



THE LEAGUE *News*

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PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

There has been a lot of conversation over the past few weeks about pandemics, communicable diseases, and emergency planning. We're putting together a webinar for cities (and local governments) to discuss some issues you should be thinking about if your cities had to react to a public health emergency.

The webinar will be held on Tuesday, March 10 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The webinar is free of charge.

Register for the webinar [at our website](#).

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

This week was “Turnaround” in the legislature. Except for bills from exempt committees, legislation had to have passed from the chamber which originated it by Thursday, February 27 or it is considered dead for the session. Bills from exempt committees, or bills that have at some point been in an exempt committee, are considered “blessed” and not subject to deadlines. Legislators are on break until next Wednesday and then will only have a little over three weeks to wrap up most of their work for the session.

SB 294 passed out of the Senate this week, and three amendments were added to bill. The first amendment requires the payments made for the costs of the notice to be paid by December 31 to the County Clerk. The second amendment changes the exemption for small taxing entities from \$25,000 to \$5,000. The third amendment eliminates the requirement to publish the notice of the truth-in-taxation hearing in the official county newspaper.

The Senate considered two additional amendments. The first would have added an exemption for new construction and the second would have added an exemption for tax increases under the CPI rate of inflation. Both of those amendments failed on votes that were not recorded.

The League will continue to work with stakeholders as the bill moves to the House. We expect a hearing in the next couple of weeks in the *House Taxation Committee*. The League will be looking at specific changes that are needed to improve the legislation before it becomes law.

SB 338 dealing with budget timing was passed out by the *Senate Ethics, Election, and Local Government Committee*. However, the bill was referred to the *Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee* so the bill can be compared with *SB 294* to ensure that the two bills work in concert.

HB 2625 was not debated by the House this week but was “blessed.” The legislation pre-empts cities from enacting any ordinances banning plastic products and voiding any ordinances that have been enacted. We have several cities that have been working on some type of plastic ban – all focused on single-use bags, to date. No city, to our knowledge, has enacted any such ordinance. The committee placed a five-year sunset on the legislation, suggesting that a) the legislature will want to revisit this issue and b) encouraging interested parties to search for a solution.

The House approved *HB 2618*, 120-5. The legislation establishes a grant program to expand broadband accessibility in the state. The program initially would be funded via \$5 million from the new transportation program. Projects with a commitment from the applicant to fund at least 50% of the project from sources other than broadband grant funds is required as part of the application. 2021 would be the first year funds would be awarded.

The Senate passed *SB 380*, 31-8. It now heads to the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee. The bill purports to put cables “micro wireless facilities” (also called “strand mounted facilities”) on a level playing field with the larger facilities being installed by wireless telecommunications carriers.

In reality, the legislation grants cable companies (“video service providers”) different rights and



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



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES (CONTINUED)

greatly limits municipalities' ability to require any fee or application for the placement of micro wireless facilities. Furthermore, *SB 380* does not make explicitly clear that cable companies would have to abide by the right-of-way and zoning requirements of other entities in the right-of-way – including the wireless telecom companies they say they are seeking “parity” with.

For more in-depth talking points on the bill, please [visit our website](#). The League believes it is critical that the legislation explicitly state the responsibilities of cable companies when it comes to micro wireless facilities and the service provided. Additionally, there must be a provision clarifying the special treatment for micro wireless facilities will not be used by other right of way users to claim they are not being treated in a “competitively neutral” manner.

Please visit with your House representatives on this bill, particularly if they serve on the *House Committee* considering the bill. We saw in the Senate that contact from city representatives really has an impact!

On Wednesday, *HB 2509* dealing with the vacation of certain blocks in the original town plat in the City of Americus was advanced from the House 122-3. *HB 2510*, brought by the League, creates a universal statute allowing for the voluntary dissolution of special districts into cities when it is in the best interest of both entities was advanced from the House 122-3. *HB 2583*, a bill brought by the League to clean up certain statutory language regarding street vacating, was advanced from the House 124-1. If you have any questions on these bills, please contact General Counsel [Amanda Stanley](#).

HB 2461, the Public Litigation Coordination Act, was blessed by the House and remains alive post turnaround. The League opposed the bill in its original format. The League continues to work with stakeholders so, that if it is the will of the Legislature that this policy be passed, cities interests are protected. If you have questions, please contact [Amanda Stanley](#).

SB 58 granting immunity from civil liability to the person who files a grand jury petition will be heard in House Judiciary at 3:30 pm on Wednesday March 4.

Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government will have a hearing on *SB 406* creating the Sedgwick county charter commission and *SB 423* establishing the Sedgwick county urban nuisance abatement act on Thursday March 5 at 9:30 am.

SB 456 will have a hearing on Thursday March 5 at 10:30 a.m. in *Senate Federal and State Affairs*. This bill would allow cities to change the start time for Sunday sales of liquor from noon to 9:00 a.m. Cities would not be required to change the start time or allow Sunday sales if they do not already. If the bill passes and a city wanted to move their start time up, they would be required to pass a new ordinance, using the procedure laid out in current statute, to set the new time.

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

COMING SOON!

THE LEAGUE'S BIENNIAL SURVEY OF PERSONNEL PRACTICES, SALARIES, AND FRINGE BENEFITS SURVEY WILL OPEN SOON. THE SURVEY WILL BE SENT TO CITIES EARLY NEXT WEEK. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE IT, PLEASE CHECK YOUR E-MAIL JUNK FOLDER. IF YOU DON'T RECEIVE IT, PLEASE E-MAIL LEAGUE MANAGEMENT INTERN SYDNEY BANNISTER AT INTERN@LKM.ORG.

AS A REMINDER, IF YOUR CITY PARTICIPATES IN THIS SURVEY, YOU RECEIVE THE DATA FREE OF CHARGE. THIS IS EXCELLENT INFO TO HAVE ON HAND WHEN DETERMINING SALARY RANGES, BENEFIT TRENDS, AND COMPETITIVE SALARY PRACTICES.



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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 13, 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.

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.



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.

