**Legislative Updates**

**Abandoned Property (HB2506):**

*HB2506*, a bill regarding abandoned property, will be worked in the House Local Government Committee meeting on Thursday, February 8. 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.

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

*HB2505* will be worked on Tuesday, February 6 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.

**Amusement Ride Act (SB307):**

On Tuesday February 6, the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on *SB307*. This legislation amends several parts of the Amusement Ride Act that was passed last session. The League will be testifying in support of this bill primarily for the following changes the bill would make:

1. The definition of a qualified inspector would be changed from a level II to a level I certification from the national association of amusement ride safety officials.
2. The definition of serious injury would be changed to requiring admission and overnight hospitalization.
3. All amusement rides manufactured prior to July 1, 2018, would have to meet certification that the ride qualifies as service proven under the ASTM international standards. This would allow a level I inspector to inspect the ride and not require the expense of seeking the manufacturer certification.

The League has been involved in discussions with several interested parties and there may be additional changes made to the act to reduce some of the costs associated with meeting these regulations. The League will continue to monitor this bill and will report any changes to the Act. Eric Smith is your League staff contact for this issue.

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

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**Conference Topics & Ideas**

The League has already begun preparations for Annual Conference, set for October 6-8 in Topeka this year. Please consider issues facing your community, best practices, or other topics and submit your ideas for sessions. Please include potential presenters as well! Your help makes our conference a successful event through your feedback! Take the survey online.

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"IF I WERE MAYOR" CONTEST WINNERS

The winners of the 2017 "If I Were Mayor" memo contest were announced this week! Six 7th graders received recognition for their participation. The overall winner of the contest was Annicka Hernandez from Arkansas City Middle School in Arkansas City. Hernandez’s essay represented the southeast region of the state. The League presented awards to five regional winners from across the state along with the overall winner.

The League oversees a statewide competition for all 7th students in public or private school systems. The memo contest gives students a chance to say what they would do if given the opportunity to serve as mayor of their town. This year, the students were asked to write a memo concerning a topic and think about policy considerations, resources needed, and barriers to success.

Read more and view the full press release online.

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.

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.

The 2018 Legislative Session is underway. Do you use #ksleg on Twitter?

Take the survey here:
http://www.lkm.org/surveys/?id=Weekly_Question2
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 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.

Local Government Law Book Ready to Ship!

The updated Kansas Local Government Law Handbook (2018) by Mike Heim is considered an essential publication for individuals who interact with local government on a regular basis. The handbook provides an analysis of new election laws shifting local elections from spring to fall; the open meetings law and the open records law changes including new penalty provisions and new enforcement authority for the Attorney General and local prosecutors; new city and county tax lid information; budgeting, cash basis law, auditing, accounting, public funds, deposits and investments, and municipal bond updates; the latest Kansas Tort Claims Act, Section 1983 and other federal civil rights laws updates; preemption of local governments' ability to regulate the open carrying of knives, firearms and handguns and the concealed carrying of handguns; employment-at-will, due process, and free speech of public employees updates; city and county Home Rule powers, planning and zoning, and a new section dealing with economic development tools and public incentives. The Sixth Edition is available to order online.