Legislative Session Underway

Property Tax - The Senate moved rapidly this week to introduce, hear, and approve SB 13, a bill requiring a new notice and hearing process as part of local governments’ annual budgeting. The bill passed the Senate 34-1 on Thursday, January 14. Surprisingly, it will now have a hearing in the House Taxation Committee next Wednesday, January 20. The underlying concept is similar to SB 294/HB 2702 from 2020, which was vetoed by Gov. Kelly. Primarily, if a city intends to collect an additional $.01 in property taxes in its budget, it will have to perform an additional notice and hearing process. Significant changes exist, however, including increased transparency for all local government (not just cities and counties). As with HB 2702, the property tax lid for local governments would be removed.

The League testified as neutral on this legislation in the Senate and offered amendments. One was adopted there and we will be taking the other concepts to the House for consideration. If you have questions about this legislation, please contact Trey Cocking at tcocking@lkm.org.

Extending Certain Provisions of the Governmental Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic - SB 14 passed the Senate Chambers on Thursday. SB 14 would ratify and continue in existence the state of disaster emergency until March 31, 2021. The bill would also amend the state to extend from 2020 through 2021 a provision prohibiting the Governor from proclaiming a new state of disaster emergency related to COVID-19 without approval by at least six legislative members of the State Finance Council. Additionally, the bill extends cities liability protection until March 31. HB 2048 is similar to SB 14 but not identical. Extensions for the Emergency Disaster last until March 5, 2021 and the liability protections last until December 31, 2021. SB 14 has been scheduled for a hearing in House Judiciary at 3:30 on Tuesday, January 19. Contact General Counsel Amanda Stanley with questions on this legislation.

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. As we begin 2021, local government organizations and professionals have never been under greater stress. In response to this challenge, a diverse coalition of committed partners has come together to create an antidote for these difficult times – a beacon in the night to inspire and support the local government community – TLG Govapalooza!

This massive virtual festival will feature world-class thought leaders (including Apple Co-Founder Steve Wozniak!), local government legends, and next-gen talent you won't want to miss. Think of it as a virtual SXSW for local government – and those that are working closely with them to build a better future.

KACM & League members will get a discounted rate when you use the code KACM or LKM to register. More information can be found at [https://www.transformgov.org/govapalooza/](https://www.transformgov.org/govapalooza/)

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**KDOT Call for CCLIP Projects**

KDOT’s announced they are accepting projects for the City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP) for 2023 and 2024. For any questions, please contact Dawn Hueske at 785-207-1420 or [Dawn.Hueske@ks.gov](mailto:Dawn.Hueske@ks.gov). The deadline for submission is March 12.

View the [KDOT memo](https://www.transformgov.org/govapalooza/) and [program guidelines](https://www.transformgov.org/govapalooza/) on-line.

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**New Personnel Policies & Guidelines Manual Released**

Good personnel management is essential for the efficient and effective functioning of city government. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of productive, competent employees in achieving the city's goals and policies. Personnel administration can also be an effective tool in city management. This manual presents a model set of personnel policies and guidelines for Kansas cities with new information relating to infectious disease as well as a variety of other legal updates. Updated January, 2021.

*Order your copies online.*

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**Regional Report Outs**

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To receive League News directly, sign up on-line at [www.lkm.org/page/leagueneews](http://www.lkm.org/page/leagueneews)

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**Cases. Clusters. Capacity. How's Your Region?**

**Regional Report Outs**

Kansas HealthCare Regional Report Outs

**Schedule of Tuesday’s Calls:**
- Kansas City Metro 1:00 p.m.
- South Central 1:30 p.m.
- Northeast 2:00 p.m.
- North Central 2:30 p.m.
- Northwest 3:30 p.m.
- Southwest 4:00 p.m.
- Southeast 4:30 p.m.

Sign up to get e-mails with regional information or view the Regional Report Outs on YouTube at [https://covid.ks.gov/report-outs](https://covid.ks.gov/report-outs)