



THE LEAGUE *News*

VOLUME 24 | NUMBER 6 | FEBRUARY 8, 2019

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INSPIRE • CREATE • INNOVATE
COMMUNITY AWARDS

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Start thinking about projects you want to nominate for a League Inspire - Create - Innovate Community Award!

The Inspire - Create - Innovate - Community Awards celebrate recent innovations, programs, community projects, and acknowledge overall excellence in local government. Beyond honoring cities, we aim for these awards to spotlight innovations that other communities might replicate.

Recipients of the new Community Awards will be recognized at the League's Annual Conference. Visit [our website](#) for details!

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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:

POLITICAL SIGN REGULATIONS:

On Wednesday, February 13, the House Local Government Committee (218-N) will hold a hearing on HB 2135, legislation that repeals legislation that restricts a city's or county's ability to restrict political signage in the right-of-way. If you have questions and/or wish to submit testimony, please contact [Trey Cocking](#).

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS FRANCHISE

PREEMPTION: On Wednesday and Thursday, the Senate Utilities Committee heard testimony on Senate Bill 68. This legislation would prohibit cities from requiring a franchise agreement for wireless service or wireless infrastructure providers. Numerous cities provided testimony in opposition to the proposed legislation. We thank our member cities for providing testimony and engaging on this effort in the legislature. If you have questions and/or wish to submit testimony, please contact [Erik Sartorius](#).

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS: The House Transportation Committee (582-N) will have a hearing on Wednesday, February 13 at 1:30 p.m. (582-N) about HB 2126, legislation regulating the operation of electric-assisted scooters on roads and highways. If you have questions and/or wish to submit testimony, please contact [Chardae Caine](#).

OATH OF OFFICE: The Senate Elections, Ethics and Local Government Committee will have a hearing on Thursday, February 14 at 9:30 a.m. (142-S) on SB 105, legislation that would allow for some flexibility for municipal terms of office. The legislation would allow for the regular term of office for all city officers to begin on a date established by resolution of the city. The date would be on or after December 1, following the certification of the election, and no later than the second Monday in January following the certification of the election. If a city does not establish an alternative date for elected officials taking office, the term shall begin on the second Monday in January. If you have questions and/or wish to submit testimony, please contact [Trey Cocking](#).

JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION VISION TASK FORCE: The *final report of the task force* was released last week. There will be two presentations next week on this topic. The first presentation will be at 8:30 a.m. on February 14 in Senate Transportation (546-S). Then, later that day, the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee (142-S) will receive a presentation at 3:30 p.m. on the Transportation Vision Task Force. If you have questions, please contact [Eric Smith](#).





THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES

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MARCH

- Emergency Management (Elective)
 - MARCH 1 | Minneapolis
 - MARCH 29 | Cimarron

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LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
& Mayors Conference
April 12th & 13th
SALINA | 2019

More information about the Leadership Summit and Kansas Mayors Conference is available at: www.lkm.org/LeadershipSummit



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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR ON BROADBAND

USDA Rural Development will host an informational webinar on the ReConnect Program. The ReConnect Program offers loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in areas of rural America without sufficient access to broadband. The pilot program is intended to fuel long-term economic development and opportunities in rural America by bringing highspeed broadband to rural areas that lack sufficient access to broadband.

The hour-long technical assistance webinar will provide a high-level overview of the funding opportunity available under the ReConnect Program. USDA Rural Development staff will discuss types of funding available, eligibility provisions, notice of proposed service area, and evaluation factors. The informational webinar is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 13, 2019** at 1:00 pm CST. Pre-registration is available for the webinar by [clicking on the following link](#).

