

LEAGUE NEWS

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1) 2006 Legislature Convenes

With the cloud of school funding hanging over their heads, the 2006 Legislature convened to begin its work for the year on Monday, January 9, 2006. That same day the Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit released its study regarding the financing of public schools. The study found that a minimum of \$316 million in additional funding would be necessary to meet suitability standards and the Kansas Supreme Court mandate. This poses an incredible challenge for legislators to meet. With a prevailing attitude of "no new taxes," it will be especially difficult to resolve this issue.

Cities in Kansas will be working with the Legislature on a number of key issues including the proposed machinery and equipment property tax exemption, eminent domain, telecommunications franchises, and investment of idle funds, among others.

It is very important for city officials to become engaged in the legislative process. The *League News* will be sent weekly throughout the session to keep city officials apprised of happenings here in Topeka. In addition, *Legislative Alerts* will be sent whenever there is a need for immediate action by city officials. Finally, we hope to see you all in Topeka on City Hall Day, January 26, 2006. For more information, go to our website at www.lkm.org/legislative/city-hall-daypop.html.

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2) City Hall Day at the Capitol to be Held Thursday, January 26

LKM's City Hall Day at the Capitol is an annual event designed to increase the visibility of local government issues. Now in its fifth year, the event will feature speeches by legislative leaders and Governor Kathleen Sebelius. The event will also include a legislative lunch, exhibits in the Statehouse highlighting various cities, and the

announcement of the winners of the "If I Were A Mayor..." Youth Essay Contest.

City Hall Day participants can also use the opportunity to meet personally with their legislators, while others will testify in Legislative committees regarding issues important to local government.

There is still time to register for this important event. To register, please go to www.lkm.org/legislative/2006cityhalldayreg.aspx. The event costs \$25 and includes lunch.

We hope that you will use this opportunity to see state government in action and take time to visit with your legislators about issues that are important to your community.

Presentations will include briefings by legislative leaders and League staff beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending by noon. Lunch will be provided from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the State Capitol in Topeka.

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3) Crisis Leadership For City and County Officials

Working from the manual, *How to Lead During Bioattacks with the Public's Trust and Help*, LKM presents a training that will offer recommendations to better prepare and respond to a biological attack. The training provides "best principles and practices" guidance that will benefit local planning for bioterrorism and other infectious disease threats. It will be held on February 13 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka.

The training counts as four MLA Elective Course credits and there are absolutely no registration fees associated with this event. In fact, each attendee will receive a \$40 reimbursement for enrolling and participating in this session! Registration is limited to the first 100 applicants.

To register, please go to www.lkm.org/register/mla. More information about this and other MLA programs can be found on the LKM website at www.lkm.org, or by calling (785) 354-9565.

This training is provided in cooperation with the Kansas Health Foundation, Kansas Association of Counties, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, League of Kansas Municipalities, Office of Local and Rural Health, and St. Louis University.

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4) NIMS Training

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) invites you to attend the broadcast video conference sessions that have been scheduled around the state. As you know, compliance with NIMS (National Incident Management System) is not an option, but mandatory to receive continued federal funding assistance in FY 2007. Currently, KDEM has eight locations to make it easier for all students to attend any of the sessions. This is a four hour class offered in January, February, and March.

For a flyer about the NIMS sessions, go to:

http://www.accesskansas.org/kdem/pdf/training/Brochures/NIMS%20DL%200113_0207_0301_06.pdf.

More information can be found at: <http://www.accesskansas.org/kdem/nims/> or by calling the Training Office at (785) 274-1412.

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(5) Legislative Activities -- January 17-20					
Tuesday, January 17					
Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activity
8:30	S,Com	123-S		Commerce Department: Secretary Fricke - STAR Bonds - (Public input welcome)	Presentation
9:30	S,Ju	123-S	SB 334	Life imprisonment or hard 25 and lifetime parole with electronic monitoring for rape and aggravated sodomy if victim under 14 and offender over 18; lifetime postrelease supervision for sexually violent crimes	Hearing
			SB 221	Mentally ill persons subject to involuntary commitment not allowed to possess a firearm; certification of restoration	Hearing
	S,Ut	526-S	SB 349	Relating to the Kansas Universal Service Fund	Hearing
10:30	S,FSA	231-N		City and County Consolidation	Staff Update
				Senator Dave Kerr, on municipalities, relating to consolidation	Bill Introduction
3:30	H,GOE	519-S	SB 164	Cities; quarterly reports, publication of	Hearing
Wednesday, January 18					
Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activity
8:30	S,Com	123-S		Wyandotte County Schlitterbahn STAR Bond project	Presentation
9:00	H,Tax	519-S		Business Machinery/Equipment Exemptions	Briefing
9:30	S,Ju	123-S	HB 2352	Revised Kansas code for care of children	Hearing
			HB 2200	Child in need of care code, certain person could not be excluded from certain proceedings	Hearing
10:30	S,FSA	231-N	SB 320	Native American Tribal law enforcement jurisdiction; liability insurance coverage; proof of	Hearing
				Original justice modification	

3:30	H,Ju	313-S	2555	rehabilitation and restoration project committee	Hearing
Thursday, January 19					
Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activity
9:00	H,Tax	519-S		Business Machinery/Equipment Exemptions	Briefing
9:30	H,Ju	123-S	SB 182	As part of the criminal disposition, judge may require inmate to reimburse county or sheriff for medical expenses	Hearing
			SB 199	Elimination of pre-adjudication custody of an offender to the commissioner	Hearing
3:30	H,GOE	519-S	HB 2544	Housing discrimination, removal of restrictive covenants in homeowners association documents	Hearing
			HB 2582	Homeowner associations-prohibition of discriminatory restrictive covenants	Hearing
Friday, January 20					
Time	Committee	Location	Bill No.	Topic	Activity
9:00	H,Tax	519-S	HCR 5009	A constitutional amendment providing formula for appraised valuation of residential property	Hearing

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