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# LEAGUE NEWS



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## 1) Property Tax Lid Hearings

The Senate and House Tax Committees have scheduled hearings on two property tax lid bills next week. The League and the Kansas Association of Counties have coordinated several conferees to speak at the hearings, but all are welcome to attend. The Senate will hear proponents on [SB 316](#) on Tuesday, March 8th, and opponents on Wednesday, March 9th. The hearings are at 9:30 a.m. in Room 548-S. The League is opposed to SB 316 as it moves up the effective date to July 2016, removes numerous exemptions and the schedule for a public vote does not work.

The House hearings on [HB 2609](#) are Wednesday, March 9th, for proponents and Thursday, March 10th, for opponents. The hearings are at 3:30 p.m. in Room 582-N. The League supports [HB 2609](#) which changes the index from the Consumer Price Index to the Municipal Cost Index, adds several exemptions allowing for growth and unknown expenses and would implement a protest petition to trigger an election.

## 2) League Testifies in Opposition to Bill Concerning Municipal Court Revenue

On Wednesday, March 2nd, the League testified before the Senate Ways and Means Committee in opposition to [SB 403](#). The bill would require all municipal courts to report the amount of revenue generated by traffic infractions for the preceding fiscal year. Any of the revenue generated that exceeds 10% of the annual operating revenue budget for the city would then need to be remitted to the state. The bill would also require municipal courts to remit 70% of all revenue collected from traffic infractions for violations occurring on any state or U.S. highway.

Along with other organizations, the League provided testimony explaining the many problems with the bill. There was no testimony presented in favor of [SB 403](#). While the League does not anticipate any further action on the bill, we will continue to monitor its progress. If you have any questions concerning this bill please contact [Eric B. Smith](#).

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### 3) Bill Concerning Abandoned Properties

On Wednesday, March 9+, the House Commerce Committee is scheduled to hold a hearing on [SB 338](#) at 1:30 p.m. in Room 346-S. This bill deals with the way that cities may work with abandoned residential properties (not dangerous structures). The bill was passed by the Senate prior to turn around and was then assigned to House Commerce. The League supports SB 338 and will continue to keep you aware of its progress.

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### 4) Insurance Proceeds Bill has Hearing in House Committee

On Wednesday, March 2nd, the House Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee held a hearing on [SB 370](#). Current law allows municipalities to place a lien on insurance proceeds for damaged structures caused by fire, explosion or wind storm to make sure buildings are repaired or removed. This bill, introduced by the League, would expand the process to include all covered claims for damage to a structure in excess of 75% of the face value of the insurance policy. By making this amendment a municipality will be able to pursue liens against any loss, regardless of the cause, as long as the owner has insurance in place that covers the damage.

The League anticipates the bill to be worked by the Committee next week and to be passed out to the full House with a recommendation of passage. If you have any questions concerning this bill please contact [Eric B. Smith](#).

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### 5) Other Bills and Hearings

- **Bill Would Require 50% of City Forfeiture Funds be Transferred to State** – On Thursday, March 10th, the House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on [HB 2699](#) in room 112-N at 3:30 p.m. Under current law, if a district or county attorney chooses not to pursue a forfeiture request of a city, then a city can engage another attorney to proceed with the action. This bill would require cities to request the attorney general to represent them in such action. Additionally, the bill would require 50% of all forfeiture proceeds to be deposited into a fund controlled by the attorney general. This fund would be intended for city and county law

enforcement purposes as determined by the attorney general. The League will be testifying in opposition to [HB 2699](#) as it seeks to remove local control. If you have questions or would like to provide testimony, please contact [Eric B. Smith](#).

- **Bill Concerning Counties and Property Valuation Processes** – On Tuesday, March 8th, the House Taxation Committee will hold a hearing on [HB 2714](#) in room 582-N at 3:30 p.m. In addition to a myriad of changes towards the appeal process for property valuation assessments, it would also change current law by mandating property valuations are to occur on a two-year basis instead of its current annual cycle. The bill would also eliminate a provision that allows computer assisted mass appraisal systems to qualify as a written appraisal. The League will monitor this bill and keep you aware of its progress.
- **Bill Concerning Rental Registration and Landlord Licensing** – On Thursday, March 3rd, the House Commerce Committee held a hearing on [HB 2665](#). This bill would impose restrictions upon a city's ability to require registration and inspection of rental properties. The League and the cities of Hutchinson, Kansas City, Kan., and Mission, in addition to others, testified in opposition of [HB 2665](#). Thank you to all who appeared and submitted testimony. There was no indication from the Committee as to when the bill may be worked, but the League will monitor the bill's progress.
- **Hearing Set for KORA Bill Concerning Personal Email Usage** – On Wednesday, March 9th, the House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on [SB 361](#) in room 112-N at 3:30 p.m. This bill changes the definition of public record under the Kansas Open Records Act to include records maintained by a public officer or employee on their private e-mail account or computer in which public agency business is performed. The League supports this bill and keep you up to date as to its progress.

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## 6) Kansas Mayor of the Year Nominations Being Accepted

The Kansas Mayors Association is now accepting nominations for its Mayor of the Year award, which will be presented at the Leadership Summit and Kansas Mayors Conference in April. Please take this opportunity to nominate a Mayor you feel has uniquely contributed to their community and to the Kansas Mayors Association. The deadline to submit the form will be March 13th.

[Kansas Mayor of the Year Award Nomination Form](#)

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## 7) Register for the Leadership Summit & Kansas Mayors Association Conference

The League and the Kansas Mayors Association invite you to attend the 2016 Leadership Summit and Kansas Mayors Conference. This year's Leadership Summit will focus on components of the Strategic Planning Process and basic strategies. We will review steps involved in strategic planning, and address why it is critical that we plan for our future challenges.

Friday's opening session keynote speaker will be Aaron Davis. Aaron speaks about performing like a champion from personal experience as a member of the 1994 National Championship Nebraska Football team. He will share best practices of successful teams

and characteristics of being an amazing teammate, among other entertaining stories and lessons.

Saturday's keynote speaker, Paul Carttar, will speak on the importance of effective strategic planning for cities that want to maximize their success in an environment of limited resources. Mr. Carttar will address what strategic planning is and why it matters, as well as share some key concepts and tools that cities can use as they move forward to address their own situations and challenges.

The conference will be held in Junction City April 22nd and 23rd at the Courtyard by Marriott, and a block of rooms has been reserved. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. Workshop sessions and additional information will be updated as it becomes available.

## 8) Available Now! Newly Revised Labor Law Poster

Changes on the Employee Polygraph Protection Act recently took effect. As a result of this change, all cities must update their labor law posters. The League is offering the newly revised 2016 "SpaceSaver" state and federal government labor law poster that complies with this change. The poster is available horizontal or vertical, measuring 36 x 24 inches and is laminated to protect against weather and vandalism. Posters are \$25 each, plus applicable sales tax. Shipping and Handling is \$6 for the first poster and \$2 for each additional poster.

To order a 2016 "SpaceSaver" poster, click [here](#) or contact [Tami Martin](#).

## 9) Kansas Hometown Showdown Enters Round 2

Congratulations to all of the cities that have made it to Round 2! Thirty-two out of Sixty-four cities are left to compete and make it to Round 3 of the Kansas Hometown Showdown! Be sure to vote for your favorites by "liking" the photo in the [Round 2 photo album](#). Look at the photo description to see which city the photo is from. Voting for Round 2 will be open until noon on Monday, March 7th.

## 10) Upcoming Hearings

### Legislative Activities-March 7-11, 2016

#### Monday, March 7

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activi
9:00	<b>H, App</b>	112-N	<a href="#">SB 335</a>	Senate Substitute for <a href="#">SB 335</a> by Committee on Transportation - Relating to registration, fees; law enforcement training center fund; creating the Kansas highway patrol staffing and training fund	Hear
	<b>H, App</b>	112-N	<a href="#">HB 2503</a>	Creating the Kansas highway patrol staffing and training fund; vehicle registration fees	Hear
1:30	<b>H, CJJ</b>	152-S	<a href="#">SB 367</a>	Amendments to the juvenile justice system - Revisors' Summary - Proponents' Testimony	Hear
3:30	<b>H, Tax</b>	582-N	<a href="#">HB 2631</a>	Refund of motor fuels tax paid for the operation of a ready-mixed	Hear

concrete vehicle, method of calculation

**Tuesday, March 8**

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activi
8:30	S, Com	548-S		Occupational Licensing by Lee McGrath, Institute for Justice and Jon Sanders, John Locke Foundation	Pres
9:30	S, AT	548-S	<a href="#">SB 316</a>	Property tax lid; effective date; exemptions	Hear (Prop
10:30	S, Ju	346-S	<a href="#">Sub HB 2289</a>	DUI test refusal or failure; administrative hearing procedure	Hear
1:30	H, CJJ	152-S	<a href="#">SB 367</a>	Amendments to the juvenile justice system - Proponents' Testimony Continued - Neutral Testimony	Hear
3:30	H, Tax	582-N	<a href="#">HB 2714</a>	Concerning property taxation, valuation, appeals, procedure; state board of tax appeals, filing fees, procedure, appeals to district court	Hear

**Wednesday, March 9**

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activi
8:30	S, NR	159-S	<a href="#">HB 2479</a>	Amendments to the Kansas noxious weed law	Hear
	S, Tr	546-S	<a href="#">HB 2436</a>	Allowing persons to take motorcycle license driving exam on a 3-wheeled motorcycle and restricting such licenses	Hear
9:00	H, PB	152-S	<a href="#">HB 2709</a>	Deaths benefits for certain KP&F surviving spouses	Hear
9:30	S, AT	548-S	<a href="#">SB 316</a>	Property tax lid; effective date; exemptions	Hear (Opp
10:30	S, FSA	144-S	<a href="#">SB 421</a>	Carrying a concealed handgun in a public building; restricted access entrance	Discr Poss Actio
1:30	H, CJJ	152-S	<a href="#">SB 367</a>	Amendments to the juvenile justice system - Opponents' Testimony	Hear
	H, CLED	346-S	<a href="#">SB 336</a>	Prohibiting price controls on the purchase or sale of private residential commercial property	Hear
	H, CLED	346-S	<a href="#">SB 338</a>	Rehabilitation of abandoned property by cities	Hear
	H, Tr	582-N	<a href="#">SB 274</a>	Creating the seat belt safety fund; increasing the fine for adult seat belt violations; allowing persons to operate sailboat after completing instruction led class	Hear
3:30	H, Ju	112-N	<a href="#">SB 361</a>	Open records act; definitions, public agency and public record	Hear
	H, Tax	582-N	<a href="#">HB 2609</a>	Approval of budgets by taxing subdivisions; resolution and election requirements	Hear (Prop

**Thursday, March 10**

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activi
1:30	H, CJJ	152-S	<a href="#">SB 367</a>	Amendments to the juvenile justice system	Final
3:30	H, Ju	112-N	<a href="#">HB 2699</a>	Amending the asset forfeiture process	Hear
	H, Tax	582-N	<a href="#">HB 2609</a>	Approval of budgets by taxing subdivisions; resolution and election requirements	Hear (Opp

**Friday, March 11**

Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activi
1:30	H, CJJ	152-S	<a href="#">SB 367</a>	Amendments to the juvenile justice system	Final Conti

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