

CITY OF WICHITA
2016 KANSAS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
January 5, 2016

ISSUE	CURRENT VERSION	STATUS	2016 ACTION
Economic Development			
Cultural Arts District	HB 2368 would establish cultural arts districts.	Hearing held in House during the 2015 Legislative Session, with no further action	If desired, work with the City, Reviser's office and other interested parties to create suitable version for 2016 legislative action
Entertainment District	Would allow for the establishment of entertainment districts similar to Colorado's common consumption area model. This would allow sale and consumption of alcohol in an open area from various vendors.	Monitor	Monitor with potential support
Economic Development	Council support for continuation of state economic development programs. Many of these programs will be reviewed by the Tax Committees due to the Special Committee on Tax recommendation.	Monitoring	Monitoring
Export Promotion	Council support for renewed funding of Kansas Global Trade Services.	Possible FY2016 contract renewal with Commerce Department Resources	Meet with Sen. Masterson, who initiated Commerce Department conversation
WATC/NCAT	Funding as requested in FY2016 and FY 2017 budget.	Awaiting action during the 2016 Legislative Session	Strongly support continued funding for workforce training 2016 Legislative Session
Emergency Services			
Body camera records	Committee discussion and bill introduced but no action taken	Awaiting potential action during the 2016 Legislative Session	Bill may be back during the 2016 Legislative Session. Continue to monitor
Driving While Suspended Lookback	HB 2040 was introduced during the 2015 Legislative Session and would amend the law and only allow for a 5-year lookback when determining the first, second of subsequent conviction.	The bill was passed by House Judiciary Committee and was stricken from the House Calendar	A similar bill may be introduced during the 2016 Legislative Session. Support legislation allowing courts to consider entire history, but not necessarily mandate jail time.

Finance/Tax

<p>Property Tax Lid</p>	<p>Enacted in final tax revenue bill (HB2109). Changes made to lessen impact on local government. Potential bill in 2016 to remove some of the exemptions and accelerate implementation date.</p>	<p>Renewed efforts expected in 2016 session</p>	<p>Oppose other changes that may be harmful to City of Wichita. Explore expanding exemptions to include rehabilitation and redevelopment of commercial and industrial structures.</p> <p>League of Kansas Municipalities position: <i>Local spending and taxing decisions are best left to the local officials representing the citizens that elected them. We oppose any state-imposed limits on the taxing and spending authority of cities and support repeal of the property tax lid.</i></p>
<p>Sales Tax Exemptions</p>	<p>Special Committee on Taxation met over this fall and recommended that the House and Senate Tax Committees set up a process to sunset all tax credits, sales tax exemptions and other tax policy that creates special tax treatment. The committee is also tasked with creating standards for new exemptions and developing measurable goals for credits and exemptions. Constitutional and value added sales tax exemptions were exempt but governmental entities were not.</p>	<p>To be reviewed by the 2016 Legislature</p>	<p>Monitor and work with other interested parties as the Tax Committees develop their recommendations and process to ensure that there is no double taxation and that there are no roadblocks to fixing an aging infrastructure.</p>
<p>Sales Tax Distribution</p>	<p>Current formula (circa 1985) has created a significant disparity in the amount of SGCO Sales Tax received vs. generated in the cities. While the city of Wichita will generate ~\$77.195 million in sales tax in 2016, it would receive ~\$59.358 million – a difference of +\$17.8 million.</p>	<p>The state has already enacted three exceptions in lieu of the apportionment in three other jurisdictions.</p>	<p>On behalf of Wichitans and other cities, strongly support an exception to fix this disparity.</p>

General Government Operations

Local Control/Home Rule	Council support of LKM position on home rule authority.		Protect the longstanding constitutional home rule authority of Kansas cities approved by voters in 1960. Local issues and problems should be handled at the level of government closest to the citizens we represent.
Annexation	After much debate in both the House and Senate, annexation related legislation was enacted requiring 2/3 county commission approval for a city to annex land. The Senate included language to prohibit island annexation which was removed at the end of the session allowing the bill to pass the Legislature and be signed by the Governor.	2015 bill was signed into law by the Governor. More stringent legislation may be introduced in 2016.	The ability of cities to grow is inherent in the economic growth and development of the state. Therefore, we oppose any change that limits the authority of cities' orderly growth through annexation.
Blight	SB 84 was introduced during the 2015 Legislative Session and would amend the definition of blight.	Bill was passed by the Senate Commerce Committee but was stricken from legislative calendar.	A similar bill may be introduced during the 2016 Legislative Session. Support legislation to help us balance the need to address blight with appropriate property rights.
Conceal and Carry	Make change to the Personal and Family Protection act to allow security passes for public buildings with robust system of security measures including background check, fingerprinting, etc.	City Attorney's office has been working with Rep. Brunk on language.	Find new sponsor and advocate for this issue during session
Elections	Legislation was enacted in 2015 moving local elections to the fall of odd years from the spring. There were a few points in the bill that may need clarification pertaining to upcoming elections.	Signed into law. Current debate on whether provisions of the bill need to be altered.	Potential for legislation in 2016 to re-open the election bill which could allow for further pursuit of election changes. Monitor and work with other interested parties.
Insurance Proceeds	The Kansas League of Municipalities is working on bill to amend KSA 40-3901 to add seismic activity to the list of perils in which a city can retain a percentage of the insurance settlement if the insured walks away from the property. The League is also asking to extend the window to 45 days	Kansas League of Municipalities has a bill draft	Work with League on issue during 2016 Legislative Session

Public Lobbying	Legislation was enacted in 2015 that created additional reporting and disclosure requirements of public funds used by a public entity for public awareness/advocacy.	Fall interim held to discuss further modifications to public lobbying bill following legislation signed into law by Governor	Work to ensure no further onerous changes will be made to last year's public lobbying disclosure, reporting and filing bill
Election Signage	2015 Sign Legislation		Recent legislation violates the June 18, 2015 Supreme Court ruling in the <u>Reed v. Gilbert AZ</u> case. Work with the Kansas League of Municipalities on this issue.

Public Works/Utilities

Water: 50-Year State Plan	Council statement of support for Equus Beds recognition in state 50-year plan	Presentation before House Ag Committee in 2015	Continued discussion during the 2016 Legislative Session
Water: Regulatory Remedies	PW&U letter to state Ag Dept and Water Office	Discussion with state agency	Continued discussion
Water: Water Plan	Council support for reevaluation of governance, funding of state Water Plan. Water Authority appointment for Alan King (Aug 2015).	Discussion with state agency	Continued discussion
Groundwater Water Rights	Legislation was introduced last session concerning groundwater water right that would amend the Water Appropriation Act. The bill requires that the person operating the water right is doing so at an approved point of diversion; for an approved use; within the maximum flow rate; and, is within the approved quantity of water.	Bill never received a hearing last session.	Continue to monitor HB 2245 and express opposition if the bill would appear to gain traction
Offsite Best Management Practices (BMP) program	The City's proposed offsite BMP program would allow developers and owners of property to elect to pay an annual fee to support offsite, upstream protections against runoff pollution, as an alternative to meeting code requirements for onsite runoff mitigation on each specific property when it is developed.	Under development	Support changes in state law to authorize this fee to be paid by developers

Transportation

Passenger Rail	Council support of state discussion and funding for passenger rail in the state.	Planning stage	Monitor and work with other interested parties to support passenger rail in Wichita
Transportation	Council support for full execution of T-WORKS; oppose redirection of KDOT funding	KDOT funding redirected to balance FY2015 state budget and FY 2016 state budget	Monitoring and work with interest groups