

CITY OF WICHITA

2018 KANSAS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ISSUE	CITY POSITION	2018 ACTION	Session Update
Economic Development			
Economic Development	Support economic development programs that promote job growth and creation 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 to promote economic development in their communities.	Fall 2017 Interim Committee on Economic Development Programs and STAR Bonds. Wichita has active projects in work dependent on these incentives.	
Export Promotion	Support the Kansas Department of Commerce and its export promotion contract, which has been renewed for a third year. FY17 is \$125,000, half of the previous two year's contracts but still notable considering the state's financial condition. Discussion of a FY18 contract will ensue later this year.	Support ongoing partnerships with the Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Global Trade Services and the Greater Wichita Partnership in support of export promotion and expanded trade opportunities for Kansas companies.	
Workforce Training	Support workforce training programs such as WATC/NCAT.	The Legislature will be looking to make significant cuts to the budget to pay for education.	

Emergency Services

Asset Forfeiture	Support the current asset forfeiture process, while remaining open to best practices legislation. Oppose language that would not allow law enforcement or cities to keep money from forfeiture sales.	The Judicial Council is reviewing and making recommendations for the 2018 Legislative Session.	
Alcohol Evaluations	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.	
Body Cameras	Support the establishment of a statewide policy that clearly defines what is public information and when that information should be released.		

Finance/Tax

Property Tax Lid	Support improvements to make it more workable for cities, including support for a protest petition as an alternative to the current lid, which LKM supports as well. We also support changes to the inflation calculation.	Expect legislation to be introduced regarding exemptions and/or a protest petition during the 2018 Legislative Session.	
Tax Policy	Support balanced tax policy at the state level and oppose any legislation that will result in double taxation.	Fall 2017 Interim looking at tax credit and sales tax exemptions.	
Payment Under Protest	Support the LKM position that would require notification if any local taxes are paid under protest.	Legislation expected during the 2018 Session.	

General Government Operations

Local Control/Home Rule	Support the LKM position on home rule authority and protect the longstanding constitutional home rule authority of Kansas cities approved by voters in 1960.		
Blight	Support legislation that streamlines and expedites the process for local governments, neighborhood organizations and private businesses to deal with the blight of abandoned, nuisance, and foreclosed housing, and commercial structures to protect the rights and property values of all property owners – including those surrounding a blighted property.	Legislation is expected during the 2018 Session however, other cities and counties in the state have looked at options available under current law.	
Signs in the Right-of-Way	Kansas passed legislation conflicting with a recent Supreme Court ruling on political sign placement.	Encourage committee to support language to grant cities ability to regulate sign placement consistent with recent court rulings.	
Unfunded Mandates	Along with LKM, support state government mandates accompanied by an appropriate level of funding and oppose unfunded mandates.	Monitor legislation for unfunded mandates.	
Immigration Reform	Monitor Immigration issues at the statehouse.	Legislation expected on immigration reform specifically mandating e-verify for all employers.	
Ban the Box	Monitor state legislation to remove barriers to hiring within the State of Kansas	Legislation is expected to “ban the box” this session.	
Designating Sedgwick County as an “Urban Area”	The City of Wichita has concerns with the proposed designation of Sedgwick County as an Urban Area.	Sedgwick County has proposed a statutory change to become an “Urban Area.” The City is concerned with the uncertainty this proposal brings and recommends a local discussion and consensus before legislation is introduced.	

Public Works/Utilities

Wireless Towers	Monitor the orderly addition of new technologies, while balancing the interests of citizens with telecommunications providers.	Work in partnership with local developers, Wichita Area Builders Assn, other cities, legislators, and telecom companies on needed fixes. It is expected that the wireless carriers will have additional changes to the micro-siting bill they will propose this session.	
State Water Plan	Oppose new fees to municipal ratepayers. Support a fair and balanced plan to tie sources of funds to project impacts.	Legislation is expected during the 2018 Session that will likely involve legislation increasing fees on municipal water users. The interim committee on Natural Resources has requested \$8 million from SGF be allocated to the Water Plan.	
Alterations to current water law & regulations	Support a safe, reliable and affordable drinking water supply for our citizens.	Legislation has been introduced that would allow GMDs to increase their fees. The City will work to ensure these fees will not be disproportionate based on whether the end user is inside or outside of the GMD service territory.	
Utility Annexation	Support current statutes related to service territory for water supply and no changes to the annexation process.	It is likely that legislation will be introduced concerning service territory and the annexation process. The main bill could focus on electric service territory, but it is likely that the issue could also involve water service territory matters.	
State OSHA Law	Monitor issue for impacts on the Greater Wichita business community.	Legislation is expected next session that would direct the Secretary of Labor to enter into an agreement regarding state enforcement of federal OSHA laws.	
State Fire Marshall	Support clarification of the State Fire Marshall's authority and responsibilities to review municipal building codes.	Legislation is expected during the 2018 Session and supported by WABA that would limit State Fire Marshall's review to building codes and exclude review of trade codes (electrical, plumbing, and mechanical) which are not related to fire prevention.	

Transportation

Passenger Rail	Support continued state and regional discussions for funding and expansion of passenger rail in the state.	Monitor and work with other interested parties to support passenger rail in Wichita.	
Transportation Funding	Support adequate highway funding, oppose additional transfers from the state highway fund to the state general fund to balance budget.	Monitoring and work with interest groups.	
License Plate	Support the passage of the Wichita Flag Vanity Plate to raise revenue for the Wichita Parks Foundation.	Introduce and work for passage of a bill.	
Bicycle Safety	Support legislation that helps clarify the use of on-street bike lanes by vehicular traffic, as well as fix an old law requiring reflector lights on bicycle pedals. Also support creating consistency between state law and city ordinances regarding motorized vehicles using off-street and pedestrian pathways.	Working with interest groups to see if legislation will be introduced during the 2018 Session.	