Inspiring the Next Generation of Public Leaders!
Promoting good city government is important to the League of Kansas Municipalities. We believe good city government starts with inspiring civic values in our youngest community members and nurturing those values into adulthood. We offer this youth education program as a resource and investment in the next generation of public leaders.

**CIVIC INTEREST**
Elementary, 8 - 11 years old
Inspire their interest in political topics and teach them how to follow political conversations.

**CIVIC LITERACY**
Middle School, 12-13 years old
Build their familiarity with government processes and their government vocabulary by connecting their favorite activities to local government action. Whether it's bicycle lanes or community development initiatives, there is plenty to engage their minds and hearts.

**CIVIC SKILLS**
High School, 14 - 18 years old
Strengthen their civic skills by having them follow the policy process from bills to committee to law. Encourage debates on issues, asking them to consider the proposed interventions along the dimensions of efficiency, equity, ethics and political efficacy. See www.lkm.org for ways they can get involved in the political process.

**CIVIC ATTACHMENT**
Adults, 18+
Looking for your next local community leaders? The next state legislators? Engage young adults to help spread the word about your community’s goals and vision for the future. Make sure the young adults in your community are familiar with government career paths. Many young adults attending college or starting families don’t know how to contribute their skill sets to further the stability and culture of their own community. Engage them in the variety and vibrancy of government work and community service!

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!

Updated July 2017
Here are some topic ideas! What interests your students about these local government areas of policy?

- Natural Resources
- Recycling
- Clean Water
- Public Safety
- Parks
- School Testing
- Social Services
- Cultural Festivals
- Food Deserts

**CONNECT**

Connect these topic areas from local government to the broader social discussions. For example: How do your community gardens and local farmer’s market connect to the Gardens to Table movement? How does this social movement connect to policy written by the World Food Program USA?

*See Article: Local Governments & Anti-Hunger Organizations Work Together to Improve Children's Health*

**DISCUSS**

- Q. How will these broad policies and conversations impact projects lead by your local government?
- Q. How do local government policies like this create a sense of community and what does it say about the community’s values?
- Q. Can you think of a statewide program that addresses these topic areas?

**ACTIVITY**

Download this free activity book from the League of Kansas Municipalities to help foster conversation and exploration of local government's role in these social discussions!

For more civic resources and online civic games visit: [www.lkm.org](http://www.lkm.org)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES for sample example**

- The Hunger Project
- Feeding America
- NoKid Hungry
- Youth4Global Goals
- Cultivating Community
- GroundWork USA
- KidsGardening.org
- Children's Peace Gardens
- Hunger Free Community

Updated July 2017
GOAL: CIVIC LITERACY

Here are some topic ideas! What do your students know about these local government areas?

- Political Systems
- Human Geography
- Diversity
- Civil Rights
- Labor Relations
- Human Services
- Public Health
- Infrastructure
- Taxation

CONNECT

Connect these topic areas to local government action in your own community. For example: How does your community maintain water infrastructure to ensure clean water?

Why is this important for a local government to manage the provision of clean water?

DISCUSS

Q. Why are some issues best managed by local leaders?

Q. How does your local government and state government work together on these topic areas?

Q. Can you think of a state program that addresses these topic areas?

ACTIVITY

Encourage your students to enter the If I Were Mayor Contest for the chance to win cash prizes, have their memo published in the Kansas Government Journal, and be recognized in Topeka in a special ceremony with local leaders and state legislators.

For more civic resources and online civic games visit: www.LKM.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES for sample example

- The Water Values
- Ecomagination
- Water Kids
- Kids in the Creek
- Kids Ecology Corps
- Rain Garden Network
- MARC.org
- Blue Thumb
- StormwaterOne
High School Lesson Plan

GOAL: CIVIC SKILLS

Here’s some topic ideas! How do your students participate in these local government policy areas?

- Political Systems
- Human Geography
- Policymakers
- Civil Rights
- Environment
- Human Services
- Healthcare
- Infrastructure
- Taxation

CONNECT

Increase your students’ knowledge of these topic areas from a local government perspective. For example: Have your students read how a bill becomes a law. Use bills such as HB 2076 Seat Belt Fines to follow the process from the committee that debates it, to the testimony on the bill, to its next steps to become law.

DISCUSS

Q. Who are your local elected officials and what role do they play in passing policy on these topics?

Q. What are the State committees and how do they appropriate funding?

Q. If a “Budget is a statement of priorities,” pull up your city’s budget and discuss your city’s priorities.

ACTIVITY

Have your students form a committee and debate a bill, include a debate on funding and exemptions! Record the debate or take a picture of the activity and post it to the League’s Instagram. Introduce us to our up and coming policy entrepreneurs!

For more civic resources and online civic games visit: www.LKM.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES for sample example

- Youth4Global Goals
- Student Voice
- Student Voice Podcast
- We The People
- Student Vote
- iCivics.org
- Young People Empowered
- Generation Citizen
- Action Civics Collaborative

Connect with us:

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Join the Conversation:

#CivicEd
#CivicYouth

Updated July 2017
The League does not specifically endorse any of the listed online resources but provides them as complementary resources to the youth education program.

### Websites
- American Heritage Education Foundation
- American Youth Policy Forum
- Center for Civic Education
- Circle
- Education Commission of the States
- Everyday Democracy
- Generation Citizen
- Generation Nation
- Innovation Center for Community & Youth Development
- Just Communities
- KidsVotingUSA
- KSDE Civic Education
- National League of Cities
- TeachingHistory.org
- YourCommonWealth.org
- 60-second Civics (Podcast)

### Online Games
- iCivics.org
- Argument Wars
- Counties Work
- Mission US
- Sunnylands Civic Games
- Fling the Teacher
- History Quizzes
- NewsBlaster
- Ben’s Guide to U.S. Government
- The Jamestown Online Adventure
- Kid's Corner USA
- Abraham Lincoln's Crossroads
- Bill of Rights
- Seize The Vote
- Games for Change
- HistoryPin.org
- Republica Times

### Mixed Media
- That Was History
- Mr. Beat
- CrashCourse
- Democracy Works Inc.
- Facing History and Ourselves
- Bill of Rights Institute
- Makers.org
- Voices of Democracy
- How to Understand Power
- Why Ordinary People Need to Understand Power
- The Danger of a Single Story
- Citizen University
- National Constitution Center
- American Social History Project
- Teaching A People's History
- The Knotted Line
- The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

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 and Kansas activities so we can continue to celebrate all that Kansas offers!