



AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

7651 E. Central Park Ave, Bel Aire, KS

Video Available at belaireks.gov

December 09, 2025 6:00 PM



-
- I. Discussion on Sidewalk Projects Utilizing WAMPO/KDOT Funds (PEC's Kristen Zimmerman and Tim Aziere)
 - II. Discussion on Legislative Priorities 2026
 - A. LKM Legislative Priorities 2026

Notice

It is possible that sometime between 5:30 and 6:00 PM immediately prior to this meeting, during breaks, and directly after the meeting, a majority of the Governing Body may be present in the Council Chambers or the lobby of City Hall. No one is excluded from these areas during these times. Video of this meeting can be streamed at www.belaireks.gov and on YouTube. Please make sure all cell phones and other electronics are turned off and put away.

2026 Statement of Municipal Policy

State



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GOVERNING BODY



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City Manager, Concordia



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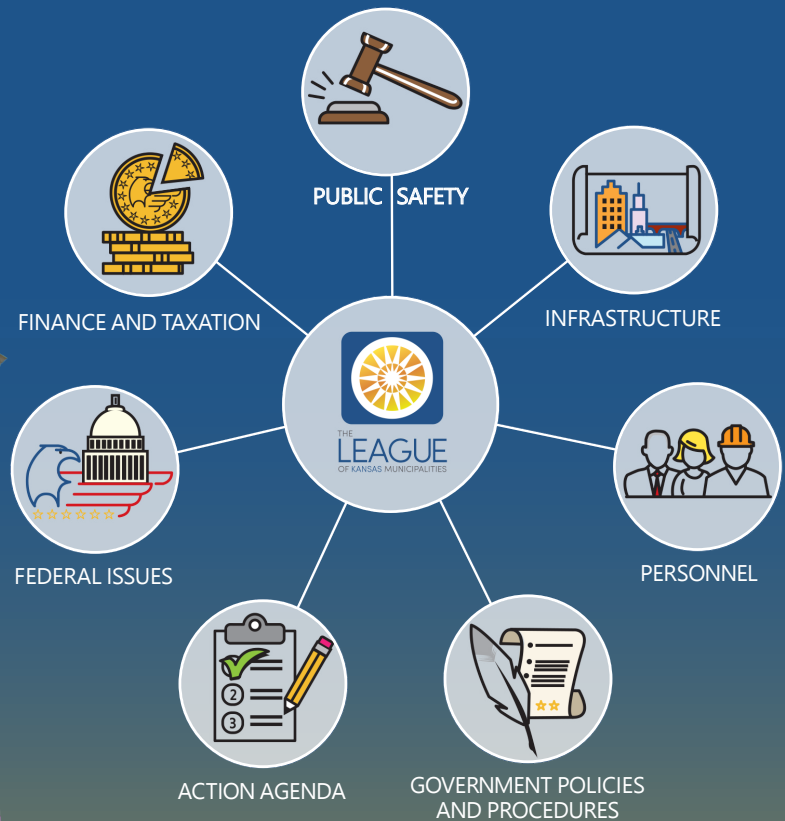
Nathan Eberline



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 2026 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.

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.

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. We support the development of standards and an approval process for the re-use of wastewater effluent for consumer use.

KPERS. The state should consider a rollback from KPERS 3 to a model closer to KPERS 2 for municipal employees and public employees should be eligible for the DROP program.

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.

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

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.



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 the burden of 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.

TAXES PAID UNDER PROTEST. The state and county where a city is located should be required to notify cities when taxes, including compensating use and ad valorem taxes, are paid under protest or a large tax exemption is filed so cities have accurate data when making budget decisions.

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.

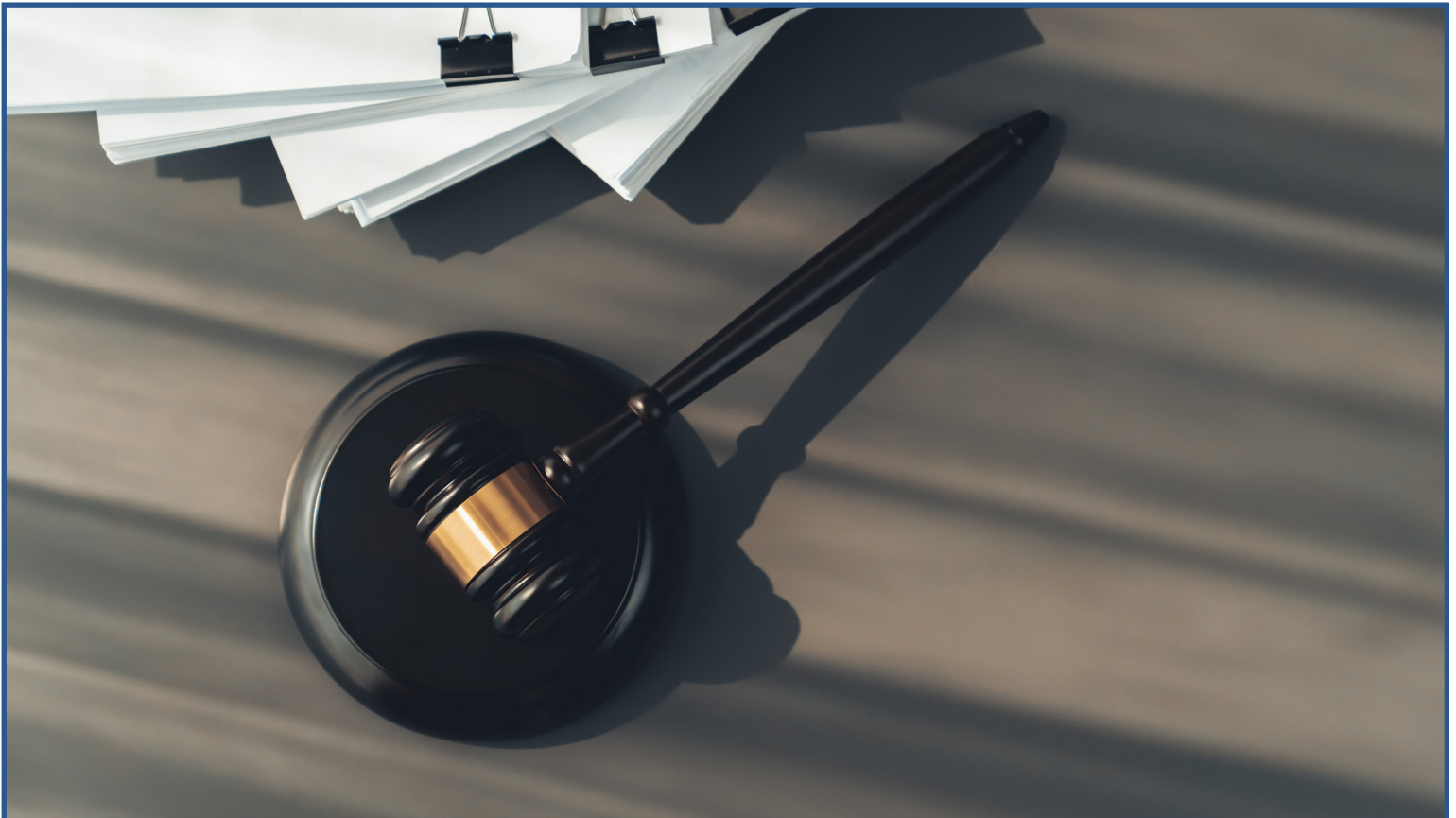
REVENUES & SPENDING. We oppose any law requiring a city to spend a certain threshold to receive and maintain state dollars. All spending decisions should remain at the local level. Cities should be authorized to approve alternative revenue sources to maintain appropriate levels of funding for the health,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

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.

HOMELESS/UNSHELTERED. Unsheltered individuals are living in cities across Kansas in growing numbers, putting strains on local budgets, law enforcement agencies, first responders, and mental health professionals. The state should enhance local initiatives by providing resources and coordination with local providers.

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.

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 is 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. The state needs to evaluate and study the reduction in this fund, and its impact on cities, and collaborate with local governments on future investment in the projects supported.

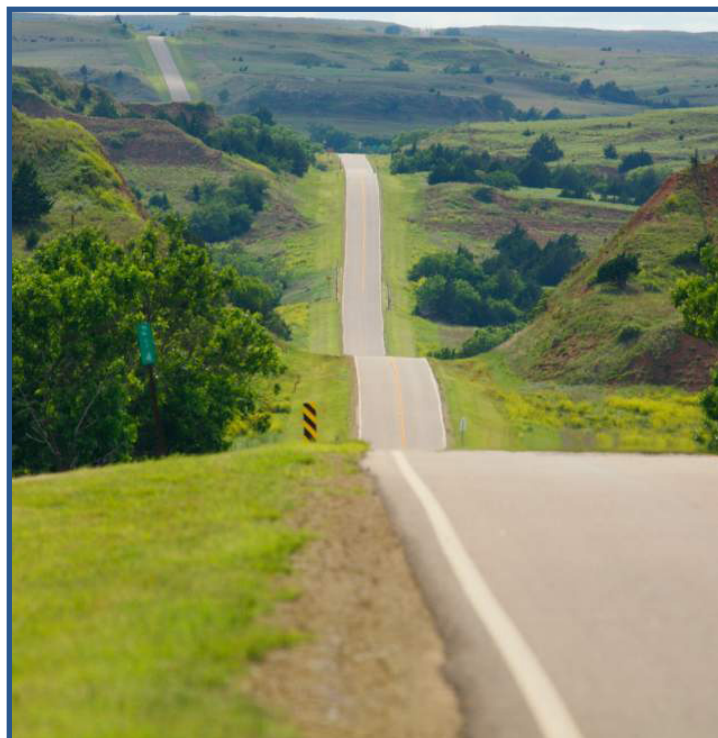
COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM. We support a comprehensive transportation system that is safe, efficient, and accessible. The state should fully fund the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE) and cooperate with local governments to maintain and improve the state's transportation infrastructure.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

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. Any fees or taxes imposed on charging stations or Electric Vehicle (EV) fees remitted to the state should be put into the Special Highway Fund, not the general fund. The state should study the impacts of assessing a tax or fee on users of EV charging stations, to offset declines in motor vehicle gas taxes.

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 the establishment of Broadband grants to facilitate expansion. Guidance for the grant program and broadband-related statutes must recognize the significant 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 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. State laws restricting the municipality's ability to put in place local regulations, particularly inspections, should be repealed.



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 and water rights 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.

WATER RE-USE. We support the development of standards and an approval process for the re-use of wastewater effluent for consumer use.

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 aid 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 honor 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. The state should consider a rollback from KPERS 3 to a model closer to KPERS 2 for municipal employees and public employees should be eligible for the DROP program.

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 the 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. The League also supports the repeal of the mandatory requirement to cover post-retirement health care costs. Federal law provides an avenue for retired employees to retain health care coverage without burdening property taxpayers with these prohibitive costs.

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

Section II, Item A.

Abiding 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. No municipal police department should be mandated to enter into any agreements with other agencies.

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

CHILD CARE. Recognizing the critical role childcare plays in the well-being of children and economic stability of families, the state should assist cities with the growing shortage of access to childcare. The state should provide funding to cities to support development and expansion of childcare centers, including assisting with training programs for professional development and technical assistance.

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. No reporting system should increase the administrative burden on local governments.

AUDIO/VISUAL RECORDINGS. We support the ability of local governments to determine when and how audio/visual recordings 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 and sounds 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*
- Forums
- News media
- www.lkm.org

3

Participate in Local Government Day January 21, 2026

- 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

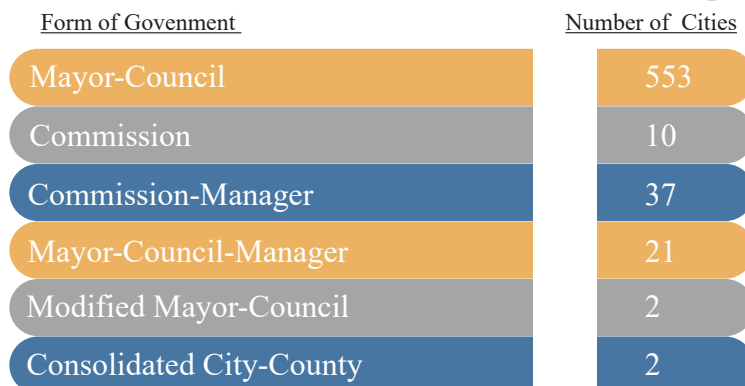
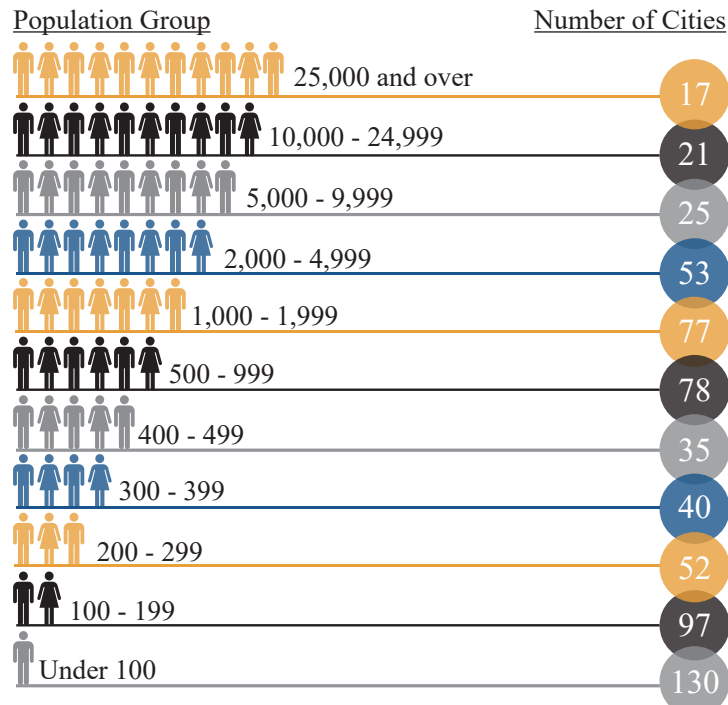
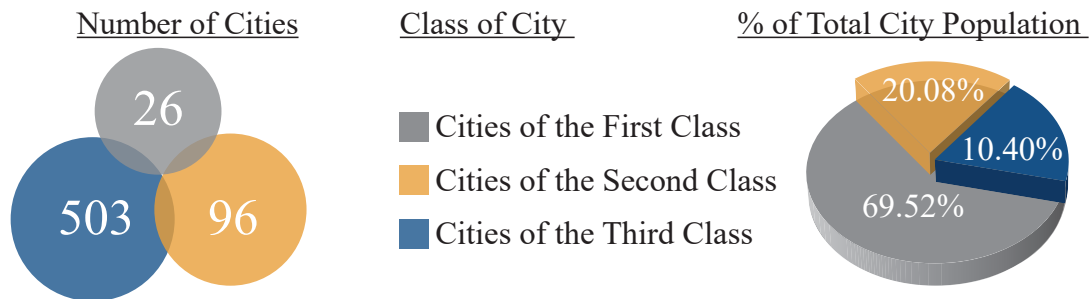
Section II, Item A.

Total Number of Incorporated Cities = 625

Total Population of the State = 2,970,606

Total City Population = 2,472,946

83.2% of the state's population resides in an incorporated city.





LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE TEAM



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(1st Session)

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
LEAGUE
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Dear Representative,

The City of Bel Aire values your service and continued support for legislative priorities that improve the quality of life for citizens in our community. We are committed to good governance through careful local stewardship and look to you, Governor Kelly, and the Kansas Legislature to support us in those efforts.

The Bel Aire Governing Body has identified the following priorities as very important to our community and state. We respectfully ask for your support in these specific areas during the 2025 legislative session. As members of the League of Kansas Municipalities, we also support their Statement of Municipal Policy for 2025, which is much more expansive. For 2025, Bel Aire has identified the following topics as highly important to our city and appreciates your support of legislation that addresses these priorities:

1. Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR).

This law is an unfunded mandate that does not accomplish the intended results of increased transparency. It should be eliminated. However, if the Legislature does not have the political will to eliminate this wasteful mandate, then at least consider HB 2001, which funds the mandate. Please also consider my email from early January to the KSDOGE concerning opportunities to improve this mandate.

2. Changes in lots after city-approved platting has been filed.

In the past year, Bel Aire (and other communities) has discovered that some developers have filed lot splits with the Register of Deeds that are in violation of Bel Aire zoning ordinances. When we spoke with the Register of Deeds office, we were told they have no requirement to investigate the legality or validity of such re-platting of lots. We believe State Law should require the Register of Deeds to validate with the affected municipality the legitimacy of such lot splits/replats that conflict with the municipality's approved platting (already on file with the Register of Deeds).

The only question the Register of Deeds needs to ask (and receive official written approval on) is whether the proposed re-platting complies with that municipality's platting and zoning ordinances. If the Register of Deeds receives an affirmative response from the proper municipal authority, they may file the proposed re-platting. If the municipality responds negatively, then the proposed lot split/replat is returned to the filer with a note indicating they must obtain municipal approval before the filing can proceed. This approval could be obtained by a developer prior to attempting to file the replat (with proof of municipal approval) or the Register of Deeds could hold the filing pending municipal approval.

3. Property Valuation.

We SUPPORT appraisals based on fair-market value as historically used in Kansas and OPPOSE caps on property valuations. We understand taxpayers' concerns about recent valuation increases due to the real estate market. However, state-imposed limitations on valuation methods shift the property tax burden benefiting one category of property to the detriment of others which is unconstitutional and inequitable. In Bel Aire, we have lowered our mill levy the last four years to offset some of those increases, but such decisions are best left at the local level. We OPPOSE any changes to or limitations on property value appraisals.

4. Medicaid Expansion.

We OPPOSE expansion of Medicaid.

5. Transportation.

We SUPPORT a modern and sustainable transportation system that meets the needs of all Kansans. We also support fully funding the IKE program and the needed improvements along the K-254 Corridor from Wichita to El Dorado.

Regarding K-254, we request that the Legislature fully fund the design and construction of the interchanges at Rock Road, Webb Road, and Greenwich, as included in the KDOT pipeline and the K-254 Management Plan. As you may know, KDOT has identified K-254 as one of the most dangerous roads of its type in the entire state. These improved interchanges will significantly address this safety concern.

6. Water.

Access to water is paramount for the growth and viability of communities. Governments 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. We SUPPORT legislation that accomplishes these goals, as well as additional funding for such needs.

We specifically request that the Legislature direct KDHE to establish standards for treating sewer effluent to an acceptable level for potable water. Other states have such standards, and this can be a significant source of potable water. Literally millions of gallons of water are sent to rivers and streams every day that could be utilized as potable water if such standards existed.

Please review our priority list and give careful consideration to our input when bills are introduced that relate to any of these priority issues. We also ask that you thoroughly review all legislation and oppose any that erodes our constitutional home rule authority. Conversely, we ask that you support any legislation that strengthens local government home rule. We believe the best government is closest to the people and that local government should have the ability to govern in a way that best meets their needs. In 1961, Kansas voters approved a constitutional amendment giving local communities the ability to govern themselves through home rule. We all took an oath to support the Constitution of the State of Kansas, and therefore, it should be the goal of all elected officials at any level to support that amendment approved by the voters.

Our governing body is more than willing to meet with you to discuss how any potential legislation might affect our community or the state. Please feel free to email or call me at any time if you need additional information from us on any issue. My email is JBenage@belaireks.gov, and I can be reached at (316) 684-0226.

Thank you for taking the time to understand and champion these priorities on behalf of the City of Bel Aire. Our citizens truly appreciate your time and commitment as our Representative and for the work you do in Topeka.

Sincerely,

Jim Benage
Mayor