“If I Were Mayor”
Contest

The League of Kansas Municipalities invites all Kansas 7th graders to join our contest, “If I Were Mayor”, to tell others what they would do as mayor to make their city an even better place to live.

Please submit your ideas for bettering your city for a chance to win $125 and have your idea published in the *Kansas Government Journal*. One student will be named an overall winner for Kansas and win $250. The winners and their teacher will be invited to Topeka for a special ceremony with local leaders and state legislators on January 22, 2020.

**CONTEST RULES**

Open to all Kansas students enrolled in the 7th grade during the 2019 - 2020 school year.

Each student may submit one memo not to exceed 250 words. Memos should be typed.

Deadline for submission is November 18, 2019

Upload Memos to [www.lkm.org/MayorContest](http://www.lkm.org/MayorContest) or visit Submission Options

Memos will be evaluated based on: Understanding of city services, creativity, clarity, sincerity of thought, and proper grammar.

The League reserves the right to republish the memos and pictures of each student in a effort to promote future youth engagement.

Check out the League’s full CURRICULUM for youth civic education. Our program includes lesson plans, activity books, and a resource guide. All materials are interactive on the web and free to download.

Check out the League’s NEW PINTEREST! On our profile you will find boards pertaining to each local government area with nifty resources and infographics. We hope to inspire you to pin more information about your school!

#IfIWereMayor #CivicEd #CivicYouth
**The Mayor’s Role:**
The Mayor is the leader of the City Council in the Mayor-Council form of government. The Mayor provides public leadership by building positive community relationships and being the voice of the public while modeling good governance.

**Local Government Responsibilities:**
- Environment
- Public Safety
- Infrastructure
- Utilities

**What is a Policy?**
A Policy is a course of action chosen to address a problem. Policy can take the form of a law, a city ordinance, a regulation or a funding decision.

Deciding what the “problem” is can be the hardest part. After you have decided the problem, then decide if the government is the appropriate actor to take action.

**Considerations:**
When deciding on a course of action, thus making a policy, it’s important to consider:
- Is your policy legal?
- Does it serve the common good?
- Does it protect people’s civic rights?
- Is it equitable?
- Is it efficient?

**What is a Barrier?**
A Barrier is anything that makes taking action difficult. Barriers can take the form of people opposing the action, lacking money to fund the action or poor timing.

**Example:**
As Mayor, I want to fund to fund a bike lane across the city. Many cities across the country are moving to a more green environment and I believe that creating bike lanes would not only improve the environment, it would also help citizens in our community become more health conscious. The goal of bicycle planning at the local level is to provide for bicycle travel within the community. The purpose of doing so is to encourage more bicycling and to reduce the number of serious bike crashes and injuries. Building bicycle facilities is a key part of the encouragement side of this effort.

**Considerations:**
- It is legal.
- It is for the common good.
- It is equitable.

**Barriers:** Funding is a barrier and the project would have to be done in phases. There might be more opposition than support, perceived reduction in safety on streets, and some on-street parking removal.

**Resources:** Some states provide funding for multi-use trails and I would check to see if my community would qualify. For physical resources like paint and signs, I would check with my city workers to see if there funds available to have them do this.