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TAX RATE & FISCAL DATA DUE NEXT WEEK

We need cities to report their tax and fiscal data for the 2020 Tax Rate Book by **Friday, February 7**.

The Tax Rate Book is published annually in the March *Kansas Government Journal*. The book is structured to illustrate tax rates and fiscal data from each of the three classes of cities and then moves on to highlight tax rates from counties, unified school districts and community colleges. The data collected includes, but is not limited to: assessed valuation, bonds, temporary notes, no-fund warrants, and mills levied by each taxing subdivision. The criteria for the data collected provides a well-rounded perspective as to how individual cities, counties, and unified school districts are assessing taxes.

Contact [Sydney Bannister](#), Management Intern, if you have questions. You should have an email with instructions.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

On Wednesday, February 5 at 9:30 a.m., **SB 294** will be heard in the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee in room 548-S. The bill is loosely based on the Utah Truth-in-Taxation (TNT) statute. The bill would require taxing entities to either set a mill levy based on levying the same amount of property tax in dollars or go through the process to have a truth-in-taxation hearing. In order to have the truth-in-taxation hearing, a taxing entity is required to have the County Clerk send a notice to every property taxpayer listing, among other things, exactly how much their property tax would increase. The taxing entity would be required to reimburse the County Clerk for their costs. Taxing entities would be required to notify the County Clerk by August 1st of the need for a hearing and hold the hearing by September 15th. The governing body is then required to vote at that meeting on the tax increase after the hearing concludes.

The League is opposing this bill. It is important that the committee hear from a broad spectrum impacted by the bill. [Please click here to see the committee members](#), and please contact them if any of them are from your area. The League needs testimony by **3:30 pm on Monday**. If you are providing testimony, please check your email for a legislative alert and send testimony to [Tami Martin](#). Deputy Director [Trey Cocking](#) is your staff contact on this issue.

HB 2513 will be heard at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5 in House Tax. The bill would require marketplace facilitators such as Amazon and eBay to collect and remit sales tax on all goods sold through the platform. We are asking for testimony and support for this bill by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 4. E-mail your testimony to [Tami Martin](#).

SB 295 will be heard at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 6 in the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee. The bill prevents county appraisers from increasing a property's value to do maintenance. Our concern is that the bill will create a problem where property owners will not perform maintenance for several years and then perform maintenance and their property value will not go up to reflect the market price. We are asking for testimony and support for this bill by 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4. E-mail your testimony to [Tami Martin](#).

HB 2461 was introduced by the Attorney General with the intention of preempting cities from entering into contingency fee legal agreements. While it appears the intent of the bill is to coordinate class action litigation such as the opioid litigation being pursued by local government units, the bill is far broader. This would prohibit cities not only from entering class actions, which are rare, but also far more common legal agreements such as payment arrangements for bond counsel, collections attorneys for things such as past due utilities, demolition costs, mowing, and some real estate transactions for the sale of excess governmental property. The League has had several productive meetings with the Attorney General to address concerns we heard from cities with the legislation. The bill had a hearing in House Judiciary on Wednesday. The League will continue to dialogue with the Attorney General's office to ensure cities' concerns are addressed if this legislation is advanced to the full House.

There are two bills dealing with zoning being heard in Senate Elections, Ethics, and Local Government next Tuesday, February 3. **SB 248** involves additional notice requirements for extraterritorial zoning and **SB 296** would prohibit cities from resubmitting rejected rezoning requests for a period of one year. If you are interested in submitting testimony, please send it to [Tami Martin](#) by 8 a.m. on Monday, February 3.

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



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MAYOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS OPEN NOW

The Mayor of the Year Award was first established in 2001 to recognize outstanding mayors who have made significant contributions to their community as well as their profession through personal growth and involvement. It is again time to *nominate a deserving mayor for this award*. Has your community's mayor done selfless hours of community service? Has he/she showed countless constituents how dedicated he/she is to their community? Please take the time to complete the *nomination form* and write a short one-page letter listing their accomplishments.

Nominations will be accepted until Friday, March 6, 2020. Get all the information on how to submit *on our website*. The winner will be announced at Governing Body Institute & Mayors Conference April 24-25 in Manhattan. Contact *Tami Martin* with any questions concerning the Mayor of the Year Nomination.

Also, KMA invites you to submit nominations for the KMA Board of Directors. You may nominate yourself or another KMA member to any eligible seat (eligibility rules are listed for each Board position). Voting will take place at the Governing Body Institute & Kansas Mayors Conference on Friday, April 24st, at 3:00 p.m. in Manhattan. Each position serves a term of one year. For more information contact *Tami Martin*.



REGISTER NOW FOR GBI & KANSAS MAYORS CONFERENCE

The Governing Body Institute and Kansas Mayors Conference provides elected and appointed city leaders an opportunity to gather and discuss the challenges facing our cities and how leadership at the local level can better address contemporary issues in local government.

The 2020 Governing Body Institute will be held on **April 24 & 25** in Manhattan. Additional information will be posted at a later date.

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.

Cost to attend is \$175 for both days, and includes a newly revised copy of the *Governing Body Handbook* for each registrant.

Mayors sessions will take place Friday afternoon 1:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.; the Governing Body Institute for all elected or appointed officials will kick off at 3:00 p.m. with a Q&A session for newly elected officials. Saturday's agenda applies to all elected or appointed officials.

Conference events will take place in Manhattan at the Hilton Garden Inn & Manhattan Conference Center. Hotel reservations may be made at the *Hilton Garden Inn Manhattan* - or by calling the hotel directly at 785.532.9116; please make sure you identify yourself as part of the League's block when you call. The rate is \$119, plus tax and is only available until March 25, 2020 or until the block sells out.

Register by April 14, 2020; any registrations after this date will incur a \$35 additional fee. Thank you for your commitment to your city and its citizens. For additional information about League conferences or the Municipal Training Institute, please contact *Kate Cooley*, Conference & Marketing Coordinator, at (785) 354-9565.

