



THE LEAGUE *News*

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AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

The American Rescue Plan and the resulting funding for Kansas local governments is an issue we're focusing on at the League. We created a web page where we will collect resources for cities regarding the ARP. View the latest information at www.lkm.org/ARP2021.



We are beginning our preparations for the **2021 League Annual Conference**, scheduled for October 9 through 11 in Topeka.

At this time, it is our intent to hold an in-person conference with possible modifications. Visit our [event web page](#) for updates on the Annual Conference.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

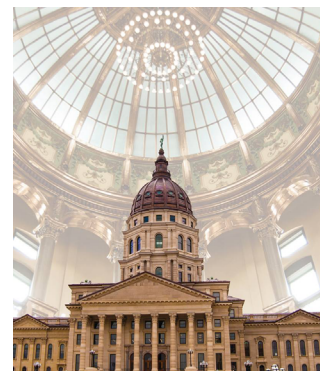
The legislature is currently adjourned until Tuesday, April 6. Here's a recap of legislative events this past week:

Property Tax Transparency - *SB 13* was signed and approved last week by Governor Kelly. *HB 2104* is the trailer bill to SB 13 that has the new dates of July 20 to submit notice to exceed the tax neutral rate to the county clerk, August 20 to September 20 to have hearings, and October 1 deadline to submit it to the County Clerk. The Senate passed the conference committee report yesterday, and it will now go to the House. The conference committee did delete the renewal of the 20 mills from the bill, and it caused some heartburn in the Senate. The renewal of the 20 mills is in several other spots, KASB didn't seem worried at the conference committee.

Unemployment Mega Bill - *HB 2196* was passed by the Senate 40-0, the bill is likely headed to committee. The bill obligates \$250 million in ARP funds, and an additional \$250 million if the funds need that amount because of fraudulent payments.

Redistribution of the Countywide Sales Tax - *SB 87* is below the line in the Senate. Please contact your Senators and ask them not to support the bill. The bill was amended in committee to be prospective only and give counties the ability to levy a general Countywide Sales Tax with 100% of the proceeds going to the county. We are concerned that this will damage city and county relations across Kansas if counties look to change the existing general sales tax through a ballot questions.

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



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**THIS CLASS WILL DISCUSS SB 13
AND THE CHANGES THIS NEW
LEGISLATION WILL HAVE ON
MUNICIPAL BUDGETING.**



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STAR Bonds - [SB 124](#), was passed by the Senate 30-9, and is now headed to the Governor, and she is expected to sign it. The bill continues the program for an addition five years and sets a minimum project size of \$75 million in the Metro Areas, \$40 million in Manhattan, and then \$3,000,000 for the rest of the State. The bill also has additional transparency measures and safeguards and prohibits a city or state official from being employed by the developer of a STAR Bonds Project or the Project Manager.

Rural Housing Incentive Districts - [SB 90](#) is an expansion of the program that allows for the construction costs of renovating second floor downtown buildings into housing. It also will allow Rural Housing Incentive Districts (RHID) in any city with a population less than 60,000 with the permission of the Secretary of Commerce.

COVID-19 Claims - [SB 286](#) is still in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The proponents had agreed to an amendment that would make significant changes to the bill. The bill would require counties and cities that restricted business operations to set aside 25% of the funds from the American Recovery Plan to cover the cost of claims as adjudicated by the Attorney General. As agreed by the proponents, the bill would only impact cities with a mask ordinance if they are in place after May 31 and require a business to enforce the ordinance.

Property Tax Relief for Businesses with Restrictions - [SB 149](#) was amended in the Senate Tax Committee to be prospective only. However, the committee started to discuss making the bill retroactive, and either setting up a property tax income tax rebate program, and potentially retroactively making local units of government pay the costs to rebate property taxes. The Senate Taxation Committee is meeting on Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. and is planning on working the bill.

Americus Street Vacation - The House concurred to Senate changes to [HB 2178](#) regarding the City of Americus and street vacating. The bill is off to the Governor.

Library Donations - The Senate passed [HB 2238](#) eliminating the donation limitation on donations to city libraries. The bill is off to the Governor.

Opioid Litigation - The House passed [HB 2412](#) with the changes requested by cities. This bill establishes a process for the distribution of state funds received from opioid litigation. This bill has not been taken up by the Senate.

Speedy Trials - [HB 2078](#) suspending statutory speedy trial rights until May 1, 2023 was signed by the Governor.

There is not a legislative calendar for next week.

KANSAS EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Earlier this month, KRHC launched the Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance (KERA) program, the largest initiative in our corporation's history. Funded by the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, KERA provides rent, utility, and internet assistance to Kansas renters financially impacted by the COVID pandemic.

Who is eligible?

Applicants who meet all of the following criteria may qualify for KERA assistance:

- Tenant rents their home.
- Tenant's 2020 household income did not exceed 80 percent of their area's median income.
- At least one member of the tenant household is experiencing documented financial hardship as a result of the COVID pandemic. Hardship may include loss of employment, reduction in household income, or significant COVID-related expenses (medical bills, personal protective equipment, child care costs, equipment or internet costs to enable online work/schooling, etc.).
- Tenant resides in Kansas but outside Wichita. Wichita residents may apply for assistance through the Wichita Emergency Rental Assistance Program (WERAP), administered by the City of Wichita.

Visit the Kansas [Housing Resources Corporation website](#) for full details.

