

## CITY OF WICHITA

### 2019 KANSAS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ISSUE	CITY POSITION	2019 Anticipated ACTION
<b>Economic Development</b>		
<b>Economic Development</b>	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 and the enactment of the Kansas Reinvestment Act to promote economic development in their communities.	Additional STAR Bonds and economic development incentive discussions anticipated during the 2019 Legislative Session.
<b>Export Promotion</b>	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.
<b>Workforce Training</b>	Support workforce training programs such as WSU Tech, National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT) and the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR).	Workforce development continues to be a top issue for employers in the state. Discussions on this topic as well as funding for key Wichita initiatives such as NIAR.

Public Safety		
<b>Metal Theft</b>	Support current state laws and new proposals that would require ID's when selling scrap metal and other proposals to strengthen current laws. As of Oct. 10, the City in 2018 lost well over \$200K in materials, labor and contract services due to theft. We welcome private partnerships to help pay for the database.	Legislation will likely be introduced that would impose new fees to help the State pay for implementation of the metal theft database. We will push for a mix of state and private funds.
<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.
<b>Body Cameras</b>	Support the establishment of a statewide policy that clearly defines what is public information and when that information should be released.	Monitor and review the Judicial Council recommendations before the 2019 Legislative Session.
<b>Juvenile issues</b>	Support changes to the juvenile justice system to ensure local services are in place that will adequately deal with repeat juvenile offenders.	Educate legislators on this growing issue and work towards ensuring adequate local dollars and support flow to communities to deal with juvenile offenders.
<b>Auto Theft</b>	Support changes to the Kansas auto theft statute and consider proposals that would make motor vehicle auto theft a felony regardless of the vehicle's value.	Work with interested parties on potential legislation.

Finance/Tax		
<b>Property Tax Lid</b>	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 during the 2019 Legislative Session.
<b>Tax Policy</b>	Support balanced tax policy at the state level and oppose any legislation that will result in double taxation.	
<b>Alternative Property Valuation</b>	Support proven techniques to define commercial properties at their highest and best use.	
<b>Internet Sales Tax Collections</b>	Support the ability of local governments to collect local sales or compensating use tax on remote sellers	
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.	
<b>Unfunded Mandates</b>	Along with LKM, support state government mandates accompanied by an appropriate level of funding and oppose unfunded mandates.	Monitor legislation for unfunded mandates.
<b>Immigration Reform</b>	Monitor Immigration issues at the statehouse.	Legislation expected on immigration reform specifically mandating e-verify for all employers.
<b>Federal Loan Programs</b>	Support changes to allow local governments to participate directly in federal loan programs.	
<b>Urban Renewal Area</b>	Streamline the sale of property acquired within an urban renewal area.	Current state statute requires considerable notice and bureaucracy when wanting to sell property acquired within an urban renewal area.

Public Works/Utilities		
<b>Broadband Deployment</b>	Monitor the orderly addition of new technologies, while balancing the interests of citizens with telecommunications providers.	Engage in the Broadband Taskforce to monitor the discussion about deployment technologies and methods. Micro towers and further limiting city ROW agreements could be discussed.
<b>State Water Plan</b>	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 2019 Session that will likely involve legislation increasing fees on municipal water users.
<b>State Managed Groundwater Cleanups</b>	Legislation was passed nearly two decades ago related to the disposition of dry-cleaning chemicals and exposure to the drink water supply. The bill did not require communication from the dry cleaners to any landowners on well water downstream from the contamination site. This summer it was revealed that there were two known exposures of contaminated drinking water and it took the State several years to contact impacted citizens.	Possible that legislation may be introduced this session to change existing law on notification of release or contamination.

Transportation		
<b>Passenger Rail</b>	Support continued state and regional discussions for funding and expansion of passenger rail in the state. Passenger rail is evolving as a key component for keeping and attracting young people as part of a strong workforce. In addition, it provides a safe travel option for an aging population.	Monitor and work with other interested parties to support passenger rail in Wichita.
<b>Transportation &amp; Transit Funding</b>	Support adequate highway funding, oppose additional transfers from the state highway fund to the state general fund to balance budget. As cities work to innovate with multimodal transport systems, we would support more financial commitment at the State level for operations and statewide transit initiatives.	Participate in Transportation Taskforce discussions and support the passage of a new transportation plan in the state.
<b>Bicycle Safety</b>	Support cities working together to create a statewide bike plan that helps clarify the use of on-street bike lanes by vehicular traffic and consistency between state law and city ordinances regarding motorized vehicles using off-street and pedestrian pathways. In addition, support a fix an old law requiring reflector lights on bicycle pedals.	Working with interest groups to see if legislation can be introduced during the 2019 Session.