



# THE LEAGUE News

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## MUNICIPAL FINANCE MTI SET FOR MARCH

We have two opportunities for city officials to take our popular Municipal Finance course in March.

This course is designed to provide participants with an overview of municipal finance issues in Kansas. It will help city officials address the responsibility of fiscal operations at the local level to ensure effective service to your community. In today's particularly challenging fiscal climate, local leaders must understand the parameters required to set local budgets. This course has been set for early spring to encourage municipalities to start their 2021 budgeting process earlier due to implications from the tax lid.

The MTIs classes will be held in two locations: McPherson on March 5 and Fort Scott on March 6.

Find more details *on-line at our website.*

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bills continue to be introduced that will have major impact on cities.

**SB 294** was introduced this week and it models after a system from Tennessee to create "truth-in-taxation." The bill would require each taxing entity to calculate their mill levy based on collecting the exact same amount of property tax. After that calculation, an entity would then be required to have the county clerk send a notification to each taxpayer that among other things, informs the taxpayer of the amount their property taxes will increase. The notification would also include the time and place of tax hearing. Then the governing body would have to pass the new tax rate via ordinance at the same public hearing. The bill would also require a refund to all taxpayers if an amount in excess of the certified tax rate was collected. The bill also leaves in place the tax lid. The Chair anticipates conducting a hearing in February. This bill would have huge ramifications on Kansas budget and tax law. We would urge you to carefully review the law, and start discussion with your legislators.



This week, **SB 295** was introduced in the Senate. The bill would no longer allow county appraisers to increase property due to normal maintenance. This bill presents a problem as it moves Kansas away from valuations that are based the market price of properties. If maintenance has not been deferred on a property, normal maintenance typically does not increase the valuation of a property. Under SB 295 however, if a property owner defers maintenance of a property, resulting in a lowering of the valuation, and then performs "normal maintenance" on the property, it will be valued at less than the market price. This bill will create an incentive to defer maintenance on properties. The Chair of the Senate Tax Committee anticipates having a hearing in February on the bill. We would urge you to review the bill, and contact your legislators.

For a review of next week's legislative activities that may be of interest to municipal governments, please review our [Legislative Calendar](#).

**SAVE THE DATE**

ANNOUNCING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MICK CORNETT  
Former Mayor, Oklahoma City  
and author of the book  
*The Near American City*

GOVERNING BODY INSTITUTE &  
KANSAS MAYORS CONFERENCE

APRIL 24 & 25, 2020 MANHATTAN, KANSAS

[www.lkm.org/GBI](http://www.lkm.org/GBI)



Want to get a weekly e-newsletter with ideas on how to promote the 2020 Census to your community? Sign up today for our emails with timely tips and info to share with your community. Send our Census Outreach Manager, Wendi Stark, an e-mail at [census@lkm.org](mailto:census@lkm.org) to be added to the list! Make sure your community is counted!



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## KDOT Now Accepting CCLIP Applications

The Kansas Department of Transportation is now taking applications for its City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP). The CCLIP is a program that provides funds to cities to address deficiencies or improve a City Connecting Link on the State Highway System. A City Connecting Link is defined as any routing of the State Highway System that is located within the corporate limits of a City. All City Connecting Links are eligible under this program except those on the Interstate System and fully controlled access sections on the Freeway System.

Projects will be selected for State fiscal years 2022 and 2023 from the applications received from this announcement. CCLIP-funding levels are currently unknown and will not be available until after this "call-for-projects" has been completed; however, KDOT is expecting to be able to provide at least \$15 million in funds for 2022 and 2023 combined.

Applications will be restricted to one application per category. Do NOT submit the same location for multiple categories. Project scope/category can be discussed during application reviews, if necessary. Please note options on the application.

The required form and corresponding Program Guidelines are attached for your convenience. The form and guidelines are also available on [KDOT's website](http://KDOT's website).

All applications must be received by KDOT-Bureau of Local Projects by end of business on March 6, 2020 to be considered. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call Dawn Hueske at (785) 207-1420.

## "If I Were Mayor" Contest Winners

At this week's Local Government Day, the League welcomed hundreds of Kansas city officials to Topeka. The League also uses this event as an opportunity to recognize six 7th graders for their participation in the League's annual "If I Were Mayor" memo contest. This year, the League recognized Kyler Glick, a 7th grade student at Quinter Jr./Sr. High School, as the statewide winner. Kyler's memo represented the northwest region of Kansas.

The winners are listed below. The winning memos will be printed in the March edition of the *Kansas Government Journal*.



Winners in the League's "If I Were Mayor" memo contest are pictured above with League Executive Director, Erik Sartorius (far left) and League President, Mayor John "Tiny" McTaggart from Edwardsville (center). Winners are (L-R): Liam Kirkpatrick, Waylon Ricker, Kaylee Ragsdale, Kyler Glick, Miley Ebbert, and Claire Brown.

NAME	REGION	SCHOOL	CITY
Kyler Glick	Overall Winner & Northwest	Quinter Jr./Sr. High School	Quinter
Kaylee Ragsdale	North Central	Phillipsburg Middle School	Phillipsburg/Agra
Liam Kirkpatrick	Northeast	Indian Woods Middle School	Overland Park
Waylon Alan Ricker	Southwest	Scott City Middle School	Scott City
Claire Brown	South East	Augusta Middle School	Augusta
Miley Ebbert	South Central	Eisenhower Middle School	Goddard/Wichita