



THE LEAGUE News

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SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CITIES WEBINAR

This course will review social media use for cities including basic social media policies and terms of use for external audiences. The course will also provide discussion and review of social media best practices including current technology, platforms and applications including:

- Strategic messaging to engage audiences;
- Creating editorial calendars and content management;
- Developing graphics and video for social media; and
- Tips on how to use low-to-no-cost applications for scheduling, advertising, and planning.

The webinar will be held on **Wednesday, April 18 at 10 a.m.** Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members. Register [online](#).

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Transparency/Body Cameras (HB2571):

HB2571 was passed by the Senate but amended. It will now go to Conference Committee. For more information on this legislation, contact [Amanda Stanley](#).

STAR Bonds (SB434 and 432):

STAR Bonds was pulled from the Senate Commerce calendar and we will continue to monitor this issue, but no further action is anticipated at this time. For more information on this legislation, contact [Amanda Stanley](#).

Amusement Ride Act (SB307):

On Monday March 19 the House Federal and State Affairs Committee debated *SB 307* and approved an amendment which made several changes to the bill. The amended bill removed the municipal exemption on water slides but raised the height to 30 feet before a water slide is subject to the act. The amended bill now requires an attendant be present at all water slides 15 feet or higher. The Committee passed out the amended bill to the full House with a recommendation for approval. If you are tracking this legislation it is now H Sub for SB 307. For more information on this legislation, contact [Eric Smith](#).

Abandoned Property (HB2506):

The Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee worked on *HB2506* this week. The bill has not passed out of committee. League staff continues to work the issue with legislators and interested parties. For more information on this legislation, contact [Trey Cocking](#).

Next week, there are no committee hearings scheduled but both chambers will be working bills on the floor. The League staff will be monitoring issues and will reach out with legislative alerts as needed.

2018 TAX RATE BOOK AMENDED

Annually in March, the League of Kansas Municipalities publishes the *Kansas Tax Rate & Fiscal Data Book*. This book is structured to illustrate tax rates and fiscal data arising from each of the three classes of cities, counties, and unified school districts. The data is collected annually from several resources such as the Kansas Department of Revenue, the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, and through solicitation of information in a survey sent to all cities in Kansas.

The League does not verify the individual calculations of the information as it is reported to us. Unfortunately, this year there was an error in the data received from the State of Kansas to calculate the "Total Mills Levied in City by All Units" as it **did not** include the USD school general levy of 20 mills.

Once we became aware of this issue, we immediately reached out to our contacts to obtain corrected information. We have recalculated the "Total Mills Levied in City by All Units" and have made the 2018 Tax Rate Book available in digital form [on our website](#).

The League produces a multitude of publications, provides numerous trainings on municipal issues, and answers thousands of legal calls each year for cities to provide up-to-date information and keep members aware of the changing municipal environment. As always, we strive for accuracy in all we do.

The Tax Rate Book can be purchased in spreadsheet format [online](#).

2018 Edition

KANSAS TAX RATE & FISCAL DATA

2017 Taxes Levied for 2018

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THE
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**REGISTER TODAY FOR THE
GOVERNING BODY INSTITUTE &
MAYORS CONFERENCE**

APRIL 20 & 21, 2018 | TOPEKA

As a member city of the League of Kansas Municipalities, we hope that you can attend the League's Governing Body Institute & Mayors Conference in Topeka April 20 & 21. This conference is one of our premier educational events and is designed for all levels of local government – mayors, city council members, city commissioners, and staff. The Governing Body Institute and Kansas Mayors Conference includes a selection of workshops and general sessions designed to provide insight into local government issues, as well as provide useful strategies to take back to your community. This year, we're offering topics that include:

- Managing Differences in the Workplace;
- Building Your Legacy of Public Service;
- City Government 101: Kansas Open Meetings Act, Home Rule and other local government fundamentals; and
- Breakout sessions featuring topics on municipal finance; economic development and planning; personnel management; and public safety and code enforcement.

Attending this conference is the first step new officials should take toward success in public office. Re-elected officials or seasoned appointed officials will also value the up-to-date information on municipal operations and networking opportunities this conference offers. Additionally, we have revised the Governing Body Handbook. All GBI participants receive this publication (a \$40 value) as part of their conference materials.

We recommend local government officials attend the institute as a group to learn together and meet their peers across the state. The feedback we receive on our trainings is that the peer-to-peer networking is one of the best reasons to attend League events. Register by **April 11, 2018**; any registrations after this date will include a \$35 late fee.

Hotel reservations may be made by calling the Capitol Plaza hotel directly at (800) 579-7937 or *online* - please make sure you identify yourself as part of the League's block when you call. The discount rate is \$97, plus tax and is only available until **March 30, 2018** or until the block sells out.

DOWNLOAD THE FULL AGENDA ONLINE: www.lkm.org/gbi

MUNICIPAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

The League has three opportunities for training coming up.

- March 30: Hiring Public Safety (Leavenworth)
- April 13: Municipal Finance (Garden City)

MAYOR OF THE YEAR BALLOTS MAILED

The Mayor of the Year ballots were mailed this week. Ballots are due back to the League by **April 5**. If you have questions about the Mayor of the Year Awards, please contact [Tami Martin](#).

NOW HIRING: STAFF ATTORNEY

The League is seeking an individual to fill the position of Staff Attorney. This position will strengthen cities in Kansas by providing legal guidance to elected city officials and municipal employees. This person will also analyze state and federal legislation concerning municipalities and advocate for the interests of Kansas cities at the Kansas Legislature and with state and federal regulatory bodies. View the full job description online and apply at www.lkm.org/networking.

