



THE LEAGUE News

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"IF I WERE MAYOR" WINNERS ANNOUNCED

On January 23, the League of Kansas Municipalities held their annual Local Government Day event. Hundreds of local government officials, both elected and appointed, attended the event to discuss legislative priorities for cities. The League also uses this event as an opportunity to recognize six 7th graders for their participation in the League's annual "If I Were Mayor" memo contest. This year, the League recognized Brent Henry, a 7th grade student at Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School in Goddard, as the statewide winner. Henry's memo represented the South Central region of Kansas.

Every year, the League hosts a statewide competition for all seventh-grade students. The students are tasked with deciding what change they would want to make in their community if given the chance to be mayor. The memo format requires students to consider their policy proposal, barriers to implementation, and an evaluation of necessary resources. Hundreds of students participated in the contest and five regional winners along with one overall winner was selected.

Henry's memo focused on building more inclusive playgrounds with accessibility to everyone which included smooth surfaces, wheelchair accessible ramps, adaptive swings, and sensory components. His memo suggested funding for his project would be managed through existing funds for playgrounds, by reallocating funds to buy more inclusive equipment, or through grants and fundraising. Henry emphasized the need for collaboration between schools and community organizations.



READ LEGISLATIVE UPDATES ON PAGE 2

The 2019 Kansas Legislature is underway. Check out page 2 for updates on issues affecting local government!



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COMMUNITY AWARDS

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Winners of the "If I Were Mayor" contest gathered in Topeka on January 23, 2019 to be honored for their achievement. The winners are pictured with David McDaniel, Mayor, City of Ellis and Kansas Association of Mayors President (L-back row); and Daron Hall, City Manager, City of Pittsburg and League President (R-back row). From L-R: Emma Krueger, South East Regional Winner, Burlington Middle School, Burlington; Peyton McCormick, South West Regional Winner, Scott City Middle School, Scott City; Jack Tell, North East Regional Winner, Billy Mills Middle School, Lawrence; Brent Henry, Overall Statewide Winner and South Central Regional Winner, Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School, Goddard; and Luke Franklin, North Central Regional Winner, Smith Center Junior/Senior High School, Smith Center. Not pictured: Karissa Haldeman, North West Regional Winner, Quinter Junior High; Quinter.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The legislative session is off and running. Our *weekly legislative calendar* lists the committee meetings with presentations, briefings, and hearings that are of interest to local governments. A few items of note:

911 Fee Increase – HB 2084 has been introduced and assigned to the House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications. Among other things, this legislation would increase the monthly 911 fee from \$.60 to \$1.03. The minimum distribution to a county for public safety access point (PSAP) service would increase from \$50,000 to \$60,000. Staff is reviewing the implications of the legislation. A hearing is tentatively scheduled for February 5. *Erik Sartorius*, Executive Director, is the League contact on this issue.

Electricity Rates – Legislation has been introduced, but is not yet available, calling for a study of electricity rates in Kansas. Over the past 16 months, several groups have called for lower electricity rates. We will be following the debate on this issue closely in 2019. While lower rates is certainly enticing, we will be looking at the implications of this for cities and their residents. *Erik Sartorius*, Executive Director, is the League contact on this issue.

Tax Lid - The League will testify on Tuesday, January 29 at 3:30 p.m. in the House Tax Committee (112-N) about HB 2063. This legislation provides an tax lid exemption when a taxing entity is abolished and duties are assumed by another city or county. *Trey Cocking*, Deputy Director, is the League contact on this issue.

Erik Sartorius will also present a presentation on current issues in local government for cities at the House-Local Government Committee on Wednesday, January 30 at 9 a.m. (218-N)

February Classes

Personnel Management (Core)
February 1 (Olathe)
Municipal Finance (Core)
February 22 (Emporia)

Register on-line @ www.lkm.org/events.



LABOR LAW POSTER UPDATED

Minor changes were made to the Labor Law Requirements Poster recently. Mandatory changes in labor law posting requirements occur regularly. The law requires employers to post all current labor law posters at each of their locations in areas frequented by employees during the course of a workday. The League offers the "Space Saver" state and federal government labor law poster. Posters are \$25 each, plus applicable sales tax. Shipping and Handling is \$6 for the first poster and \$2 for each additional poster. Order on-line at our [website](http://www.lkm.org).

