



#IfIWereMayor #CivicEd #CivicYouth

# “If I Were Mayor”

## Invitation & Instructions

The League of Kansas Municipalities invites all Kansas 7<sup>th</sup> graders to join our contest!

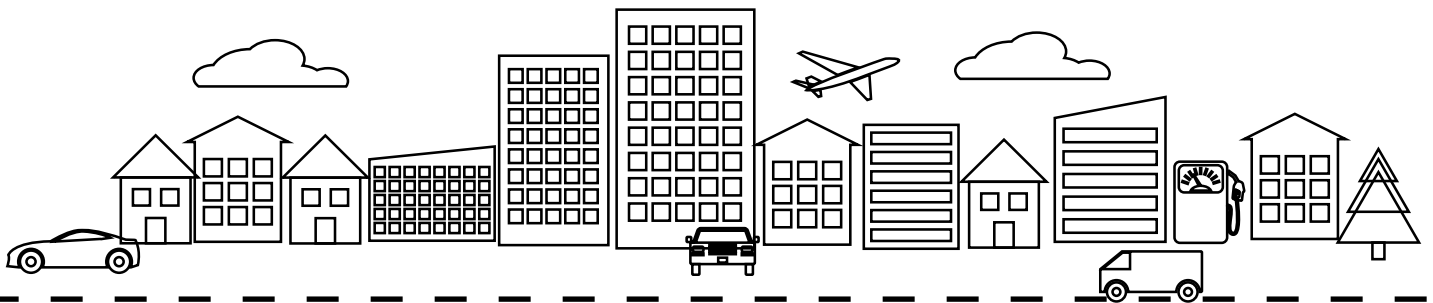
Please submit your ideas for bettering your city for a **chance to win \$125 and have your idea published** in the *Kansas Government Journal*. One young leader will be named an overall winner for Kansas and win \$250. The winners and their teacher will be invited to Topeka for a special ceremony with local leaders and state legislators on January 24, 2018.

Become a **young policy entrepreneur**, better the lives of your loved ones, and discover the awesomeness of government.

Stay Excellent!  
The League

## CONTEST RULES

- Who:** All Kansas students enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2017 - 2018 school year.
- What:** Each student may submit one memo not to exceed 250 words. Memos must be typed.
- When:** Deadline is November 18, 2017
- Where:** Upload Memos to [www.lkm.org/MayorContest](http://www.lkm.org/MayorContest) or visit [Submission Options](#)
- How:** Memos will be evaluated based on: Understanding of city services, creativity, clarity, sincerity of thought, and proper grammar.
- Why:** In an effort to encourage youth engagement, the League reserves the right to republish the memos and pictures of each student to connect Kansas youth in their work.



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!



# “If I Were Mayor”

## Memo Explanations & Example

### The Mayor’s Role:

The Mayor is the leader of the City Council in the Mayor-Council form of government. The Mayor provides public leadership by building positive community relationships and being the voice of the public while modeling good governance.

Good governance is defined as responsibly spending the public’s money, increasing the public’s safety and well-being, and building a community’s resiliency in the event of tragedy.

### Local Government Responsibilities:

Environment	Economic Development
Public Safety	Community Development
Infrastructure	Arts & Heritage
Utilities	Parks & Recreation

### What is a Policy?

A Policy is a course of action chosen to address a problem. Policy can take the form of a law, a city ordinance, a regulation or a funding decision.

Deciding what is the “problem” can be the hardest part. After you have decided what the problem is, then decide if the government is the appropriate actor to take action.

### Considerations:

When deciding on a course of action, thus making a policy, it’s important to consider:

- Is your policy legal?
- Does it serve the common good?
- Does it protect people’s civic rights?
- Is it equitable?
- Is it efficient?

### What is a Barrier?

A Barrier is anything that makes taking action difficult. Barriers can take the form of people opposing the action, lacking money to fund the action or poor timing.

### What is a Resource?

A Resource is anything that makes taking action easier. Resources can take the form of community support, receiving funding or perfect timing.

### Example:

*As Mayor*, I want to fund the building of inclusive parks across the city. I decided the problem is that the parks are not used by all the groups in our community. We need parks that are fun for kids and adults of all levels of abilities. My Policy is that three parks will be wheelchair accessible, have play areas for community members with Down Syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, those who are deaf, hard of hearing or blind, and fitness equipment for adults.

### Considerations:

- It is legal.
- It is for the common good.
- It is equitable.

**Barriers:** This project will cost \$3 million and take two years to complete. We also do not have a revenue source to pay for improvements and maintenance. We may need to create a new sales tax or explore other funding sources.

**Resources:** Several community groups support this policy and are willing to research equipment and designs. Our local youth association is willing to encourage community support by running a social media campaign and fundraisers.

