



THE LEAGUE *News*

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ETHICS & CIVILITY MTI OFFERED IN JANUARY

Want to catch a great League training before attending Local Government Day activities? Join us for our Ethics and Civility course on Wednesday, January 22 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the League office in Topeka.

Ethics and civility are essential parts of good government. At this training, you will learn about the ethics laws your city officials need to follow, along with best practices for creating an ethical organization and civil meeting environments.

We encourage local government officials to attend Local Government Day events starting at 2 p.m. that day to hear about upcoming legislative issues and meet and greet with your local legislators.

Cost to attend this MTI course is \$50 for members, \$75 for nonmembers. No lunch is provided. [Register online.](#)

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THE LEAGUE'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2020

The Kansas Legislative session gets underway today. At the League, we believe the prosperity of the State of Kansas is absolutely dependent upon the prosperity of our cities. Over 82% of Kansans live in an incorporated city. In an effort to promote healthy and sustainable communities, the elected and appointed city officials of Kansas established the following priorities for 2020:

Home Rule. Consistent with the Home Rule Amendment of the Kansas Constitution approved by voters in 1960, we support local elected officials making decisions for their communities, particularly local tax and revenue decisions.

Tax Lid Repeal. We support repeal of the property tax lid.

Internet Sales Tax Collections. The inability of governments to collect local option sales or compensating use tax on remote sales continues to erode a viable and fair revenue source. The League supports state legislation establishing a program to help the state collect state and local sales and compensating use taxes due from in-state purchasers. Remitted taxes should be distributed using existing methods/formulas for the state and local governments.

Property Valuation. We support appraisals based on fair-market value as historically used in Kansas. We oppose caps in property valuations as unconstitutional and inequitable.

Budget Timeline. The current statutory framework for the adoption of municipal budgets makes it difficult for cities to plan for budgets that must be presented to governing bodies five months before the start of the fiscal year. We support legislation to allow the adoption of city budgets by November 30 but keep the August 25 deadline for certification of the amount of ad valorem tax revenue needed.

EMS/Hospital Funding. Municipal hospitals and emergency medical services (EMS) are challenged in meeting their communities' needs. We support the expansion of Medicaid in Kansas to allow such entities access to federal funding, helping cities maintain and provide critical services for their citizens.

Mental Health. We support allocating additional resources for mental health programs. Funds should be allocated for community mental health centers and additional bed space for patients with mental health issues.

REGISTER NOW FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT DAY IN TOPEKA

The League of Kansas Municipalities will once again co-host Local Government Day, an event for our members, with the Kansas Association of Counties on January 22, 2020. City officials from all across the state will gather for an exciting and informative day. In the morning, make appointments to visit with your legislators about issues that are important to your community.

In the afternoon, the "If I Were Mayor" awards will be handed out, and we will be joined by fellow county officials and hear presentations from legislative leaders.

City and county officials are then invited to join us for an evening reception with legislators at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. All legislators are being invited to this event.

This event is free to attend, *but please register/RSVP* so we can get an accurate headcount for refreshments. The event is held at the Maner Conference Center/Capitol Plaza Hotel located at 1717 SW Topeka Boulevard.



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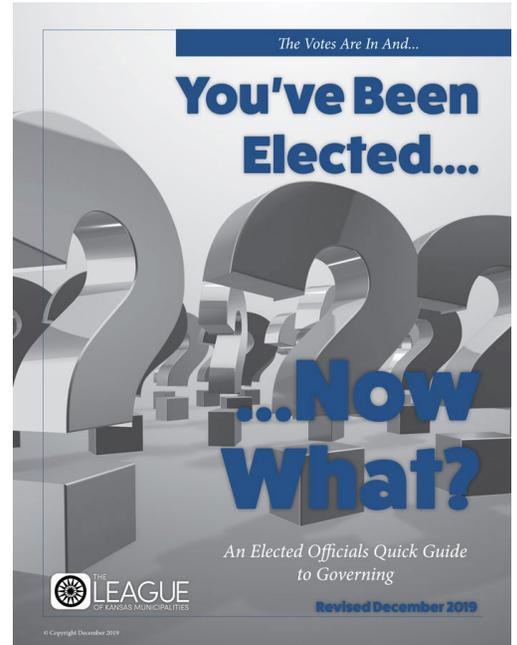
QUICK-START GUIDE TO GOVERNING

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.

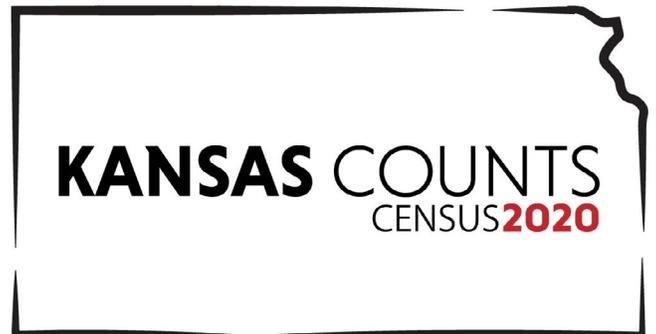
We encourage all elected officials to attend the upcoming Governing Body Institute in April where League staff will cover in-depth, important topics such as municipal finance, personnel management and the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA), as well as many other crucial areas for a governing body to understand. 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!



CENSUS 2020: HOW TO PROMOTE THE CENSUS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER CHANNELS

We're continuing to promote the 2020 Census and make sure all Kansans are counted in the decennial census on April 1, 2020. The League is offering a free webinar for any city/county/quasi-government staff who will be tasked with promoting the 2020 Census on city/county social media platforms, websites, and other digital methods. During the webinar, we will walk attendees through how to access *Kansas Counts materials* (logos, social media messages, images, videos, etc.).



Then, we will show attendees how to deploy those materials through their digital platforms (social media, websites, etc.). Kansas Counts has created an abundance of materials for you to use to promote the 2020 Census and now it is time to start developing your specific city/county promotional strategy. Limited to 100 attendees. Webinar is free of charge. [Register online for this webinar.](#)