



THE LEAGUE *News*

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MAYOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS DUE

The Kansas Mayors Association is seeking nominations for the Mayor of the Year Award that will be presented at the Leadership Summit & Kansas Mayors Conference April 12-13 in Salina.

Please take this opportunity to nominate a mayor you feel has uniquely contributed to their community and to the Kansas Mayors Association. Nominations are due by midnight on March 8, 2019. The nomination form can be [found on our website](#).

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

This week the legislature had a shortened week. 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 from this week:

ABANDONED HOUSING: *HB 2314* deals with abandoned housing. This bill was exempted from the turnaround deadline by the Speaker of the House. It sits below the line awaiting action by the full House. This is an important issue for cities across the state and we are hopeful this bill will be considered by the full House. We recommend contacting your representatives to encourage the legislation receives debate by the full House. Contact [Trey Cocking](#) with questions regarding this legislation.



TAX LID: This week, the House Tax Committee held a hearing on *HB 2345*. The League supports this legislation because it allows cities flexibility when setting local property tax rates. This legislation would allow cities, that do not take the maximum increase allowed under the tax lid, to later go back to the highest tax levy they would have been able to increase to previously without a special election, if the increase occurs within seven years. This bill would be helpful for when a city wants to consider lowering their tax levy, or not increasing their tax levy. There were multiple proponents of the bill and three opponents. The League will now work with the stakeholders to gather support for passage. Contact [Trey Cocking](#) with questions regarding this legislation.

TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE BILLS: On Wednesday, March 13, the Senate Ways & Means Committee will hold a hearing on *SB 186*, legislation dealing with the transportation planning program. The League supports this legislation because the program includes funding for cities and counties through the special city and county highway fund, programs for sharing federal aid, programs similar to the current local bridge improvement program, programs for cities and counties with railroad crossings of roads not on the state highway system, programs to assist cities with the maintenance of city connecting links and other local partnership opportunities, and programs that allow local governments to exchange federal aid for state funds. Contact [Chardae Caine](#) with questions regarding this legislation.

WIRELESS SITING: *SB 68* passed out of the Senate. There will be a hearing next week in the House Utilities Committee on this legislation. The League continues to be neutral on the bill and we do not believe the bill is necessary. We will closely watch this legislation for amendments that might change our position. Contact [Erik Sartorius](#) with questions regarding this legislation.

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS: *HB 2126*, legislation regulating the operation of electric-assisted scooters on roads and highways, has a hearing scheduled in Senate Transportation on Wednesday, March 13. Contact [Chardae Caine](#) with questions regarding this legislation.



THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES

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EMERGENCIES HAPPEN. IS YOUR CITY PREPARED?

There are several reports out that say Kansans can possibly expect more severe weather and tornadoes this spring. The League offers our Emergency Management for Cities class each year to help cities prepare for natural disasters including tornadoes and flooding. Our final class for emergency planning is **Friday, March 29 in Cimarron**.

We know this to be true: emergencies happen. A city's preparation before a disaster can make all the difference. This course will provide information necessary for a city to review their emergency response plans and execute those plans in a natural disaster. In this course, we will cover:

- City emergency management planning documents and continuity of operations planning for municipal services;
- Define phases of emergency management and response;
- Cooperation with local, state, federal and mutual aid support agencies;
- Local government responsibilities within the Kansas Response Plan;
- Managing public information practices before, during and after an event; and
- Training opportunities for more information on emergency planning and preparedness.

Cost to attend this course is \$75 for members, \$100 for nonmembers. Lunch and materials provided. Nick Hernandez, City Manager for Arkansas City teaches this course along with League staff. The course has been approved for IIMC credit. Register *on-line at our website*.



MUNICIPAL TRAINING INSTITUTE
A Program of The League

APRIL

- City Clerk Fundamentals (Elective)
- APRIL 5 | Garnett

Register on-line at: www.lkm.org/events



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