



THE LEAGUE News

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PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

There has been a lot of conversation over the past few weeks about pandemics, communicable diseases, and emergency planning. We're putting together a webinar for cities (and local governments) to discuss some issues you should be thinking about if your cities had to react to a public health emergency.

The webinar will be held on Tuesday, March 10 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The webinar is free of charge.

Register for the webinar [at our website](#).

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Next week, the legislature will focus on committee work as bills that have passed the house of origin are now considered in the other house. They will also be hearing “blessed” or exempt bills for the first time.

League staff members will be testifying on several bills next week.

The *Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government Committee* will be hearing three bills that passed the House. *HB 2509* would allow the City of Americus to vacate a plat that dedicated a portion of the City for a future university and would allow the City to sell the parcels so that they can be developed. *HB 2510* allows for cities to assume the duties and responsibilities of smaller units of government, so the smaller units can be dissolved. *HB 2583* would fix an issue with the vacating of right-of-way and easements.

The *Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee* will hear *SB 338*, which would allow additional flexibility on dates when setting the budget. The bill originally passed out to the *Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government Committee*, but was referred to *Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee* to review the impact of *SB 294* on the bill.

Next Thursday, March 12, the *Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee* will be hearing *SB 396* at 9:30 a.m., and the *House Taxation Committee* will be hearing the House version *HB 2656* at 3:30 p.m. on the same day. *SB 396* and *HB 2656* would redirect all proceeds from a countywide sales tax to the county starting on July 1. In 2019, this bill would have resulted in \$264.9 million being redistributed from cities to counties. This bill stems from a dispute in one county with one city. However, the proponents of the bill are trying to change a formula that has worked for cities and counties for over thirty years.

The League staff expects a hearing to be held on *SB 294*, at 3:30 p.m. on March 16 in the *House Taxation Committee*. This bill still needs major changes before it becomes law. Detailed information will be sent out by the end of the day on Monday, March 8. Testimony will be due by 3:30 on Friday, March 13.

The *House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee* will hear *SB 380* next Thursday, March 12. The bill purports to put cables “micro wireless facilities” (also called “strand mounted facilities”) on a level playing field with the larger facilities being installed by wireless telecommunications carriers. In reality, the legislation grants cable companies (“video service providers”) different rights and greatly limits municipalities’ ability to require any fee or application for the placement of micro wireless facilities. Furthermore, *SB 380* does not make explicitly clear that cable companies would have to abide by the right-of-way and zoning requirements of other entities in the right-of-way. The League believes it is critical that the legislation explicitly state the responsibilities of cable companies when it comes to micro wireless facilities and the service provided. Additionally, there must be a provision clarifying the special treatment for micro wireless facilities will not be used by other right of way users to claim they are not being treated in a “competitively neutral” manner. Please visit with your House representatives on this bill, particularly if they serve on the House Committee considering the bill. If you wish to offer testimony and have the League get it to the committee, please send it to [Tami Martin](#) by Tuesday, March 10 at 3:30 p.m.

For a review of next week's legislative activities that may be of interest to municipal governments, please review our [Legislative Calendar](#).



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THE NEXT AMERICAN CITY: THE BIG PROMISE FOR OUR MIDSIZE METROS

Mick Cornett, former four-term Mayor of Oklahoma City will be our keynote at the Kansas Mayors Conference and Governing Body Institute in Manhattan on **April 24 and 25**. Mick will talk about his time as Mayor and the initiatives he developed to grow and improve his city. He'll talk about how modest-sized cities have are capable of major accomplishments, are powered by a can-do spirit, they value compromise over confrontation, and accomplish progress over political victory. These are the cities leading America.

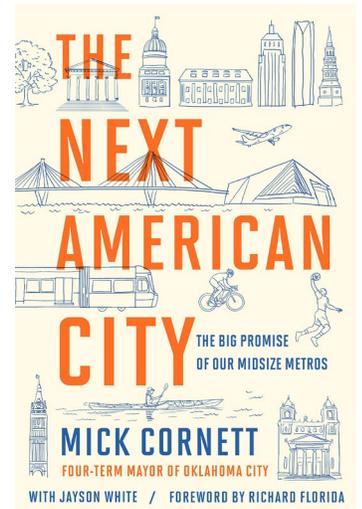
As mayor of one of America's most improved cities, Cornett used a bold, creative, and personal approach to orchestrate his city's renaissance. Once regarded as a forgettable city in "flyover country," Oklahoma City has become one of our nation's most dynamic places-and it is not alone. In this book, Cornett translates his city's success-and the success of cities like his-into a vision for the future of our country.

"The Next American City" is a story of civic engagement, inventive public policy, and smart urban design. It is a study of the changes re-shaping American urban life-and a blueprint for those to come.

The Governing Body Institute and Kansas Mayors Conference provides elected and appointed city leaders an opportunity to gather and discuss the challenges facing our cities and how leadership at the local level can better address contemporary issues in local government.

The 2020 Governing Body Institute will be held on **April 24 & 25** in Manhattan.

Register by April 14, 2020; any registrations after this date will incur a \$35 additional fee. Thank you for your commitment to your city and its citizens. For additional information about League conferences or the Municipal Training Institute, please contact *Kate Cooley*, Conference & Marketing Coordinator, at (785) 354-9565.



MTI: PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

The government's dedication to assuring a fair workplace has meant greater legal complexity in all aspects of supervision. This workshop will help supervisors navigate the most current legal provisions associated with the public-sector workplace and translate them into plain-English guidelines. This class will:

- Review the concept of equal employment opportunity and its application in interviewing, supervision, promotion and termination;
- Understand the most current definitions of sexual harassment, and what to do if it is reported or suspected;
- Learn how to conduct a legally-compliant performance appraisal;
- Expand knowledge of how to prevent legal problems when responding to poor performers;
- Increase awareness of legal issues associated with electronic communication; and
- Learn when to seek assistance from legal or human resource management specialists.

Instructors are Tara Eberline, Partner with Folston Siefkin LLP; Nathan Eberline, Vice President of Operations for the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs. The class will be held on Friday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register and find out more information on-line at the *League's website*.





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KDOT SEEKING PROJECTS FOR STATE RAIL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Effective July 1, 2020, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will have approximately \$9 million available through the State Rail Service Improvement Fund (SRSIF) for railroad improvement projects. On March 16, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., KDOT will be conducting a conference call to review SRSIF program modifications, updated program and project guidelines, and program objectives. Contact [John Maddox](#) for an invitation to the webinar.

Based on what KDOT's executive management team heard from the short-line railroad stakeholders and shippers during the agency's public outreach meetings in late 2019, the RSIF structure will be modified to a grant match program. Effective March 1, 2020 the SRSIF will become a grant/match program. Of total project costs, a maximum of 60% will be in the form of a grant and the applicant will be responsible for a 40% match. Additional consideration will be given to applications with a higher project match percentage.

The SRSIF application form can be accessed from the [KDOT web page](#). Please complete and return your application and any supporting documents to [John Maddox](#) no later than April 15, 2020. Updated guidelines for the SRSIF Program are attached. It is anticipated that project award announcements will be made no later than May 22, 2020.

COMING SOON!

THE LEAGUE'S BIENNIAL SURVEY OF PERSONNEL PRACTICES, SALARIES, AND FRINGE BENEFITS SURVEY WILL OPEN SOON. THE SURVEY WILL BE SENT TO CITIES EARLY NEXT WEEK. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE IT, PLEASE CHECK YOUR E-MAIL JUNK FOLDER. IF YOU DON'T RECEIVE IT, PLEASE E-MAIL LEAGUE MANAGEMENT INTERN SYDNEY BANNISTER AT INTERN@LKM.ORG.

AS A REMINDER, IF YOUR CITY PARTICIPATES IN THIS SURVEY, YOU RECEIVE THE DATA FREE OF CHARGE. THIS IS EXCELLENT INFO TO HAVE ON HAND WHEN DETERMINING SALARY RANGES, BENEFIT TRENDS, AND COMPETITIVE SALARY PRACTICES.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS THIS WEEKEND

Don't forget to set those alarm clocks "forward" one hour this Sunday. Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8.

