



THE LEAGUE *News*

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We are beginning our preparations for the **2021 League Annual Conference**, scheduled for October 9 through 11 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel/Maner Conference Center & Stormont Vail Events Center in Topeka.

At this time, it is our intent to hold an in-person conference with possible modifications. As you are keenly aware, the situation is still very fluid in terms of the pandemic, and we are currently working with Visit Topeka and watching the progression of the vaccine as we work through our planning efforts. We will continue to keep a close eye on the situation, with updates being made on this page in the coming months.

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WEBINAR: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

The Kansas Office of Recovery will offer two webinars next week to discuss guidance and information about the newly passed legislation, the American Rescue Plan. Cities and counties are encouraged to attend one of the webinars on either Tuesday, March 16 at 3:00 p.m. OR Wednesday, March 17 at 10:30 a.m. The Office of Recovery is estimating the webinars to last between 60 and 90 minutes long.



The American Rescue Plan was signed into law this week. Among other provisions, it provides funding to all states with Kansas receiving approximately \$1.568 billion. Cities are set to receive \$424 million and counties will receive \$565 million. Cities over 50,000 population and counties will receive funds directly from the U.S. Treasury within 60 days. For cities under 50,000 population, the funds will go to the state and be distributed within 60 days. The state has 30 days to distribute the funds.

Access the [webinar online](#).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Property Tax Transparency (SB 13) – The Senate concurred 30-5 with the amendments that were made by the House. The House had previously amended the bill to remove all of the exemptions in the bill except for the 1.5 mills levied by the State of Kansas. The amendment also included language that would require the State to pay for the printing and mailing of statements for the first two years that they are required. The bill now goes to the Governor for her approval or veto. Please contact [Trey Cocking](#) with any questions.

STAR Bonds – SB 124 will be heard in the [House Commerce Committee](#) on Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. The bill was amended on the Senate floor to state that no state or local government official shall benefit financially either directly or indirectly. We have concerns with this language, since it could prevent a city council member who is a doctor from treating a patient that was injured at STAR bond project or and it would also prevent the successful completion of a STAR bond project from being used as an evaluation item for a City Manager. Please contact [Trey Cocking](#) with any questions.

Rural Hospitals - HB 2174 establishes the Rural Hospital Innovation grant program and grant fund, funded by a \$10,000,000 transfer from the state general fund. The grant program runs for four years. Every \$2.00 of private stakeholder funding is matched by \$1.00 of state moneys. Private stakeholders donating to the grant fund may specify a recipient county (but not a particular hospital). Eligible counties apply to the secretary of health and environment for grants. The aim is to increase access to rural healthcare services in eligible counties, and to enable rural hospitals to better serve their communities' needs. The hearing will be Tuesday at 1:30 pm in the House Health and Human Services Committee. Please contact [Wendi Stark](#) with any questions.

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



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Rural Emergency Hospital Act - SB 175, the Rural Emergency Hospital Act, will be considered in the House Health and Human Services Committee at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16. Under the new licensing in this act, the rural emergency hospital would be open to the community 24 hours a day, every day of the year and would concentrate on the delivery of preventative and primary care for rural communities, with telemedicine services and the ability to coordinate care for an individual when higher levels of service, such as in-patient care, are required. Importantly, licensure under this act would align a Kansas rural hospital with the requirements for reimbursement under federal healthcare programs available to rural emergency rural hospitals as laid out in the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. The innovative arrangements envisioned under SB 175 for rural emergency hospitals provide an option for rural hospitals that is badly needed. Please contact Wendi Stark with any questions.

A weekly *legislative calendar* is available for review.

2021

MTI

MUNICIPAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

A Program of The League

April 16

Municipal Finance

Virtual

Register today at:
www.lkm.org/events

STATE HISTORIC SOCIETY SURVEY ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Kansas State Historic Society Office of Historic Preservation wants to learn more about your historic preservation experiences! Why is preservation important to you (or not)? What are some of the preservation challenges facing your community? This is your opportunity to have your say in the future of preservation in Kansas. *Take the survey*, then share it with your contact list. We want to hear from ALL Kansans - regardless of past preservation experience - so we can create a preservation program that is worthy of ALL the communities that make the Sunflower State great.

LAWRENCE
June 18-19
SAVE THE DATE!

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
&
KANSAS MAYORS CONFERENCE

2021
More information about the Leadership Summit and Kansas Mayors Conference is available at:
www.lkm.org/LeadershipSummit

Sponsored by: League of Kansas Municipalities & Kansas Mayors Association



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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



MAYOR OF THE YEAR

Nominations are now being accepted for the Mayor of the Year Award! The Mayor of the Year award was first established in 2001 and serves to honor mayors who have served their communities and contributed to the well-being of cities. It is now time to nominate a deserving mayor for this award. If your community has a mayor that has done selfless hours of community service. If your mayor has showed countless constituents how dedicated they are to their community, then please take the time to complete the nomination form and write a short one-page letter listing their accomplishments.

Nominations will be accepted until May 4, 2021. Get all the information on how to submit on our website. The winner will be announced at Leadership Summit & Mayors Conference June 18-19 in Lawrence. Contact Tami Martin with any questions concerning the Mayor of the Year Nomination.

Also, the Kansas Mayors Association (KMA) is seeking nominations for their Board of Directors. Current mayors can self-nominate or be nominated by another KMA member to any eligible seat. Voting will take place at the Leadership Summit & Kansas Mayors Conference on Friday, June 18th, in Lawrence. Each position serves a term of one year. For more information please visit www.lkm.org/ksmayors.

