FCC Program for Schools & Libraries

The FCC’s Emergency Connectivity Fund is a $7.17 billion program that will help schools and libraries provide the tools and services their communities need for remote learning during the COVID-19 emergency period.

The Kansas Office of Recovery created a one-pager on the FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund, focused on helping schools and libraries purchase broadband equipment. The program opens June 29.

INFOGRAPHIC:

Legislation Requiring a Hearing to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate

Click Here

Kansas Mayor of the Year

The annual Mayor of the Year award was presented at the League’s Ladership Summit and Kansas Mayors Conference on June 18 in Lawrence. This year, Osawatomie Mayor Mark Govea was honored for his work on behalf of his community.

His nomination included the following testimonial on Mayor Govea’s efforts:

"Mayor L. Mark Govea is like most rural Kansas Mayors – he is an optimistic soul. Always seeing what could be and never dwelling on what did not work or could have been done differently. The glass is always “half-full” for Mayor Govea.

The world today wants to push us into taking sides and to pick winning over helping – Mayor Govea travels a different path. A path that says, “we all can make a difference in our cities and towns, and every life in our community is precious.” From our local mask mandate to cleaning up code violations in our community, Mayor Govea does not mind being the lonely leader that takes on the critics. If it is good for the people in his community, he is going to fight for it – no matter Republican or Democrat – no matter young or old.

Mayor Govea wants to see our residents’ hopes and dreams succeed. Just as there is no “I” in team, there’s no “I” in Mayor Govea’s approach to leading our community. As he would say, ‘we are all in this together – we either sink or swim together.’

It is that sense of togetherness and community spirit that brings Mayor Govea to every school ball game, every church social, every meeting of the minds. He is there with a smile on his face, a kind word, and his trusty camera slung around his neck. His photographs might be a trademark for him personally, but they are also an unsung gift to our community’s history, and we are very grateful for his dedication to our town and to our families. He truly believes that every story is an important one to tell, and that every voice matters.”

Congratulations Mayor Govea on being named Mayor of the Year 2021!
"My City, My Home" Essay Winners

On June 18, the League of Kansas Municipalities welcomed approximately 80 mayors and local elected officials to Lawrence for the League's Leadership Summit and Kansas Mayors Conference. The League also used this event as an opportunity to recognize six 7th graders for their participation in the League's annual essay contest. This year, hundreds of 7th graders submitted their thoughts for our annual “My City, My Home” essay contest, which asks students what they love about their community. This year, the League recognized Ella Prosser, a 7th grade student at Quinter Jr/Sr. High School, as the statewide winner. Ella’s memo represented the northwest region of Kansas. The contest recognizes five regional winners along with one overall statewide winner. Ella read her essay live and it can be viewed on YouTube.

The six regional winners in our "My City, My Home" Essay Contest are pictured above. (L-R): Kayla Gondoly, Colwich; Jimena Martinez, Olathe; Ella Prosser, Quinter; Mallory Dobrinski, Sylvan-Lucas; Bailey Welker, Scott City; and Brenna Sommers, Andover.

Broadband Availability and Access Survey

The Institute for Policy & Social Research (IPSR) at the University of Kansas is conducting a study on broadband access and affordability in Kansas. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of internet access for schools, households, health care, and the economy. Researchers at the University of Kansas are assessing the availability and quality of internet connections across the state. This survey and speed test are designed to gather data about the availability and speed of internet service in Kansas, including to identify locations that lack internet or broadband service. Take the survey.