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LEAGUE NEWS



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1) House Committee Considers Moving Elections

This Wednesday the House Committee on Elections held a hearing on [Sub SB 171](#), which would move city elections to the fall of odd years and allow cities to choose to remain nonpartisan. The Committee also considered moving elections to the fall of even years. Our objections to both proposals can be viewed [here](#). Thank you to those who submitted testimony and contacted the Committee this week. The bill will likely be worked next Monday. Please contact members of the Committee and your [representative](#) to voice your city's position on this issue. Their contact information is below:

House Elections Committee:

Rep. Mark Kahrs (R-87), Chair, mark.kahrs@house.ks.gov, (785) 296-7476

Rep. Keith Esau (R-14), Vice Chair, keith.esau@house.ks.gov, (785) 296-7688

Rep. Tom Sawyer (D-95), Ranking Minority Member, tom.sawyer@house.ks.gov, (785) 296-7691

Rep. John Whitmer (R-93), john.whitmer@house.ks.gov, (785) 296-7567

Rep. Steve Huebert (R-90), steve.huebert@house.ks.gov, (785) 296-1754

Rep. John Alcalá (D-57), john.alcala@house.ks.gov, (785) 296-7371

Rep. John Carmichael (D-92), john.carmichael@house.ks.gov, (785) 296-7650

Rep. Larry Campbell (R-26), larry.campbell@house.ks.gov, (785) 296-7632

Rep. Brett Hildabrand (R-17), brett.hildabrand@house.ks.gov, (785) 296-7331

Rep. Connie O'Brien (R-42), connie.obrien@house.ks.gov, (785) 296-7683

Rep. Virgil Peck (R-12), virgil.peck@house.ks.gov, (785) 296-7641

Rep. Randy Powell (R-30), randy.powell@house.ks.gov, (785) 296-5593

2) City Disaster Resources Available

In an emergency, seemingly small details can have large implications for cities if not handled properly on the front end. The League has compiled a page designed to provide cities with key contacts, recommended steps, and samples to assist your city prepare for and respond to disasters. You can view the page [here](#). We have also organized two Emergency Planning trainings in April, and you can register [here](#).

3) Check Out the League's City Events Calendar

The League is assembling city-sponsored events and festivals from across Kansas. If your city has an event please send your information to [Andrey Ukrazhenko](#) at the League. Please include your city's name, the event name, a short description, and a phone number or website where others can go for more information. To view the events page click [here](#).

4) Round 3 of the Kansas Hometown Showdown is Underway!

Only 16 cities remain, and the last day to "like" your favorite photo is midnight, Sunday, March 15. Go to the Kansas Hometown Showdown – Round 3 photo album on [Facebook](#) to vote.

On Tuesday, March 17, Round 4 will start a new album with the final 8 cities. The "likes" will reset to zero for the new round.

A few people have asked why their city is not in the contest. There was an open call for cities to submit their photos, and it was limited to the first 64 participants. Make a note on your calendar for early February next year to look for an announcement regarding the 2016 contest!

5) Other Bills and Upcoming Hearings

- KOMA/KORA Enforcement – On Monday, the House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on [SB 206](#). This bill would provide the attorney general with more authority to investigate and penalize public agencies violating the Kansas open meetings act and the Kansas open records act. The League is submitting neutral written testimony on this bill.
- KORA Bill Exempts Certain Records – On Monday, the House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on [SB 128](#). This bill would exempt online public agency records that identify the home address or home ownership of a municipal judge, city attorney, or assistant city attorney from the Kansas open records act, when an individual in one of these positions requests it. The League is submitting

written testimony in support of the bill.

- **Municipal Audits** – [SB 247](#) is scheduled for hearing in the House Local Government Committee on Tuesday, March 17, at 1:30. [SB 247](#) regards municipal audits and would increase the triggering point for required municipal audits from \$275,000 to \$500,000. We have reported on [SB 247](#) before; the prior articles can be found [here](#). The League supported [SB 247](#) in the Senate and will be supporting it in the House.
- **LAVTR** – A bill to repeal the local ad valorem property tax reduction fund (LAVTRF), [HB 2400](#), will be heard in the House Tax Committee on Tuesday, March 17th, at 3:30. [HB 2400](#) would repeal the provisions in state law that establish the LAVTRF and provide for its funding. LAVTRF has not received any funding since 2003. However, it remains on the books and is subject to funding by the legislature, if they so choose. The League will be opposing [HB 2400](#) because LAVTRF is still subject to funding at any level up to the statutory amounts if in the future state funds permit.
- **Motor Vehicle Property Tax** – [SB 259](#) is scheduled for hearing in Senate Tax Committee on Wednesday, March 18th, at 9:30. This bill would change the minimum property tax on motorcycles and motor vehicles to \$18 and \$36, respectively, unless the tax on such vehicles was already below the new minimums. The bill would also alter the depreciation schedule for calculating the amount of future taxes. [SB 259](#) would have a negative impact upon the property tax collected from motor vehicles. The League will be appearing in opposition to [SB 259](#).
- **Body Camera Bill** – On Thursday, March 19, the House Judiciary Committee is having a hearing on [SB 18](#). As introduced, [SB 18](#) would have required most police officers to use body cameras when interacting with the public. The bill also created certain notice requirements as well as mandatory data storage and liability issues for failure to meet the requirements. The substitute for [SB 18](#) has removed all of the portions of the original bill that the League and others opposed. The bill is now limited to open records requests for audio and video recorded by body and vehicle cameras. Substitute for [SB 18](#) creates an exemption for these videos and limits who can view them under the open records act. The League supports this substitute bill and will be testifying before the Committee.
- **Working after Retirement** - On Monday, the House Pensions and Benefits Committee will hold a hearing on [HB 2253](#). On its face, the hearing appears to concern a bill that affects teachers who have retired under KPERS and go back to work. The House Pensions and Benefits Committee, however, has asked for input concerning the retirement of all KPERS employees. Specifically, the Committee is looking at the possibility of prohibiting employees from retiring, returning to work for a KPERS eligible employer, and continuing to collect KPERS. The League is providing neutral testimony.

Legislative Activities-March 16-20, 2015

Monday, March 16

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activ
9:00	H, PB	152-S	HB 2287	Investment standards and divestment procedures for KPERS related to Iran	Hea
	H, PB	152-S	HB 2253	Extending special employment after retirement provisions under KPERS for certain retirants who are teachers	Hea pos

9:30	S, AT	548-S	SB 257	Ten-year limit on property tax exemption for renewable resources or technologies	Hea
	S, FI	546-S	HB 2259	Amending the county and municipal statement of indebtedness reporting deadlines	Hea
	S, LG	142-S		Government Funded Associations: Lobby Influence and Costs	Infor hear
1:30	H, CLED	346-S	HB 2237	Municipalities; use of internet as official publication	Pos:
	H, EI	281-N	Sub SB 171	Municipal elections; nonpartisan; fall odd-numbered years	Pos:
3:30	H, ANR	346-S	SB 227	Local enhanced management areas; due consideration; corrective control measures	Hea
	H, Ju	112-N	SB 128	Creating an exception to the Kansas open records act for municipal judges, city attorneys and certain special assistant attorneys	Hea
	H, Ju	112-N	SB 206	Enforcement of open records and meetings; attorney general; fund	Hea
	H, Ju	112-N	SB 183	Collection of debts owed to courts	Hea
	H, Tax	582-N		Sales tax Exemptions - Kansas Department of Revenue	Infor brief
	H, Tax	582-N	HB 2408	Repealing certain sales tax exemptions	Hea
	S, SCKPERS	118-N		Issues related to Kansas Highway Patrol	Disc

Tuesday, March 17

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activ
9:30	S, LG	159-S	HB 2163	Municipalities; contracts with other municipalities	Hea
	S, LG	159-S	HB 2164	Certain sewer districts; construction contract bid threshold raised	Hea
	S, LG	159-S	HB 2165	Certain improvement districts; procedures for filing vacancies	Hea
10:30	S, FSA	144-S	HB 2155	Extending employment protection to certain military service members who are employed in Kansas	Hea
	S, Ju	346-S	SB 232	Lien filings against public officials; prohibitions; notice; criminal penalties	Hea
	S, Ju	346-S	Sub HB 2159	Expungement of driving under the influence and criminal refusal convictions	Hea
1:30	H, LG	281-N	SB 247	Municipal audits	Hea
	H, Tr	582-N	SB 190	Allowing persons to operate sailboat after completing instruction led class	Hea
	H, Tr	582-N	SB 215	Motor vehicle registration, evidence of renewal	Hea
3:30	H, Ju	112-N	SB 149	Civil commitment of sexually violent predators	Hea
	H, Tax	582-N	HB 2399	Increasing sales and compensating use tax rates to 6.3%	Hea
	H, Tax	582-N	HB 2400	Repealing the local ad valorem tax reduction fund	Hea

Wednesday, March 18

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activ
9:00	H, PB	152-S	HB 2253	Extending special employment after retirement provisions under KPERS for certain retirants who are teachers	Hea
9:30	S, AT	548-S	SB 259	Computation of amount of personal property tax on motor vehicles	Hea
3:30	H, Tax	582-N	HB 2401	Imposing an excise tax on ethanol production and electricity generated by renewable resources	Hea

Thursday, March 19

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activ
9:30	S, AT	548-S	SB 261	Imposing sales tax on sales of gas, electricity, heat and other fuel sources for production of heat and lighting for residential premises and agricultural use	Hea
3:30	H, Ju	112-N	SB 18	Substitute for SB 18 by Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice - Making certain law enforcement audio and video recordings confidential and exempt from the open records act	Hea
	H, Tax	582-N	HB 2396	Ten-year limit on property tax exemption for renewable energy resources or technologies	Hea

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For subscription changes, address changes, comments or suggestions, contact Nikki Harrison at nharrison@lkm.org

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