

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES Friday, February 27, 2026

SUBMIT TESTIMONY: CONTACT SENATORS: Property Tax Legislation: [HB 2745](#) is a comprehensive property tax bill that passed the House 76-45 with several amendments and is set for hearing in the [Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee](#) on Tuesday, March 3.

We ask all members to submit testimony with their concerns and contact members of the Senate. Testimony is due NO LATER than Monday, March 2 at 9:00 a.m. to the [committee](#). The committee also asks for hard copies, which the League can deliver if provided by Sunday night. We also ask cities to consider testifying in person or via WebEx.

If you are not sure who your Senator is, [you can find them here](#).

The League has broad concerns with the overall structure and long-term impacts of HB 2745. Several amendments fundamentally changed the bill that creates problems for cities. The bill now does the following:

Petition Process to Approve Budgets

If a city is going to exceed a three percent cap of property tax revenue in its budget, then citizens have 30 days to complete a protest petition process. The petition requires signatures from only five percent of the individuals who voted in the most recent secretary of state election in that jurisdiction. The League believes this is too low of a threshold, particularly in smaller and rural communities.

Protection for Bonding, Debt, and Economic Development Tools

Bonding and debt obligations are excluded from the three percent property tax calculation. This is a critical protection for cities that have already committed to infrastructure projects, capital improvement plans, and public safety investments funded through general obligation or revenue bonds.

Additionally, incentive projects - including abatements and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts - are treated as new growth once they return to the tax rolls. Without this clarification, economic development tools could have been unintentionally penalized under the cap, while also risking city bond ratings.

No \$60 Million Relief Fund

HB 2745 originally created a \$60 million state fund intended to provide revenue support to taxing jurisdictions that remain within the three percent cap with a formula guaranteeing that taxing entities - including cities - received an allocation of funds. That provision was removed on the House floor. This fund created real property tax relief for cities, in cooperation with the state. The League believes it needs to be reinstated.

Replaces the Revenue Neutral Rate Framework

The bill moves away from the current revenue neutral rate system and imposes a statutory property tax revenue limit based on the prior year's collections, with limited growth allowed without additional procedural steps.

Maintain Taxpayer Notification Provisions

The bill continues mechanisms to ensure taxpayer transparency regarding proposed property tax increases.

SUBMIT TESTIMONY: CONTACT COMMITTEE MEMBERS: **By-Right Housing Development:** A hearing is set for Wednesday, March 4 on [SB 418](#), in [House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development](#), creating the By-Right Housing Development Act, which allows residential projects that comply with existing zoning rules to be automatically approved ("by-right") without discretionary reviews by planning boards or commissions. It would let developers use third-party reviewers and inspectors if city or county authorities don't act within 15 days. The legislation requires local governments to permit certain features of smaller single-family homes (under 3,000 square feet), such as single-car garages and specific building standards. Additionally, it would exclude owner-initiated rezoning to single-family districts from protest petition rules and effectively treat all land within city limits as zoned for single-family residential use, though reasonable local regulations could still apply.

Testimony must be submitted ***NO LATER*** that Tuesday, March 3 by 1:00 p.m. to commerce.labor.econ@house.ks.gov. The League generally opposes, but will be submitting amendments, so along with your concerns we ask you to stress that the committee accept amendments offered by cities and the League to make the bill more workable for cities. This bill creates numerous issues and encroaches on Constitutional Home Rule and local control. It passed the Senate 35-5.

CONTACT COMMITTEE MEMBERS: **Home Business Act:** [HB 2343](#) creates the No-Impact Home-Based Business Fairness Act, establishing a new legal category for certain home-based businesses and significantly limiting how municipalities can regulate them. A hearing is set for Tuesday, March 3 in [Senate Commerce Committee](#). As of this writing, the deadline for submitting testimony has passed. However, you can contact committee members and let them know of your concerns.

A no-impact home-based business would be defined by a set of criteria (e.g., employees/clients not exceeding occupancy limits, no increased traffic or on-street parking, sales occurring inside the home and not visible from the street). Such businesses would automatically become a permitted use in residential dwellings, meaning cities could not require permits, licenses, variances, rezonings, or other prior approvals solely for their operation. Municipalities could still adopt narrowly tailored regulations related to public health and safety (like fire/building codes) and enforce applicable state/federal requirements, but broad licensing and zoning restrictions would be preempted. It passed the House 74-49 last session. This bill raises several issues for cities:

- **Reduced local zoning authority:** Cities rely on zoning ordinances and permitting processes to manage land use, preserve residential character, and address neighborhood impacts. By making certain home-based businesses automatically permitted with limited municipal oversight, the bill constrains local zoning flexibility.
- **Limits on regulatory and inspection authority:** The bill restricts the ability of cities to require registration, permits, or prior approvals. That could reduce municipal capacity to monitor and enforce basic compliance, especially if a business expands beyond what communities might consider “no impact.”
- **Public safety and inspection challenges:** The bill’s language could make it harder for cities to conduct routine fire, building, or health inspections currently used to protect residents. If a home-based business grows or changes, activities enforcement might require judicial review.

NEW LAW NOTICE: Multiple Occupancy Private Space Restrictions: [House Substitute for SB 244](#) establishes new statewide requirements governing the designation and use of multiple-occupancy private spaces - such as restrooms, locker rooms, changing rooms, and showers - in public buildings. The bill requires governing bodies of public entities to designate these spaces for use by only one biological sex, with limited exceptions. It also has a provision relating to driver’s license designations. This bill was passed by the House 87-36 and Senate 30-9. The governor vetoed and her veto was overridden by the House and Senate, and this week it became law.

For cities, this law has direct operational and fiscal impacts, including the need to review and redesignate facilities in municipal buildings, update signage and policies, train staff on compliance and exceptions, and manage the risk of fines, enforcement actions, or civil liability if city facilities are found to be out of compliance. *The League will be providing additional information and some guidance in League News on Tuesday*, including a video for members. Cities can also contact the League legal staff if you have additional questions.

Electric Fence Regulation Preemption: [HB 2603](#) prohibits cities, counties, and other local governments from regulating battery-charged security fences, preventing municipalities from adopting local rules or ordinances that govern the design, installation, or use of these types of security fences. The bill aims to create a uniform statewide standard for battery-powered security fence regulation by removing local regulatory authority. The League opposes, as this is an overreach and encroachment on Constitutional Home Rule and local control. It also poses safety risks by not allowing limitations on these fences in certain areas. It passed the House 86-38 and is set for a hearing on Wednesday, March 4 in [Senate Local Government Committee](#). Testimony must be submitted NO LATER than Tuesday, March 3 by 9:00 a.m. to transparency@senate.ks.gov

Cities of the Third Class Dissolution: [HB 2711](#) modifies and updates procedures for dissolving cities of the third class — the smallest incorporated cities. The bill revises the legal and administrative steps required for dissolution and clarifies how assets, liabilities, and

governance responsibilities are handled when a city is dissolved. The bill passed the House 122-0 and will have a hearing Thursday, March 5 in [Senate Federal and State Affairs](#). The League supports.

Short Term Rental Requirements: [HB 2481](#) places temporary limitations on short term rentals by cities from May 15 to July 25, 2026 to accommodate the World Cup. The bill passed the House 110-14 and will move to the Senate for hearings. The League has concerns with the current language and will offer changes when a hearing is held.

Public Resources in Elections: [HB 2451](#) prohibits government officers and employees from using public resources to advocate for or against constitutional amendments or ballot questions. This includes the use of public funds, equipment, facilities, and employee time for election-related advocacy. For cities, this legislation would directly affect how local governments communicate about ballot issues such as bond elections, sales tax questions, and charter ordinances. City staff and officials would need to ensure that any communications are strictly informational, as the bill could limit the ability to actively promote or oppose measures, even when those measures impact city operations or infrastructure. The League opposes. The bill passed the House 88-36 and now moves to the Senate for a hearing.

Neighborhood Revitalization: [HB 2470](#) would allow cities with populations of 10,000 or less to designate their entire municipal boundaries as a neighborhood revitalization area under the Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Act. This change would make it easier for municipalities meeting specific criteria to offer property tax rebates and other incentives across the whole city to encourage redevelopment, renovation, and new investment, rather than limiting revitalization incentives to smaller, discrete areas. The League supports the bill and it passed the House 115-4 and will now go to a Senate committee for consideration.

Rent Qualifications Preemption: [HB 2504](#) and [SB 391](#) would prohibit cities and counties from adopting or enforcing local ordinances that limit a landlord's discretion in choosing tenants based on lawful income sources, credit history, or eviction record. It also prevents local limits on security deposit amounts or automatic rights of first refusal. The League opposes general preemption bills, especially when there is not a statewide issue to address. HB 2504 passed the House 84-40 and SB 391 passed the Senate 31-9. It will now go to either conference committee or be accepted by consent in each chamber and go to the governor.

Road Cost Sharing: [HB 2571](#) would require cost-sharing agreements between neighboring municipalities for the maintenance of roads they both use. Cities and towns that share responsibility for a roadway would need to agree in advance on how maintenance costs are divided, rather than each jurisdiction independently deciding how to fund or perform upkeep on segments of a shared route. It would also require cities and counties to work out an agreement within 180 days. The bill passed the House.

World Cup Liquor Sales Expansion: [SB 393](#) would allow the sale of alcoholic beverages 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the duration of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. It would temporarily suspend existing restrictions on hours of alcohol sales to align with event schedules. Local governments may need to consider enforcement, public safety, and staffing impacts associated with extended hours of alcohol service, particularly in areas expecting increased visitors. Cities may also need to evaluate whether to adopt local controls or

regulations to manage late-night operations during the event period. The bill had a hearing in the [Senate Commerce Committee](#).

Undocumented & Public Benefits: [SB 254](#) passed the Senate 30-9 and House 86-36. It proposes changes to how state and local government agencies administer public benefits with a focus on immigration status and eligibility. Key provisions impacting cities are that no person *unlawfully present* in the United States is eligible for any state or local public benefit, except those required by federal law. Applicants aged 18 and older need to show proof of lawful presence when applying for benefits, and local agencies must verify immigration status through the federal systematic verification program. The League opposes as written and asks for amendments in conference committee clarifying cities will not be out of compliance when providing immediate need services such as food, warming center allowances, and similar services.

County Sales Tax Authority: [HB 2712](#) would expand local sales tax authority by allowing cities and counties to propose new or increased retailers' sales taxes to voters for a variety of local purposes, including infrastructure and public services, and by setting clearer rules for how these dedicated tax revenues can be used and how long special purpose taxes may remain in effect (limiting them to 10 years). The bill updates existing city and countywide retailers' sales tax laws to provide more flexibility in dedicating revenue for local projects while requiring voter approval before the taxes can take effect. It had a hearing in [House Taxation](#) this week. The League supports, as long as the language does not change to impact cities.

KORA Protections: [HB 2460](#) amends the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) to expand protections for certain public officials by allowing them to request that identifying information -such as home addresses and related property information - be restricted from publicly searchable websites. The bill applies to legislators, statewide elected officials, members of the State Board of Education, and local elected municipal officials, and makes related technical updates to current disclosure exemptions. The bill passed the House 97-27 and will now move to a Senate committee for a hearing.

If you have any questions or comments on any of these issues, or others, contact Spencer Duncan, Government Affairs Director, at 785-354-9565 or sduncan@lkm.org.

Limitations on Suits for Public Nuisance: [SB 462](#) places limitations on civil actions for public nuisance. The bill has been set for a hearing on Wednesday, March 4 at 3:30 p.m. in [House Judiciary](#). The League opposes the legislation because, as drafted, it will effectively end public nuisance claims in the State of Kansas. We think this is bad not just for cities – it is bad for the state and bad for Kansans.

If you want to provide testimony for this hearing, it must be submitted in PDF format to H.Judiciary@house.ks.gov by 3:30 p.m. on March 3. The testimony must be submitted with this [cover sheet](#).

Contingency Fee Contracts for Legal Services: [HB 2593](#) will be heard in [Senate Judiciary](#) on Thursday March 5 at 10:30 a.m. The bill would require municipal governments to submit certain contingency-fee legal contracts for legal services to the attorney general's office for

review and approval. The League opposed the original bill and requested amendments to clarify the justifications allowing the attorney general to invalidate a contract for legal services and to provide a mechanism for judicial review of the attorney general's determination. Those amendments have been added to the bill and League has shifted to a more neutral position moving forward provided that the amendments remain.

Competency Evaluations in Municipal Court: [SB 481](#) establishes a procedure for ordering and determining competency in municipal court. The bill has been set for a hearing on Wednesday March 4 at 3:30 p.m. in [House Judiciary](#). The League introduced this bill and will testify in support.

Consequential Damages in Public Construction Contracts: [SB 335](#) would require that all public construction contracts include a mutual waiver of consequential damages. The bill was heard this week in [House Commerce](#). The League opposed the bill as an unnecessary limit on the freedom to contract. Knowing that the bill is likely to move forward, however, the League has requested an amendment that would define consequential damages for more clarity in the bill.

If you have any questions or comments on any of these issues, contact John Goodyear, General Counsel, at 785-354-9565 or jgoodyear@lkm.org.

Golf Carts: [SB 367](#) would give cities the authority to pass ordinances that would allow people to drive golf carts on sidewalks, so long as they are at least 16 years old and have a valid Class C driver's license. A hearing on the bill will be held on Tuesday, March 3 at 1:30 p.m. in the [House Transportation Committee](#). The League supports the bill.

Railroad Hall of Fame: [SB 353](#) would establish a Railroad Hall of Fame to recognize the individuals who developed rail transportation in Kansas. The Railroad Hall of Fame would be housed at the [Great Plains Transportation Museum](#) in Wichita. The bill provides for a selection committee for the Railroad Hall of Fame. A hearing on the bill will be held on Tuesday, March 3 at 1:30 p.m. in the [House Transportation Committee](#). The League supports the bill.

If you have any questions or comments on any of these issues, contact Wendi Stark, Legislative Liaison, at 785-354-9565 or wstark@lkm.org.

Mail Ballot Elections: [HB 2503](#) repeals the mail ballot election act. This bill would eliminate mail ballot elections at all levels. The League opposes, as mail ballot elections have proven effective for cities, and it takes away an avenue for members to engage constituents in certain local elections. The bill passed the House 72-50 and will head to a Senate committee for consideration.

If you have any questions or comments on any of these issues, contact Sage Pourmirza, at 785-354-9565 or spourmirza@lkm.org.

TESTIMONY REQUESTED: Flashing Lights: [HB 2522](#) would authorize stationary highway construction and maintenance vehicles to display flashing, rotating, or oscillating amber, green, or white lights at all times in a road construction zone. Additionally, the bill would allow stationary trailers engaged in highway construction and maintenance operations to

display flashing, rotating, or oscillating white and blue lights within the area of a construction zone during the nighttime hours when workers are present. The bill has passed out of the House with favorable amendments and is set for hearing in the [Senate Transportation Committee](#) on Tuesday, March 3. The League plans to submit proponent testimony. If you would like to submit testimony, it must be submitted in PDF format to S.Transportation@senate.ks.gov NO LATER THAN 12:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2. The League can deliver the required 16 paper copies of testimony upon request.

TESTIMONY REQUESTED: Animal Shelters: [SB 344](#) would provide animal shelters the option to release animals from their custody following a holding period to foster homes that could provide care to neonate animals needing treatment or care that the shelter could not provide. Additionally, the bill would require photographs of animals being housed at a foster home to be displayed both at the shelter and on the shelter's website throughout the foster period. The bill also incorporates an existing statute relating to inspection record-keeping requirements, making a small update to the retention period. The bill passed favorably out of the Senate and is set for a hearing in the [House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee](#) on Wednesday, March 4. The League plans to submit proponent testimony and a request for a small amendment that would allow shelters to post photos of animals on social media or in other locations. If you would like to submit testimony, it should be submitted in PDF format to H.Agriculture@house.ks.gov NO LATER THAN 10:00 a.m. the day before the hearing; a [cover sheet](#) and three paper copies are required. The League can deliver the required three paper copies upon request.

If you have any questions or comments on any of these issues, contact Anne Marie Yatsula, at 785-354-9565 or ayatsula@lkm.org