



THE LEAGUE News

VOLUME 23 | NUMBER 4 | JANUARY 26, 2018

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GOVERNING BODY INSTITUTE & MAYORS CONFERENCE

The Governing Body Institute and Kansas Mayors Conference set for April 20-21 in Topeka at the Capitol Plaza Hotel/Maner Conference Center.

Attending GBI is the first step new officials should take toward success in public office. Re-elected officials or longer-term appointed officials will also value the up-to-date information on municipal operations and networking opportunities this conference offers.

Cost to attend is \$175 for both days, and includes a newly revised copy of the Governing Body Handbook for each registrant. For more information, including a schedule of events, hotel reservations, and to register, visit www.lkm.org/page/GBI.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Service Territory (SB323):

The Senate Utilities Committee has scheduled hearings next Tuesday & Wednesday on [SB323](#). This legislation significantly changes statutes governing how electric cooperatives are compensated when a city annexes territory and its electric utility takes over providing service. Significant laws already exist providing notice for annexation, nine factors a city must consider when reviewing a service territory change, and compensation for any customers or assets of the co-op annexed by the city.

The League opposes this bill as written. The legislation seeks to provide compensation to co-ops for territory even if that territory has no customers or equipment. Further, SB323 gives the Kansas Corporation Commission the power to overturn decisions of city councils. Even if your city does not have an electric utility, this attempt to send local decisions to a state agency for review is a dangerous incursion into local control. If you would like to offer testimony in opposition to SB323, please contact the committee assistant, [Michael Welton](#), at (785) 296-7358. [Erik Sartorius](#) is your League staff contact for this issue.

Abandoned Property (HB2506):

[HB2506](#), a bill regarding abandoned property, had a hearing on Tuesday, January 23 in the House Local Government Committee. The Committee will take up the legislation again at their meeting on Thursday, February 1 to discuss possible action to move the legislation out of committee. We encourage you to [contact legislators on the committee](#) and let them know you support abandoned property legislation. Thank you to the cities who provided testimony, both written and oral, for the hearing. If you have questions about this issue, please contact [Trey Cocking](#). This is an **Action Item** for the League of Kansas Municipalities and, as you can see, a significant issue for Kansas' cities.

The Effects of Blighted Property

Decreased Property Values

Unpaid property taxes on abandoned properties **creates a higher tax burden** on others to provide necessary city services. As these properties fall further into disrepair, the neglect can cause a blighting effect and result in **loss of property values of surrounding properties.***

K.S.A. 12-104 (HB2505):

[HB2505](#) will have a hearing on Tuesday January 30 in the House Local Government Committee. This bill was brought by the League to address questions arising out of K.S.A. 12-104. The language we are proposing redefines when a mayor is considered a member of the city's governing body while giving cities the ability through local control to modify the general rule to best suit their situation. If you have questions about the proposed changes please contact [Amanda Stanley](#).

Asset Forfeiture (HB2459):

[HB2459](#), a bill amending the Kansas Standard Asset Forfeiture Act and establishing the Kansas Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Repository Act, had hearings this week. The League supports this legislation which creates stricter reporting requirements, establishes a central repository for



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES (CONTINUED)

forfeiture and seizure data, and clarifies guidelines for law enforcement agencies' tracking and use of forfeiture proceeds. While this bill is not perfect, the League feels it is a good compromise and will be testifying in support. Contact [Amanda Stanley](#) if you questions on this legislation.

Expanding the Hours of Sale of Alcoholic Liquor by the Drink (HB2482):

HB2482 would extend the allowable hours of service for liquor by the drink for all licensees licensed under the Kansas Club and Drinking Establishment Act (drinking establishments, private clubs, etc). Currently, liquor by the drink is only allowed to be sold between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m., but under the bill, those hours would expand to 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m. To help clarify those hours, the bill also adds a definition of "day," defining that term to mean 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m. the following calendar day. The bill passed out of the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development without amendments, and is on Final Action in the House for Monday, January 29.

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

DO YOU USE THE LEGISLATIVE TRACKER?

League members are encouraged to use the Legislative Tracking system on our website. This service is for members only and you must sign in with your login to access this part of our website. If you need assistance with your login, contact us at (785) 354-9565.

The League's online legislative tracking page makes it easy for city officials and interested parties to track the League's position on bills impacting local government and the status of where these bills are at in the Legislature. Next to each bill, members and interested parties can also see which lobbyist to contact directly about a particular bill and the League's testimony delivered before committees on each bill. For more information, please contact League Lobbyists at (785) 354-9565.



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

We want to hear from you!

The League of Kansas Municipalities wants to ensure that the voices of our members are heard. On Fridays, look for a Question of the Week to be posted in League News. There will only be one-or-two simple multiple choice questions each week. Your efforts will assist us in providing meaningful data to legislators and state agencies.

What impact did the property tax lid have on the 2018 budget process?

Take the survey here:
http://www.lkm.org/surveys/?id=Weekly_Question



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We had a great time at Local Government Day 2018! This past week, more than 350 local government officials came together in Topeka to learn, discuss and meet face-to-face with their legislators. Thank you for attending!

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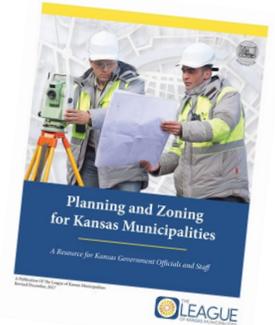
SETTING THE STAGE FOR SUCCESS NEW MENTORING PROGRAM FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS!

The League is starting a new mentoring program in February 2018. Mentoring partnerships help establish relationships through city visits and monthly conversations, holding discussions on advancing innovation in Kansas communities, and influencing achievement through collaboration and engaged participation in municipal and League events. Find out more or sign up online today! League staff will then work to place elected officials in the mentor program.

Chardae Caine is the League contact on this program.

PLANNING & ZONING MANUAL ON SALE

We've updated our League publication, Planning and Zoning for Kansas Municipalities. Planning and zoning go hand-in-hand and are major tools that allow cities to direct the look, feel and functionality of our communities. Planning is the large-scale action of preparing for the future. Zoning is a set of tangible regulations. This manual will address the planning commission, comprehensive planning process, zoning regulations, subdivision regulations and includes the Kansas statutes governing planning and zoning that are current as of the 2017 Legislative Session. The manual is available for order *online*. Cost is \$40 for members, \$60 for non-members.



MUNICIPAL TRAINING INSTITUTE: MUNICIPAL FINANCE (CORE)

This course is designed to provide participants with an overview of municipal finance issues in Kansas. It will help city officials address the responsibility of fiscal operations at the local level to ensure effective service to your community. In today's particularly challenging fiscal climate, local leaders must understand the parameters required to set local budgets. This course has been set for February to encourage municipalities to start their 2019 budgeting process earlier due to implications from the tax lid. This course will focus on:

- Cash basis law, cash forecasting and investments;
- Revenue sources, appraisals and assessments;
- Budgeting basics;
- Tax lid impacts on the budget process; and
- Budget monitoring, internal controls and public purpose doctrine.



We encourage the following city officials attend this course: city managers/administrators, elected officials, city budget/finance staff and/or city clerks. The course will be a coordinated effort taught by Eric Smith, Deputy General Counsel, League of Kansas Municipalities and finance professionals from Kansas cities. This course will be submitted for IIMC and credit. This course will be offered in two locations:

February 2, Pittsburg (co-presenter is James Clarkson, City of Pittsburg)

February 23, Manhattan (co-presenter is Hillary Badger, City of Manhattan)

This MTI will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost to attend this course is \$75 for members, \$100 for nonmembers. Lunch and materials provided. Your city will be invoiced after the class is finished. [Register online](#).