

**RESOLUTION NO. 012714-2**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE 2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS**

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission desires to establish a State Legislative Platform to communicate the City's position on various state legislative issues that may affect municipalities;

**WHEREAS**, the State Legislative Platform serves as a tool to communicate the City's legislative interests to the State Legislature and the citizens of Abilene.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Commission of the City of Abilene, as follows:

**Section 1. State Legislative Platform.** That the City of Abilene, Kansas hereby adopts as its 2014 State Legislative Platform, the 2014 Statement of Municipal Policy, as prepared by the League of Kansas Municipalities, and as supplemented by the City of Abilene, Kansas, as attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

**Section 2. Amendments.** The aforementioned State Legislative Platform may be revised and amended from time to time by passage of a Resolution.

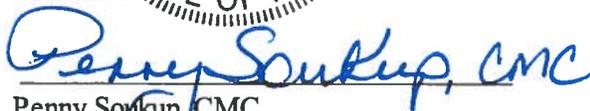
**Section 3. Distribution.** The City Manager is hereby authorized to provide copies of the State Legislative Platform to the City of Abilene's elected State Representatives. The City Manager shall also publish a copy of the State Legislative Platform to the City's website.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** That the effects of this Resolution shall be in full force after its approval by the City Commission.

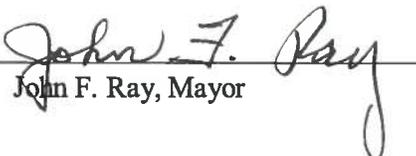
**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Governing Body of the City of Abilene, Kansas this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2014.



ATTEST

  
Penny Soukup, CMC  
City Clerk

**CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS**

By:   
John F. Ray, Mayor

**EXHIBIT A**

**2014 State Legislative Platform**

**City of Abilene, Kansas**

**January 21, 2014**

**2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**  
**City of Abilene, Kansas**

The League of Kansas Municipalities has approved its 2014 Statement of Municipal Policy concerning legislative issues and positions of importance to municipalities. The City of Abilene endorses the 2014 Statement of Municipal Policy, and has supplemented it with positions that are of special importance to the City of Abilene and its citizens.

With the approval of Resolution No. 012714-2, the City Commission of the City of Abilene, Kansas, established the following state legislative positions that have been determined to be important to the interests of the City of Abilene and its citizens. The City urges State Senator Tom Arpke and State Representative John Barker and other area State Legislators to support legislation with the following in mind:

**LOCAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

As the home of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, the terminus of the Chisholm Trail and other attractions, the City supports statewide efforts to promote the tourism industry within the state and to those residing outside its borders. The City supports joint ventures between the state and local governments of Kansas to promote tourism as an important state industry. Tourism is vital to the Kansas economy; the State should commit more resources to promote tourism in Kansas.

**President Dwight D. Eisenhower Tourism:** President Eisenhower served as the 34th President of the United States and as a Five-Star General of the U.S. Army. President Eisenhower contributed greatly to positively affect national and international events. He is the only President to call Kansas home as his boyhood home is located in Abilene, Kansas.

It is estimated that over 175,000 people annually visit the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home in Abilene. These visitors not only learn about Eisenhower's life and legacy, but also contribute to Abilene and the State's economy.

As more of the Eisenhower presidency is researched, it becomes evident that the Eisenhower administration played a critical role in America's growth and prosperity through to the present day. More people are interested in learning more about this legacy, and so the City supports national and statewide efforts to promote Eisenhower and to promote the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home.

A cooperative effort between Kansas and Missouri designated Interstate 70 between Abilene, Kansas and Independence, Missouri as the Eisenhower-Truman Memorial Highway. Last session, the Legislature also approved a bill establishing the Eisenhower Foundation license plates for motor vehicles. To continue the on-going effort to promote Eisenhower, the State of Kansas should continue to commit resources to preserve the Eisenhower legacy for generations to come in much the same way as other states, such as Illinois, have claimed their Presidential sons.

**Historic Chisholm Trail Tourism:** Per Public Law 111-11, the National Park Service is in the process of conducting a Feasibility Study/Environmental Assessment for the Chisholm and Great Western National Historic Trail to commemorate the routes followed by more than ten million head of cattle travelling between Texas and Abilene, Kansas en route to market in the 1860s through 1880s. The City endorses the national effort being dedicated to this project and supports the completion of the study/assessment.

The City, as the terminus of the route, also supports the implementation of a plan to provide historical interpretation of the story of this important and untold piece of our nation's history. An effort is underway at the national level and among the historic member states along the route to develop this plan. The City supports efforts by the State of Kansas to participate in any intergovernmental project and encourages financial support to promote this important piece of Abilene and Kansas' history.

The State of Kansas has several cities and counties, including Abilene, that prospered and were influenced by the Chisholm Trail. The Chisholm Trail will be celebrating its sesquicentennial in 2017, and coordination and funding from the State of Kansas will be critical for Kansas to share in this multi-state celebration of a great piece of American history. Efforts are already underway in Oklahoma and Texas to organize a commemorative celebration of this once-in-a-lifetime event. The State of Kansas has an important role to play in the celebration with a portion of the historic trail is located in Kansas, as well as the the terminus in Abilene.

**Greyhound Industry:** According to the American Greyhound Council, the greyhound industry creates a national economic impact of about \$832 million per year. Unfortunately, the greyhound industry has been in decline for several years as the model for greyhound tracks has become infeasible without casinos and gaming facilities. The City of Abilene is the national headquarters for the National Greyhound Association and supports legislation that would promote the industry and provide much needed partnerships with state casinos.

Family-run greyhound breeding farms are important contributors to our local and state economy. It is estimated that greyhound farms represent over a \$150 million investment in the United States and a \$35 investment in Dickinson County, Kansas. The State should review working legislative models for the greyhound industry in West Virginia and Florida to produce legislation that would create an environment that preserves this piece of our economy. Legislation supporting pari-mutuel gambling would allow existing casinos and greyhound tracks to support an industry that calls Kansas home. Such legislation would not necessarily require the expansion of casino operations in the State.

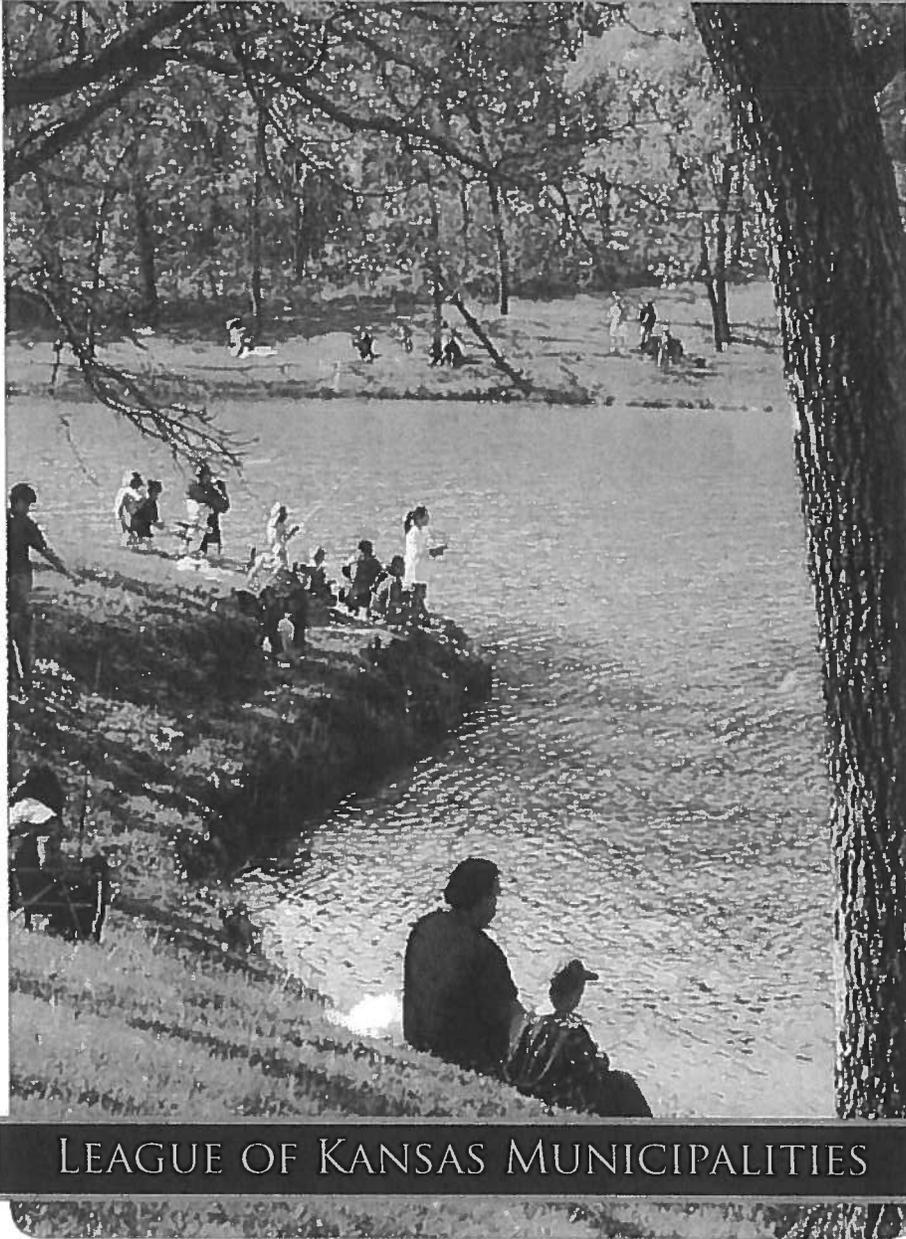
## **ACTION AGENDA**

Reiterating the League of Kansas Municipalities' Statement of Municipal Policy, the City of Abilene establishes the following action agenda for 2014:

- Communication between all levels of government is critical to the successful delivery of public services to the citizens of Abilene. The City opposes any restriction on the use of state and local public monies to provide information and advocate on issues of concern to the City and its residents.
- The City supports the current framework for city elections and it opposes legislation that would move municipal elections to the fall or make them partisan in nature.
- Local tax and revenue decisions are a foundation of local democracy. Consistent with Home Rule principles, the City supports the ability of locally elected officials to make those decisions on behalf of citizens. The City opposes any state-imposed limits on the taxing and spending authority of cities.
- The City opposes legislative changes that would redefine machinery and equipment for taxation purposes. Previously considered bills would have potentially reduced the property tax base significantly and also shift the tax burden to residential property owners, small businesses, and agricultural concerns. Any changes to machinery and equipment should consider a holistic perspective, including the fiscal impact to local governments.

- The City supports the continued use of economic development incentives, such as tax abatements, Tax Increment Financing, the Neighborhood Revitalization Act, the Downtown Redevelopment Act, and the Community Improvement District Act in order to promote development and redevelopment in municipalities throughout Kansas.
- The City supports cooperative ventures between the state and local government in Kansas to promote tourism as an industry which is vital to growth and development across the state. The State of Kansas should commit more resources to the promotion of tourism.
- The City supports efforts at all levels of government to aggressively pursue the conservation, protection, and development of current and future municipal water supplies. The City supports efforts to extend the life of reservoirs and to expand reservoir storage for use by municipal water suppliers. The City supports immediate state action, in consultation with municipal providers, to address over appropriated surface and groundwater resources.
- The City supports increased federal and state funding to assist local communities with the maintenance of public infrastructure (i.e., water, wastewater, stormwater, levees and dams, transportation, etc.).

-2014-  
STATEMENT OF MUNICIPAL POLICY



LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES

## 2013-2014 GOVERNING BODY



**PRESIDENT**  
John Deardoff  
City Manager, Hutchinson



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Terry Somers  
Mayor, Mount Hope

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**  
Brenda Chance, City Clerk, Phillipsburg

**PAST PRESIDENTS**  
Mike Boehm, Mayor, Lenexa  
Carl Brewer, Mayor, Wichita  
Carl Gerlach, Mayor, Overland Park

**DIRECTORS**  
Herb Bath, Mayor, Altamont  
Lori Christensen, Mayor, Leoti  
Joe Denoyer, Vice-Mayor, Liberal  
Tom Glinstra, City Attorney, Olathe  
Daron Hall, City Manager, Pittsburg  
Mark Holland, Mayor, Wyandotte County/KCK  
Blake Jorgensen, Commissioner, Ottawa  
Jerry Lovett-Sperling, City Clerk, Lindsborg  
John "Tiny" McTaggart, Mayor, Edwardsville  
Kim Thomas, Mayor, Stockton  
James Toews, Mayor, Inman  
Larry Wolgast, Mayor, Topeka

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Don Moler

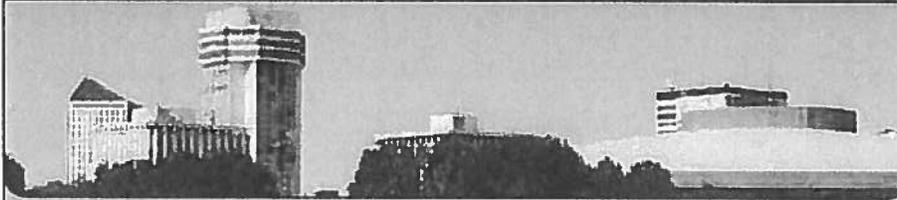
## 2014 ACTION AGENDA

**The prosperity of the State of Kansas is absolutely dependent upon the prosperity of our cities. Over 82% of Kansans live in an incorporated city. In an effort to promote healthy and sustainable communities, the elected and appointed city officials of Kansas hereby establish the following as our action agenda for 2014:**

- Communication between all levels of government is critical to the successful delivery of public services to the citizens of Kansas. We oppose any restriction on the use of state and local public moneys to provide information and advocate on behalf of our cities and citizens.
- We support the current framework for city elections and we oppose legislation that would move city elections to the fall or make them partisan in nature.
- Local tax and revenue decisions are a foundation of local democracy. Consistent with Home Rule principles, we support the ability of locally elected officials to make those decisions.
- We urge Congress to take action to implement the mandatory collection of sales and use taxes on remote sales. The legislation should not preempt state and local sales and use tax authority. Should federal legislation allow for the state imposition of such taxes, we support the distribution of those funds to cities and counties using an equitable formula. Kansas should continue to participate in the Streamlined Sales Tax project.



## HOME RULE



**LKM supports the constitutional home rule authority of Kansas cities. Self-governance by locally elected officials must be preserved in order to ensure that local issues and problems are handled at the level of government closest to the citizens that they represent.**

- **Annexation.** The ability of cities to grow is inherent to the ultimate success of annexation powers as they are currently established in state statute. The current statutory framework was amended in 2011 to balance the interests of cities and those in areas to be annexed. Further amendment would shift this balance in a way that would impede orderly growth. Therefore, we oppose any change which limits the authority of cities to grow through annexation.
- **City Elections.** We support the current framework for city elections. Such elections should remain separate from state and national elections. Further, city elections should remain nonpartisan in nature.
- **Eminent Domain.** Eminent domain is a fundamental municipal power. The authority to acquire property through condemnation proceedings is critical for public improvement projects. Further, the use of eminent domain for economic development has long been recognized as a public use of this authority. We support increased flexibility for local governments to use eminent domain for economic development purposes, including blight remediation, without seeking legislative approval.
- **Interlocal Cooperation.** We support the principle of voluntary cooperation among all levels of government.
- **Governmental Immunity.** We support continued immunity for cities from tort liability.
- **Police Powers.** We oppose “takings” legislation that would restrict the authority of cities to regulate in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- **Public Property & Rights-of-Way.** We oppose any legislation which would restrict the ability of cities to control and manage public property and rights-of-way or the ability of cities to franchise those entities that utilize the rights-of-way.
- **Consolidation.** We oppose any statutory barriers to local consolidation. We further believe that the issue of consolidation is an inherently local one and that the voters should be allowed to determine whether consolidation with another unit of government occurs.

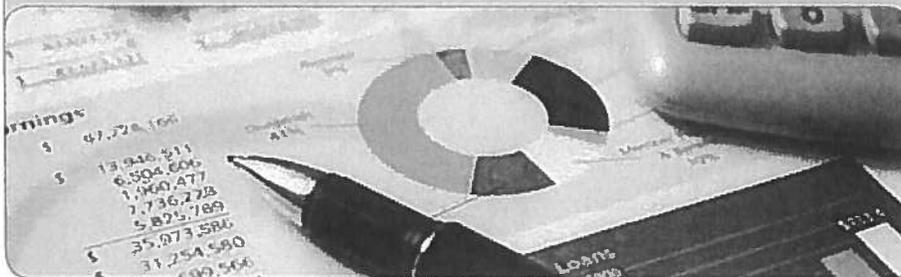
## MUNICIPAL FINANCE

An adequate source of revenue is necessary in order to fund the essential services of city government. Because each city is unique in both services provided and the 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.

- Kansas Tax System.** Cities are important partners in creating jobs, reviving the economy, delivering vital services, and providing quality of life. The Governor and Kansas Legislature should include city leaders in discussions about restructuring the Kansas tax system and any changes must avoid shifting additional financial burdens to local governments.
- Tax/Spending Lid.** We oppose any state-imposed limits on the taxing and spending authority of cities. We believe that local spending and taxing decisions are best left to locally elected officials and the citizens they serve.
- City-County Highway Fund.** The City-County Highway Fund is essential to maintaining local roads and should be fully funded in order to support the critical infrastructure of our communities.
- Alcoholic Liquor Taxes.** We support the current statutory framework with regard to the collection and distribution of alcoholic liquor taxes. Changes in the way that alcoholic liquors are classified or where they can be sold should be revenue neutral for cities.
- Property Valuation.** In order to maintain fair and equal taxation, we support appraisals based on fair market value. We oppose caps in property valuations as unconstitutional and inequitable.
- LAVTR.** The State Legislature should help to relieve the burden on property taxpayers by reinstating the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction (LAVTR) program. This should include keeping the promises made with reference to the machinery and equipment mitigation legislation, future gaming revenues, and the existing statutory formula.
- Revenue Sharing.** The State Legislature should reinstate existing revenue sharing programs. In the event that the State is unable to fully fund these, the Legislature should authorize cities to impose alternative revenue sources in order to maintain appropriate levels of funding for the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens.
- Alternative Revenue Sources.** Citizens should be granted the authority to impose local-option taxes, including exactions such as an income tax, earnings tax, excise tax, and gasoline tax. Existing state preemption of local-option taxes should be removed.
- Unfunded Mandates.** We oppose unfunded mandates. If the state or federal governments seek to promote particular policy objectives, such mandates should be accompanied by an appropriate level of funding.

## MUNICIPAL FINANCE

- **Municipal Bonds.** We support the removal or modification of overly burdensome and costly restrictions affecting the issuance of municipal bonds. Further, we support the continued tax-exempt status for municipal bonds.
- **Telecommunications Taxes.** We categorically oppose restrictions on the ability of cities to impose and collect taxes and fees on telecommunications providers.
- **Local Sales Taxes.** We support the existing statutory authority for all cities to impose local sales taxes and seat taxes and the existing statutory distribution for all sales taxes.
- **Sales Tax Exemptions.** Given the current and future budget challenges facing both state and local governments, we oppose the continued erosion of the state and local sales tax base by the passage of new exemptions. Should the state establish any sales tax holidays, the law should allow an opt out for local governments.
- **Property Tax Exemptions.** We believe that the existing property tax base should be protected, and therefore, encourage the Legislature to resist any proposal to further exempt any specific property classification from taxation. We support the current statutory definition of machinery and equipment and the exemption should not be expanded. The Legislature should actively review existing exemptions in order to determine whether the exemptions are still appropriate or should be repealed.
- **Independent Living Units.** We recommend amendment and clarification of the state law with regard to independent living units which are operated by not-for-profit entities. As a matter of tax equity and fairness, we support the inclusion of independent living units as taxable properties.
- **Banking and Investment Restrictions.** We support maximum banking and investment choices for local government. At a minimum all cities, counties, and school districts should have the same banking and investment authority that the State has granted to itself.
- **Budget Timing.** We support increased flexibility regarding the statutory requirements for filing city budgets.
- **Municipal Debts.** We support a legislative solution that facilitates more effective collection of unpaid municipal debts.
- **Court of Tax Appeals.** We support the current legal framework for the operation of the Court of Tax Appeals.



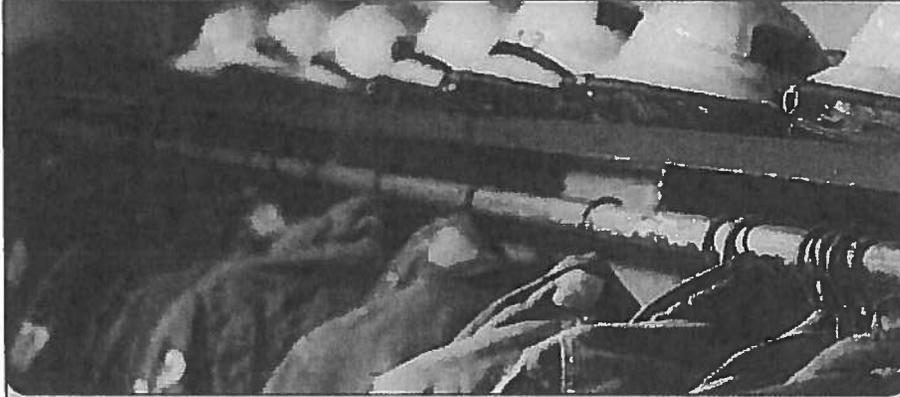
## PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

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

- **PEERA/Collective Bargaining.** We support the current statutory process in the Public Employer-Employees Relations Act. We oppose any federal or state mandate which would require collective bargaining at the local level.
- **KPERS.** We support the current statutory framework regarding KPERS as passed by the 2012 Legislature. The local KPERS system should remain separate from the state and school retirement system. Changes to the KPERS system should consider the impact on cities' ability to hire and retain qualified public employees.
- **KP&F.** We support the current statutory framework regarding KP&F. We believe that the retirement system for police and fire should remain fully funded.
- **Personnel Mandates.** We oppose state and federal mandates involving public personnel.
- **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 to eliminate payment of unjustified benefits.
- **Prevailing Wage.** We oppose federal and state prevailing wage mandates.
- **Health Care & Other Benefits.** We support cooperation and active 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.
- **Weapons and Firearms.** We support the ability of local governments to control the carrying of weapons and firearms by their employees while they are engaged in the course of their employment.



## PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY



Cities play a critical role in the protection of the health and safety of the citizens of Kansas. Because mandated programs are more costly and less efficient, government at all levels should cooperate in the development of health and safety programs.

- Law Enforcement and Public Safety.** We believe that cooperative efforts, rather than mandated requirements, are vital to the efficient and effective development of local law enforcement and public safety programs.
- Emergency 911 Services.** Cities and counties should maintain local control of the 911 system and the 911 tax should continue to include both wireline and wireless communications.
- Emergency Management.** We request that the Adjutant General and the State of Kansas review the role of cities in the state emergency management plan. Because cities play a crucial role in effective emergency management, implementation strategies must promote cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local governments.
- Alcohol & CMB Regulation.** We support the authority of cities to license and regulate alcoholic liquor and cereal malt beverage retailers and establishments.
- Municipal Courts.** We support the local control of and judicial authority of municipal courts and the appointment of municipal judges.
- Firearms & Weapons.** We support the local regulation of firearms and weapons.
- Homeland Security.** First responders at the local level serve as the front line defense in the prevention and response to terrorism and other security risks. Local governments should be granted maximum flexibility and discretion over implementation of monies and strategies regarding homeland security.
- Telecommunications Data.** We support the continued ability of public safety officials to access data from telecommunications companies in times of emergencies to assist investigations.

## TRANSPORTATION

The transportation infrastructure in Kansas is critical to the safety of our citizens as well as the economy of this state. The State of Kansas should cooperate with local governments to help ensure the continued maintenance and expansion of this important asset.

- Comprehensive Transportation Program.** We support the continued funding of the Kansas T-Works comprehensive transportation program. We oppose any further use of these funds to balance the State's general fund budget. Any reduction in T-Works funding would jeopardize existing programs.
- City-County Highway Fund.** The City-County Highway Fund is critical to maintaining local roads and should not be diverted for other purposes.
- Transportation Safety.** The State should work in cooperation with local governments to continue to provide safe roads and bridges within the state of Kansas.
- Development Infrastructure.** Because transportation infrastructure is critical to the community development activities of cities, we support the continued maintenance and expansion of the transportation infrastructure in the state of Kansas.
- Airport Funding.** We support the continued use of state economic development dollars (EDIF funds) to enhance airport facilities and services.
- Transportation Development Districts.** We support the continued ability of cities to establish transportation development districts in order to provide for the transportation infrastructure needs in the community.
- Recreational Trails.** We support the development of recreational trails, including rails to trails projects, and oppose state and federal legislation that would make such development more burdensome or costly.
- Connecting Links.** The State should increase KDOT's funding for connecting link programs to contract with cities to provide for the maintenance of state highways within city limits.
- Cooperation with KDOT.** We support the continued efforts of the Kansas Department of Transportation to work with cities on cooperative programs including the transportation revolving loan fund and various economic development projects.
- Enhanced Rail Service.** We support enhanced passenger and freight rail service in Kansas.



## MUNICIPAL UTILITIES



Cities operate a variety of utility services that impact and improve the day-to-day lives of Kansans. Locally elected officials should maintain the greatest measure of self-determination in the operation of these vital city functions.

- **Mandates.** We oppose unfunded federal and state mandates regulating the operation of municipal gas, water, electric, sewer, telecommunications, solid waste, stormwater utilities, or other utility services. Any mandates which are passed down to cities should not be imposed without a cost/benefit analysis and should be accompanied by appropriate funding. In addition, regulations should provide for a reasonable implementation schedule.
- **Flexibility in Funding.** We support the authority of local governing bodies to make decisions concerning the financing of local utilities.
- **Power Aggregation.** We support the right of cities to act as power aggregators on behalf of their citizens.
- **Franchise Authority.** We oppose any legislation that restricts the current franchise authority for cities.
- **Municipal Operation.** We support the ability of cities to operate municipal gas, water, electric, sewer, telecommunications, solid waste, stormwater, or other utility services.
- **One-Call.** We support the development of a state one-call system that recognizes the diversity of cities in Kansas and provides reasonable options for cities of different sizes. The one-call notification center and board of directors should remain subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act and the Kansas Open Records Act.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



**Cities are an important part of the economic backbone of Kansas. The development and redevelopment of commercial centers, residential communities, public facilities, and industrial areas is necessary to the sustained growth and stability of the Kansas economy.**

- 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 their communities.
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF).** We support the continued use of TIF in order to promote economic development. TIF laws should allow maximum flexibility and allow for efficient use by cities regardless of size.
- Revitalization Tools.** We support the continued use of the Neighborhood Revitalization Act, the Downtown Redevelopment Act, and the Community Improvement District Act in order to promote local neighborhood development.
- Tourism.** We support cooperative ventures between the state and local government in Kansas to promote tourism as an industry which is vital to growth and development all across the state. The State of Kansas should commit more resources to the promotion of tourism.
- STAR Bonds.** We support the ability of cities to utilize STAR bonds in order to promote economic development in their communities.
- Energy-Related Manufacturing.** We encourage the State to work with cities to actively pursue manufacturing operations for wind, biomass, solar, and other energy-related industries in Kansas.

## GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS

**Elected and appointed city officials are committed to open and honest government. Cities should maintain the authority to supplement state law requirements with local policies concerning open government and ethics.**

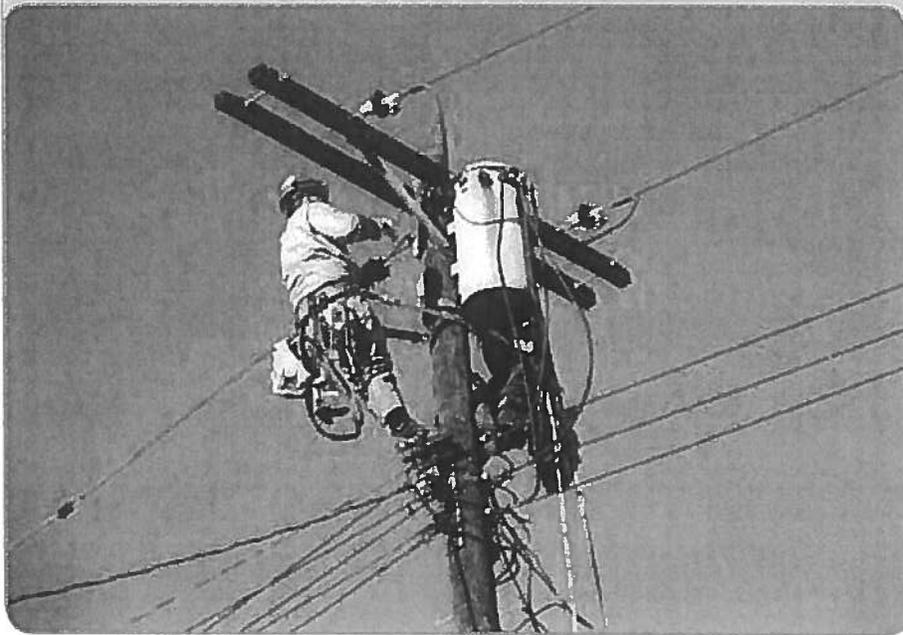
- Open Meetings.** All levels of government should be subject to the same open meetings requirements. These laws should not be unduly burdensome.
- Open Records.** All levels of government should be subject to the same open records requirements. State laws governing open records should balance the public's right of access with the necessity of protecting the privacy of individual citizens and the ability of public agencies to conduct their essential business functions.
- Local Ethics Policies.** We support the establishment of local ethics policies by locally elected officials. We oppose legislation that restricts the ability of city governing bodies to adopt local ethics policies for elected and appointed city officials.
- Intergovernmental Dialogue.** Communication between all levels of government is critical to the successful delivery of public services to the citizens of Kansas. Representatives from cities provide facts and information that are crucial to intergovernmental relations, and as such, should have the same rights and responsibilities as private interest lobbyists. We oppose any restriction on the use of state and local public moneys to provide information and advocate on behalf of our cities and citizens.



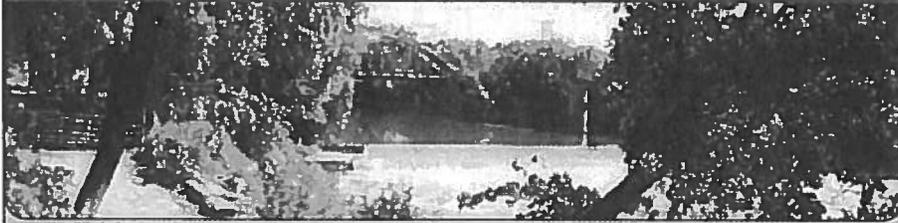
## ENERGY

**Cities are both consumers and producers of energy. The development of energy policy at both the state and federal levels should include significant input from city officials and should provide a balanced approach to these complex issues.**

- Statewide Energy Policy.** We support the immediate development of a coordinated and comprehensive energy policy developed with strong input from cities. We encourage the State to adopt legislation providing the mechanism and staff support for the development of such policy.
- Baseload Generation.** The State of Kansas, in cooperation with federal, regional, and local officials, should provide for a balanced approach to the development of adequate, stable baseload generation.
- Transmission.** We encourage the State to make it a priority to support the efforts of the Southwest Power Pool and the Kansas Electric Transmission Authority to continue to develop new and enhance existing transmission infrastructure.
- Renewable Energy.** We support research and development efforts regarding renewable energy sources. We support the goal of having a 20% renewable portfolio standard for regulated utilities by 2020.
- Energy Efficiency.** We support public and private incentives to encourage energy efficiency by local governments and citizens. We support the promotion of energy efficiency in local government and municipal utilities operations through programs which recognize the diversity of utility structures serving local governments.



## WATER AND ENVIRONMENT



**Effective management of natural resources to protect and preserve the ability of local government to meet public needs is vital for the future of Kansas and its communities. State and federal environmental regulations should be based on sound science and technology and should not be imposed without a cost/benefit analysis. State and federal regulators should encourage and embrace new technologies as a way to address environmental challenges.**

- Water Quality.** We support a clean and safe public water supply and the protection of public health and aquatic life. We endorse cooperative solutions to water quality challenges which address both point and non-point source pollution.
- Water Quantity.** Government at all levels should aggressively pursue the conservation, protection, and development of current and future municipal water supplies. We support efforts to extend the life of reservoirs and to expand reservoir storage for use by municipal water suppliers. We support immediate state action, in consultation with municipal providers, to address over appropriated surface and groundwater resources.
- Water Planning.** We support a reevaluation of current state water policy including increased municipal representation on the Kansas Water Authority; revenue sources and distribution for the state water plan fund; and 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 their water, wastewater, stormwater, levee, and dam infrastructure and associated security needs.
- Stormwater Management.** We endorse regional and cooperative solutions to stormwater quality and quantity challenges which address both point and non-point source pollution.
- Solid Waste.** The home rule powers of cities to dispose of and manage municipal solid waste should not be restricted. We oppose any legislation which would declare changes in private solid waste providers to be a taking.
- Hazardous Waste.** We support a comprehensive state-local approach to provide assistance in identifying hazardous wastes and to develop programs to monitor and dispose of such wastes.
- Clean Air.** We support air quality controls which protect the health and safety of Kansans while balancing municipal cost concerns.

## FEDERAL ISSUES



- **Immigration Reform.** We support a federal solution to immigration reform that allows reasonable access to citizenship while assuring adequate border security and protecting our economy and workforce. Any immigration legislation generated by Congress should not negatively impact local governments with additional law enforcement or administrative burdens.
- **Streamlined Sales Tax.** We urge Congress to take action to implement the mandatory collection of sales and use taxes on remote sales. The legislation should not preempt state and local sales and use tax authority. Should federal legislation allow for the state imposition of such taxes, we support the distribution of those funds to cities and counties using an equitable formula. Kansas should continue to participate in the Streamlined Sales Tax Project.
- **Collective Bargaining.** We oppose any federal mandate that would require collective bargaining at the local level.



## ABOUT THE LEAGUE

Established by municipal officials in 1910, the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) is a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of over 590 Kansas cities. It operates as a public agency and is defined by state law as an instrumentality of its member cities. The powers and duties of the League are prescribed by state law and in bylaws adopted by the voting delegates of its member cities.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the League shall be to strengthen and advocate for the interests of the cities of Kansas to advance the general welfare and promote the quality of life of the people who live within our cities.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

This *Statement of Municipal Policy* defines the core principles of the organization. It 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 LKM website at [www.lkm.org](http://www.lkm.org) or contact us at (785) 354-9565.

LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES



SERVING CITIES SINCE 1910

300 SW 8TH AVENUE, STE. 100  
TOPEKA, KS 66603-3951  
[WWW.LKM.ORG](http://WWW.LKM.ORG)

*Photos: On the cover - Lost 80 Park in Lansing. Page 4 - Wichita Skyline. Page 7 - Haddam City Hall. Page 11 - Flint Hills Discovery Center, photo by Rob Minkinski. Page 14 - Neosho River Park.*