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League News

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1) Governor Proposes Fall Elections in State of the State

Last night, Governor Brownback delivered the State of the State address. The address covered several topics including school funding and the judicial selection process. Most important to cities, however, was Governor Brownback's proposal to move local elections to the fall, because of low voter turnout in the spring.

While a bill has not yet been introduced in the Legislature to move elections to the fall, now is the time to start talking to your legislators about the importance of keeping local elections in the spring. A copy of talking points may be found here. We encourage you to talk with your legislators about this issue, if it is important to your city.

2) State Budget Update

This morning, Governor Brownback provided his budget proposal to the Legislature. The proposal may be accessed online here. League staff is currently studying the proposal to determine its impact on local governments. We will have a further update on the proposal next week.

3) Hearing on New Annexation Bill

The House Local Government Committee will hear testimony on HB 2003 on Tuesday, January 20 at 1:30 p.m. in room number 281-N. HB 2003 would take away a city's ability to annex city-owned property that does not adjoin the city without seeking county commission authority.

In addition, the bill would require unanimous approval by a county commission for all annexations of land that do not adjoin the city, not just city owned property. Under the bill, the county commission would have to make a finding that the annexation would not cause manifest injury to the owners of the land surrounding the property to be annexed. The League will be testifying in opposition to HB 2003.

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4) Tips on Effective Advocacy

The 2015 legislative session is in full swing with several hearings starting next week. As city officials, it is important to establish a relationship with your legislators to effectively communicate your city's agenda and priorities.

The article here provides several helpful steps you may take to effectively advocate for your city. While the article discusses relationships with federal legislators, these same approaches also apply to state legislators.

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5) Register for City Hall Day

Don't miss your opportunity to register for City Hall Day and help shape legislative discussions on local elections, water policy, and many other issues affecting Kansas cities. City Hall Day will be held in Topeka on Wednesday, February 4, with the morning reserved for meeting with legislators, and an afternoon program that includes legislative updates, tips for advocating your community's interests, and a reception.

Mayors are also invited to attend the Kansas Mayors Association Luncheon from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The luncheon will include a free meal with fellow mayors and the student winners of the "If I Were Mayor" contest, along with legislative updates from several legislators.

Contact your House and Senate members in advance to schedule meetings to discuss issues of concern to your city, along with the League Action Agenda. City Hall Day will be free of charge to all city officials and legislators, but please register so that we can get an accurate headcount. Click here for registration and an overview of the schedule.

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6) LKM Seeking a Deputy Director/Intergovernmental Relations Associate

The League is seeking a Deputy Director/Intergovernmental Relations Associate. This person will represent Kansas municipalities in state and federal legislative and administrative processes. The deputy director oversees the League's public policy development process, and

develops strategies to promote the League as the authoritative source of information on Kansas cities. Successful candidates will build collaborative working relationships with state officials, legislators, member cities, other units of government, other professional organizations and the League's affiliate organizations.

The deputy director will serve as a contributing member of the League's management team, administering aspects of League operations and coordinating special projects. Significant focus for this position will be on implementing elements of the League's strategic plan.

Required qualifications include a Bachelor's degree and a thorough knowledge of the operations of both state and municipal government. Qualified candidates must be able to work both collaboratively and independently, meet deadlines and manage multiple projects at the same time.

The League offers great benefits, including KPERS, health/dental insurance, and paid leave and holidays. Salary commensurate with experience. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, three work-related references, and legislative testimony or other writing sample to Erik Sartorius at esartorius@lkm.org or League of Kansas Municipalities, 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS 66603. If confidentiality is requested, please note in application materials. Position will remain open until filled. Application review will begin January 26, 2015. LKM is an equal opportunity employer.

The full position description may be found here.

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7) Filing Deadline for City Elections Approaching

The filing deadline for all city elections is 12:00 p.m., on January 27, 2015. In cities of the first and second class, candidates must file for office with the city clerk. In cities of the third class, candidates may file with the county election officer or the city clerk. To learn more about the filing process, access our *2015 Guide for City Candidates* here.

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8) Upcoming Hearings

Legislative Activities-January 19-23, 2015

Tuesday, January 20

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activ
9:00	**H, App**	112-N		Kansas Department of Transportation - Mike King, Secretary Kansas Public Employees Retirement System - Alan Conroy, Executive Director	Infor brief
	H, Ut	582-N		The Kansas 911 Act: Reviewing Implementation of the 2012 Act	Pres
9:30	**S, LG**	159-S		Statutory definition of blight and process of unilateral annexation	Upd Revi
10:30	**S, Ju**	346-S	SB 11	Regulated scrap metal; crime of theft and related sentencing provisions; regulation of scrap metal dealers, including unlawful acts and penalties	Hea
1:30	**H, LG**	281-N		Review of local government bills from the 2013-2014 Biennium; Abandoned property issues considered by 2014 Interim committee	Pres
	H, LG	281-N	HB 2003	Cities; annexation of non-adjoining land	Hea
	S, Ut	548-S		Staff overview of Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act and	Pres

				Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan	
3:30	**H, Tax**	582-N		Consensus estimate update, current budget review & Governor's recommendations	Infor brief

Wednesday, January 21

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activ
9:00	**H, App**	112-N		Governor's Allotment Plan - Legislative research staff	Brie
	H, PB	152-S		Shawn Sullivan, Budget Director; Alan Conroy, Director KPERS; Interim topics	Infor brief
9:30	**S, AT**	548-S		Hearings on bills previously introduced	Hea
1:30	**H, El**	281-N		Legislative Research - Overview of bills for Elections Committee for the past two years	Pres
	S, PHW	118-N		Marijuana - Advocates	Infor hear
3:30	**H, Tax**	582-N	HB 2614	Follow up: Implementation of changes to COTA/BOTA, valuation appeals, property tax valuations, and interest note on delinquent property taxes	Infor brief

Thursday, January 22

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activ
9:00	**H, UT**	582-N		House utilities and telecommunications lobbyists	Pres
9:30	**S, CJJ**	118-N	SB 1	Increasing criminal penalties for hate crimes and establishing reporting requirements for law enforcement agencies	Hea
1:30	**S, PHW**	118-N		Marijuana - Non-Advocates	Infor hear
	S, Ut	548-S		Overview of Kansas rural telecom	Pres
3:30	**H, Tax**	582-N		Performance audit report: effectiveness of economic development tools for job creation and economic growth	Infor brief

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