



REVISED

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

CITY HALL
6090 Woodson

Meeting In Person and Virtually via Zoom

This meeting will be held in person at the time and date shown above. In consideration of the COVID-19 social distancing recommendations, this meeting will also be available virtually via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/join>). Information will be posted, prior to the meeting, on how to join at <https://www.missionks.org/calendar.aspx>.

If you require any accommodations (i.e. qualified interpreter, large print, reader, hearing assistance) in order to attend this meeting, please notify the Administrative Office at 913-676-8350 no later than 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Review and Discussion of 2024 Legislative Priorities – Laura Smith/LGR

Council, staff and representatives from Little Government Relations (LGR) will review and discuss the City of Mission's legislative priorities for the 2024 Session.

City of Mission	Item Number:	1.
DISCUSSION ITEM SUMMARY	Date:	November 29, 2023
ADMINISTRATION	From:	Laura Smith

Discussion items allow the committee the opportunity to freely discuss the issue at hand.

RE: 2024 Legislative Priorities

DETAILS: Each year the City prepares a Legislative Program which outlines priorities or areas of interest or concern to be communicated to our state legislators at the outset of the legislative session.

The League of Kansas Municipalities Statement of Municipal Policy and Mission’s Final 2023 Program with suggested edits from LGR and staff are included with this packet to provide a starting point for the Council’s consideration. LGR’s suggestions are highlighted in yellow, and Staff suggestions appear as red-lined changes. In addition, LGR, the City’s consultant for legislative advocacy services, will be available during the work session to share their thoughts/observations about issues which might be of interest to Mission during the upcoming session.

The discussion during the work session will provide an opportunity for Councilmembers to begin to communicate, modify, add or delete specific policy issues they would like to see incorporated into a final Legislative Program for 2024. Following the work session, Staff will develop a final recommended program for consideration as an Action Item on the December 13, 2023 Finance & Administration Committee agenda.

CFAA CONSIDERATIONS/IMPACTS: Developing a comprehensive and thoughtful legislative program helps Mission to communicate our values and priorities to our state elected officials as we seek to support and encourage policy that helps to build, maintain and enhance communities for residents of all ages and abilities.

Related Statute/City Ordinance:	N/A
Line Item Code/Description:	N/A
Available Budget:	N/A



20234 Legislative Priorities

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December 20223



December 204, 2023

Dear Reader:

The Governing Body of the City of Mission annually adopts a state legislative program to communicate Mission’s legislative initiatives and policy positions in a manner that is reflective of Council priorities and values, including diversity and inclusion, sustainability, and investment in infrastructure, both physical and human.

The cornerstone of the City’s legislative program is the belief that public affairs should be governed as close to the people as possible. Supporting activities that promote and encourage the exercise of authority and responsibility by locally elected officials is a top priority of the City.

Generally, and when not inconsistent with Mission’s stated priorities, we support the Statement of Municipal Policy of the League of Kansas Municipalities. The City Council works cooperatively each year with the League and other cities for the shared benefit of Kansas cities.

If you have questions concerning the 20234 Legislative Program, please, do not hesitate to contact me or other members of the Governing Body.

Sincerely,

Sollie Flora
Mayor

Governing Body

Mayor

Sollie Flora

Ward I

Trent Boultinghouse
Hillary Parker Thomas

Ward II

Lea Loudon
Mary Ryherd

Ward III

Debbie Kring
Brian Schmid

Ward IV

Ben Chociejski
Cheryl Davis



2023~~4~~ Legislative Priorities

State and municipal governments work together to provide citizens with many services they require and have come to expect. This partnership is dependent upon stable funding, decision-making at the appropriate level, and removing barriers to efficient and effective access to services and protections for every person in the state of Kansas without regard to age, race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, military status, sexual orientation, or gender identify. The City of Mission understands our citizens' needs and is equipped to respond to them effectively and efficiently. While we respect the State government's role, we support the preservation of local authority, local control of revenue and spending, and oppose the devolution of State duties to local units of government without planning, time and resources. The City of Mission has established the following as our legislative priorities for the upcoming session and advocates in the interests of our elected representatives and on behalf of those who live and work in our community.

Finance and Taxation

Local Control Over Revenue and Spending

The City of Mission opposes actions by the State to impose constitutional or statutory limits on the authority of local governments to establish appropriate levels of taxation. Discretion and flexibility are important components of responsible and effective fiscal management, ensuring that local elected leaders can respond appropriately to the priorities of their constituents. We oppose arbitrary caps on taxing and spending limits that restrict that ability. Transparency measures should not be burdensome, costly, or punitive.

Tax & Appraisal Policy

The City supports stable revenues and urges the Legislature to avoid applying any further limitations to the ad valorem property tax base, including exceptions for specific business entities or the state/local sales tax base, as well as industry-specific, special tax treatment through exemptions or property classification. As a result of state tax policy changes, local governments have been increasingly pressured to rely on residential property taxes. We do not support changes in State taxation policy that would narrow the tax base, significantly reduce available funding for key programs, or put Kansas counties and cities at a competitive sales tax disadvantage with Missouri. **We urge the Legislature to be cautious when pursuing policy changes related to assessed valuation, and do not believe an artificial cap is the best way to provide long-term, equitable relief to Kansas homeowners and taxpayers.** We also strongly oppose any legislation that would allow or require commercial properties to utilize "dark

store theory” to appeal their assessed valuations, as cities rely on property tax revenue from large commercial retailers to pay for their share of essential city services so as not to overly burden residential property owners. [Consider eliminating this portion related to dark store, since this is mostly resolved as a result of the Kansas Supreme Court ruling.]

~~Sales Tax on Food~~

~~Mission supports the immediate elimination of the state portion of sales tax on food. We do not support eliminating the City’s portion of sales tax on food, as this is a major source of revenue for cities throughout Kansas and would negatively impact the services provided by local governments because local governments have a more limited range of taxing authority than the State.~~

[Can keep, but since the immediacy has mostly passed, could consider eliminating this section for brevity. Should the Legislature act, implementation would only be moved up by 6 months, at the earliest.]

Sales Tax & Exemptions

Cities should continue to retain voter-approved local sales tax allocations. The Legislature is granted authority to make decisions relating to statewide sales tax. Local voters vote on and are granted authority to make decisions regarding local sales taxes. Any sales tax exemptions considered by the Legislature should only apply to the state portion of sales tax and not eliminate voter approved local sales taxes.

Statutory Pass-Through Funding

The City supports the preservation and funding of local government revenues which pass through the State’s treasury including Local Ad Valorem Property Tax Reduction (LAVTRF), City County Revenue Sharing (CCRS), alcoholic liquor funds and the local portion of motor fuel tax to local governments.

Government Policies and Procedures

Home Rule Authority

The City of Mission supports the retention and strengthening of local home rule authority to allow locally elected officials to conduct the business of the City in a manner that best reflects the values and standards of their constituents. This includes matters dealing with public health and safety, such as local health orders and rental inspections, and the ability to govern possession of firearms in public spaces in the interest of community safety.

Promotion of Equity and Equality

Mission supports comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that offers protections to every person in the state of Kansas without regard to age, race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, military status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. We further support State efforts to encourage racial equity and promote diversity.

Abandoned and Blighted Housing

Mission supports streamlining and expediting the process for local governments, neighborhood organizations and private businesses to deal with the blight of abandoned, nuisance, foreclosed housing, and commercial structures to protect the rights and property values of surrounding property owners. Cities should continue to retain the ability to manage vacant property registry programs to counter blight.

Housing-Rental Inspections

Cities should be provided the authority to require inspections of rental housing for the safety of tenants and to protect the rights and property values of surrounding property owners.

Non-Partisan Local Elections

The City supports non-partisan local elections and further supports local elections remaining separate from state and national elections. We **oppose any** ~~are opposed to any~~ legislation that would require local elections to be conducted with partisan identification.

Firearm Safety

We strongly believe the ability to govern how firearms are possessed or transported throughout our community is a matter of local control. Local government should have the ability to regulate and enforce the possession and use of weapons within city-owned facilities, including City Hall, public parks, the outdoor pool, community center and city vehicles. The City also supports the ability of local governments to set policies regarding the carrying of weapons and firearms by their employees while they are engaged in the course of their employment. We urge State legislators to amend K.S.A. 75-7c which currently restricts local government from enacting important firearm safety measures in their communities.

Education

K-12 Education Financing

Mission is supportive of the Kansas Legislature adequately and equitably funding primary and secondary education to a level that places Kansas among the leading states in support of a world class education and strongly encourages the State to fund special education at the **statutorily** required **ninety-two percent of excess costs**. ~~statutory levels.~~

Environment and Energy

Addressing the Climate Crisis as a Public Policy Priority

Climate change poses a global environmental, economic, social, and public safety crisis. We ask that the State recognize this crisis and join Mission in elevating sustainability and decarbonization as among the top and most urgent of policy priorities. The ongoing climate crisis demands coordinated action at all levels of government. Mission supports State investment in and commitment to decarbonize our electricity, transportation, agriculture, and buildings sectors, so

that Kansas can build community resilience and mitigate the financial impacts of climate change on cities.

Energy Policy and Control of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mission supports the establishment of a statewide Energy Office to support the development and implementation of statewide energy policies. We further support the development of a coordinated and comprehensive energy policy/plan, developed with strong input from cities, that would encourage the further implementation of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies. As energy efficiency saves money, drives investment across all sectors of the economy, creates jobs, and reduces the environmental impact of energy use, we support public and private incentives to encourage energy efficiency by local governments and citizens. Further, Mission encourages the adoption of policies that will position Kansas as a forerunner in renewable energy production. Accordingly, encourages the Kansas Legislature to provide incentives for such energy sources that protect air quality and reduce dependence on oil and gas. More specifically, the City supports policies which allow and encourage homeowners and businesses to utilize and invest in alternative energy rather than imposing fees or additional barriers which result in discouraging investment that can save residents and businesses money. Mission further encourages the State to investigate and adopt innovative green technologies to drawdown greenhouse gas emissions and/or sequester carbon dioxide (for example carbon dioxide mineralized concrete and photocatalytic concrete technology).

Infrastructure

Federal Grants

With recent historic investments at the federal level in infrastructure, sustainability, and clean energy through the Bipartisan Infrastructure law and Inflation Reduction Act, Mission encourages the Legislature and state agencies to provide **continued** support, coordination, and guidance to local governments in order to maximize opportunities to successfully take advantage of these federal investments. **The City applauds the 2023 Legislature for creating the Build Kansas Fund, providing local governments the opportunity to seek matching funds for federal grant opportunities.**

Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Mission supports full funding of the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program. We oppose any use of these funds to balance the state's General Fund budget, and any reduction in funding that jeopardizes existing programs. We encourage the State to increase planning for and funding of multimodal projects and to prioritize achievement of "vision zero."

Electric Charging Station Infrastructure

We support the expansion of electric charging station infrastructure throughout the state in order to increase the pace of electric vehicle adoption and positively impact local communities. We support a change to allow sales of electricity at EV charging stations and for EV charging stations to not be classified as regulated utilities.

Stormwater Management

Mission endorses regional and cooperative solutions to stormwater quality and quantity challenges that address point and non-point source pollution. We further endorse state measures

to incentivize and enable investment in green infrastructure (e.g., street trees, use of native plants) to support sustainable communities.

Building Codes

Mission opposes any measures to preempt local building codes. Further, cities should continue to be allowed to shape local codes to incentivize net-zero or net-zero ready building requirements.

Human Services

Investment in the Social Safety Net

The City supports restoring funding to social services programs that provide a safety net for the most vulnerable in our communities. Continued support for these programs at the state level is imperative to keep our communities safe, productive, and vibrant.

Mental Health

Mental health is a critical component of the public safety and health of Mission's residents and all residents of the state of Kansas. Access to quality mental health services and an increasing need for these services is a growing concern of the City. The City supports increased funding for programs and services to provide enhanced training and support for police and fire departments; for public safety co-responder programs; to provide increased services to youth, for community mental health centers; and for state psychiatric hospitals. Mission advocates for the ability to establish public/private partnerships to increase provision of and access to mental health services and removing from the property tax lid the ability to fund mental health services and programs at the local level.

Medicaid Expansion

The City supports the expansion of Medicaid in Kansas. Accordingly, we anticipate that statewide expansion of Medicaid will assist uninsured city residents in obtaining needed medical insurance and services.

Housing Needs

Local officials should have the flexibility to address the need for affordable, varied types of housing as integral components of both their economic development and public safety duties. Mission further encourages the State to fund and support the growth of much-needed affordable housing options. Access to such housing stock is important to job growth and economic success in communities.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

We support increased funding for proven state tobacco prevention programs to improve the State's "F" grade by the American Lung Association. We also support criminal justice reform measures targeted toward the treatment of drug use as a health issue, not a criminal one. With the Kansas cigarette sales tax rate well-below the national average, the City supports a statewide increase in the tobacco sales tax as a deterrent to tobacco use.

Miscellaneous

Legalization of Marijuana consider Cannabis

The City supports legalization of marijuana cannabis in Kansas. At a minimum, the State should adopt legalization of medical marijuana cannabis which should be subject to existing state and local sales tax and cities should be able to levy their own excise fees and receive a portion of any state funds to offset the impact of medical cannabis marijuana. Each city should have the ability to opt-in to allowing dispensaries in their city and to further regulate operations.

2024 Statement of Municipal Policy

State



THE
LEAGUE
OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES



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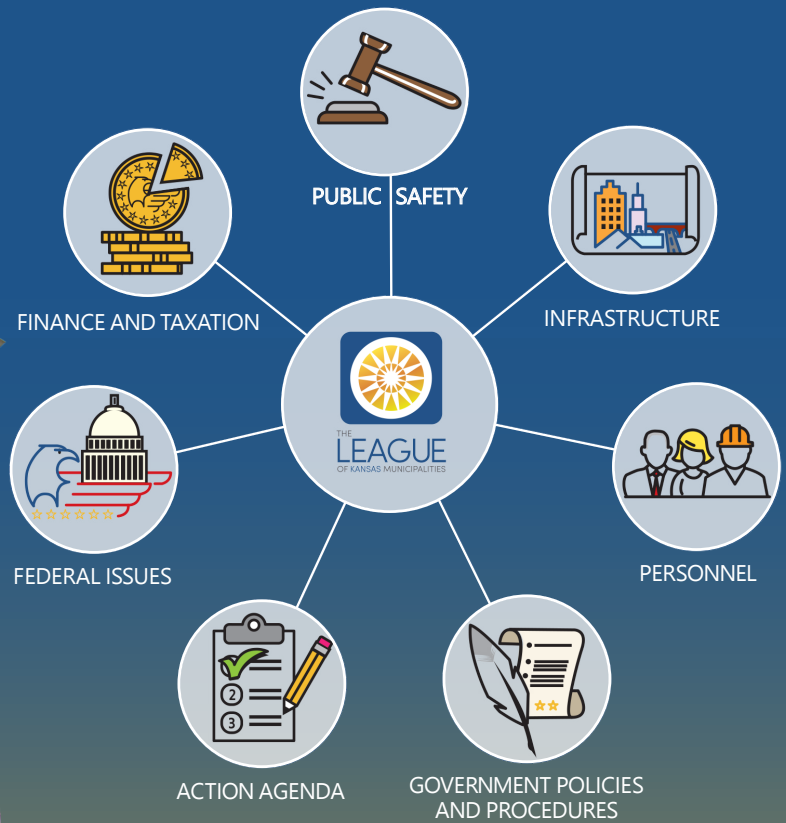
Nathan Eberline



ABOUT THE LEAGUE

SUPPORTING KANSAS CITIES

The League of Kansas Municipalities is a membership association that advocates on behalf of cities, offers training and guidance to city appointed and elected officials, and has a clear purpose of strengthening Kansas communities. Since 1910, the League has been a resource for cities across Kansas and has acted as a body to share ideas, facilitate communication between members, and provide information on best practices in city operations.





LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The prosperity of Kansas is dependent upon the prosperity of its cities. More than 84% of Kansans live in an incorporated city. To promote healthy and sustainable communities, the elected and appointed city officials of Kansas establish the following as 2024 legislative priorities:

HOME RULE. Consistent with the Home Rule Amendment of the Kansas Constitution approved by voters, we support local elected officials making decisions for their communities, particularly tax and revenue decisions.

GOVERNMENT COMPETITION. Local governments should retain local control over the services they provide to residents and businesses. Free markets are the best vehicle for allocating goods and services. However, there are circumstances where the free market does not efficiently allocate goods and services, creates externalities that endanger public safety and welfare, or simply does not provide a service. In these instances, it falls to local government to respond to the needs of the people. In addition, local governments provide services for the sole benefit of their residents and should continue to receive tax benefits to provide those services at a low cost.

CITY ELECTIONS. We oppose any actions by the state government to impose partisan elections on cities. All cities have the authority to make this decision for their community, and each city, in consultation with its citizens, should make that determination.

SALES TAX & EXEMPTIONS. Cities should continue to retain voter-approved local sales tax allocations. The Legislature is granted authority to make decisions relating to statewide sales tax. Local voters vote on and are granted authority to make decisions regarding local sales taxes. Any sales tax exemptions considered by the Legislature should only apply to the state portion of sales tax and not eliminate voter-approved local sales taxes.

MENTAL HEALTH. We support allocating additional resources for mental health programs. Funds should be allocated for community mental health centers and additional bed space for patients with mental health issues.

HOUSING. A lack of quality housing across the state creates an impediment to growth and economic development. The League supports programs that encourage access to quality housing.

SALES TAX REVENUE IN STAR BOND DISTRICTS. The reduction and elimination of the state food sales tax threatens the viability of existing STAR Bond project districts that include groceries by eliminating a source of revenue pledged to repay the bonds. We support the creation of a long-term funding mechanism to ensure state reimbursement of lost funds caused by reduction and elimination of the state share of food sales tax in impacted STAR Bond districts.

WATER. Access to water is paramount for the growth and viability of communities. Government at all levels should pursue the conservation, protection, and development of current and future water supplies to ensure access to clean, safe, and affordable water for all Kansans. We support state action, in consultation with municipal providers, to address surface and groundwater resources.

LAVTR. The state legislature, as required by statutes, should fund the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction (LAVTR) program.

AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS. We support allowing non-certified attendants to drive ambulances for inter-facility patient transfers with one attendant providing patient care. These staff should be trained to operate emergency vehicles. We continue to support the use of certified attendants for emergency situations.



FINANCE & TAXATION

Each city is unique in services provided and ability to pay for such services; maximum flexibility should be granted to local governing bodies to determine the amount and source of funding for city services. The League supports the long-established policies of balancing revenue from income, sales, and property taxes to assure the fiscal ability of the state and local governments to provide services citizens need.

TAX POLICY & SPENDING. Local spending and taxing decisions are best left to local officials representing the citizens that elected them. We oppose state-imposed limits on the taxing and spending authority of cities. Changes to tax policies should not be undertaken without a full understanding of the overall impact on all taxpayers, taxing entities, and the sources and amounts of revenues generated or eliminated by such policy changes.

PROPERTY TAXES. All property taxing authorities, including cities, counties, the state, school districts, special districts, and community colleges should be transparent, and abide by the same limitations, restrictions, and requirements. Any additional transparency measures should not be burdensome or costly. We encourage the state and local governments to make government more efficient and recognize the need to work together on innovative approaches to reduce property taxes.

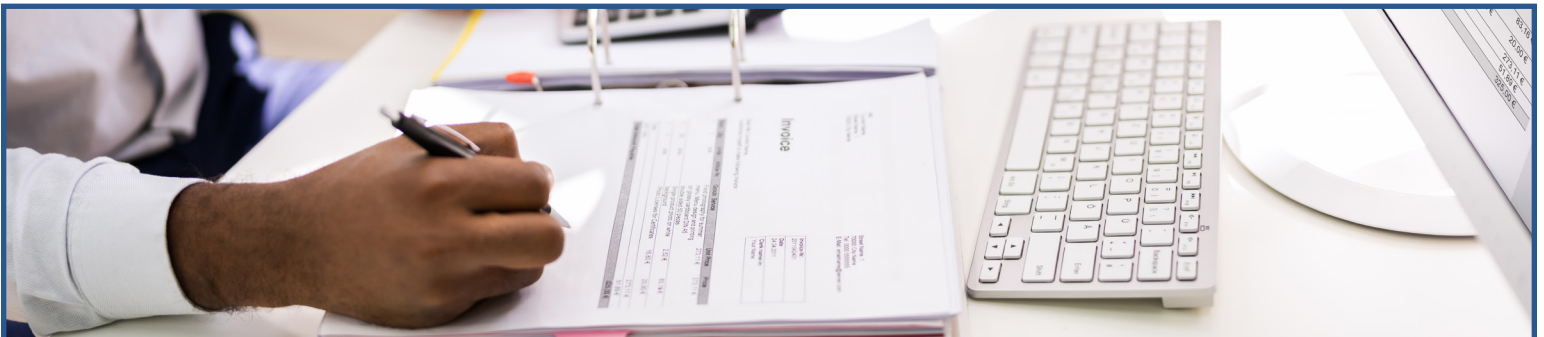
PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS. We encourage the legislature to resist any proposal to further exempt any specific property classification from taxation, including industry-specific exemptions. We support the current statutory definition of machinery and equipment, and the exemption should not be expanded. The Legislature should review existing exemptions to determine if they should continue or be repealed.

SALES TAX & EXEMPTIONS. Cities should continue to be able to determine voter-approved local sales tax allocations. The Legislature is granted authority to make decisions relating to statewide sales tax. Local voters vote on and are granted authority to make decisions regarding local sales taxes. Any sales tax exemptions considered by the Legislature should only apply to the state portion of sales tax and not eliminate voter-approved local sales taxes.

PROPERTY VALUATION. We support appraisals based on fair-market value as historically used in Kansas. We oppose caps in property valuations and limitations on valuation methods that shift the property tax burden, benefiting one category of property to the detriment of all others, as unconstitutional and inequitable.

LAVTR. The state legislature, as required by statutes, should fund the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction (LAVTR) program.

COUNTYWIDE SALES AND USE TAXES. Since 1977, Kansas has successfully used a city-county revenue sharing formula for the benefit of all. The existing formula benefits city and county taxpayers and ensures there is a fair method to distribute funds generated primarily in cities and approved by voters. The Legislature should fund existing city and county revenue sharing programs as required by statutes.



SALES TAX REVENUE IN STAR BOND DISTRICTS.

The reduction and elimination of the state food sales tax threatens the viability of existing STAR Bond project districts that include groceries by eliminating a source of revenue pledged to repay the bonds. We support the creation of a long-term funding mechanism to ensure state reimbursement of lost funds caused by reduction and elimination of the state share of food sales tax in impacted STAR Bond districts.

REVENUES & SPENDING. We oppose any law requiring a city to spend a certain threshold to receive and maintain state dollars. All spending decisions should remain at the local level. Cities should be authorized to approve alternative revenue sources to maintain appropriate levels of funding for the health, safety, and welfare of citizens. Cities should be allowed to set financial policies in-line with bond rating requirements and other generally accepted best practices for municipal management.

BUDGET TIMELINE. The current statutory framework for adoption of municipal budgets makes it difficult for cities to develop budgets that must be presented to governing bodies five months before the start of a fiscal year. We support legislation to allow the adoption of City budgets by November 30.

EMS/HOSPITAL FUNDING. We support expansion of Medicaid to allow hospitals and emergency medical services (EMS) access to federal funding, helping cities maintain and provide critical services for citizens. Absent Medicaid expansion, additional state funding needs to be made available to rural hospitals to retain businesses and employees and sustain the health and lives of Kansans.

UNFUNDED MANDATES & LOAN PROGRAMS.

We oppose unfunded mandates. If the state or federal governments seek to promote particular policy objectives, such mandates must be accompanied by an appropriate level of funding. We support changes to allow local governments to participate directly in federal loan programs.

LOCAL AUTHORITY. We support cities' ability to impose and collect taxes and fees on telecommunications providers. All cities should have the same banking and investment authority the state grants itself. We support Kansas statutes being modernized to reflect revenue neutral rate requirements when determining a public library's eligibility for state funding.





PUBLIC SAFETY

Cities play a critical role in the protection of the health and safety of citizens. Government at all levels should cooperate in the development of health and safety programs.

ASSET FORFEITURE. All assets forfeited, or proceeds of the sale of the same, should remain with the local government that seizes the property.

MUNICIPAL COURT. All assessed court funds under a municipal court order, other than restitution collected and payable to a third party and state assessments paid under K.S.A. 12-4117, should be retained by the local municipality. We support municipalities' ability to set appropriate fines and fees.

EMERGENCY 911 SERVICES. Cities and counties should maintain local control of the 911 system. The 911 tax should continue to include wireline and wireless communications. We support legislation providing flexibility for local governments to utilize these funds to provide emergency services. 911 funds should not be diverted by the legislature for other uses.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. Implementation strategies must promote cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local governments. Changes to the Emergency Management Act should consider the role of a city in responding to disasters.

MEDICAL CHARGES. The first person responsible for payment of medical costs should be the individual in custody. Clarification is needed that the entity charging for a crime is responsible in the event those costs cannot be recovered. We support the pooling of resources between state and local law enforcement agencies.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION. We support local governments' discretion in establishing law enforcement vehicle pursuit policies and the ability of law enforcement officers to use discretion in determining when to make an arrest.

SERVICE ANIMAL FRAUD. We support strengthening and redefining the crime of service animal fraud to disincentivize individuals from asserting an animal is a service animal to avoid vicious animals, exotic, livestock, or breed-specific ordinances.

ALCOHOL & CMB REGULATION. We support the authority of cities to license and regulate alcoholic liquor and cereal malt beverage retailers and establishments.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA. Medical marijuana should be subject to existing state and local sales tax and cities should be able to levy their own excise fees and receive a portion of any state funds to offset the impact of medical marijuana. Cities should have the ability to opt-in to allowing dispensaries in their city. Kansas should only allow the cultivation and processing of medical marijuana and THC in licensed facilities and not allow residential grow operations.

HOMELAND SECURITY. Local first responders are the front-line defense in the prevention and response to terrorism and security risks. Local governments should be granted maximum flexibility over implementation of monies and strategies regarding homeland security.

CYBERSECURITY. We encourage the State to provide collaborative discussions, training programs, and feasibility studies for the impact of cyber-attacks on cities. Cities will use information provided by the state to determine best practices and policies for municipal implementation.

AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS. We support allowing non-certified attendants to drive ambulances for inter-facility patient transfers with one attendant providing patient care. These staff should be trained to operate emergency vehicles. We continue to support the use of certified attendants for emergency situations.

MENTAL HEALTH. We support allocating additional resources for mental health programs. Funds should be allocated for community mental health centers and additional bed space for patients with mental health issues.

MEDICAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE. Hospitals and Health Care Facilities are facing an alarming shortage of licensed medical and clinical staff who specialize in the medical and mental health treatment of individuals. We support additional state resources being put toward programs to recruit and retain Health Care Professionals. We support the development of a behavioral health tech certificate program at community or technical colleges. We also support the establishment of a rural psychiatric residency program.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Cities construct, manage, operate, and maintain numerous infrastructure components that provide a high quality of life. Infrastructure involving transportation, municipal utilities, energy services, and water and environmental structures are dependent on the ability of local officials to self-determine what's appropriate for their communities. This relies on cooperation from state government and full funding as required by law under statutory programs from the state and federal governments.

TRANSPORTATION

CONNECTING LINKS. The State should maintain KDOT's funding for connecting link programs at a minimum of the FY 2020 level for cities to provide for the maintenance of state highways within city limits. We support full funding of the City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP).

CITY-COUNTY HIGHWAY FUND. The City-County Highway Fund should be fully funded and not diverted for other purposes. Such funding should include the transfer of fees from the registration of out-of-state commercial vehicles, as directed by K.S.A. 9-3425i. Proceeds from increases to the motor fuel tax rates should be allocated in accordance with current statutory provisions.

COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM. We support a comprehensive transportation system that is safe, efficient, and accessible. The state should fully fund the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE) and cooperate with local governments to maintain and improve the state's transportation infrastructure. We support continued development of multimodal transportation networks and local transportation districts that enable cities to develop transportation initiatives to advance these objectives.

MODERN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT. We support a modern and sustainable transportation system that meets the needs of all Kansans. The state should invest in expanding electric charging station infrastructure, enhancing airport facilities and services, developing recreational trails, and improving passenger and freight rail service. We also support changes to state law that make it easier and more affordable to develop these projects.

ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS. Any fees or taxes imposed on charging stations remitted to the state should be put into the Special Highway Fund, not the general fund.

UNIFORM TRAFFIC CODE. We support a comprehensive review and recodification of the Uniform Traffic Code.

MATCHING FUNDS. We support allocating surplus state fund revenues to cities to maximize federal discretionary grant funds.

UTILITIES

BROADBAND. Access to reliable broadband service is essential to the economic health of cities. We support establishment of Broadband grants to facilitate expansion. Guidance for the grant program and broadband-related statutes must recognize the important role local governments play in such expansion and not remove planning and right of way authority from local governments.

SERVICE TERRITORY. Municipalities must retain authority to purchase, construct, or extend infrastructure necessary to supply cities and their inhabitants with public utilities, including electric services. Cities should have the freedom and flexibility to grow and expand service territories.

MUNICIPAL OPERATION. We support the ability of cities to operate municipal gas, water, electric, sewer, telecommunications, broadband, solid waste, stormwater or other utility services. We further support the ability of cities to set and control the rates for locally owned and operated utilities.

RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL. We support municipal utilities having the ability to invest in new electric/transmission projects to provide reliable, affordable service to customers. We oppose efforts prohibiting competition for transmission projects.

FRANCHISE AUTHORITY. We oppose any legislation restricting the current franchise authority for cities, including limits on franchise fees.

MANDATES. Any mandates passed down to cities by the state or federal government on utility services should not be imposed without a cost-benefit analysis and accompanied by appropriate funding. Regulations should be reasonable in overall scope and timing of implementation.

RIGHT-OF-WAY. Cities must maintain the ability to regulate public right-of-way and recover reasonable compensation for use of the right-of-way. Kansas policy should not be dictated by federal mandates. We oppose efforts to codify at the state level federal directives limiting cities' powers.

ENERGY

ELECTRIC UTILITY DEREGULATION. Community-owned and operated municipal electric utilities make long-term power supply decisions and investments to benefit the overall community. We support continued local control over power supply decisions.

STATEWIDE ENERGY POLICY. We support development of a coordinated and comprehensive Energy Plan. Further, we support creative and cooperative implementation of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies that are environmentally sustainable and economically successful. We support public and private incentives to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy.

BUILDING CODES. Cities should continue to be allowed to shape local codes to incentivize net zero or net-zero ready building requirements.

PROPANE. We support cities' authority to protect public safety by regulating the capacity of propane units/facilities for residential or commercial purposes.

WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

WATER QUALITY. We support a clean and safe public water supply and the protection of public health and aquatic life. We endorse regional and cooperative solutions to water quality challenges that address point and non-point source pollution while balancing municipal cost concerns.

WATER QUANTITY. We support efforts to extend the life of reservoirs and expand reservoir storage for use by municipal water suppliers. We support immediate state action, in consultation with municipal providers, to address surface and groundwater resources while respecting priority of water rights. Water rights management tools that have been developed in recent years should be modified or expanded so they provide the same type of flexibility and authority to any water rights holder regardless of class.



PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SUPERVISION PROGRAM. We support changes to the statutory language increasing the funding stability for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Public Water Supply Supervision program. These changes must balance municipal concerns while recognizing the state has a responsibility to contribute to these public health matters.

WATER PLANNING. We support increased municipal representation on the Kansas Water Authority; broad-based revenue sources and distribution for the state Water Plan Fund; and a re-evaluation of the process for adopting the annual state Water Plan Fund budget.

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING. We support increased federal and state funding to assist local communities with water, wastewater, stormwater, levee and dam infrastructure and associated security needs. We call for loan terms of up to 40 years when the usable lifespan of an improvement will exceed the term of the loan.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT. We endorse regional and cooperative solutions to stormwater quality and quantity challenges that address point and non-point source pollution. We further endorse state measures to incentivize and enable investment in green infrastructure to support sustainable communities.

SOLID WASTE. Home rule powers of cities to dispose of and manage municipal solid waste should not be restricted. This includes recycling, electronic waste and composting programs.

HAZARDOUS WASTE. We support a comprehensive state and local cooperative approach to provide assistance in identifying hazardous waste and to develop programs to monitor and dispose of such waste. Appropriate education and training should be provided prior to implementation of such programs.

CLEAN AIR. We support a state-developed air quality plan that protects the health and safety of Kansans while balancing municipal cost concerns.

WATER AND WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION. We support improved certification programs that align necessary skillsets for real-world water and wastewater system operation with the content of the corresponding exams. We support review of water and wastewater certification to ensure validity and reliability. We encourage contracting and collaboration to help utilities acquire the knowledge, skills, abilities, and certifications needed to effectively serve rate payers.





HUMAN RESOURCES

City employees are the foundation of city government. City governing bodies must have authority to develop local personnel policies to attract and maintain a high-quality workforce.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION. We support reasonable and just benefits for employees injured within the course and scope of their public employment, and effective enforcement of the Workers’ Compensation Act.

KPERS & KP&F. We support full funding of the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) and Kansas Police & Fire (KP&F) retirement systems and honoring all commitments made by KPERS and KP&F. The local KPERS system should remain separate from the state and school retirement system. Changes to the KPERS system should support a city’s ability to hire and retain qualified public employees, including any undue burden on hiring KPERS retirees, or reduce benefits promised to employees.

PUBLIC EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ACT (PEERA)/COLLECTIVE BARGAINING. We oppose any federal or state mandate requiring collective bargaining at the local level.

MANDATES. We oppose state and federal mandates involving public personnel. We oppose federal and state mandates requiring or prohibiting the payment of prevailing wages.

WEAPONS AND FIREARMS. We support the ability of local governments to set policies regarding the carrying of weapons and firearms by municipal employees while engaged in their work.

HEALTH CARE & OTHER BENEFITS. We support cooperation and study of ways to relieve the financial burden of securing employee health care coverage, including the continued option for cities to participate in the state health care program.

UNEMPLOYMENT. We support reasonable and just benefits for employees who are qualified individuals under the Kansas Employment Security Law. We oppose the finding that volunteers, who are paid a nominal stipend, are considered qualified individuals. We support legislation to define “volunteer” in Kansas employment law that is consistent with federal law.





GOVERNMENT POLICIES & PROCEDURES

A biding by constitutional Home Rule, there is a need to ensure local governments maintain autonomy and the authority of self-governance to create a safe and sustainable quality of life for residents.

HOME RULE. Consistent with the Home Rule Amendment of the Kansas Constitution approved by voters, we support local elected city officials making decisions for their communities, particularly tax and revenue decisions.

GOVERNMENT COMPETITION. Local governments should retain local control over the services they provide to their residents and businesses. Free markets are the best vehicle for allocating goods and services. However, there are circumstances where the free market does not efficiently allocate goods and services, creates externalities that endanger public safety and welfare, or simply does not provide a service. In these instances, it falls to local government to respond to the needs of the people to provide the good or service. In addition, local governments provide services for the sole benefit of their residents and should continue to receive tax benefits to provide those services at a low cost.

PROTECTION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT. The right of the people through democratically elected and appointed officials to petition and speak to government officials shall not be abridged. We support cities' First Amendment right of freedom of association to work together to accomplish common goals.

POLICE POWERS. We support the authority of cities to regulate to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

NON-DISCRIMINATION. We oppose discrimination against any person by reason of their race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, or sexual orientation), age, national origin, ancestry, disability, military/veteran status, or genetic information.

CITY ELECTIONS. We oppose any actions by the state government to impose partisan elections on cities. All cities have the authority to make this decision for their community, and each city, in consultation with its citizens, should make that determination.

FILING FOR OFFICE. To encourage a higher number of candidates to file for office, we support the filing location for city elections being available in the city clerk's office. The state should evaluate remote filing options.

FILLING OF VACANCIES. Vacancy filling should remain the responsibility of local governing bodies made up of duly elected officials.

ANNEXATION. We support local jurisdictions' ability to make their own decisions regarding orderly growth through annexation.

SIGN REGULATION. We support the authority of local government to regulate signs in compliance with federal law.

PUBLIC PROPERTY & RIGHTS-OF-WAY. We support the right of cities to control and manage public property and rights-of-way and to impose franchise or use fees on entities that utilize rights-of-way.

EMINENT DOMAIN. We support flexibility for local governments to use eminent domain for economic development purposes, including blight remediation, without seeking legislative approval.

GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY. We support continued immunity for cities from tort liability and legislation strengthening the Kansas Torts Claims Act.

INTERLOCAL COOPERATION. We support the principle of voluntary cooperation among all levels of government.

CITY/COUNTY CONSOLIDATION. We support processes for local consolidation without undue statutory barriers. Voters should be allowed to determine whether consolidation with another unit of government occurs.

PRIVATE CEMETERY LIABILITY. We support removing the requirement for cities to care for and maintain formerly private cemeteries that have been dissolved.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING. The League supports programs that encourage access to quality housing, including but not limited to, the Housing Investor Tax Credit Act, the Kansas Affordable Housing Tax Credit Act, the Kansas Rural Home Loan Guarantee Act, guaranteeing appraisals in rural counties, the Historic Kansas Act, and the Kansas Rural Housing Incentive District Act.

RURAL HOUSING INCENTIVE LOAN FUND. We support the creation of a State low interest revolving loan fund to finance development in Reinvestment Housing Incentive Districts.

ABANDONED AND BLIGHTED HOUSING. We support streamlining and expediting the process for local governments, neighborhood organizations and private businesses to deal with the blight of abandoned, nuisance, foreclosed housing, and commercial structures to protect the rights and property values of surrounding property owners. Cities should continue to retain the ability to manage vacant property registry programs to counter blight.

HOUSING-RENTAL INSPECTIONS. We support giving cities authority to require inspections of rental housing for the safety of tenants and to protect the rights and property values of surrounding property owners.

REVITALIZATION TOOLS. We support continued use of the Neighborhood Revitalization Act, Downtown Redevelopment Act, Transportation Development District Act and Community Improvement District Act to promote local neighborhood development.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS. State and regional partnerships are vital to the sustained growth of the state and should be supported by policy and with adequate funding.

TAX ABATEMENTS. We support the authority of cities to offer tax abatements to encourage business investment in communities.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF). We support the continued use of TIF to promote economic development. TIF laws should allow maximum flexibility for efficient use by communities.

STAR BONDS. We support the ability of cities to utilize STAR bonds to promote economic development in communities.

LAND USE AND ZONING. We support the ability of local officials to make land use and zoning decisions within their community, including decisions about location, placement, size, appearance, and siting of transmission and receiving facilities and any other communications facilities.

BUILDING CODES. We oppose any measures to preempt local building codes.

TOURISM. We support cooperative ventures between state and local government to promote tourism as an industry vital to growth and development.

TAX CREDITS. We support the continued availability of tax credits as a tool for economic development.

TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

OPEN MEETINGS. All levels of government should be subject to the same open meetings requirements. These laws should not be unduly burdensome.

OPEN RECORDS. All levels of government should be subject to the same open records requirements. State laws governing open records should balance the public's right of access, with the necessity of protecting the privacy of individual citizens, and the ability of public agencies to conduct essential business functions. We support a city's ability to recoup reasonable costs associated with requests.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL DIALOGUE. We support current law regarding the use of state and local public moneys to provide information and advocate on behalf of our cities and citizens. Any reporting system should not increase the administrative burden on local governments.

BODY CAMERAS. We support the ability of local governments to determine when and how body cameras will be used by law enforcement officers, including the regulations concerning public access to those recordings, balancing the needs of law enforcement and the individuals whose images are captured in the recordings.



Relationships Are the Cornerstone of Effective Advocacy



1



Make Contact Before Legislative Session

- Eggs & Issues, town halls, etc.
- Communicate the city's agenda and priorities.
- Invite them to a League Legislative Dinner.

2



Follow the Legislative Session

- *League News*
- List servs
- News media
- www.lkm.org

3



Participate in Local Government Day January 24, 2024

- Make appointments to visit with your legislators in the morning.
- Invite them to the League reception.

4



Make Contact During Legislative Session

- Watch for alerts about key bills/issues.
- Follow the issue, not the bill number.
- Be specific; give your city's unique insight into the legislation.
- Don't waste time and political capital on meaningless bills that have no chance of becoming law.

5



Make Contact Following the Legislative Session

- Thank your legislator for their hard work.
- Be honest and express concern when bills negatively affect your city.



• Know your legislators on a first-name basis



• Always be respectful and avoid personal attacks



• Ask your legislator how he or she prefers to be contacted (email, phone, texts, etc.)



• Share your contact information



• Follow legislators' communications



• Sign up for emailed newsletters



• Follow legislators' social media accounts



• Send legislators your newsletter/updates

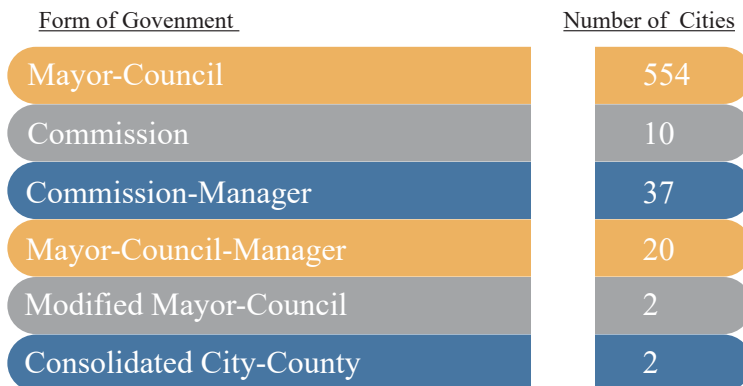
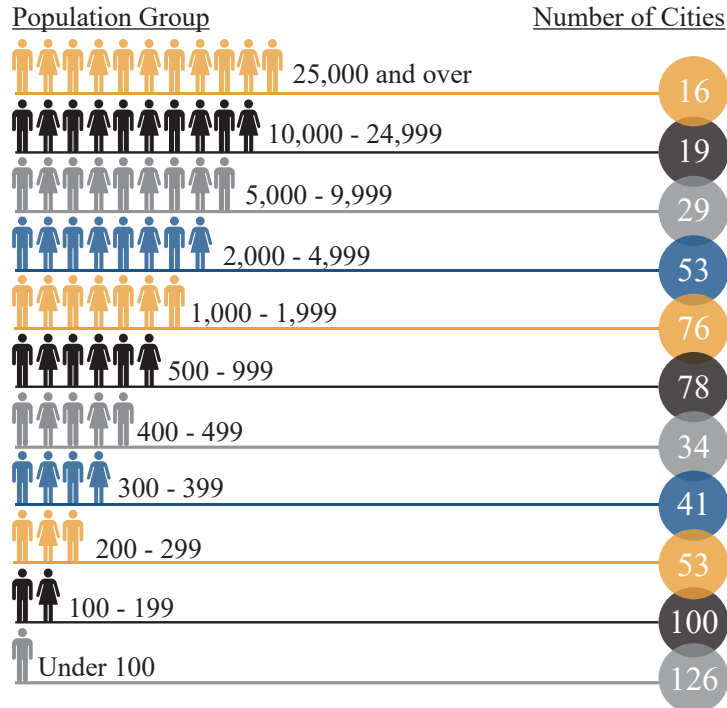
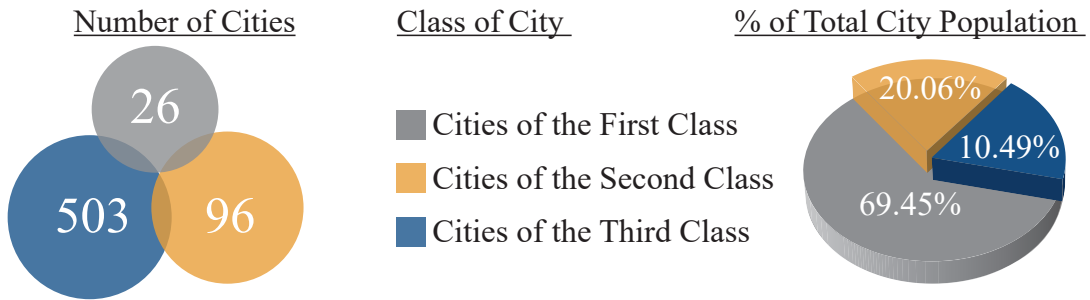
CITY FACTS

Total Number of Incorporated Cities = 625

Total Population of the State = 2,937,150

Total City Population = 2,443,840

83.20% of the state's population resides in an incorporated city.





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POLICY DEVELOPMENT

This *Statement of Municipal Policy* was developed by city officials through the League's policy committees. There are three policy committees that are focused in specific areas: Finance & Taxation, Public Officers & Employees, and Utilities & Environment. The fourth committee, the Legislative Policy Committee, reviews the entire *Statement* and the recommendations of the three specific committees. The *Statement* is then submitted to the Governing Body and is ultimately adopted by the Convention of Voting Delegates at the League's Annual Conference. For more information about the League policy committees or process, check out the League website at www.lkm.org or contact us at (785) 354-9565.

THE LEAGUE ADVOCATES FOR CITIES

The League advocates on our members' behalf to sponsor and encourage beneficial legislation for cities and oppose legislation that would be detrimental to our members' interest.



THE LEAGUE OFFERS GUIDANCE

Member cities can contact the League with a legal inquiry or question. Additionally, we provide sample ordinances and guidance on legislation and rulemaking from both the state and federal level.

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

Since 1914, the League has published the *Kansas Government Journal*, a publication for city, county and state government officials that is printed six times a year. The League publishes a weekly e-newsletter, researches municipal issues affecting Kansas communities and develops programs for cities to use to engage their residents and reinforce the importance of civic engagement.



MUNICIPAL TRAINING & EDUCATION

The League offers members a variety of education and training opportunities throughout the year. Our annual conference brings together leaders in municipal government to offer innovative ideas for cities. Throughout the year, the League works with professionals in the field to train, inspire and solve problems facing municipal leaders at all levels. The League offers over 30 manuals and publications on municipal issues ranging from finance and budgeting, personnel, planning, economic development, open meetings and open records to traffic ordinances.

CONTRACT SERVICES

The League offers members a competitive rate to have the League engage in contract services, which include codification services, executive personnel search program (LEAPS) and personnel policies.





THE
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