



THE LEAGUE *News*

VOLUME 25 | NUMBER 8 | FEBRUARY 21, 2020

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MTIs FOR MARCH

Three local government MTI classes will be held in March. First, we are offering two Municipal Finance classes on March 5 and 6.

Our Personnel Management class will be offered on March 27 in De Soto. Instructors are Tara Eberline, Partner with Folston Siefkin LLP; Nathan Eberline, Vice President of Operations for the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs.

The MTIs are held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost to attend these courses is \$75 for members, \$100 for nonmembers (each course). Lunch and materials provided. [Register on-line](#). Your city will be invoiced after the class is finished.

Check out our 2020 [MTI schedule on-line](#).

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

This week, discussions continued on [SB 294](#), the Truth-in-Taxation bill. We expect the bill to be worked on the Senate floor next week. As you talk to your legislators the following are still needed improvements to the bill:

1. A true Utah model with an allowance for new growth.
2. The procedure for refunds needs to be removed. It would require small checks to be sent to every taxpayer if there is a mistake in the calculation.
3. The need for the county clerk to send out one consolidated truth-in-taxation notice, that includes all taxing jurisdictions.
4. Taxing entities need to be able to set the exact amount of property tax instead of the complicated procedure that the bill now requires.
5. Governing bodies need to be allowed to take the final vote at a subsequent meeting after they have had time to process and research the comments that were made at the truth-in-taxation hearing.
6. Online publication or publication in the official city newspaper instead of the official county newspaper following adoption of the budget and property tax instead of duplicative notice before the hearing.



The House Tax Committee amended [HB 2517](#) to allow for the abatement of all commercial property in addition to agricultural improvements. The abatement would have to be approved by the county commission. We are concerned that this expanded language would make it very difficult for a city to operate the year following a large-scale disaster. We will be seeking an amendment to allow the governing body of a city to decide if the property tax should be abated.

The Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee made a similar amendment to [SB 242](#) to include all real property. We will also be seeking the same type of amendment to [SB 242](#).

The League testified in support of [HB 2607](#) that would allow a county to authorize monthly or quarterly property tax payments. The schedule set in the bill would still require half of the property tax to be paid by December 20, and the remainder paid in full by May 10.

The League also testified on [SB 301](#), which would move the state from annual appraisals to triennial appraisals. We noted that at the end of the three-year period, taxpayers could see large and unexpected increases in valuation.

The House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee heard [HB 2625](#) on Thursday. This legislation would preempt cities from taking action to prohibit plastics in their communities (most cities that have looked at this have focused on single-use plastic bags). A motion to table the bill was defeated. An amendment by the committee chair created a five-year sunset on the preemption, and the bill was passed out of committee. The bill is expected to be debated by the full House next week.

The Senate Utilities Committee and interested parties continue to discuss the cable industry's bill to allow "strand mount" wireless facilities onto their cables with no fees and very limited oversight.

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



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES (CONTINUED)

The committee will debate the [SB 380](#) on Monday, February 24. At press time, we are waiting to hear back from the industry on amendments we have requested. Absent those being added to the bill, we strongly oppose [SB 380](#) in its current form.

This week, the House Local Government Committee recommend three bills favorably for passage: [HB 2509](#) dealing with the City of Americus, [HB 2510](#) dealing with the voluntary consolidation of special districts into a city, and [HB 2583](#) which cleaned up the street vacating statutes. The Committee also recommended [HB 2600](#) involving contract for deed be referred to the Judicial Council.

Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee recommended [SB 338](#) dealing with timing of municipal budgets favorably for passage. On Friday the committee voted not to send [SB 260](#) on municipal recounts out of Committee.

The House Commerce Committee held a hearing on [HB 2529](#), STAR Bond renewal, on Monday. The League will continue to work on this issue, but it is not anticipated to be worked before turnaround.

House Commerce heard [HB 2703](#) on Wednesday. After the hearing, it was clear the bill did not do what the proponents wanted. Much of the testimony centered around preemption of cities banning natural gas. It is anticipated the bill will be worked Monday, February 24.

House Judiciary Committee heard two bills involving officer-involved death investigation [HB 2424](#) and [HB 2667](#). It is likely these bills will be recommended to the Judicial Council.

House Judiciary is anticipated to be working [HB 2461](#) on Monday. This is the Public Litigation Coordination Act. The League opposed the bill in its original format. The League continues to work with stakeholders so, if it is the will of the Legislature that this policy be passed, cities interests are protected.

[HB 2563](#), a bill that would increase the minimum age to purchase or possess cigarettes and tobacco products from 18 to 21, was recommended favorably as amended by the House Federal and State Affairs Committee. The primary function of this bill is to ensure that state law reflects the change made to federal law in December and give state officials the ability to enforce the increased age requirement. An amendment to remove local control on this issue was defeated in committee, but we expect additional efforts as the bill moves through the process.

[SB 362](#), the fireworks bill, was recommended favorably as amended on Monday of this past week. The amendments to the bill retained the state-wide ban on bottle rockets and extended the state defined season for fireworks to more closely match with neighboring states. The ability for cities to define the fireworks season for retailers as a different date range than that listed in the bill was retained.

The Medicaid expansion bill, [SB 252](#), which started out this session with 22 co-sponsors and high hopes, failed to make it out of committee.

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

AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

The AARP Community Challenge provides small grants to fund "quick-action" projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages. Applications are being accepted for projects to improve housing, transportation, public space, technology ("smart cities"), civic engagement and more.

The information about this program is [on-line at AARP's website](#). Please note, applications are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on April 1, 2020.





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NOMINATE YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS FOR AAKC AWARD

The Administrative Assistants of Kansas Cities (AAKC) was formed from a desire to promote and improve proficiency of its members and public administration in Kansas, and provide a network of information, ideas, and support to its members. To be a member of AAKC, someone must work directly with the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Department Head, Administrator, or Supervisor in the position of Administrative Assistant or Secretary; and may serve a joint position within City Government such as City Clerk, City Treasurer, etc.

Each year AAKC takes applications for the Administrative Professional of the Year Award, which is given at the Spring Conference in April. Do you have someone in your City, who is a member of AAKC, that is deserving of the Nancy Crain Administrative Professional of the Year Award?

To be eligible for this award, nominees must be a member of AAKC for five years and employed in an administrative, secretarial, clerical, or related position for at least 5 years with the same municipality. A four-member panel of judges rates the nominees based on service and contribution to the AAKC organization, contributions to their profession, contributions to their community or municipal government, and professional development, education, and training.

The *nomination form is available online*. Please submit form to *Denise Duerksen* by e-mail or by mail, City of Newton, PO Box 426, Newton, Kansas 67114 by March 13, 2020. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact Denise with questions.



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.

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.

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.

