

The League of Kansas Municipalities

Who We Are and How We Help the Cities of Kansas



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Today's Presenters

- Erik Sartorius
 - Executive Director
- Amanda Stanley
 - General Counsel



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About the League



Creating the American Municipal Association



John Stutz, Kansas League Director (1920s)



Fraser Hall (KU) – First Home of NLC



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Our Mission

- The League is constituted as an instrumentality of its member cities.
- Established in 1910, the League of Kansas Municipalities is a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of 550 + Kansas cities.
- The mission of the League is to unify, strengthen, and advocate for the interests of Kansas municipalities to advance the general welfare and promote the quality of life of the people who live within our cities.

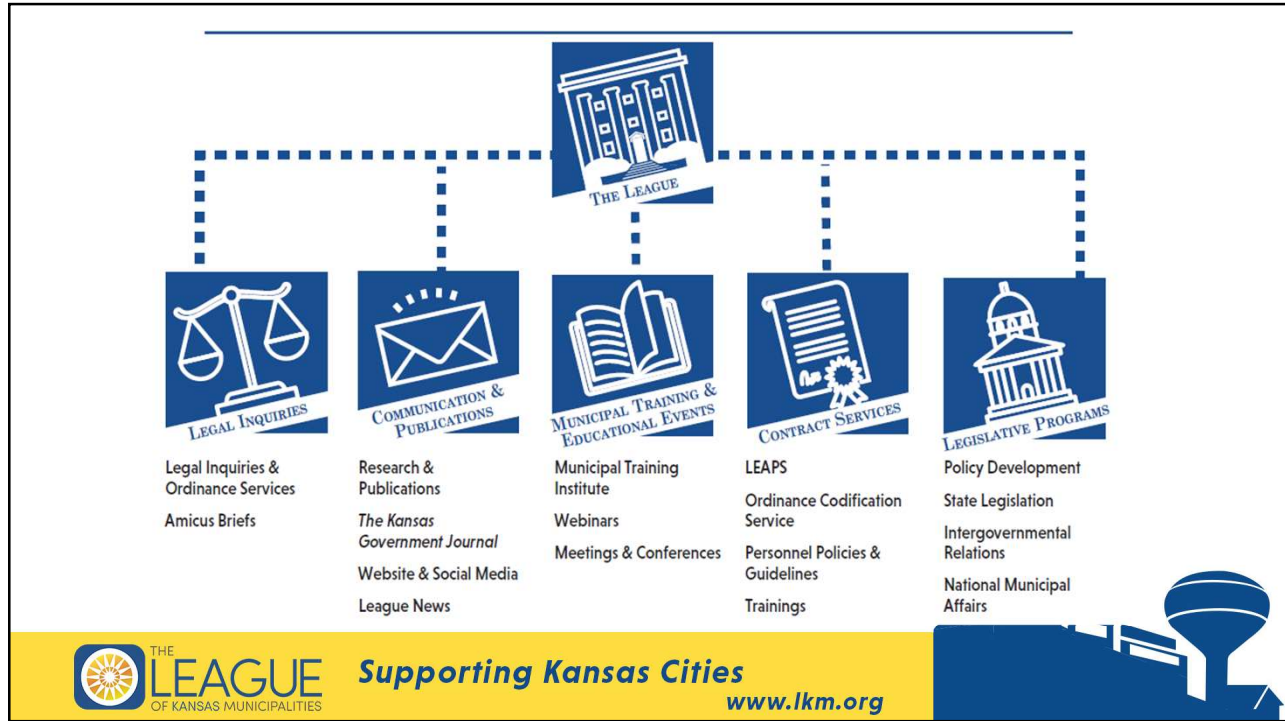


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Communications & Outreach

- Since 1914, the League has published the Kansas Government Journal, a publication for city, county and state government officials that is printed ten 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.

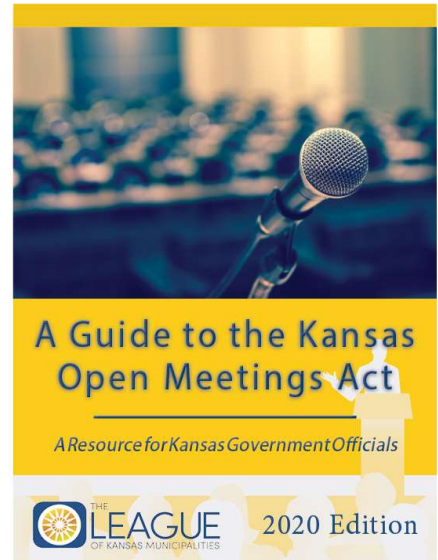
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Our Legal Department

- In 2020, our Legal Department answered over 2400 legal inquires from member cities.
- The League offers over 30 legal publications on municipal issues routinely faced by cities.
- The League participates in amicus briefs at the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court.



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Municipal Training and Education

- In addition to our annual conference, throughout the year, the League offers multiple trainings for city elected officials and staff on a wide variety of issues including the open meetings law, personnel management, social media, planning and zoning, and municipal operations.
- The League also helps coordinate two City Attorney Conferences each year and the Kansas City/County Manager Association's annual conference.



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Other Services

- We offer an executive recruitment service for member cities for City Manager/City Administrators and Department Heads
- We offer association management services for Kansas Mayors Association, Kansas Association City Management, City Attorneys Association of Kansas, and Kansas Association of Public Information Officers



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We Advocate for Cities

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

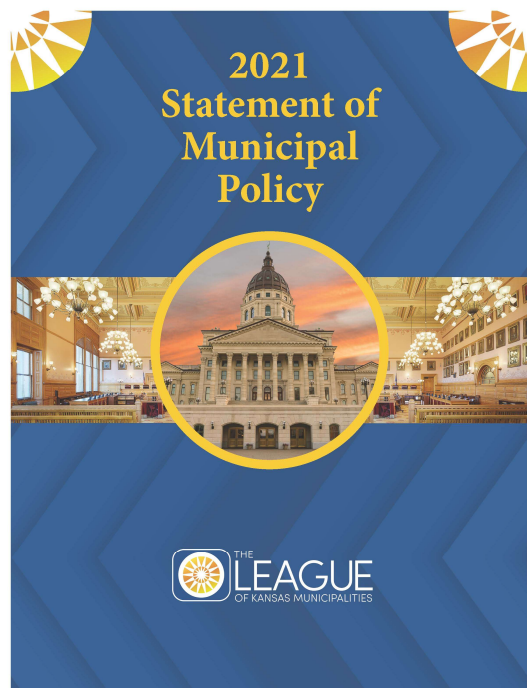


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Member-Driven Policy

- Each year, we meet with our members to develop the Statement of Municipal Policy. The SMP sets forth our legislative priorities for the upcoming session and outlines municipal priorities.
- View online at <https://www.lkm.org/smp>.



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Classes of Cities

Three Classes of Cities in Kansas

- 1st Class (KSA 13-101) population of 15,000 or more may elect; populations of 25,000 or more must elect
- 2nd Class (KSA 14-101) Population of more than 2,000 and less than 15,000
- 3rd Class (KSA 15-115) Population more than 250 and there must be at least 250 platted lots each of which is served by water and sewer lines

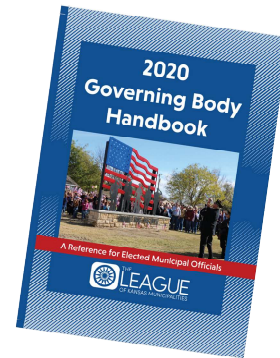


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Forms of Government

Multiple Forms of Government

- Mayor-Council
- Commission
- Commission / Council-Manager
- Unified Governments



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What Do Cities Do?



- Most people think of a city's primary purpose of local government to protect the health and safety of its residents. It is BUT...
- Cities have increasingly become the engines of economic growth and policy innovation — solving problems in every policy domain



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What Do Cities Do?

- General Administration
- Public Safety
- Utilities
- Infrastructure
- Parks and Recreation
- Economic Development
- Other



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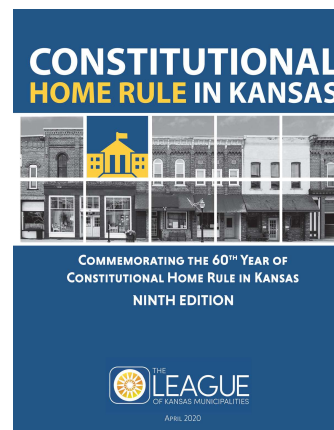
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Home Rule

- Home rule powers were granted to all Kansas cities in 1961 by an amendment to the Kansas Constitution (Art. 12, § 5)



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Home Rule

- Home rule gives local government the power to act on the unique needs and values of their communities / residents free from state interference
- Eastern Kansas is different from Western Kansas
 - Views on smoking, guns, zoning, public private partnerships for childcare, eco-devo, scooters, golf carts, animals inside city limits, fire codes, funding for parks, pools, abandoned housing, yards, junk cars, silage
- Home rule keeps the control of the community in the hands of local citizens



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Legislative History



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History

- Prior to the home rule amendment:
 - Dillon's Rule – City only has the power to govern as granted by the state legislature
 - If state statute did not allow the action, it could not be taken
 - If the statutes were silent, cities could not take action
 - Cities had to petition the legislature for specific statutes giving a city the power to take action addressing a local concern



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History

- League and city officials throughout the 1950's worked to amend the Kansas Constitution to provide cities the authority to self-govern
- Largely based on Wisconsin Constitution
- Study by the Kansas Commission on Constitutional Revision
- Kansas Legislature passed the constitutional amendment in 1959
- November 8, 1960 voters approved constitutional home rule and it took effect July 1, 1961



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The Result?

- With a few exceptions, Article 12, § 5(b) empowers cities to determine local affairs and government including the levying of:
 - Taxes
 - Fees
 - Charges
 - Other Exaction



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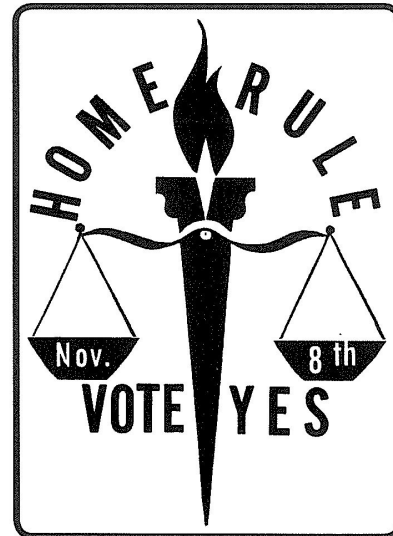


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Legislative Priorities for Senate Local Government

Protection of Home Rule

- Voters empowered cities with Home Rule in 1960
- We support local elected officials making decisions for their communities, particularly local tax and revenue decisions.



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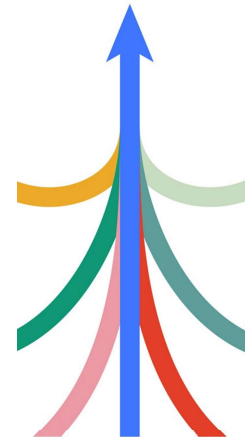


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Legislative Priorities

Special District Consolidation

- The current statutory framework requires separate legislation every time a special district of government consolidates into a city. We support statutory changes creating a uniform process for smaller units of government to consolidate into cities when it is in the best interest of the city.



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