**Legislative Session Updates**

**Property Tax/Truth-in-Taxation** - SB 13 will be worked on Tuesday in the House Tax Committee, major items still to be worked out include the implementation date, the formula for division of the cost of notices, and an amendment that would add for-profit health clubs to this list of organizations that are exempt from property tax. Please contact your legislators and tell them to vote against the amendment from Genesis Health Clubs. If you have questions about this legislation, please contact Deputy Director Trey Cocking.

**Energy Source Pre-emption** - The Senate Utilities Committee took testimony on SB 24 this week and will debate the bill next Tuesday. The bill would preempt cities from enacting any ordinance, code, or other binding action which would impact the energy choice of a resident or business. The League testified in opposition to the legislation, noting that constitutional home rule is for cities to make such decisions in reflection of their residents’ preferences. The committee appears fairly disposed to passing the legislation. We are working to ensure SB 24 would not impact cities’ energy choices for their own buildings nor jeopardize and aspect of franchise agreements. If you have questions about this legislation, please contact Executive Director Erik Sartorius.

**Property Tax Abatement** - SB 23 deals with the forgiveness of property taxes after a natural disaster. We are concerned that this bill will adversely affect cities because of their compact geographical nature, and that cities will not be able to fund police, fire or rebuild the city. We are asking the committee to allow cities to opt-out their portion if more than 25% of the city is damaged by a natural disaster. The hearing on the bill is Tuesday, February 2 at 9:30 a.m. in Senate Assessment and Taxation. If you have questions about this legislation, please contact Deputy Director Trey Cocking.

**Market Place Facilitators** - SB 50 a bill that is sponsored by the Kansas Chamber and would require third party marketplace facilitators to collect and remit sales tax if they have over $100,000 in sales. The bill would also require that they collect the 911 fees and transient guest tax. The hearing on the bill is Wednesday, February 3 at 9:30 in Senate Assessment and Taxation. If you have questions about this legislation, please contact Deputy Director Trey Cocking.

**Countywide Sales Tax** - Another bill to be aware of SB 87 that was introduced this week. The bill would shift all county-wide sales tax collected under the general distribution formula from cities and deposit those funds directly with the county. The county could then enter into a interlocal agreement to share those funds with cities in the county or just keep those funds. We are concerned that based on state FY 2019 that this would result in over $264 million dollars going from cities to counties. If you have questions about this legislation, please contact Deputy Director Trey Cocking.

A weekly Legislative Activities calendar is available online.
**Govapalooza Event for Local Government Officials**

The Kansas Association of City-County Managers and the League has partnered with the Alliance for Innovation to bring you Govapalooza, March 1-5, 2021.

Not only will Govapalooza feature Headliners like Steve Wozniak, but we will also have exciting and valuable sessions hosted by Partners from across North America. While each Partner brings a unique lens and expertise to the field of Local Government, to help you find what you are looking for, we have organized Govapalooza around four Themes for 2021.

*Equity & Inclusion | Public Safety | Economic Recovery | Climate & Environment*

ANY local government official is encouraged to register & attend this exciting virtual conference. **Click here** for the full Govapalooza Program! Want a discount? Use one of the codes (either KACM or LKM) to receive a $100 discount on your registration.

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**New Ike Transportation Plan Website**

The Kansas Department of Transportation announced a new website for the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation (IKE) Program. This is a new source for information about the 10-year transportation program. The website is part of KDOT’s commitment to transparency and accountability. Kansans can check in on the status of transportation projects, including the remaining T-WORKS projects that KDOT is working to complete. It will keep track of our status toward meeting our goals for preservation, expansion and modernization spending and our progress toward delivering at least $8 million in transportation projects in every county in Kansas.

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**Check out the League’s NEWLY REVISED 7th Grade Essay Contest! Open to All 7th Graders in Kansas!**

The League invites all Kansas 7th graders to join our essay contest! **Tell us what makes your city your ‘home.’**

**Deadline for Submissions is April 30, 2021.**

**Contest Rules & Instructions: www.lkm.org/essaycontest**
BREAKING DOWN THE PROPERTY TAX DOLLAR

From police officers who protect and serve to overseeing snow removal on roads and bridges, property taxes are a necessary investment for all Kansas communities. Here’s an average example of how property taxes are distributed across the state:

On average, municipalities receive about 18 cents of every property tax dollar. Examples of where the money goes:

- **Maintaining a Qualified Workforce**: Local government is a hands-on industry, requiring cities to deal with common concerns of retained qualified employees to serve as code enforcers, engineers, and laborers. Oftentimes, municipal employees earn less than their private sector counterparts. Cities may struggle in retaining needed and qualified employees.

- **Filling Potholes and Fixing Roads**: In recent years, nearly 50% of the funding to maintain the local road system has been generated entirely from local governments’ budgets. Even maintaining one mile of our local roads can cost about $9,493.

- **Emergency Response**: New fire trucks can cost anywhere from $500,000 to $1.2 million, which in some communities would be most of the property tax revenue collected by the city. Alternatively, the cost of a new police car could range anywhere, on average, from $30,000 to $50,000 depending on the emergency response and communication technology that is incorporated within the vehicle.

Source:
2 www.ksdot.org/Assets/wwwksdotorg/pdf/QuickFacts.pdf