football. He is survived by his family and friends.

Frank F. Schmale died January 30, 2017. He was 87. From 1981 to 1987 Frank served Garden City as city commissioner and later as mayor. Frank attended Garfield Elementary school and graduated from Garden City High School in 1947. He completed his education with instruction in electronics attending vocational technical schools in Chicago, Illinois and Valparaiso, Indiana. He is survived by his family and friends.

Director's Foreword

by Erik Sartorius



As much as I think the time leading up to our annual conference is our busiest time of the year, we may be just as busy right now - maybe even busier!

For one, we have the ball rolling on our third annual Hometown Showdown. We had such a strong response this year for the 64-city bracket that we created a wildcard round to accommodate the overflow cities. Good luck to everyone as you vie to follow in the footsteps of Haysville and Atchison with a victory and the cover of an upcoming *Kansas Government Journal*.

Something you may be noticing as you vote for the Hometown Showdown is a more frequent presence from the League on social media. Megan Gilliland's arrival as our Communications & Education Manager has given us a much more robust ability to share with both you and the public what the League is doing. The briefs, press releases and other postings on Facebook Twitter and other platforms are allowing us to keep you better informed, as well as non-members who follow us. Midway through February, we had seen 6,174 people (a 126% increase) react to our Facebook posts by liking, sharing or commenting. For Twitter, we had increased our tweets by 126% and had been mentioned by other users 118% more.

Increased activity by the League is also being noticed by media across the state. This is allowing us to explain issues to the media and then connect them with their local communities. We want to assist you in receiving positive media coverage whenever we can.

Another biennial initiative we are working on is our upcoming Leadership Summit in Dodge City (April 21-22). The program is being finalized, and you can find details of sessions and register by heading to the "Events" section on our website. Our keynote speaker this year is Shelley Row, an engineer by education and a great speaker. Several of our staff were lucky enough to hear her last year at a National League of Cities workshop. I think you will enjoy how she helps you understand your decision-making style and how to strike a balance between information and intuition.

The perennial item taking much of our focus this time of the year is the Legislature in Topeka. As I write, legislators have just completed the first portion of their session and are back in their communities for a week-long break. Both chambers passed their first effort at adjusting the tax structure of the state, which was vetoed by the governor. While that veto was sustained, the Legislature is not entirely back to square one. The reasonably strong votes in the

House and Senate do provide some sense of the eventual level and sources for revenue increases.

The legislative session has moved a little slower than past years, in part due to 35% of the Legislature being new. Despite the less hurried pace, we have been **busy!** To date, the League has testified on 44 bills. We have also made four presentations to committees, including ones before the House and Senate local government committees done jointly by myself and Randall Allen, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Counties. These last two presentations were informal opportunities for Randall and I to introduce the committees to the roles and challenges of cities in counties. This was the first time I have received such invitations with the League, and it was refreshing to see legislators taking interest in cities and counties. I would also say that I and other League staff have heard the phrase, "What do you think?" and have had legislators proactively seek us out on issues much more frequently than in the past two sessions.

This goodwill and legitimacy has come from us - and **you** - working to develop relationships with legislators, even those who frequently disagree with us. To maintain this momentum, I would ask that you keep up your good work of staying in touch with legislators, particularly when you do not have an issue for which you are seeking their vote.

In your conversations, I would encourage you to adhere to this phrase I heard on the radio late last fall: "When trying to grease the wheels, don't use anger as a lubricant." I love the simplicity of this sentence and the wisdom it provides. When I visit with city officials about approaching legislators, I suggest they think about their city council meetings. Is anger the "lubricant" that works best when a citizen or business is contacting you about an issue? I doubt it. A calm demeanor, a specific ask, and an interest in hearing the other person's perspective all help create an environment for productive dialogue. Keep at it!

Any question? Comments? Please let me know! Contact me at esartorius@lkm.org or 785-354-9565.

“When trying to grease the wheels, don't use anger as a lubricant.”



About the Tax Rate & Fiscal Data Book

In March, the League of Kansas Municipalities publishes its annual Kansas Tax Rate & Fiscal Data Book. This comprehensive book offers users a look at current data pertinent to understanding the state's local tax landscape. Such data is helpful to obtain an introductory understanding of the fiscal climate facing municipalities and other taxing subdivisions. Perhaps of most interest, the annual book offers the means to identify any fiscal trends that could be arising within a given year.

The book is structured to illustrate tax rates and fiscal data arising from each of the three classes of cities and then moves on to highlight tax rates arising from counties and unified school districts. The numerical information is provided in an accessible and usable table format. The data is collected annually using myriad resources, including the Kansas Department of Revenue, the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, and soliciting information through a survey sent to all cities in Kansas. The data collected includes, but is not limited to: assessed valuation, bonds, temporary notes, no-fund warrants, and mills levied by each taxing subdivision. The criteria for the data collected, provides a well-rounded perspective as to how individual cities, counties and unified school districts are assessing taxes.

The Total City Levy is based on the reported rate for each city as listed on the levy sheet that is turned in each year by the county to the state. In determining the Total Mills Levy, the League uses a weighted average based on all taxing units within a city. This calculation takes into consideration the total assessed valuation and mills levied for each taxing unit. This methodology helps the League ensure that an accurate portrayal of tax rates across Kansas municipalities and other taxing subdivisions is published for the public's use.

With the hope of making the book easily accessible for all interested parties, the League provides the opportunity to purchase the book in either a Microsoft Excel or printed format. Additionally, the League acts as a repository of tax rate information. Should you desire a previous year's tax rate book, the League is able to accommodate requests dating back to 2000. Should you have questions about how the data is collected, the methodology behind the numbers, or interested in ordering copies of the Kansas Tax Rate & Fiscal Data Book, please contact the League at your convenience.

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Local Government Day Review

On January 25, 2017, the League of Kansas Municipalities held their annual Local Government Day event in Topeka. At lunch, the Kansas Mayors Association welcomed dozens of mayors from across the state to hear Rep. Tom Phillips from Manhattan provide an overview of his committee work specifically in taxation, veterans and military affairs, commerce, labor and economic development.

After lunch, additional elected officials and city management staff gathered to honor the 2016 “IF I Were Mayor” essay contest winners. This year’s regional essay contest winners hailed from Sharon Springs, Liberal, Valley Center, Luray and El Dorado. The overall state winner was Harley Pruetting from Gardner. Full essays from each regional winner can be found on page 40 of this edition of the *Kansas Government Journal*.

After a short break, League Executive Director Erik Sartorius and Deputy Director Cindy Green provided a preview of the current Legislative session. Items of importance to municipalities were highlighted as well as a general forecast for the session. League staff encouraged the audience to spend time connecting with Legislators and discuss issues affecting Kansas cities.

Later that afternoon, the group was joined by Senate and House leadership for an update on current topics and a brief question-and-answer session. Senate Vice President Jeff Longbine (Emporia) and Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley (Topeka) joined House Minority Leader Jim Ward (Wichita) and House Local Government Chair Rep. Kristey Williams (Augusta) for a discussion of current legislative priorities.

In the evening, local elected officials, city and county management and legislators from across the state gathered for a reception held in cooperation with the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC). Over 300 people attended the reception. The League and KAC have coordinated efforts for Local Government Day for the past two years and it has created great synergy and presence in Topeka for Local Government Day.

IF I WERE MAYOR



This January, the League of Kansas Municipalities honored six seventh graders from across Kansas with recognition for their “If I Were Mayor” essays. The regional winners joined League leadership at the Local Government Day event on January 25 in Topeka to receive their awards and meet with elected officials across the state. League President Kim Thomas and Executive Director Erik Sartorius greeted the winners, their families and a few teachers who made the trek to Topeka.

The overall winner of the contest this year was Harley Pruetting from Pioneer Ridge Middle School in Gardner. Harley’s winning essay focused on creating opportunities to involve residents in local government. Some of her thoughts for improving engagement included offering volunteer opportunities to learn about city government functions, increased social media and use of technology, and generally making it easy to converse with elected officials and city staff.

Each year, the League oversees a statewide competition for all seventh-grade students in public or private school systems. This year, over 1,000 students from 69 schools across Kansas participated. The League will begin contacting public and private schools in Kansas in the fall to encourage participation in the essay contest. Perhaps next year, a student from your city may have the next great idea and win!





Harley Pruetting

**Northeast Regional &
Statewide Winner**

Pioneer Ridge Middle School

If I were mayor the first thing I would do is work to create opportunities to involve the citizens of Gardner in city government. That would include opportunities to volunteer in community events, provide input on city matters, and participate in a citizen's government or police academy to learn about the different duties of the people involved in city government or the police department. I would also focus on the quality of life for Gardner residents. That means supporting the police department with the resources they need to reduce violent crime and maintain safe roads, creating a Parks and Recreation programs that gives boys and girls equal opportunities to participate in sports, and sponsoring community events that bring the community closer together.

I would also work to provide as much information to citizens as possible through the use of technology and social media. I would record and put online all the city meetings so all residents could watch them. I would use Facebook and Twitter to keep residents informed on community events and other news of interest. I would also put a crime map online so citizens could see what crime was happening in the city and their neighborhoods.

I would be a Mayor that people see and can easily meet and talk to. I would listen to what they had to say and try to do what I could to help them or get done what they wanted. I would try to be the best Mayor possible.



Haylee Schurr

**Northwest Regional
Wallace County Schools**

If I were mayor I would get to know my citizens and their needs. I would help them, but would also become their friend. I would adjust the laws to be more accustomed to those needs. I think that I can make Sharon Springs a better place.

I would have town meeting and the citizens would elect the sheriff and police department. I believe having town meetings would better our community because the people would better understand the government. Also I believe citizens should feel safe and electing local police would better encourage that feeling. I feel as though these improvements would help a lot.

Many improvements to the town's aesthetics could be made, but I know that those changes aren't necessary. I think we should refill the lake that was in the south park. Also one major business would make the town flourish. This would leave the town with more money, because more people would come here.

I think town fundraiser and events would bring the community together and give the older kids something fun to do. Dances, town picnics, and handy cap activities would increase the fun level in Sharon and also give people something to do. I feel though community potlucks and donation boxes would benefit for the businesses in town.

I feel as though I would be a great mayor because I care about the people in my community, and understand their needs. I would listen and improve the community, making it a better place. In conclusion I would be a stupendous mayor because I would listen.





Zach Rose

North Central Regional

Sylvan-Lucas Unified High School

If I were Mayor, I would buy the empty school building and make it into a recreation center. The people in town could use the gym to exercise and for a weight room. The classrooms could be used for different community activities such as painting class, movie night, and game rooms. I would charge a membership fee for the recreation center to help pay the bills. I would also turn the empty lots in town into a splash park, football field, soccer field, and a baseball field. I think this would encourage people in the surrounding area to do business in Luray. I would pay for all of these activities by applying for grants from Post Rock or Dane G Hanson.

If I were Mayor, I would encourage people in town to reopen the grocery store and the restaurant. I would give whoever opens these businesses the empty city buildings tax free for one year to use. Reopening these businesses would help people in Luray because they would not have to drive all the way to Russell for groceries and to eat out. It would also bring in business from out of town.

If I were Mayor, I would pay the fire department volunteers more money for fighting fires and would pay for the gas the volunteer fire fighters use to drive to the fire. I would redo the sidewalks, so it is easier for people to walk on during Friendship Day.



Ethan Duncan

Southwest Regional

Eisenhower Middle School

If I were mayor, I would focus efforts on improving the community for the safety and well-being of the residents in Liberal, Kansas. Developing downtown Liberal, creating safe bus stops, and allowing larger businesses into Liberal strengthens the economy and creates a pleasant community.

Liberal's downtown is rich with history, yet many interesting and historic buildings sit vacant. As mayor; I would encourage the development of downtown Liberal, A pleasant, active downtown attracts people and strengthens the city's economy.

Currently, Liberal's buses stop in the road, blocking traffic. This is unsafe for drivers, pedestrians, and bus riders. In addition, bus stops have no benches or protected areas, leaving waiting bus riders dangerously close to traffic. As mayor, I would encourage city planners to build bus stops where buses pull off the road and have protected areas with benches so bus riders may wait safely.

To promote small businesses, large businesses are prevented from opening in Liberal. This is a mistake, resulting in large businesses building one hour north in Garden City. People are willing to drive one hour to shop, and instead of strengthening small businesses, Liberal is driving businesses away. As mayor, I would work with small business owners and larger companies to create a compromise that would be beneficial for everyone.

Being a city's mayor requires skilled leadership. Mayors must work with city services to make the city a better place. If I were mayor, I would work with others to make Liberal the best city in Kansas.





Regan Lattey

Southeast Regional

El Dorado Middle School

As mayor, I would enhance quality of life in El Dorado. To accomplish this, I would promote city beautification, arts and recreation, and good will between cities. I would also be sure everyone's opinion is included before any final decisions are made.

To promote city beautification, I would hold community-wide volunteer clean-up days. I would also help organize and sponsor different community service groups to help complete these tasks.

Assisting small businesses is another way to enhance beautification. I would provide grants and donations for needs such as new furniture, paint, and decorations. Supporting businesses would bring more companies and manufacturers to El Dorado, something that many citizens think we don't have enough of. If more businesses came to El Dorado, it would also bring in more money.

Supporting the arts and recreation is also important. I would support activities such as the community band, parks, lake, and community read. As mayor, I would support them by promoting and attending their events. The best way to build a strong culturally rich society, is to start with kids in schools, and support their musical and artistic endeavors. I would also want to have a healthy, involved community. We can achieve this by attracting additional activities such as the lake, bike path, and bowling alley.

Mayors have a very important title and responsibility. As mayor, you work for the people, not vice versa. Mayors are the citizens' head representative in Council meeting, and are responsible for considering their questions and concerns.



Rhianna Schmidt

South Central Regional

Sunrise Christian Academy

If I were mayor, I would want to make Valley Center a better place to live. Valley Center is already a great place to live, but improvements can always be made.

One thing that I would want to address is our green space consumption. Currently, the city is wanting to build a Community building, which would be beneficial to the town, but it will be located in a local park, taking up unnecessary amounts of green space. Instead, I would suggest repurposing a building in our downtown area; this solves the problem of the placement of the Community building, and it conserves green space.

Another subject I would bring to attention is getting more involved in neighborhood issues. Recently, we had an issue with mail carriers being chased by dogs. Because of this, people were told to install mailboxes, but some refused. Therefore, I would like to find a compromise that would appease the post office as well as the homeowners.

As mayor, I would also like to do something about vandalism. I would ask volunteer groups to help paint over it as a service project. The city would supply paint, brushes, and rollers, while the citizens would supply the labor.

I think Valley Center would be a better place to live if we focused on those conflicts and Others similar to them. If I were mayor, I would hope to make the best decisions for the Community of Valley Center.





What is your position and what do you do?

I am fortunate to be the League's new Communications and Education Manager. This is a new role for the organization and I am eager to take this opportunity and create programs, educational curriculum and outreach methods that help shape the League and provide significant benefits to our member cities across Kansas. I formerly worked for the City of Lawrence as the Communications Manager for seven years and, previous to that, I was the PIO/Assistant to the City Manager in Leavenworth. I felt that my previous 14 years of local government experience would be a great asset to the League. In this role, I'll serve as the primary communications staff for the League and work with each staff member as needed to achieve our organizational goals. Depending on timing, this might be assisting the legislative staff with increased advocacy and education, I could be developing a training or education program that benefits our members and discusses relevant issues affecting municipal government across the state. I am also the Editor in Chief of the *Kansas Government Journal* (KGJ). The opportunities for education and communications are endless and I am up to the task!

Since joining the League in January, I have worked to develop our social media programming. I am planning presentations for future League conferences and I am writing and editing the *KGJ* each month. I have many plans for the publication

and I can't wait to hear feedback from our readers on what they like and what they want to see in future editions. Lastly, I hope that my background serves League members well and they see me as a resource for communications questions and quandaries. If you find yourself asking, "How should we do that?" please reach out to me and I'll try to help find a best practice or solution that is workable. I strongly believe that municipal government is where we can affect change and make an impact on the daily lives of Kansans.

What is your favorite thing about Kansas?

My daughter often stops and takes photos of sunsets. Following her lead, I've begun to realize the beauty in Kansas' sunsets. I don't know why but the colors in a Kansas sunset are like nothing I have seen before; nor can I describe them in a way which provides justice. They are breathtaking. I love to take a pause in my hectic day and reflect while the sun sets and think about the limitless possibilities ahead.

A little bit of information about you.

I am married with three kids – two teens and a rambunctious four-year-old. My husband Chad and I live on a small farm outside of Tonganoxie where he has an orchard and raises chickens, produce, goats and bees. When I am not chauffeuring children, myself and our entire family pitch in to help grow our family's small agriculture business. My contribution is making natural beeswax products and canned, homegrown foods. This is an important skill to me because I want the traditions of my grandparents passed on to future generations. I unabashedly love Kansas State Wildcat football and wish I could get to more games each year. Go State!

Have you always lived in Kansas?

Yep. I was born and raised a Kansan. My hometown is Bonner Springs, where my parents served as City Council members for eight years each (one right after the other). I grew up doing highway clean-ups, participating in Tiblow Days and I grew up understanding more about what it means to be a public servant than most people learn in a lifetime! I moved to Manhattan for college after high school and still consider Manhattan my favorite Kansas city.

What is your favorite scenic part of Kansas?

I used to travel to Colorado each summer with my grandma. I vividly recall the how beautiful the fields were as they swayed in the wind. I also love seeing limestone buildings – whether it's an old barn or a beautiful bed and breakfast – those are the pieces of scenery that make Kansas interesting and memorable for me!

What do you think is the primary role of municipal government?

The primary role of municipal government is to deliver a quality service to its citizens and work to establish a healthy balance between the needs and wants of the community. Building regional partnerships and alliances through shared resources and collaborative approaches are the keys for municipal governments to achieve sustainability and growth.

What is your professional position and what are your typical duties?

I am the City Administrator for the City of Ellsworth. My typical duties include recommending policy and procedure changes to the City Council to help the organization run more efficiently. I work to build a closer working relationship with the other units of government in Ellsworth County as well as the State of Kansas agencies that operate in our county. One of my major tasks is developing the annual operating and capital budgets and working with our economic development officials in identifying opportunities to expand our tax base as well as creating strategies to help grow our existing businesses!

What is your favorite thing about Kansas?

My favorite thing about Kansas is being able to see the history that each community is able to showcase and their efforts to preserve their community's heritage. Kansas is full of innovative people that have either moved here or come back to the state to grow the state's economy as well as enhance the quality of living for their respective communities!

Please share a little personal information about yourself.

I am married to Tammy and have two beautiful daughters, Audrey and Amber. We have four granddaughters Sara, Hailey, Braelyn and Avery, which all compete for our love and attention when they are all together! I am originally from Bastrop, Texas and I am the first family member to earn both a bachelor's degree from Texas State University and master's degree from Wichita State. The City of Ellsworth was my first City Administrator position!

What is your favorite thing about your community?

There are many things that I like about Ellsworth and I wouldn't want to rank one over the other. I enjoy working with the City Council and staff in helping accomplish our community's goals. There is an abundance of history throughout Ellsworth and the county that we hope to share our stories with everyone here in 2017. This year marks the city's 150th anniversary and we are in the planning stages to host a once-in-a-lifetime celebration event we hope will attract many families to the area, provide lots entertainment options and encourage them to visit our community again in the near future!

What made you want to join city government?

There were a couple of things that piqued my interest in government work dating back to my mother's 32-year career with the State of Texas and my dad working on several city projects for the City of Austin. While earning my bachelor's degree from Texas State University, I was fortunate to secure an internship with the City of Austin Electric Utility Department. From that experience of developing budget and financial analysis for the Transmission & Distribution Division, my interest continued to grow and I became a Budget Analyst for the City of Austin. Looking to advance my career, the Ellsworth City Council gave me an excellent opportunity to become the City Administrator to further develop my budgeting skills and build a rapport with experienced department heads that embrace the challenges and opportunities placed before us. Being able to grow into a leadership role has made it a very rewarding and a satisfying journey to date; I am truly blessed to make this my professional calling!

Is this your first time on a statewide board?

Serving on the League of Kansas Municipalities Governing Body Board is my first statewide board appointment.



LEAGUE PROFILE Toni Wheeler



What do you think is the primary role of municipal government?

The primary role of municipal government is to ensure adequate systems are in place for the community's health, welfare and safety needs. Additionally, a municipal government should strive to make its inhabitants' quality of life as high as possible within available resources.

What is your professional position and what are your typical duties?

I am the City Attorney for Lawrence. I provide legal advice to the governing body, management and employees. I represent the city in court. I negotiate and prepare contracts, draft ordinances and policies, and assist with personnel matters.

What is your favorite thing about Kansas?

I love the blue skies and wide-open spaces.

Please share a little personal information about yourself.

I am proud of my Mexican and Native American heritage. My paternal grandparents settled in Horton, Kansas in the early 1900s where my grandfather worked on the Santa Fe railroad and later farmed. My maternal grandparents were members of the Ojibwe (Chippewa) Tribe from North Dakota. My wonderful, hard-working and community-minded parents taught my siblings and me that if

we pursued a good education, worked hard and persevered, our opportunities in this country were limitless! My husband and I are instilling the same in our two children. I love to work, follow politics and spend time with my family and two dogs.

What is your favorite thing about your community?

Lawrence has so many great features that I am unable to choose just one. My top three favorites are the vibrant downtown, beautiful parks and trails system, and very engaged citizens!

What made you want to join city government?

I wanted to practice law in a place where I could make my community a better place. There is no better place for that than local government!

Is this your first time on a statewide board?

No. I also serve on the Board of Directors of the City Attorneys Association of Kansas.





2017 Municipal Training Schedule

Classes are open to all elected and appointed city officials and employees.
All classes are held 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., lunch and materials included.

March

Municipal Finance (Core)

- Thursday, March 30: Russell
- Friday, March 31: Marysville

April

Leadership Summit (Core)

- April 21-22: Dodge City

May

Emergency Planning (Elective)

- Friday, May 5: Lyons
- Friday, May 12: Pratt

June

Personnel Management (Core)

- Wednesday, June 14: Phillipsburg
- Thursday, June 15: McPherson

August

KOMA/KORA (Core)

- Friday, August 11: Neodesha
- Friday, August 18: Edwardsville
- Friday, August 25: Garden City

September (League Conference: Wichita)

Saturday, September 16

- Municipal Finance (Core)
- Ethics & Civility (Core)
- Nuisance Abatement (Elective)

New Topic!

October

Occupational Licensing & Permitting (Elective)

- Thursday, October 26: Belle Plaine
- Friday, October 27: Leavenworth

New Topic!

November & December

Grant Compliance & Administration (Elective)

- Thursday, November 30: Tonganoxie
- Friday, December 1: Girard

*Schedule as of March 1, 2017: Tentative & Subject to change.
Refer to the League website for the most current information.*



Meet the Senate and House Leadership

With the legislative session well underway, we wanted to provide more information about your legislators in Topeka and provide you with insight into their service and priorities as lawmakers.



Senator Anthony Hensley (D-Topeka)

Years of service at the state level:

I was first elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 1976, at the age of 23. I served in the House for 16 years, 1977-1992. I was chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Industry in

1991-1992 and I was House Majority Whip in 1992.

I was appointed to the Kansas Senate in July 1992. The 2017 session is my 25th in the Senate and I've been the Minority Leader now for 21 of those sessions.

What do you enjoy most about serving in the Kansas Legislature? I have enjoyed meeting with and working for the people of House District 58 and Senate District 19. I find it very gratifying to stand up and speak out on their behalf on many of the important issues that our state has faced through the years. I also enjoy being the leader and spokesman for the Senate Democratic Caucus. They have elected me six times to lead them in that role and I am grateful to have their continued support.

If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose and why? Franklin Delano Roosevelt. It would be fascinating to visit with him about his accomplishments – leading our country out of the Great Depression by putting millions of people back to work through his New Deal programs, convincing Congress to approve the Social Security Act, and allying our country with Winston Churchill in World War II to defeat Nazi Germany. I would also enjoy listening to his campaign stories from winning four presidential elections.

What advice do you have for new legislators? Always put your constituents first because they decide if you get to keep your job. Earn your colleagues' trust and respect by always telling the truth no matter how painful it may be. Don't treat the news media as if they're your enemy because they play an important role in keeping the public informed and all of us accountable.

Learn the process and the rules by finding a mentor who can help you understand both. Get to know the staff and memorize two phone numbers: Revisor (296-2321) and Research (296-3181). If ever in doubt on how to vote on a particular issue, please feel free to call me (296-3245).

What do you believe are the top issues this session? I believe we must restore fiscal responsibility to our state by passing a long-term balanced budget and reversing Sam Brownback's irresponsible "glide path to zero." We must also create a school finance formula that provides adequate and equitable funding for all children so as to end the school finance litigation we have endured for entirely too long.

Any other information you would like to share with our membership? I will continue to oppose actions by the Legislature that usurp the powers of local elected officials and place unfunded mandates on local units of government. As we balance the state's budget, one of our goals should be to restore funding for the LAVTRF and CCRS programs. I also support Senate Bill 31, which speeds up the process for cities to deal with abandoned and blighted housing.



Rep. Jim Ward (D-Wichita)

Leadership Position: House Minority Leader

Years of service at the state level: 15

Please list any previous local government office you have held.

Councilman, City of Wichita; Kansas State Senate; USD #259 Board Member

What do you enjoy most about serving in the Kansas Legislature? I enjoy working with other committed legislators to work through complex and difficult issues that impact the lives of Kansans.

If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose and why? Lyndon B. Johnson, He took a minority to the majority and brought us Medicare and Medicaid, plus the Civil Rights Acts in 1964 and Voting Rights Act in 1965.

What advice do you have for new legislators? Follow my light :-)

What do you believe are the top issues this session? Developing a structurally balanced budget, providing suitable funding for public schools and passing Medicaid expansion.



Scott Schwab (R- Olathe)

Leadership Position: Speaker Pro Tem

Years of service at the state level: Since 2003

Please list any previous local government office you have held. None

What do you enjoy most about serving in the Kansas Legislature? The number of people you meet.

If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose and why? John Adams...because of his book "Thoughts on Government."

What advice do you have for new legislators? Be humble; you're free to make a good decision, keep everything in perspective...don't get offended.

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Elaine Bowers (R-Concordia)

Committee Chair: Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government

Years of service at the state level: Served six years in the Kansas House of Representatives and now I'm in my 2nd term in the Kansas Senate.

Please list any previous local government office you have held: None. I've been a business owner since 1988 and have been involved in many community events since I graduated from Cloud County Community College in 1983. I was an Assistant District Governor with Rotary International and have served as club president two times having been a member since 1994.

What do you enjoy most about serving in the Kansas Legislature? The opportunity to work with legislators from across the state and solve problems as a team. I particularly like working with people in my Senate district who see an opportunity to improve our quality of life and need assistance from Topeka through an agency or legislation. I have developed a 'magic list of fix-it people' who help me with individual concerns from home with topics of tax refunds, unemployment concerns and other problems which need to be handled on a one-on-one basis. Many times, I've learned we don't need a law to fix a problem – we just need a person in the right place to review the problem and offer solutions which could lead to a new bill proposal but most often just a review of policy and personal attention to the person who needed help.

If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose and why? I've always admired Abraham Lincoln especially for his ability to listen to his opposition and value his opponent's opinion but also bringing them into his circle of confidants to solve problems as a team. I have a plaque on my desk with his quote – "Whatever you are, be a good one."

What advice do you have for new legislators? Take every opportunity to listen and learn and develop relationships with each other regardless of where you live. Respect each other's opinions and realize we all represent a different part of Kansas so naturally we would have different opinions on topics – not that either are right or wrong – just different and that is okay!

What do you believe are the top issues this session? Most certainly stabilizing the budget and finding the right and fair mixture of taxes so we can move forward in a stable way. As a business owner, I would like to know I have a stable work environment with the understanding there can be flexibility and certainty with future legislation.



Kristey Williams (R-Augusta)

Committee Chair: House Local Government

Years of service at the state level: Two, beginning my third (second term).

Please list any previous local government office you have held. Mayor City of Augusta (7 1/2 years); Chair of REAP (2 1/2 years); Republican Committee Chair Woman, Ward 4 (4 years); currently elected Republican Campaign Committee Chair.

What do you enjoy most about serving in the Kansas Legislature? The people. But I also enjoy the policy and political challenges and the opportunity to help constituents understand the process.

If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose and why? Thomas Jefferson. He's such a fascinating figure — both on a personal, intellectual and political level. His flaws were so apparent, yet his passion for gaining knowledge, living life, and creating a balanced and lasting Republic remind me of both his humanness and his greatness.

What advice do you have for new legislators? Watch and learn. Be slow to commit on complex issues. Be open to changing your mind on an issue. Be willing to listen. Take time to really know your colleagues and constituents. And, don't take what happens in politics personal. There will be wins and there will be losses. Learn to handle both with grace.

What do you believe are the top issues this session? Budget, taxes and the school finance formula.

KPERS Funding and Implications for Local Government

As KPERS participating employers, cities have paid their required employer contribution without delay as required by statute. In fact local employers, for their proportion of the KPERS fund, have had a consistently higher funded ratio than the state.¹

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
KPERS – State/School	65.2	58.8	57.0	53.9	56.8	59.9	61.6	56.9	68.6
KPERS – Local	69.1	67.4	63.7	59.5	61.2	63.2	63.7	59.0	70.1
KP&F	74.0	74.1	70.3	66.5	69.8	74.2	76.2	70.5	85.5
Judges	96.4	93.5	86.9	81.4	82.5	82.5	82.3	74.6	88.7

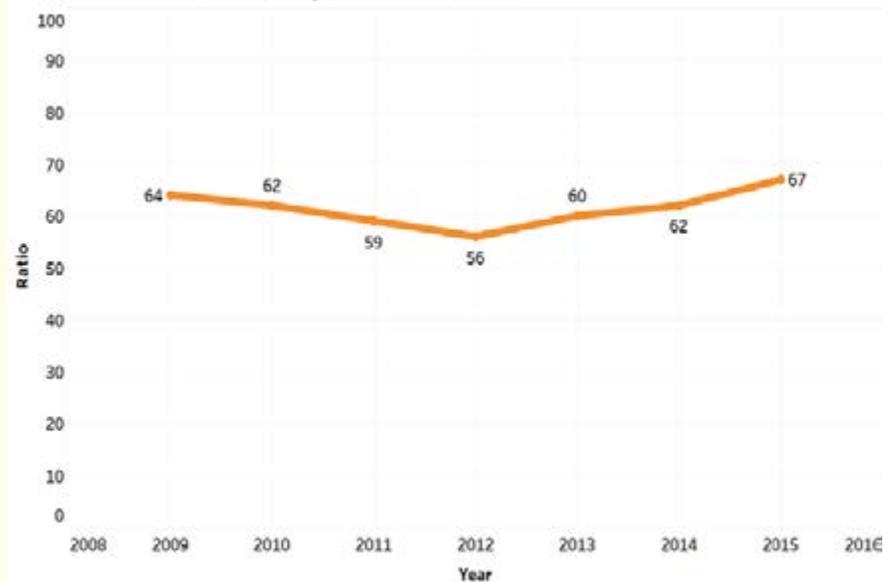
Unfortunately, the state continues to make decisions that threaten the health of KPERS. In 2016, the Legislature opted to defer a state and school employer payment of nearly **\$100 million** with the promise to pay that back with interest in 2018.

As the 2017 session hits its stride, it's clear that deferment won't be repaid in 2018. In fact, Governor Brownback has proposed freezing state/school employer contributions at 2016 levels. Ultimately, this could cost the system nearly **\$6.5 billion**, while also extending the amortization period (the point at which the system is fully funded) by another **10 years** from its current point of 2033 to 2043.

The Governor's plan, and one that is attracting consideration among the House and Senate, would be detrimental to the long-term health of KPERS. For local employers, here's why it matters. Our retirement contributions – employer and employee contributions -- are co-mingled with state and school employer contributions in the same fund, which is commonly referred to as KPERS "Regular." When you have a system that relies on **Investments + Contributions**, it means that local employers can only do so much to protect their own retirement benefits. If the state opts to expose KPERS to further distress by not making their own payments, they put the long-term health of local employers' retirement benefits at risk, too.

When state pension programs get closer to that **60%** threshold of being funded, that's when it means the fund is unlikely to be able to adequately handle any major financial distress, similar to the economic recession we saw beginning in 2008. Since hitting a low in recent years in 2012 of **56%** funded ratio, the system has slightly built itself back up. However, the current funded ratio of **67.1%** was only made possible by an infusion of \$1 billion in bond proceeds, of which the state is required to see at least a **4.5%** return to pay off the required interest. Considering the KPERS Board of Trustees recent decision to move their rate of return assumption from **8%** to **7.75%**, such a move suggests that they are not expecting the market to be as friendly on investment returns as has been the norm over the past 25 years.

Timeline of KPERS Funded Ratio; Using Actuarial Value of Assets



Considering this concerning context, in addition to S&P's most recent ranking of KPERS as the **15th** worst funded state public pension program in the United States², encourage your state representatives and senators to find a budget solution that ensures the state's employer contributions are made in a manner that protects the long-term health of KPERS.

1 Stepping Soundly: 2016 Annual Report. (2016). Kansas Public Employees Retirement System.

2 Corson, S., Sugden, J., Spain, C.H., and Hanson, J. (2016). U.S. state pensions: weak market returns will contribute to rise in expense. S&P Global Ratings, RatingsDirect.

Best Practices

by Austin Good

Connecting Residents to City Hall: Online Services for Your Organization

In today's digital age, residents expect city services and information to be instantly and always available online. As elected leaders and public managers, we need to keep up with today's technology and offer these services to residents. There are many ways your organization can utilize online services to better inform residents and improve efficiencies within your organization.

Manage Citizen Engagement

Many cities are using digital services for residents to ask questions online, find department contact information and report problems using an app or website. Using a centralized system for citizen engagement and reporting can also serve as a tool for cities to manage requests, delegate issues to the appropriate staff and monitor progress. Services like Comcate (www.comcate.com) or SeeClickFix (www.seeclickfix.com) are already being used by many cities in the state, including Kansas City, Shawnee, Olathe, Topeka, and Wichita. Services like these often utilize smartphone apps allowing citizens to take pictures or send GPS coordinates if necessary.

Create a Conversation

Whether you want to know how your residents feel about construction or just gather constructive feedback, there are several options for cities to engage residents and get credible, data-driven answers to civic questions. Citizen engagement apps can be used by city planners, administration, parks and recreation, transit, economic development and city leaders in a variety of ways. Many of these

platforms can be integrated with e-mail and social media systems to promote your engagement efforts easily.

- MySidewalk (www.app.mysidewalk.com) is an engagement platform which allows the community to respond to questions and can be customized based on the data and feedback desired.
- Nextdoor (www.nextdoor.com/about_us) is a private social network to connect neighborhoods. A verification process is used for registered users and neighborhoods can be defined as you see fit. Nextdoor works to connect communities and share information which helps build stronger neighborhoods.
- Bang the Table (www.bangthetable.com/) combines many features to help cities dive into questions and topics with mapping capabilities, a collective idea board, polls, surveys and online forums.
- Peak Democracy (www.peakdemocracy.co/) is a cloud-based online citizen engagement platform built to increase citizen participation and build public trust in government. Their platform offers many of the tools you find in other online engagement systems as well as a mediation/monitoring component to keep conversations civil.
- Survey Monkey (www.surveymonkey.com/) is perhaps the most well-known online survey tool and is used by many cities to gather data to make decisions.



Make Your City Easy to Navigate

Is your city up to date on Google Maps? Google Maps is one of the main places people get information about your city. Making sure your city's bike lanes, sidewalks, trails, streets, and bus routes are accurate on Google Maps is important for visitors and residents alike. Aside from transportation, it's also important to make sure information like operating hours and phone numbers are accurate for your facilities, like your City Hall, the library and recreation centers. Getting up-to-date on Google Maps is simple, just head over to www.mapmaker.google.com.

Create a City Newsletter or E-Mail List

Today, it is easier than ever to create an online newsletter or e-mail list for residents to receive information about city programs, services or events. There are many options available but MailChimp (www.mailchimp.com) and Constant Contact (www.constantcontact.com) are perennial favorites which offer easy set up for even the smallest organizations.

Mass Notification Systems

Notification systems are critical communication tools during severe weather or emergency situations. However, these systems can also be used to engage the community and send out information on traffic alerts, road closures and general community information. Check with your county emergency management office to see if a system is already in use or check out on of these options:

- Everbridge/Nixle (www.everbridge.com) offers government entities a way to notify people affected by an incident based on location. Notifications can be delivered to people who opt-in to the system via e-mail, SMS text and voice calling.
- Civic Plus' CivicReady (www.civicplus.com) system offers a mass notification system within their integrated technology platforms for local government with location-based communication tools delivered in text, e-mail and phone messages.

Improve Office Communication

Email isn't the only way to communicate. Many organizations use online messaging services like Slack (www.slack.com) to handle internal communication. Trello (www.trello.com) is an online project management system that allows teams to upload files, photos and track progress of a project. If your organization has an Office 365 subscription, you may already have access to Microsoft's messaging service, Teams (teams.microsoft.com), as part of your subscription. Instead of keeping track of email threads these services let you set up searchable group chats for different departments and projects. Staff can even upload files, share images, and comment on posts. There's even a 'like' button to cut down on 'I acknowledge this' type emails. Most of these services, like Slack, offer free versions to test out or for small organizations. Why not give it a go?

Better Utilize Social Media

Social media has great potential as a community engagement and customer service tool. We've all heard this before, but few cities use social media to the fullest. Posting good content often and addressing concerns is key. Staff assigned to manage social media should be trained in customer service and your city should have a process in place for social media inquiries and requests to be handed off to the proper department or staff people.

Social media can be an important way to push out updates about city services but these messages aren't always the best posts to build engagement. People love to read and share stories containing familiar information (i.e. their neighborhood or friends). Look for stories to share which connect people to your city services. For example, sharing photos of your city's police officers stopping at a kid's lemonade stand or a librarian helping someone find a job are heartfelt ways to engage with your residents. A great model of this type of engagement is the Facebook page for Fort Collins Police Services in Colorado (www.facebook.com/fortcollinspoliceservices). Fort Collins has seen posts go viral, mostly including adorable pictures of the K-9 unit. By driving 'likes' through fun, cute and heartwarming posts, Fort Collins has built a robust audience for when they need to get the word out about emergencies or pressing issues, as well as build rapport with the community.

Illustrate Your Point

People respond to visual communication which is why infographics have become increasingly popular. Infographics are poster-like images that use charts, diagrams and illustrations to tell a story. Infographics can be used to communicate just about anything from budget information to police call statistics. Wichita published a great example outlining their annual budget (goo.gl/52Ha2O). Online services have made it easy for anyone to make an effective infographic. Sites like Piktochart (www.piktochart.com) or Venngage (www.venngage.com) offer free and paid plans which allow you to easily make infographics to embed in your website or print out as publications or posters.

 *Austin Good works as a Management Intern with the League of Kansas Municipalities. If you have any questions about this article contact the League at (785) 354-9565.*

Legal Forum

by Amanda Stanley

Federal Fair Labors Standards Act Update

It is crucial for effective employee management that city officials understand both their employees' rights and their employer obligations under federal and state employment statutes. One important area of employment law is the Federal Fair Labors Standards Act (FLSA).¹

The FLSA provides employees with minimum wage and overtime protections. FLSA requires employers pay non-exempt employees at least the federal minimum wage and overtime for all hours worked in excess of the maximum number of hours allowed for the employee's job classification. Cities are allowed to pay overtime in the form of compensatory time.² Additionally, under the FLSA, employees are protected from retaliatory discharge for making a FLSA claim.³

The Kansas Supreme Court recently expanded an employee's protection from retaliatory discharge in *Lumry v. State of Kansas et seq.*, 385 P.3d 470 (Kan. 2016).

In *Lumry*, a former KBI agent alleged the KBI illegally pressured him to work uncompensated overtime. According to Lumry, every few months he would renegotiate with his supervisor how much overtime to claim. Finally, frustrated with working uncompensated overtime, he confronted his supervisor stating, "I'll work an extra 5 hours a week and give you that extra time; but I'm not going to work 10 and 20 hours a week anymore, or more, of unclaimed overtime." According to Lumry he was told he would have to deal with working unclaimed overtime.⁴ Within a few months, Lumry's supervisor began investigating Lumry for timesheets reflecting a higher number of hours worked compared to his coworkers. Lumry was subsequently fired for knowingly and willfully falsifying his timesheets. The KBI Director testified any allegation of inaccurate timesheets was taken seriously because any officer who would falsify a timesheet would have no credibility in court. Following a complaint to the Department of Labor (DOL), the DOL investigated and ordered the KBI pay Lumry \$20,715 in unpaid wages. The DOL also found the KBI owed back pay to multiple employees for unreported overtime. No other employee was disciplined for submitting inaccurate timesheets.

Lumry sued the KBI and several KBI employees in their individual capacities in district court, alleging he was fired in retaliation for complaining about uncompensated overtime.

The district court granted the defendants summary judgment. While the court agreed the KBI Director was an employer for FLSA purposes, "it ultimately rejected the claim against him because it believed Lumry's refusal to work no more than five hours of uncompensated overtime would not have put a reasonable employer on notice that he was asserting protected FLSA rights." The district court held Lumry could not assert common-law retaliatory discharge because his termination did not undermine the public policy protected by the Kansas Minimum Wage and Maximum Hours Law (KMWMHL).⁵ The district court made additional findings not relevant for purposes of this article.

On appeal, a divided Court of Appeals (COA) affirmed the district court as being right for the wrong reasons.⁶ The COA found that while the KBI Director was Lumry's employer, Lumry's complaints about uncompensated overtime did not meet the standard for a

protected statement under the FLSA, and that the district court properly granted summary judgment on the common-law retaliatory discharge claim because it could not find a previously recognized common law tort in Kansas for retaliatory discharge in violation of the FLSA. Even if Kansas did recognize such a tort, Lumry had failed to make out a prima facie case because he failed to explicitly invoke FLSA protections and put the KBI on notice he was filing a claim.⁷

The Supreme Court reversed the COA, vacated the district court's judgment and remanded the case for further proceedings. The court found in part that "Lumry's complaint about unpaid overtime was sufficient to preclude summary judgment as to whether he engaged in a protected activity. . . [and] Kansas law recognizes retaliatory discharge as a common-law tort when an employee is fired for invoking rights under either the FLSA or the KMWMHL."⁸

In evaluating whether Lumry had established a prima facie claim of retaliation, the Supreme Court was forced to interpret the FLSA.

To establish a prima facie claim of retaliation, Lumry was required to provide evidence he had engaged in a protected activity, suffered an adverse employment action, and that a causal connection existed between his protected activity and the adverse employment action. The protected activity can include the filing of an oral complaint; however, "[t]o fall within the scope of the antiretaliation provision, a complaint must be sufficiently clear and detailed for a reasonable employer to understand it, in light of both content and context, as an assertion of rights protected by the statute and a call for their protection."⁹

Examining Lumry's statement, the Supreme Court found it sufficiently clear and detailed for a reasonable employer to understand it as an assertion of Lumry's protected rights under the FLSA.

*"Given the allegedly pervasive nature of the bureau's illegal work practices, as well as [a] flippant attitude towards unpaid overtime, it can be reasonably said that even if Lumry did not explicitly identify his FLSA's rights or demand them to the fullest extent, he was still taking action clearly averse to the KBI's ethos of noncompliance with federal law. His statement fulfills the 'the hallmark of protected activity under § 215(a)(3)' . . . [I]t would seem absurd to insist that employees claim nothing less than the entirety of their rights before their complaints about unlawful overtime practices can no longer form a basis for adverse employment action. . . . A reasonable employer would have understood Lumry's flat refusal to work more than five hours of overtime per week as an assertion of a protected FLSA right. And it was clearly taken that way by [his supervisor]."*¹⁰

So what does this mean? Employers have been put on notice that even informal oral statements by an employee that his rights may have been violated under the FLSA could potentially result in liability. Supervisors should be trained that these complaints need to be taken seriously, documented and promptly investigated.

 Amanda Stanley is the Legal Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. You can reach her at astanley@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.

View sources on page 61.

KANSAS ATTRACTIONS

DeBruce Center



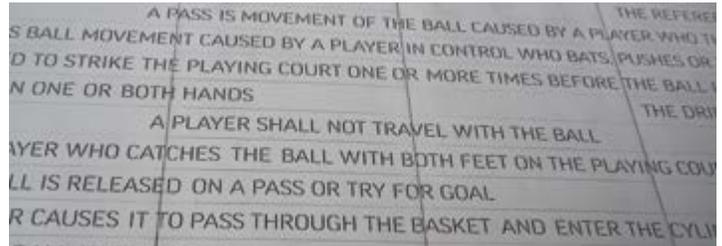
Editor's Note: For 2017, we will feature attractions in Kansas and showcase interesting and intriguing ways to explore our state. This month, in honor of the culmination of college basketball season, we thought it was fitting to highlight the DeBruce Center on The University of Kansas campus in Lawrence, Kansas.

No other city in the United States can boast an array of basketball history like Lawrence. Although the game was invented in Springfield, Massachusetts, Lawrence, Kansas is where the game of basketball “came of age.” That’s why Lawrence is often called the “Cradle of Basketball.”

The University of Kansas has the only college basketball program founded by the inventor of the game, James Naismith. His original “Rules of Basket Ball” are displayed in the DeBruce Center, a unique facility that explores the rich history of basketball. Right next door is the legendary Allen Fieldhouse (the loudest indoor arena in all of sports to watch a game) and the Booth Family Hall of Athletics which honors the greatest athletes in University’s history, including Wilt Chamberlain, Danny Manning, Paul Pierce and many more.

In 1891, Dr. James Naismith was charged with creating a new game that would keep his class of 18 young men occupied during an especially bitter New England winter. He knew he would have to keep the group from tackling each other, as they did in football and rugby, and he would have to keep them from throwing or hitting the ball as hard as they could, as they did in baseball and cricket. He typed 13 rules that laid out a game that worked within the confines of a small gymnasium.

When Dr. James Naismith’s Original Rules of “Basket Ball” went up for auction in 2010 at Sotheby’s auction house in New York City, KU alumnus David Booth was determined to bring them home to the University of Kansas. Lawrence is where Naismith lived for over half his life, where he saw the game of basketball mature into one of the most popular international sports, where he died and was laid to rest. The rules were donated to The University of Kansas for display at the DeBruce Center along with other exhibits which showcase the legendary history of the Kansas Athletics basketball program.



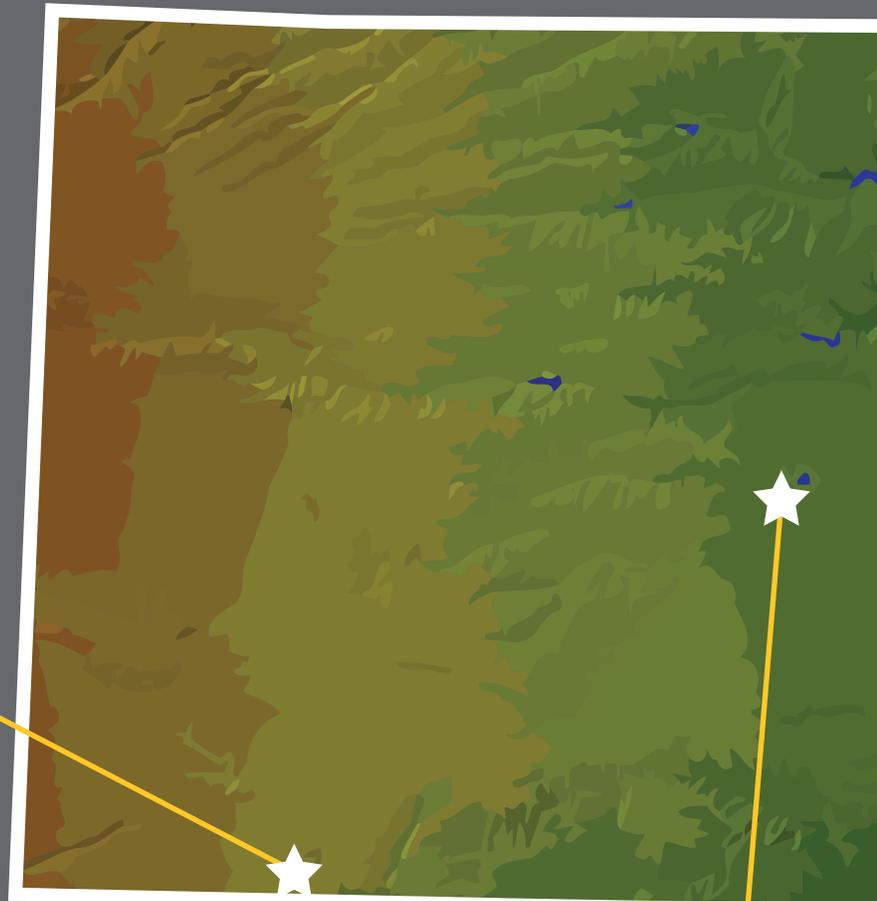
With three NCAA National Championships and 60 Conference championships, it’s safe to say that Lawrence is embedded in basketball history. The DeBruce Center hours of operation and exhibit information can be found online at <https://debrucecenter.ku.edu/>. Portions of this story were provided by The University of Kansas, Kansas Athletics and eXplore Lawrence. Plan your trip to explore basketball history at www.unmistakablylawrence.com/basketball.

KANSAS GOVERNMENT

Liberal

Liberal Seeing Economic Success with Incentives

Construction of new businesses is going on in parts of Liberal, and for those new businesses, it took a lot of work and cooperation with the City of Liberal to get everything started, including certain available tax incentives aimed at reducing the costs of new construction and expansion. There have been several businesses that have taken advantage of city incentive programs in last couple of years. Construction has begun on a couple of those already including the Fairfield Inn/Convention Center and an IHOP restaurant. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/zwk2tc6>

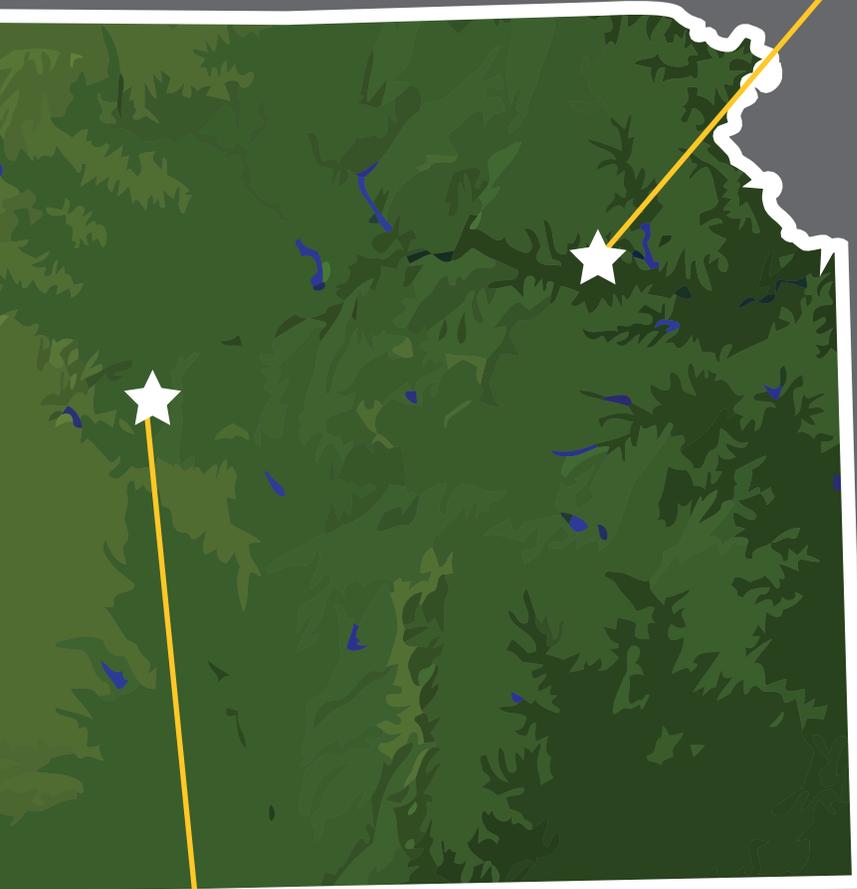


Great Bend

Great Bend Transload Facility Having Economic Impact

Great Bend's Transload Facility has been busy over the past month. An influx of crews have been unloading wind turbine parts and repairing roads and railways. When the crews are not working at the facility, they're eating at restaurants or staying at hotels. City officials said they already have four more companies interested in using the facility, which would bring even more positive economic impacts to the community. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/zrmac7n>

VERNMENT NEWS



Topeka

Topeka Receives NLC Grant to Combat Childhood Hunger

Topeka was awarded a CHAMPS grant by the National League of Cities grant from the National League of Cities and the Food Research and Action Center. The current phase of the program is targeting three states: Kansas, Alabama and California. Topeka is one of 31 cities participating in the program to encourage and enhance at-risk afterschool meal programs and summer food service programs.

Lindsborg

Lindsborg Staff Participating in Utility Communications Pilot Program

Greg DuMars, Lindsborg City Administrator, is participating on a task force with the American Public Power Association (APPA) to assist members in developing tools and materials to better communicate with their municipal utility customers. The task force hopes to create a series of customizable tools that APPA members can use to communicate the value of their municipal utilities to customers.

We are always seeking content ideas for stories and briefs. Please send your ideas and thoughts for content or story ideas to Megan Gilliland at mgilliland@lkm.org.



Classified Advertising

Assistant to the County Manager/ Chief of Staff, Johnson County, Kansas

Organization: Johnson County Government
Date Posted: 2/16/2017
Date Needed: 2/16/2017
City: Olathe
Location: Kansas
Country: United States
Primary Category: City/County Administrator/Manager
Type of Position: Full-Time
Education Requirement: Master's
Experience Requirement: 5 - 10 years

Description & Details

The Assistant to the County Manager/Chief of Staff is a critical and highly visible position that provides professional, analytical, and technical support to the County Manager to assist with meeting the demands and responsibilities of the County Manager's Office. Responsibilities include:

Acts as principal strategic lead for operations of the County Manager's Office; in consultation with the County Manager, Deputy County Manager, and Assistant County Managers develops goals and objectives for the operations of the County Manager's Office; establishes work plans, assigns, and oversees studies, projects, analysis, research and development of professional staff to ensure workloads are appropriate and that each Manager has the appropriate level of support. Ensures County business operations, processes and procedures are efficient, effective and consistent for the County Manager, Deputy County Manager, and Assistant County Managers. Oversees the Office Manager to ensure efficient and effective management of day to day operations of the County Managers Office and the needs of the County Commissioners, as directed by the County Manager coordinates work of the Management Analysts; ensures effective, efficient and consistent operations of assigned staff; identifies, recommends and implements training for the development of staff. Provides assistance and support for Cabinet and the County Management Team.

Oversees various complicated, difficult, and/or politically sensitive Countywide projects; prepares and develops plans

for projects, initiatives and programs involving coordination with other departments and/or outside organizations; originates and develops complex ideas in new and undefined areas that impact major segments of the organization or community; develops methodology for strategic planning and determines overall strategic direction of projects; assigns and oversees administrative staff for projects, and develops the best methods and procedures to achieve the goals and objectives; Coordinates/Acts as principal analyst and liaison for various responsibilities of the County Manager such as City/County Round Table, Core 4 initiative, School Districts, economic development, coordinates programs and projects between the organizations and develops strategic goals and objectives.

Advises the County Manager, Deputy County Manager, and Assistant County Managers on a wide-range of County operations and strategic planning; including departmental operations, long-range planning, development of strategic objectives, and negotiation and coordination with various outside organizations on strategic partnerships.

Oversees the legislative process for the County; coordinates and collaborates with Executives and senior managers on legislative platform, leads the Legislative Review Committee, coordinates, researches and develops recommendations for County legislative policy and positions to county leadership, elected officials, and legislators; with direction from the County Manager provides direction to the Johnson County lobbyist in communicating County positions and priorities to legislators; develops and coordinates written and verbal testimony from county officials, and updates county leadership on the status of legislation; develops the Johnson County annual State and Federal legislative platforms and the joint City/County legislative platforms; presents platforms for BOCC approval and provides weekly updates on legislative activity.

Oversees the development of BOCC and CMO department budgets; develops and maintains resource projections for short and long-term needs. Originates, develops, implements and enforces administrative policies and procedures necessary to support and carry out official

functions of the BOCC. Create and foster a collaborative and learning environment for the department.

Other duties as assigned.

The ideal candidate will exhibit outstanding leadership, communication and project management skills, and will possess the demonstrated capacity to work under minimal direction in a fast-paced public environment. The successful candidate will possess a demonstrated ability to establish productive and collaborative relationships with other leaders across the organization.

Requires a Master's degree in Public Administration, Finance, Political Science, Business, or related field. Five years of progressively responsible experience within the public sector and two years of experience in a lead or supervisory position are also required.

Experience can substitute for education and education can substitute for experience.

Must be able to successfully pass backgrounds screenings.

Salary Range: \$35.39-\$48.66 hourly

How to Apply / Contact

To apply: <https://www.jocogov.org/dept/human-resources/career-opportunities/jobs-open-public>

Certified Wastewater Operator, Haysville, Kansas

Organization: City of Haysville
Date Posted: 2/27/2017
Date Needed: 2/27/2017
City: Haysville
Location: Kansas
Country: United States
Primary Category: Public Works
Type of Position: Full-Time
Education Requirement: High School / GED
Experience Requirement: 1 - 2 years

Description & Details

Certified Wastewater Operator Class 1 or higher

How to Apply / Contact

Apply on line at hreportners.com or stop by and fill out an application at Haysville Public Works 401 S. Jane Haysville, Ks 67002 316-529-5940

City Administrator, Ashland, Kansas

Organization: Municipality
Date Posted: 2/21/2017
Date Needed: 5/1/2017
City: Ashland
Location: Kansas
Country: United States
Primary Category: City/County
Administrator/Manager
Type of Position: Full-Time
Experience Requirement: 3 - 5 years

Description & Details
Help Wanted – City Administrator
Ashland, Kansas

The City Council of Ashland, KS is seeking an experienced City Administrator responsible for managing all aspect of the City. The City of Ashland is a full service community with 9 full-time employees with a City owned/managed power plant and tie line, water utility, wastewater utility, and airport operating under a Mayor/Council form of Government. Candidates for the position must have strong management abilities with excellent communication and organizational skills and also be familiar with the annual budgeting process. Three to five years of working experience and knowledge in related areas is preferred. Benefits include health insurance, vacation, sick leave, KPERS, and paid holidays, salary depends on qualifications and experience. Applications are due by the close of business on March 24th and the position will remain open until filled.

How to Apply / Contact

Contact City Hall for an application at 620-635-2531 via email at ashland@ucom.net. Return completed application and resume to Mayor Kendal Kay, City of Ashland, 703 Main Street, PO Box 547, Ashland KS 67831. EOE

Maintenance Technician II, Edgerton, Kansas

Organization: City of Edgerton
Date Posted: 2/24/2017
Date Needed: 3/20/2017
City: Edgerton
Location: Kansas
Country: United States
Primary Category: Public Works
Type of Position: Full-Time
Education Requirement: High School / GED
Experience Requirement: 1 - 2

years
Description & Details
Maintenance Technician II - Public Works

The Maintenance Technician II is a full-time position in the Public Works Department under the direct supervision of the Public Works Superintendent and/or Public Works Foreman. The Maintenance Technician II will be assigned various construction duties necessary for the operation and maintenance of City of Edgerton streets, right-of-ways, alleys, ditches, and other drainage structures. Essential job functions include: provide assistance in supervising other Public Works employees as directed; construction, operations, repair and maintenance tasks of city streets and right-of-ways; snow/ice control and removal, maintenance of snow removal equipment; maintenance and servicing of fleet vehicles and equipment; perform basic grounds maintenance activities; provide support to Parks & Recreation and Utilities Departments. The ideal candidate will be able to operate a variety of vehicles and equipment in a safe and efficient manner, including but not limited to: Skid Loaders, Backhoe, Excavator, Motor Grader, Street Sweeper, and Snow Removal Equipment. This position will also utilize computers and computer programs, along with other general office equipment.

The selected candidate must have a valid Driver's License and a Class B CDL or the ability to obtain a commercial Driver's License. Full position description is available here.

How to Apply / Contact

Applications are available here and at Edgerton City Hall, 404 East Nelson St, Edgerton, KS 66021. Applications may be dropped of at City Hall or submitted electronically at rrmunicipaladvisory@gmail.com. Applications will be accepted through March 20, 2017.

Parks and Recreation Director, Lawrence, Kansas

Organization: City of Lawrence
Date Posted: 2/21/2017
Date Needed: 2/21/2017
City: Lawrence
Location: Kansas
Country: United States
Primary Category: Misc

Salary: \$120,000.00 yearly
Type of Position: Full-Time
Education Requirement: Bachelor's
Experience Requirement: 5 - 10 years

Description & Details
Oversee the activities, operations & employees of the City of Lawrence Parks & Rec Dept. The director will plan, direct and manage the development, operations and maintenance of the parks and public areas located throughout Lawrence. Bachelors degree in Parks & Rec or closely related field, and 5-7yrs of exp in Parks and Rec activities program dev is required. The preferred applicant will have a Masters Degree in Parks & Rec. Must pass City physical/drg screen. Salary Range:\$120,000 TO \$140,000 ANNUALLY-DOQ.

Submit a completed online application form by

Friday, April 7, 2017 at
www.lawrenceks.org/jobs
EOE M/F/D
How to Apply / Contact

To apply, go to <http://www.lawrenceks.org/jobs>

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Legal Forum sources from page 54.

1. 29 U.S.C. §§ 201-219
2. 29 U.S.C. §§ 201-219.
3. 29 U.S.C. 215(a)(3) (It is unlawful for any person "to discharge or in any other manner discriminate against any employee because such employee has filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this chapter. . .")
4. *Lumry v. State*, 385 P.3d 479, 482 (Kan. 2016).
5. *Lumry*, 385 P.3d at 483-84 ("In the district court's view, the KMWMHL exempted employers covered by the FLSA, so the state law's public policy was not implicated because the KBI was subject only to the FLSA.")
6. *Lumry*, 385 P.3d at 481-82.
7. *Lumry*, 385 P.3d at 485.
8. *Lumry*, 385 P.3d at 482.
9. *Lumry*, 385 P.3d at 487 (citing to 563 U.S. at 14, 131 S. Ct. 1325).
10. *Lumry*, 385 P.3d at 489.

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Kansas City: Pysanky Egg Decorating Class

Strawberry Hill Museum

March 19

Pysanky is an ancient Slavic egg decoration. These amazing eggs are not painted, but dyed using a batik/wax resist process. The result is a long lasting stunning piece of art. Learn about the symbolism of these amazing eggs, and dye one of your own to take home! The class costs \$35 with RSVP required. Contact (913) 371-3264 or visit www.strawberryhillmuseum.org for more information.

Lindsborg Vaffeldagen (Waffle Day)

March 25, 2017

Lindsborg's sixth International Vaffeldagen is a celebration of spring and fun with friends through a shared love of waffles. It is a day for young and old, family and friends to sample some waffles. Translated from the Swedish, Vaffeldagen is Waffle Day. Local eateries in Lindsborg will feature waffles on Waffle Day. For more information, contact (888) 227-2227 or visit www.lindsborgcity.org/index.aspx?NID=865.

Montezuma: The A-Maize-ing Popcorn Adventure

Exhibit open through April 2

The A-Maize-ing Popcorn ADVENTURE provides information about the history, production and nutrition of popcorn, one of the top snack foods in the United States. This fun yet educational exhibit is designed for children kindergarten thru 5th grade and their families. For more information, visit <http://stauthmemorialmuseum.org/> or call (620) 846-2527.

Springtime on Kansas I-70

March – May 2017

Connecting the country since 1956, Kansas Interstate 70 is your connection to fun and adventure. With 95 museums, 284 activities and 728 restaurants, these 14 cities (or 424 miles) on Kansas' I-70 offer something for every traveler. Visit <http://www.kansas70.com> for a listing of events through the spring.

Hutchinson: NJCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament

March 20-25

The NJCAA National Basketball Tournament has been held in Hutchinson since 1949. Enjoy six exciting days of the best Junior College men's basketball in the nation. Reserved and game day tickets available at www.njcaabbtrny.org.

Belle Plaine: Art at the Arb & 32nd Annual Tulip Time Festival

April 7-10

Take a few days off to enjoy live entertainment and family fun in Belle Plaine. The Art at the Arb (April 9 & 10) event brings together 100 visual and performing artists under a century-old forest canopy. The Tulip Time Festival (April 7-9) includes arboretum tour with over 30,000 tulips, athletic competitions, bingo, BBQ cook-off, car and bike show with over 100 vintage vehicles, a carnival, festival food vendors, helicopter rides, parade and street dance. Visit <http://www.belleplainechamber.com/> for event information.



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