



THE LEAGUE *News*

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MUNICIPAL TRAINING INSTITUTE
A Program of The League

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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LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS

The 2020 legislative session started this week. The first week of session resulted in a number of new bills being introduced that could have ramifications for Kansas cities. There have been a number of bills introduced concerning the property tax appraisal process. In addition, legislators are working on bills that could have dramatic changes to the tax lid, budgets, and the property tax setting process. As of today those bills have not been introduced.



The first couple of weeks of session usually result in a lot of bill introductions, and a number of those bills will not even receive a hearing, other bills will be worked quickly and could become law. Please watch the various listservs for legislative alerts, fiscal impact requests, requests for testimony, and other requests for information. Often we receive last minute and urgent requests from legislators, and we realize it doesn't give city officials much time to respond; however, your help is always appreciated!

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DAY NEXT WEEK

The League of Kansas Municipalities will hold Local Government Day 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.

The event registration has closed for this event but we encourage you to make sure you have made appointments with your local legislators and encourage them to stop by the reception in the evening. We are looking forward to seeing local officials in Topeka next week!



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JUSTICE GRANT AVAILABLE

Grant funds are available from the Federal John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program for calendar year 2020. The purpose of this grant program is to provide student loan repayment assistance for full-time local, state and federal government public defenders, and full-time local and state government prosecutors who commit to serving as public defenders and prosecutors for at least three years.

Kansas has \$32,352 available for awards and will be available to prosecutors (maximum of \$16,176) and public defenders (maximum of \$16,176). Federal John R. Justice Grant funds awarded under this program are a supplement to, not a substitute for, personal student loan obligations. To be eligible to receive funding, an attorney must not be in default on repayment of any federal student loans. *Find the grant application materials online.*

If you have any questions, please contact *Kim Gerety* at (785) 291-3205. All grant applications must be postmarked to the Kansas Governor's Grants Program by February 7, 2020.



The League Office is Closed on Monday, January 20 in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.