



# THE LEAGUE News

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## TAX RATE & FISCAL DATA DUE NEXT WEEK

We are nearing our publishing deadline for the 2020 *Kansas Tax Rate and Fiscal Data Book*. This publication is printed in the March 2020 *Kansas Government Journal*. We still need several cities of the second and third class to report your data so we can have an accurate portrayal in the data collected. We have extended the deadline to **Tuesday, February 11** in order to get as many cities as possible to participate. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the League at (785) 354-9565 or contact Sydney Bannister directly [via email](#). We appreciate the time you take to provide us data for cities across Kansas to utilize.

Check your email for information from Sydney Bannister for access to the survey and other survey details.

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

This morning, the Senate Assessment and Tax Committee heard proponents and opponents of [SB 294](#). This legislation would place an additional and burdensome truth-in-taxation procedure on a taxing entity proposing a year-over-year increase amount of property tax dollars. We would like to thank the numerous city officials who submitted written testimony and the eight city officials who testified against the bill in person this morning. We would urge you to continue to have conversations with your senators about this bill and ask them not to consider the bill further. Contact [Trey Cocking](#) if you have questions about this legislation. The hearing of today's committee meeting can be [heard at this link](#).

On Wednesday February 12, in the House Local Government Committee there are two hearings of interest for cities being heard at 9:00 a.m. [HB 2510](#) was introduced by the League to allow the voluntary consolidation of special districts into a city when it is in both entities best interest. [HB 2580](#) eliminates a city's power of unilateral annexation. This bill is also scheduled for hearing on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 9:00 a.m. in House Local Government in room 218-N. The League opposes this bill. The elimination of unilateral annexation prohibits growth and causes increases in service costs to city residents. It is important the committee hear from a broad spectrum impacted by the bill. If your city wants to submit testimony on [HB 2580](#), the League needs testimony by 3:30 p.m. on Monday, February 10, please e-mail testimony to [Tami Martin](#).

Senate Utilities will hold a hearing on Wednesday, February 13 at 1:30 p.m. on [SB 380](#). This bill from the cable industry would prohibit cities from imposing requirements on cable providers for the provision of wireless service. This is a follow-up to their efforts in 2019, but with much broader language. Arguing that this bill simply codifies "federal law" or FCC orders, [SB 380](#) would prohibit cities from placing any requirements on cable entities for hanging "micro wireless facilities" on their cables to provide wireless services. This prohibition would include any franchise agreement, franchise fee, or other guidance for the placement of such equipment. The League is opposing this bill. Contact [Erik Sartorius](#) if you have questions about the bill. If your city wants to submit testimony, the League needs testimony by 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11 e-mailed to [Tami Martin](#), or you may contact the committee assistant Rosemary Cubie at (785) 296-7388 or [via email](#).

Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government will hear [SB 338](#) on Tuesday February 11 at 9:30 a.m. This bill was introduced by the League to address concerns by cities about the current budget process. It would allow a city to set the ad valorem tax levy in August and adopt the final budget in December after the city has better numbers on the revenue that will be received from alternative sources such as a sales tax. If you would like to submit testimony on this bill, please email [Tami Martin](#) by 8:00 a.m. Monday, February 10.

House Taxation will hear [HB 2513](#) on Monday February 10. This bill requires marketplace facilitators to collect and remit sales, use and transient guest taxes made through their platforms.

Senate Commerce will hear [SB 361](#) on Wednesday February 12 at 8:30 a.m. This bill will add additional notice requirements for public entities to provide before withholding union dues.

The new FORWARD transportation plan from the Kansas Department of Transportation now has bill numbers. The plan is [SB 375](#) and [HB 2588](#). We'll keep you updated on hearings once they are published.

[MORE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES ON PAGE 2...](#)



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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES (CONTINUED)

Senate Federal and State Affairs will hear [SB 362](#) on Thursday February 13 at 10:30 a.m. This bill allows for the sale year-round fireworks in addition to seasonal sales. Under this bill, seasonal retailers are still able to operate without a license from the state Fire Marshal, but retailers that would offer fireworks for sale outside the statutory seasonal range would be required to obtain a license that would require renewal every four years. Additionally, this bill removes the state-wide ban on bottle rockets. All that said, the bill reserves the authority for local governments to prohibit the sale of fireworks by both retailers and seasonal retailers. Cities will also have the ability to adjust the timeline for seasonal sales to differ from state law (June 20 – July 5). If you would like to submit testimony, please send it to [Tami Martin](#) by 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 11.

House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development will hear [HB 2506](#) on Thursday, February 13 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 112-N. This bill expands the military spouse and service-member's expedited licensure law to any individual who has established or intends to establish residency in Kansas. This bill is extremely broad. Please carefully review it to see how it will impact your individual city's licensing requirements. If you wish to testify on this bill, testimony will be due by Tuesday, February 11 at 3:00 p.m. to [Tami Martin](#).

[SB 283](#) would work to expand gaming in Kansas to include sports wagering. This bill would allow for sports betting in person at each of the four current gaming facilities present in the state if they opt to have it in addition to the provision of an online platform that could be used to place sports wagers anywhere in the state. [SB 283](#) has already had a hearing and is set to get examined in committee this week. At the first hearing, the League offered neutral testimony, stating that we had no position on sports gaming in the state, but asking that amendments be considered to ensure that local governments receive the same share of sports book revenues that they currently receive from revenues for gaming from the rest of the facility.

Discussion on Medicaid expansion ([SB 252](#)) continued this week in the Senate Committee on Public Health & Welfare. Hearings are over and the committee will take final action on the bill next week and make a decision on passing the bill out to the Senate as a whole.

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 24th, at 3:00 p.m. in Manhattan. Each position serves a term of one year. For more information contact [Tami Martin](#).





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- 6 Municipal Finance, Fort Scott
- 27 Personnel Management, De Soto



Register on-line at: [www.lkm.org/events](http://www.lkm.org/events)

## KDOT COST SHARE PROGRAM OPENS ROUND 2 FUNDING

After a highly successful first round of the Kansas Department of Transportation's Cost Share Program last fall, a second round of applications are now being accepted for spring 2020. Applications will be accepted from Feb. 3 through April 15.

The Cost Share Program is designed to provide financial assistance that leverages state funding with local and private funding for projects related to economic development as well as job growth and retention. It will provide funding to local entities for construction projects that improve safety, increase the total transportation investment and help both rural and urban areas of the state improve their transportation system. Find out more [online at KDOT's blog](#).

## 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 1:30 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.