Tax Rate & Fiscal Data Survey is Open

The 2020 Tax Rate Questionnaire for the Kansas Tax Rate & Fiscal Data Book, which will appear in the March issue of the Kansas Government Journal, has opened. The deadline is January 15, 2019.

Data published in the tax rate book is used throughout the year by a variety of city and county officials, state agencies and the media. It is important for each of these entities to have access to this vital city data.

Please contact Sydney Bannister, Management Intern, via e-mail or call (785) 354-9565 if you have questions about this survey.

Quick-Start Guide to Governing

Do you have new governing body members joining you this month or next? Consider downloading our free Quick Start Guide to Governing for quick info on KOMA/KORA, effective meetings, tips for public service, and more!

Serving in an elected municipal office is an exciting, challenging, and humbling experience. No level of government offers the opportunity for more day-to-day contact with the electors. We understand the first few months in office can be an overwhelming time.

We encourage all elected officials to attend the upcoming Governing Body Institute in April where League staff will cover in-depth, important topics such as municipal finance, personnel management and the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA), as well as many other crucial areas for a governing body to understand. The Governing Body Institute is also an excellent time to network with fellow mayors, council members, and commissioners as we collectively work for the betterment of our state.

At the League, we’re here to help!
**STATEMENT OF MUNICIPAL POLICY FOR 2020**

The *Statement of Municipal Policy* (SMP) is revised each year to reflect the League's advocacy goals and agenda for the upcoming legislative session. This year’s SMP is now on-line and available for cities to review. The SMP is developed with the membership during Policy Committees each summer and then is adopted as a final document at the Annual Conference in October.

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**NEW EARNINGS RULE EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 2020**

On September 24, the U.S. Department of Labor announced its new rule to increase the earnings thresholds necessary to exempt executive, administrative, and professional employees from the Fair Labor Standards Act’s (FLSA) minimum wage and overtime pay requirements.

Effective January 1, 2020, the salary threshold for exempt employees under the FLSA will increase from the current level of $455 per week to $684 per week. This equals $35,568 per year. Additionally, under the new regulations, employers may use nondiscretionary bonuses and incentive payments, including commissions, if paid at least annually, to satisfy up to 10% of the standard salary level.

If your city has exempt employees who currently earn less than $684 per week, the city has until January 1 to raise the salary above the new threshold. If your city chooses to keep the salary below the new threshold, these employees will no longer be exempt employees as of January 1, 2020 and will be owed overtime pursuant to your city policy for non-exempt employees.

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The League office will close at Noon on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 and on Wednesday, December 25 on Christmas Day.