Legislative Updates

Broadband Development:
The Senate Utilities Committee has begun looking at the issue of broadband deployment across the state. Significant action is unlikely this year, but a task force is expected to be formed to meet the remainder of this fall and consider identified issues. Next week, the committee has set aside two days for informational hearings on the city and county perspective on broadband, March 15 and 16. The hearings will take place in the State Capitol, Room 548-S at 1:30 p.m. on both days.

The committee wants to hear general commentary about broadband from local government – what is working, what isn’t working, barriers to deployment and/or competition, and similar topics. We would like to invite our member cities to speak to the committee to explain the need for broadband in your city. Detrimental effects your community has encountered, due to lack of or subpar broadband availability, would also be helpful to the committee.

If you are interested in appearing in person to testify or submitting written testimony, please contact Erik Sartorius or Doug Taylor. Written testimony will be due by noon on Wednesday, March 14.

STAR Bonds (SB432 and SB434):
The Senate Commerce Committee spent three days considering SB432 and SB434. The bills would make major changes to the STAR Bonds law, and would hinder future project development. League staff will be meeting with stakeholders from a number of cities to look for areas to potentially create compromise. Please contact Amanda Stanley with questions about this issue.

Amusement Ride Act (SB307):
SB307 will have a hearing in the House Federal & State Affairs Committee on Tuesday, March 13. There appears to be support by some House members to leave the municipal water slide exemption which was amended into the bill by the Senate. However, we have also heard there may be some resistance to the exemption. The League will continue to pursue the exemption when the hearing does take place. Contact Eric Smith with questions on this issue.

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Funding for Summer Food Programs

We found out about a few opportunities for municipalities to apply for summer/after school food programs. If your city is interested, use the links below for more information:

National Recreation and Park Association 2018 Healthy Out-of-School Time Grant
Deadline: March 16, 2018
Website

Kansas Appleseed 2018 Summer Food Service Program Mini Grant Application
Deadline: March 20, 2018
Website

The 2018 Directory of Kansas Public Officials for 2018 is now available for purchase. All member cities and counties will receive a copy of the publication via mail.

The 2018 Directory provides information on each city, county, and school district in Kansas, including the names of elected officials, department heads, and key employees. Also included is a reference section identifying many key state agencies and contacts, plus the Municipal Products and Services Guide, listing companies who offer a variety of services to local governments in Kansas.

Additional copies can be purchased online at our website.
LEGISLATIVE UPDATES (CONTINUED)

Remote Sales Tax (HB2756):
This week, the House Tax Committee passed out HB2756, that would collect sales tax from out-of-state companies when they sell goods in Kansas. We are hopeful that the bill will be worked on the House floor and sent to the Senate. Contact Trey Cocking with questions about this legislation.

Abandoned Housing (HB2506):
On Tuesday, March 13, the Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government Committee will hear HB2506 creating a mechanism for non-for-profits to rehab abandoned housing. Contact Trey Cocking or Amanda Stanley with questions about this legislation.

Each week, the League publishes a legislative calendar in League News with hearings/meetings that may interest our members.

MAYOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

It is again time to nominate a deserving mayor for the Mayor of the Year Award. Do you have a mayor who has given the community countless hours of community service? Has your mayor shown constituents how dedicated he/she is to their community? Please take the time to complete the nomination form and write a short one-page letter listing their accomplishments.

Nominations will be accepted until Friday, March 16. All the information needed to submit the Mayor of the Year nomination is online. Contact Tami Martin with any questions concerning the Mayor of the Year Nomination.

Also, the Kansas Mayors Association (KMA) invites you to submit nominations for the KMA Board of Directors. You may nominate yourself or another KMA member to any eligible seat (eligibility rules are listed for each Board position). Voting will take place at the Governing Body Institute & Kansas Mayors Conference on Friday, April 20, at 3:00 p.m. in Topeka. Each position serves a term of one year. For more information visit the Kansas Mayors Association website.

GBI Agenda At-a-Glance:

Keynote Speaker: “Building Your Legacy of Public Service” Mary Birch, Government Relations Coordinator, Lathrop & Gage, LLP

City Government 101: Concurrent breakout sessions on topics including civility, Kansas Open Meetings Act, Home Rule, municipal finance, economic development and planning, personnel management, public safety and code enforcement.

All attendees receive a copy of the 2018 Governing Body Handbook at the conference (a $40 value). The handbook will not be available to purchase until after the event in April.

This year, there will be special events for mayors and council/commissioners.

Download the full agenda online: www.lkm.org/gbi
UPCOMING CLASSES

Due to weather, the League postponed our Manhattan MTI on Municipal Finance. The course will now be offered on Friday, March 23 instead. Registration will be kept open for this class if you wish to register for the Friday, March 23 class. Anyone who registered already will be kept on the registration list.

To register for our MTI classes, visit our website.

Hiring Public Safety Officials

March 9 (Belle Plaine)  
March 30 (Leavenworth)

Attracting, hiring and maintaining quality public safety officials is an issue of great importance to cities.

The League is offering a NEW Municipal Training Institute class for municipalities to learn the best practices for Kansas cities to use throughout the hiring process for public safety positions.

For more information and to register, visit www.lkm.org/events. The MTI will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost to attend this course is $75 for member cities, $100 for nonmember cities. Lunch and materials provided.

WOMEN’S FOUNDATION HELPS TO FIND QUALITY BOARD MEMBERS

Today, city leaders in Kansas have access to an innovative program to help them identify highly-qualified candidates for board and commission vacancies, increase the number of women at the decision-making table, and better serve their constituents in the process.

The Appointments Project, created by the Women’s Foundation in 2014, aims to eliminate obstacles to women’s full civic engagement by taking a truly collaborative approach.

The Appointments Project serves as a talent bank, advisor, and advocate for women seeking appointed positions in local government. The Foundation trains women about the application process, provides information about positions available, and helps to match women’s talents and interests with open positions. At the same time, the Women’s Foundation works with local city and county administrators in reaching out to interested and qualified candidates for their open board and commission seats.

The Appointments Project was inspired by a first-of-its-kind study commissioned from the University of Kansas that identified numerous barriers causing women to be underrepresented on boards and commissions. The study uncovered a variety of reasons, including a lack of knowledge among women about appointment opportunities, practical issues such as the timing of board meetings, and the need to train board leaders to be more inclusive of women and minorities. Together, we can keep expanding the Appointments Project to more communities and build a stronger, brighter future for all Kansans. Find out more information online.

The League of Kansas Municipalities is working with the Women’s Foundation to encourage and promote board and commission vacancies be filled with diverse and underrepresented members of their communities. Our work with the Women’s Foundation is just one of many ways we are working to promote diversity in local government.

We Want to Know...

The League is considering making changes and improvements to our Annual Conference, and we’d appreciate your input!

Please take this short survey, which should take about 5 minutes.

Everyone who provides their full contact information at the end of the survey will be entered to win one complimentary registration to the next League conference.

Thank you! Provide your feedback via our online survey.


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