



THE LEAGUE News

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NLC FINANCIAL SURVEY FOR CITIES

Thank you for your continued leadership during these challenging times. We know that you have made difficult decisions in the wake of the novel coronavirus pandemic. As you continue to protect your community and prepare for reopening, we are working diligently with the National League of Cities to secure direct federal assistance for cities, towns, and villages in the next stimulus package.

To ensure Congress and the Administration have the information they need about the local impacts of the crisis, please take a moment to complete the [brief survey](#) focused on changes to the municipal workforce and service levels, in particular any layoffs, employee furloughs and unexpected expenses.

Please [submit your responses](#) by end of day on **Monday, June 15**.

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LEGISLATURE'S ACTION ON COVID-19

During the Special Session, the Legislature passed HB 2016 which created the governmental response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Kansas. The bill has been signed by the Governor. The bill does numerous things. These include providing for the oversight of the CARES Act funding. Additionally, the bill ratifies the 1st Emergency Proclamation issued by the Governor on March 12, 2020 until September 15, 2020. After September that disaster can be extended by the State Finance Council similar to the animal pandemic statute on a rolling 30 day period. The Governor cannot issue any new Emergency Proclamations for COVID-19 in 2020. After September 15th, the Governor cannot close businesses for longer than 15 days without approval of the State Finance Council. The bill specifies that all executive orders expire at the end of the disaster. The Governor may not issue any executive order dealing with firearms, ammunition, or the modifying of elections.

Counties can make less restrictive rules than the state in certain situations and the bill makes it very clear the County Commission can override orders issued by the County Health Officer. Schools cannot be closed without approval by the State Board of Education.

The bill removes the criminal penalties for violation of an executive order and replaces it with a civil penalty that can be enforced by the county district attorney or the attorney general.

Additionally, the bill creates the COVID-19 Response and Reopening for Business Liability Protection Act. This creates immunity for liability in a civil action for a COVID-19 claim if the person (including cities) was acting pursuant to, and in substantial compliance with, public health directives applicable to the activity giving rise to the cause of action. Public Health Directives means state statutes, rules and regulations or executive orders issued by the governor that are required to be followed by law. It also includes federal statutes or regulations, and county orders issued under the Kansas emergency management act. Mere guidance is not a public health directive. This immunity is in addition to any other immunity provided for in the Kansas Tort Claims Act.

The Act also creates the Contact Tracing Privacy Act, codifies the Notary Executive Order, creates First Responder Notifications, removes the sunset for the Chief Justice's ability to authorize two way audio-visual communications in courts in the interest of public safety, codifies the Sale of Alcoholic Liquor executive order until January 15, 2021, codifies several unemployment requirements necessary for individuals to continue receiving the extra \$600 a week in federal unemployment benefits.

The bill also does several other things not directly impacting cities.

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP WEBINAR

The League legislative staff will offer their annual legislative wrap-up webinar on June 23 at 10:00 a.m. [Register today](#) to hear how local governments fared in the legislative session and find out more about future priorities and upcoming policy committee meetings.

Register in advance for this webinar ([registration link](#)).

You will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



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AG OFFICE REQUESTING COMMENTS FROM CITIES ON KORA

The attorney general's office is inviting public comments on proposed new guidance for enforcing the Kansas Open Records Act requirement that the cost of staff time charged for responding to open records requests be reasonable, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said.

The proposed guidance:

- Establishes presumptively reasonable rates for various categories of staff needed to respond to a records request, such as attorneys, information technology staff and clerical staff. The proposed rates are the ones currently used by the Office of the Attorney General to respond to records requests.
- Recommends use of the least-cost category of staff necessary to perform any task necessary to respond to a request.
- Sets forth best practices that, if followed, will tend to demonstrate that a charge for staff time was reasonable.
- Outlines additional factors the Office of the Attorney General considers when reviewing the reasonableness of fees charged for staff time.

Any interested person may review a draft of the proposed guidance document at www.ag.ks.gov/open-government. Comments may be submitted via the website or by U.S. mail to Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt, 120 SW 10th Ave., 2nd Floor, Topeka, KS 66612. **Comments will be received until close of business June 19, 2020.** The comments then will be reviewed and considered by the Office of Attorney General before proceeding to publish the guidance.

It is very important that cities weigh in on this proposal.

MUNICIPAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

Managing Municipal Services

Virtual Class | Thursday, June 18 | 1 - 4 p.m.
Register at www.lkm.org/events.








THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES

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DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN SEARCH CITY INFO ONLINE?

USE THE LEAGUE'S ONLINE DIRECTORY ANY TIME TO SEARCH FOR CITY CONTACT INFORMATION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, CITY POPULATION AND MORE!

VISIT WWW.LKM.ORG/DIRECTORYSEARCH

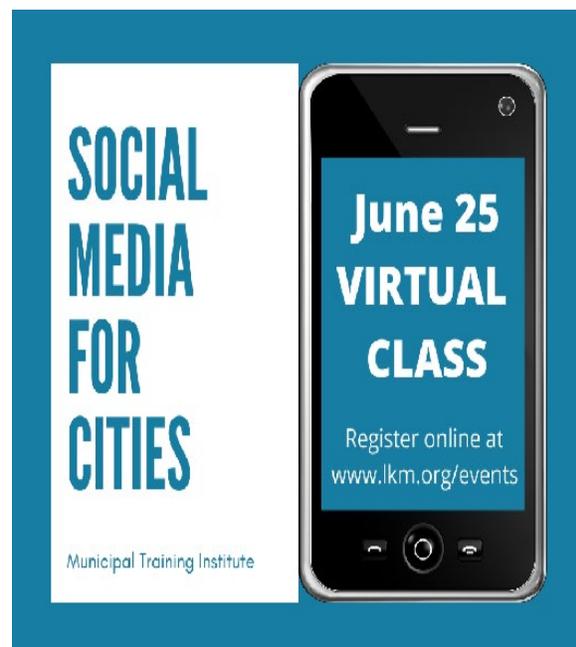
GOVERNING BODY INSTITUTE & KANSAS MAYORS CONFERENCE

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 sent you an e-mail with a survey about the conference.** Please respond so we can plan!



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.



COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR CITIES | WWW.LKM.ORG/COVID-19

The League is continuously monitoring the fluid 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.

We will be holding our conference call for city officials on Thursdays now. 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. If you are a city official, please contact the League staff for access to the conference call.

BUDGET TIPS NOW ONLINE

Every year, the League publishes Budget Tips to assist member cities and local officials in preparing their operating budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. You can find the most up-to-date bulletin, local alcohol tax distribution information, and information on the special street/highway fund. **Note:** We have updated the Budget Tips, however we are still working with State agencies to get the Local Alcohol Tax Distribution and Special Street/Highway Fund reports. We will post them as soon as they become available.

Find Budget Tips [online at our web page](#). You must have your website login to access the web page.

For questions or more information, please contact Staff Attorney [John Goodyear](#).

