Legislators Return for One Day

This week, the Kansas Legislative Coordinating Council, made up of legislative leadership, voted in favor of having the full legislature return to Topeka on May 21 for a single day to complete the 2020 legislative session. Conference committees return prior to May 21 to begin work. Conference committees are small groups of legislators that represent the whole. They would meet to debate and make changes to legislation, so that the full legislature will only need to vote when they return. We will update members on this when we have more information.


The League is actively monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and is working with other agencies to provide our member cities with timely, accurate and important information as it becomes available. We created this web page as a resource for city officials. It is updated numerous times during the day with relevant city information.

See the web page for information on:
- The latest news for cities from state agencies and trusted sources;
- Personnel and federal legislation summaries;
- Local emergency declarations and county stay-at-home orders;
- Utility and municipal operational guidance;
- Public closure guidance;
- CDC and KDHE guidance on quarantine and social distancing/stopping the spread;
- Meeting guidance, technological options for meetings, and open meeting laws; and;
- Messaging examples to use in your cities/organizations.

The League staff will continue to offer our bi-weekly conference call for city officials for the foreseeable future. The information is for city officials - elected officials, appointed officials, city attorneys, department heads, etc. It is a way to keep you informed of the latest information regarding COVID-19 and municipal operations.

We have transitioned to using Zoom for the meetings and city officials will receive e-mail instructions on how to access the meeting. This will be a YouTube link and you will watch the video of the live call.

The calls are held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you are a city official, please contact the League staff for access to the conference call.

The information on the conference call closely mirrors the information on our COVID-19 page resource page.

Governing Body Institute & Kansas Mayors Conference

Save the Date for the rescheduled 2020 Governing Body Institute, July 31-August 1 in Manhattan, Kansas. If you have already registered for the previously scheduled GBI, we will be contacting you to check and see if you would like to keep your registration.

Attending GBI is the first step new officials should take toward success in public office. Re-elected officials or longer-term appointed officials will also value the up-to-date information on municipal operations and networking opportunities this conference offers.

Visit our website for more details and to register.
**Your Suggestions wanted...**

We are trying to keep on track with planning the League’s Annual Conference for October 2020. The conference is set for October 10-12 in Wichita. Even with the pandemic, we are working to develop educational sessions and events for members. This is where we need your help!

What sessions and topics would you like to see at our Annual Conference? What would help your city the most for elected officials, appointed officials, and staff?

Let us know by filling out our quick survey online at our website.

And, mark your calendar now for the Annual Conference. We will continue to plan for the best and we sure hope we can meet in person in October for a weekend of learning and networking with public officials.

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**City Attorneys Association of Kansas Spring CLE Conference**

Attention municipal attorneys! CAAK’s Spring CLE Conference has been switched to a virtual meeting that will be offered at a reduced rate. Given the uncertainty if large gatherings will be permitted in June and, recognizing the significant adverse impact the virus has had on municipal budgets, the CAAK board believes this is the most prudent course of action to take this year. Protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our members, attendees, staff and ultimately the residents of cities across the state is paramount. This was not a decision we made lightly, as the connection we have to each other is the foundation of our work. However, this situation provides us an opportunity to explore new ways of collaborating and pushes us to an exciting new “virtual” meeting world.

Please join us on Friday, June 5, 2020, for an online meeting. Amazing presenters from across the state will review recent court decisions and legislation, discuss the challenges being faced in employment law, the challenges in dealing with elected officials, and the ethics of cybersecurity. You will leave this conference with a better understanding of current legal issues and the impact they will have on the municipalities you represent. Visit the CAAK web page on the League website for more information and to register. Cost to attend is $30 for CAAK members and $45 for non-members. This is a bargain for seven hours of CLE Credit.

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**Revised Home Rule Manual**

League staff recently completed a complete revision of our Home Rule Manual. The term home rule has both a philosophical and legal meaning. Philosophically, it is widely understood to suggest a spirit of self-government. Legally, it represents a particular method for distributing power between state and local government. It is the granting of power to local governing bodies to initiate legislation. This manual is devoted to the legal concept of home rule in Kansas, as granted to cities by Article 12, Section 5 of the Kansas Constitution. This manual was last updated in 1994 and is the ninth edition since 1961.

Order at an early bird price of $49 for members and $82.50 for non members until May 31, 2020. Prices will increase June 1, 2020.

Order at our website.

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**Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas**

Governor Kelly announced Executive Order No. 20-29, which implements Phase One of “Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen KANSAS.” The plan can be reviewed online.

There have been a lot of questions about which previous Executive Orders have been reenacted (essentially extended) under Executive Order 20-28, issued on April 30. This document provides a list of those applicable Executive Orders. The League staff is working to develop a Q & A document that clarifies/summarizes information in the Ad Astra plan and Executive Order for local governments. We will release that document on our COVID-19 website as well as any other reopening documents we can provide.