Statement of Municipal Policy

The League's Statement of Municipal Policy (SMP) is revised each year to reflect the League's advocacy goals and priorities for the upcoming legislative session. Our members develop the policy through an established process each fall.

We believe the prosperity of the State of Kansas is absolutely dependent upon the prosperity of our cities. Over 83% of Kansans live in an incorporated city. In an effort to promote healthy and sustainable communities, the elected and appointed city officials of Kansas establish these priorities to clearly communicate our legislative policy annually. Read the SMP in full on our website.

Opioid Settlement Funds

In 2021, the Kansas Legislature passed the Kansas Fights Addiction Act (HB 2079) to govern the distribution of settlement funds to the state from opioid producers and distributors. Pursuant to this legislation, local governments will be receiving 25% of settlement funds.

Visit our website for an explanation of the legislation, requirements for participation, and resources to make sure your city can receive settlement funds!

John Goodyear, General Counsel, is the League’s contact for the opioid settlement process.

MTI on Ethics & Civility Date Change, Video Option Added

We had to make a date change for our upcoming MTI on Ethics and Civility. The date of the LIVE webinar will now be Wednesday, December 8 from 6-9 p.m. (originally scheduled for Thursday, December 9). We apologize for the change but we don’t want this to affect your attendance so we’re offering some additional options for this course to ensure that anyone who wants to attend should be able to get this important information for local government officials. We’re offering the following as options for local government officials to attend:

1. Registration for the course stays the same. If you’ve already registered, you should have received a webinar invite from Zoom in your email. The same link will get you access to the MTI on December 8 from 6-9 p.m.

2. We will now offer a video copy of the MTI to any registered attendee – if you can’t make the December 8 date, you’ll get a copy of the webinar to watch at your convenience.

3. Also, if you have multiple local government officials who want to attend, we are now offering a discount rate of $35/per registrant if your city has three or more registered attendees. You can register your whole council/commission to participate and watch the video.

4. Register for this webinar online.
EMERGENCY WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Have you or your water customers been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic that has caused drinking water and wastewater bills to go unpaid? The Emergency Water Assistance Program (EWAP) is a federally funded program that is being administered for Kansas residents by the Kansas Department for Children and Families.

The program's sole focus is to restore or prevent disconnection of water to Kansas households. Kansas was awarded $9 million to pay past due and/or disconnected drinking water and/or wastewater bills for Kansas households earning less than 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Once the funding is exhausted, the program will end.

Kansans may apply for this one-time benefit beginning Dec. 1. DCF is required to pay public water utility vendors directly on behalf of qualifying households. Water vendors partnership is essential to making timely payments. They are encouraged to submit requested documentation as soon as possible. View the EWAP website for full details.

KANSAS HOUSING STUDY RELEASED

A year-long comprehensive statewide housing needs assessment—the first of its kind undertaken in 27 years—is nearing completion, and Kansans are invited to learn about preliminary findings in a series of regional community meetings. The study identifies current housing needs and growth opportunities, including goals to guide the state's future housing development efforts.

The survey and analysis included a series of 71 virtual and in-person listening sessions with more than 425 community participants across the state, as well as meetings with housing stakeholder groups. Consultants conducted a statewide survey of more than 4,400 respondents and analyzed census data to develop a comprehensive picture of the state's housing needs, current resources, and growth opportunities. These findings revealed several key goals to address future housing needs:

- Prioritize middle income housing
- Diversify housing stock
- Extend housing security
- Reinvest in older housing stock, including vacant units
- Address the building trades labor shortage
- Extend existing human capital resources

Kansans are encouraged to learn more about the study's results and how their communities can expand housing opportunities by participating in upcoming regional sessions or a virtual session.

NOTARY LAW REVISIONS

During the 2021 legislative session, the Kansas Legislature approved Senate Bill 106 - legislation to implement the Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts and make key changes to Kansas notary law. The new law takes effect on January 1, 2022.

Senate Bill 106 makes the following changes:

- Permits remote online notarization
- Requires use of notary journal
- Increases the surety bond for a new or renewing notary
- Expands the beneficial interest provision

For resources regarding remote notarization, notary appointment, or notary duties and responsibilities, please visit sos.ks.gov or email Notary@ks.gov.