



THE LEAGUE *News*

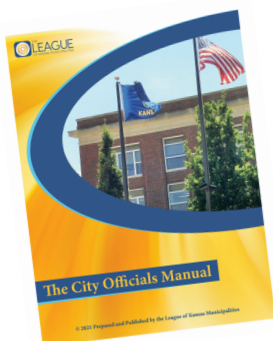
VOLUME 26 | NUMBER 5 | February 5, 2021

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LEGISLATIVE GUIDE

Our *2021 Legislative Guide* is online for reference. In the guide, you will find contact information for state and federal officials.



COMING SOON!
THE CITY OFFICIALS
MANUAL! ARRIVING IN
LATE FEBRUARY!

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATES

Transparency in Property Taxes - *SB 13*, was not worked this week in *House Taxation* as parties continue to work on amendments to the bill; we expect the bill to be worked on Tuesday, February 9. Two major amendments are expected at this point in time: 1. An amendment to allow the bill to go into effect this year without the detailed mailing to every property tax owner. 2. An amendment to exempt property taxes on gyms and health clubs. Please contact your legislators and urge them to oppose the amendment to exempt property taxes for gyms and health clubs. If you have any questions please contact *Trey Cocking*.

STAR Bonds Renewal - *SB 124* will be heard on Tuesday, February 9 in the *Senate Commerce Committee* will hear a bill that will extend the STAR Bond program for five years, and would add the ability for small, rural cities to take advantage of the program. The League will be testifying in support of the bill. If you have any questions please contact *Trey Cocking*.

Refund of Property Taxes - On Tuesday, February 9, the *House Taxation Committee* will hear *HB 2142* which would allow business that have been shut down during the pandemic to seek a refund in their property taxes from their county. The county would be required to issue the refund based on a formula from the County General Fund. Right now the bill does not seek reimbursement from other taxing entities, however, the county would be on the hook for the entire amount. If you have any questions please contact *Trey Cocking*.

Distribution of Countywide Sales Tax - *SB 87* would fundamentally alter the formula that has been law since 1978 on the distribution of the general purpose countywide sales tax. The bill would result in 100% of the tax going to the county instead of the current formula that divides the revenue between the county and cities in the county. The bill would result in \$271 million dollars being redistributed from cities to counties. Please contact your Senator and ask them not to support this bill. In addition, **we need testimony** from cities across Kansas, please submit testimony to *Tami Martin* (tmartin@lkm.org) by 3:00 pm on Tuesday. If you have any questions please contact *Trey Cocking*.

Energy Source Preemption - The *Senate Utilities Committee* passed *SB 24* on to the full Senate where it was debated this week. The bill passed 27-10. 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 committee narrowed the bill to only include natural gas. The League continues to work with proponents 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 *Erik Sartorius*.

Special District Consolidation - Multiple local government bills brought by the League had hearings this week. *HB 2177* creates a new and innovative process to allow the voluntary, grassroots consolidation of special districts into cities and counties, was heard in *House Local Government Committee* on Wednesday, February 3. This bill was originally brought in the 2020 legislative session but it unfortunately was lost when Session abruptly ended. If you have any questions please contact *Amanda Stanley*. We are hopeful the Senate version of this bill, *SB 118*, will be heard this week.

More legislative updates on page 2....



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Comprehensive Unemployment Bill - [HB 2196](#) updates the employment security law to create council on the modernization of the unemployment moderation, makes changes to the unemployment formulas, deals with fraudulent claims, and makes other changes to the unemployment system. The [House Commerce Committee](#) will be having two days of hearings on the bill next week. If you have any questions please contact [Trey Cocking](#).

Speedy Trials - This week the [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) heard [SB 57](#), a bill to suspend statutory speedy trials. This is the Senate version of a bill heard last week ([HB 2078](#)) and would suspend statutory requirements until May 1, 2024 in all criminal cases filed prior to the effective date of this act and eliminating such rights in any criminal case filed on or after the effective date of this act. If you have any questions please contact [Amanda Stanley](#).

False Liens - Also this week the [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) heard [SB 58](#) which would prohibit the filing of false liens against public officials. The League testified in support of this bill. It was recommended favorably out of committee and now sits on the Senate Calendar. If you have questions on this legislation, contact [John Goodyear](#).

Identifying Information - The [House Judiciary Committee](#) recommended [HB 2096](#) favorably for passage this week. The bill would establish a process for municipal court employees to have identifying information restricted from public websites. The League offered testimony in support of this bill when it was heard, focusing on the potential to eliminate the risks associated with having this information readily available. The bill now sits on the House Calendar. If you have questions on this legislation, contact [John Goodyear](#).

Vacancy During Military Leave - [HB 2090](#) in the House of Representatives with a 125-0 vote count. This bill creates a temporary vacancy filling process for elected officials when deployed on military leave. If you have questions on this legislation, contact [John Goodyear](#).

Tracking/Surveillance Devices - [HB 2025](#) had a hearing in [House Fed and State](#) this week and the League testified in opposition to the bill. As written, this legislation would limit the ability of all law enforcement agencies in the state to enter agreements with the owner or operator of a utility pole to place tracking devices on the pole, requiring that the agency obtain a warrant prior to entering the agreement. Our testimony focused on the potential breadth of application of the bill and voiced concerns that it could be used to limit the general monitoring or surveillance used by local law enforcement to keep our communities safe. If you have questions on this legislation, contact [John Goodyear](#).

Street Vacations - Also heard on Wednesday in [House Local Government](#) was the [HB 2178](#). This is another bill brought by the League. The goal of this bill is simple - make the statutory language regarding vacations understandable. The Senate version of this bill, [SB 88](#) was also heard in the [Senate Local Government Committee](#) on Tuesday morning. If you have any questions please contact [Amanda Stanley](#).

Rural Hospitals - [HB 2174](#) establishes a rural hospital innovation grant program on a matching funding basis. A hearing is planned for next week in the [House Appropriations Committee](#). ago allowed for the creation of a new payment/delivery model for rural hospitals...the "Rural Emergency Hospital".

A [weekly legislative calendar](#) is available to review.

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

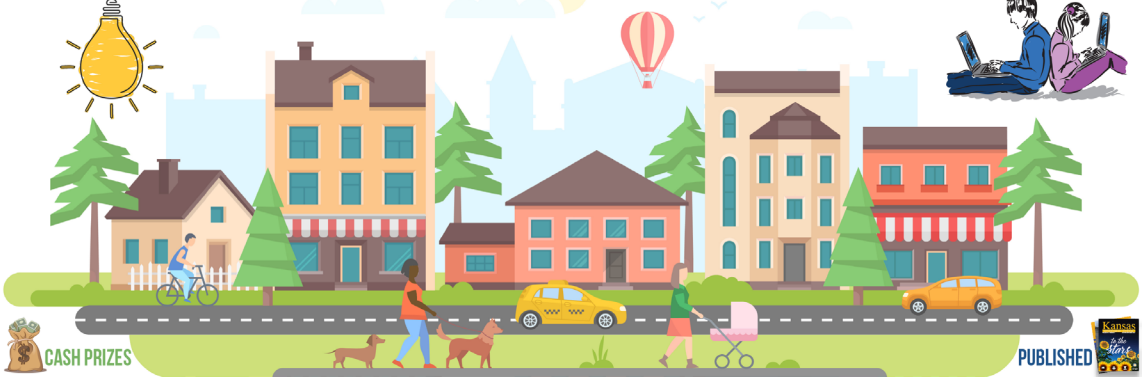
THE LEAGUE INVITES ALL KANSAS 7TH GRADERS TO JOIN OUR ESSAY CONTEST!

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CASH PRIZES

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GOVPALOOZA EVENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

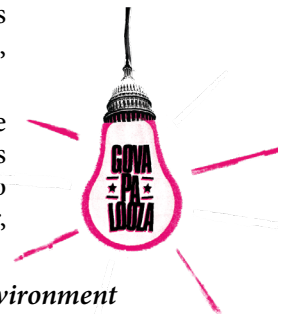
The Kansas Association of City-County Managers and the League has partnered with the Alliance for Innovation to bring you Govapalooza, March 1-5, 2021.

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*.



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.

