

Bel Aire Legislative Priority Discussion 2023

<p>Countywide Sales and Use Taxes: <i>Support keeping the current city-county revenue sharing formula in place to benefit all. The existing formula benefits both city and county tax payers and ensures there is a fair, predictable and consistent method to distribute funds that are generated primarily in cities.</i></p> <p>Update: Issue that brought this up was resolved specifically. League does not see this as a major area of action in the coming session.</p> <p>Staff recommendation: keep this item on our list clearly requesting the formula stay as is.</p>	
<p>Property Taxes: <i>Any tax lid limits cities ability to legislate and spend funds that are raised locally. The current tax notice requirement are intended to foster transparency, but are structured to be burdensome and costly. In 2025 cities will be required to pay for these additional notices from local funds. We encourage changing the Senate Bill 13 notice requirement to make this noticed process less complex and burdensome while still preserving the goal of transparency. This may be accomplished by requiring a single publication in the official newspaper, in lieu of individual notices every time property taxes are adjusted.</i></p> <p>Updates: This will likely be an active legislative topic. There is interest in proposing legislation to standardize the form that counties use to send out notice on behalf to their subdivisions.</p> <p>Staff recommendation: keep the language used last and reemphasize the need for removal of the burdensome notice requirements</p>	
<p>Home Rule and Properly Funded Mandates: <i>Home Rule is key to the success of cities to govern themselves based on citizen input and desires. Consistent with the Home Rule Amendment of the Kansas Constitution approved by voters in 1960, we support local elected officials making decisions for their communities, particularly local tax and revenue decisions. Any state or Federal mandates should heavily consider the Home Rule Amendment and be properly funded. Legislative requirements from the state or federal governments imposed on cities without proper funding negatively impacts the budgets of cities. Strongly support home rule. Oppose any legislative mandates unless properly funded.</i></p> <p>Update: No specific action. League seeing legislators understand this issue better.</p> <p>Staff recommendation: Keep this on our list or comment on within our letter: We will support legislation that strengthens home rule as a city and oppose anything that erodes our home rule authority.</p>	
<p>K254 Public Infrastructure: <i>Support state prioritization of K-254 safety and infrastructure improvements and recommend the selection of K254 for IKE Transportation funding. Studies have shown that regional and local growth for southcentral Kansas are tied improving the K-254 infrastructure.</i></p> <p>Update: Successful in securing KDOT funding of a development plan for K-254, contract and study should be done in the next year.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation: Take this priority off of the list until development plan complete and ready to proceed to project funding.</p>	

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<p>Mental Health: <i>Support the State prioritizing the allocation additional resources for mental health programs and studying solutions to this statewide problem. Funding should be allocated for community mental health centers and additional bed space for Patients with mental health issues.</i></p> <p>Update: This topic has become a major priority for the state. Some funding for a mental health facility in south central Kansas has been earmarked but much more funding and planning is still needed.</p> <p>Staff Recommendation: Keep this as a priority and advocate for a mental health hospital located in Sedgwick county or at a minimum in south central Kansas.</p>	
<p>*NEW*</p> <p>Water: Bel Aire supports policies and strategies to protect water resources critical to the economy of South Central Kansas, including protection of the Equus Beds Aquifer that supplies water for 20% of the Kansas population. Bel Aire recognizes the need for all voices to be heard on the Groundwater Management District 2 (GMD2) Board of Directors and supports legislation to ensure fair and equitable municipal representation on the GMD2 Board</p> <p>Staff Recommendation: Add this priority to list. Western Kansas is active on water issues. As other municipalities, REAP, and other organizations add voices to this issue, it can be addressed with our region in mind.</p>	