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League News

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1) Legislature Returns Next Week

Lawmakers return to Topeka for the veto session on Wednesday, April 29. Once they return, they will likely address a number of bills that affect cities. If you have not already, it is important that you reach out to your legislators, attend their legislative breakfasts, and discuss the following issues:

- Annexation - HB 2003, which passed the House with compromise language concerning island annexations, was amended by the Senate without a hearing to require county approval for practically all unilateral annexations. The bill is now in conference committee. We encourage you to contact your legislators and ask them to support the compromise language in the House version of the bill. For more information about the House version of the bill, click here.
- Elections - HB 2104 would move city elections to the fall of even years and on to the same ballot as state and federal races. The League strongly opposes efforts to end 154 years of stand-alone city elections. Although not currently part of the bill, there has also been discussion about prohibiting cities from holding bond or sales tax question elections on any date other than an August or November election. Restricting bond elections will have a negative impact upon cities and counties because it significantly impedes the flexibility and timing on city projects and municipal finances. We encourage you to contact your legislators and ask that they oppose HB 2104 and the aforementioned restriction on bond and sales tax question elections.
- Public Funds for Lobbying - HB 2183, which contains the language from SB 42, would mandate onerous reporting requirements on cities concerning public funds

paid to associations that employ lobbyists. The original bill, which the League believed was a good compromise, would achieve the same transparency goals without creating unworkable administrative burdens on cities. The bill's current language is the result of an amendment on the Senate floor. A hearing was never held on the amendments. The bill is now in conference committee. We encourage you to contact your legislators and ask that they oppose the current version of this bill.

- Sign Regulations - HB 2183 would also prohibit cities and counties from regulating the placement and number of political signs on private property or the unpaved right-of-way during the 30-day period before an election and for 7 days following the election. The League opposes this amendment. The amendment does not address visual and sight-line concerns, and the hazards posed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic. We encourage you to contact your legislators and ask that they support compromise language from KDOT. HB 2183 is now in the Elections conference committee.

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2) Update on State Budget

The Consensus Revenue Estimating Group released revised estimates for the state general fund for FY 2015, FY 2016, and FY 2017 this week. The overall estimate was decreased for all three years. The House Appropriations Committee began hearings on the revised estimates and Governor Brownback's proposed cuts yesterday. Revenue enhancements may be necessary to balance the budgets. We will continue to monitor the hearings during veto session.

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3) Congratulations to the April 7 Election Winners

The League of Kansas Municipalities staff congratulates all the mayors, councilmembers, and commissioners who won their elections on April 7. Your service and dedication to your community is an important role in local government and the League is here to help you in that role. League News is a great way to stay updated on municipal issues. You can also connect with other elected officials through a listserv for councilmembers, commissioners, and mayors. Email Nikki Harrison to join a listserv or to enroll a new governing body member in a listserv and League News. Also, please join us on May 15 and 16 for the Governing Body Institute and Kansas Mayors Conference in Topeka. For more information and to register, click here.

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4) Upcoming Hearings

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Legislative Activities-April 27-May 1, 2015

Tuesday, April 28

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activ
3:00	**S, WM**	548-S		Omnibus Bill - Legislative Research Department	Ove
	S, WM	548-S		Consensus Revenue Estimates - Legislative Research Department	Ove

Wednesday, April 29

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activ
1:00	**S, SCKPERS**	118-N	SB 299	Providing working after retirement requirements for certain KPERS retirants who return to work with covered employers including benefit and contribution provisions while extending current sunset for teachers to July 1, 2016	Actio

Thursday, April 30

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activ
9:00	**H, Tax**	582-N		Fiscal update - J.G. Scott & Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department	Infor brief

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