

**CITY OF WICHITA**  
**2017 KANSAS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**  
**January 10, 2017**

ISSUE	CITY POSITION	2017 ACTION	Session Update
<b>Economic Development</b>			
<b>Economic Development</b>	Support programs that promote job growth in the state of Kansas. State and regional partnerships are vital to the sustained growth of our communities and should be supported by policy and adequate funding. We support the ability of cities to utilize STAR bonds.	Continue to ensure economic development tools are available for use and promotion within the City of Wichita. Monitor and support economic development legislation during session.	
<b>Entertainment District</b>	Support the establishment of entertainment districts that would allow for the sale and consumption of alcohol in an open area from various vendors.	Work with groups that have expressed interest in this legislation.	
<b>Export Promotion</b>	Support the Kansas Department of Commerce and its export promotion contract.	Support ongoing partnerships with the Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Global Trade Services and the Greater Wichita Partnership in support of export promotion.	
<b>Workforce Training</b>	Support workforce training programs such as WATC/NCAT.	There are expected challenges to balance the 2017 budget.	

## Public Safety

<b>Body camera records</b>	Support City of Wichita policy, including that the subject of video should be able to view it, and obtain after criminal investigation is complete. Support statewide standard.	Language was adopted in 2016 to define recordings and release. Monitor legislation and participate as a leader in police use of body cameras. Wichita was the first major city in Kansas to outfit all street officers.	
<b>Asset Forfeiture</b>	Support the current asset forfeiture process, while remaining open to best practices legislation. Oppose language that would not allow cities to keep money from forfeiture sales.	Legislation may be introduced that deals with the asset forfeiture process by cities.	
<b>Alcohol Evaluations</b>	Support changes to streamline local alcohol evaluation requirements in municipal courts.	Changes were made to KSA 8-1567 and 8-1008 restricting groups who could perform alcohol assessments, which are required to be done prior to sentencing. The changes have created issues for defendants who can't pay, and significantly slowed the court process.	

## Finance/Tax

<b>Property Tax Lid</b>	Support improvements to make it more workable for cities, including support for a protest petition, changes to the election process, and inflation calculation.	Expect legislation regarding election process and inflation calculation during the 2017 Session.	
<b>Tax Policy</b>	Support balanced tax policy at the state level and oppose any legislation that will result in double taxation.	Efforts to fix certain problems are expected by LKM and other cities and counties in the state.	

## General Government Operations

<b>Local Control/Home Rule</b>	Support the LKM position on home rule authority and protect the longstanding constitutional home rule authority of Kansas cities approved by voters in 1960.	Monitor legislative activity.	
<b>Service Territory/Annexation</b>	Support 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.	Monitor potential legislation that could impact the ability of cities to provide utility service in new growth areas.	
<b>Blight</b>	Support legislation to address the blight caused by abandoned, nuisance, and foreclosed properties. Recognize the rights and responsibilities of all property owners – including those whose property values and quality of life are negatively impacted by such blight.	Work with the Governor, legislators, proponents and others to pass common sense legislation similar to that approved by both houses, then vetoed last session.	
<b>Elections</b>	Support non-partisan city elections that are separate from state and national elections.	Continue to monitor legislation for election changes resulting from the 2015 Legislation.	
<b>Unfunded Mandates</b>	Support state government mandates accompanied by an appropriate level of funding and oppose unfunded mandates.		

## Public Works/Utilities

<p><b>Wireless Towers</b></p>	<p>Support the orderly addition of new technologies, while balancing the interests of citizens with telecommunications providers. Support restoring certain protections to better manage towers in the city right of way and on private property. Citizens complain about individual property rights being violated under the new law.</p>	<p>Work in partnership with local developers, Wichita Area Builders Assn, other cities, legislators, and telecom companies on needed fixes.</p>	
<p><b>State Water Plan</b></p>	<p>Oppose new fees to municipal ratepayers. Support a fair and balanced plan to tie sources of funds to project impacts.</p>	<p>The Blue Ribbon Taskforce on Water Resource Management is considering a host of proposals to fund water resource management projects across the state to implement the 50-year water vision. A proposal will be put forth to create a constitutional amendment supporting a 1/10 of a cent sales tax increase dedicated for water resource planning purposes. The proposal also encourages the state to annually fund the water plan.</p>	
<p><b>Alterations to current water law &amp; regulations</b></p>	<p>Support a safe, reliable and affordable drinking water supply for our citizens.</p>	<p>Monitor any changes to current state water law or regulations that could impact the City of Wichita ability to procure safe, clean and affordable water. Pending how the bills are drafted, determine a position of neutral, support or oppose.</p>	

## Transportation

<b>Passenger Rail</b>	Support KDOT participation in a funding strategy to expand passenger rail in Kansas, specifically connecting TX and OK through Wichita to the Southwest Chief in Newton.	Monitor and work with other interested parties to support passenger rail in Wichita. Amtrak already operates a successful daily charter bus service connecting Newton/Wichita passengers to the Oklahoma City-Ft Worth train (the Heartland Flyer). Amtrak is now a part of the overall Federal transportation budget (FAST Act) with billions of dollars allocated for operations and expanding routes.	
<b>Transportation Funding</b>	Support adequate highway finding, oppose additional transfers from the state highway fund to the state general fund to balance budget.	Monitoring and work with interest groups.	