**LEAGUE News**

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**Legislative Issues & Property Tax**

The legislature will return for one day only next week on Thursday, May 21, for the final day of the session. Although in most years the final adjournment is ceremonial, it appears this will be an action-packed day as the legislature works through the response to COVID-19, and remaining legislative priorities from the year. The legislature is expected to review the emergency powers law, review the budget, and other packages related to COVID-19. There is also a desire to pass legislation from this year’s session that the legislature did not work before their early adjournment. One of those bills is SB 294, the property tax transparency bill, we are asking the legislature to delay implementation of SB 294 until January 1, 2022, so that we can have time to plan and implement the law, and make additional changes to ensure make the bill is workable. Contact Trey Cocking for additional information.

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**CDBG Grants for Cities**

Governor Kelly has announced that more than $9 million in federal funding is being made available to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for community responses to COVID19.

The Kansas Department of Commerce will administer the Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Response Supplement (CDBG-CV). Grants are available to communities in two categories, economic development and meals programs.

The website for the program, which includes the application, FAQs, and other information, can be found at the Department of Commerce website.

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**COVID-19 Resources for Cities | www.lkm.org/COVID-19**

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 page 2 of this newsletter for more information on the reopening plan for the state.

We will be holding our 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.

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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.

Call for Topics for Annual Conference

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.

New Phase for Re-Opening

Governor Kelly announced on Thursday, May 14 the addition of a phase in between Phase 1 and 2 of the reopening plan. Phase 1.5 allows some businesses to open and keep some activities closed. View the phases online at the state’s COVID-19 web site or see the at-a-glance graphics.

Transportation Projects Announced

On May 14, 2020, Governor Laura Kelly and KDOT Secretary Julie Lorenz announced the first 40 highway expansion and modernization projects for preliminary engineering work in the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE), a 10-year program developed in consultation with Kansans and approved by the 2020 Legislature. For more about these projects, as well as additional information about the IKE program, please KDOT’s website.

IKE is a rolling program, which means major highway modernization and expansion projects will be selected every two years rather than once a decade as previous programs did. This ensures the State can address the most pressing needs and adjust to fluctuating revenues.