

**KLC** Direct

A Kentucky League of Cities Publication

# Kentucky Legislative Session 2004:

*What About You?*

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## FRONT PAGE NEWS

### Kentucky Legislative Session 2004: *What About You?*

"The most important thing we do is listen to city leaders," says Neil Hackworth, KLC's Deputy Executive Director. "Our legislative initiative is year round."

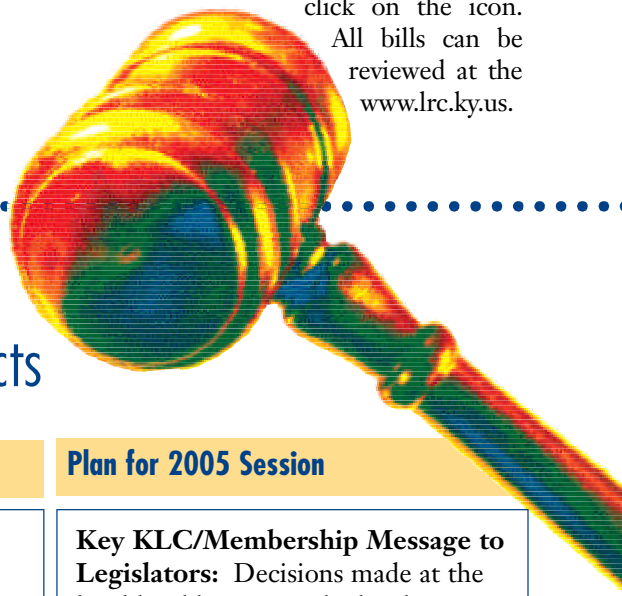
Throughout the year, the KLC Policy team constantly analyzes implication of proposed legislation and develops proactive, "pro-city" positions. During each session, KLC is actively watching/working on approximately 50 bills.

"The KLC Advocacy team garners a lot of respect in Frankfort," said Maysville Mayor David Cartmell, who is KLC's first Vice President and

Chair of the Legislative, "but it is critical to have input from cities and their support when the time comes to call legislators."

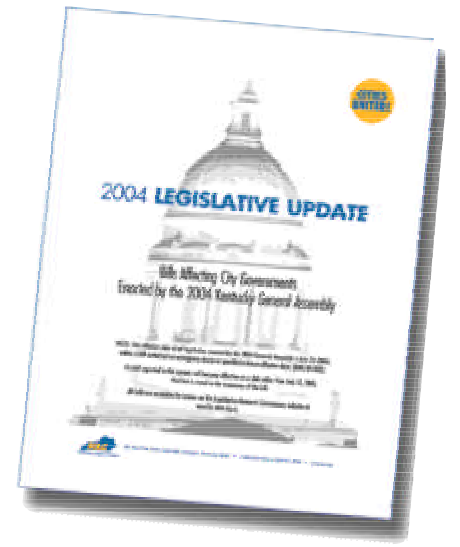
Prepared by KLC's Policy Team, *The 2004 Legislative Update* allows you to view summaries of key house and senate bills online within a fully downloadable document. Go to [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org) and click on the icon.

All bills can be reviewed at the [www.lrc.ky.us](http://www.lrc.ky.us).



### 2005: Current KLC Legislative Policy Analysis & Research Projects

Issue	Impact - 2004	Plan for 2005 Session
<b>Home Rule</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue continues to come up</li> <li>Big issue for 2005</li> </ul>	<p><b>Key KLC/Membership Message to Legislators:</b> Decisions made at the local level best serve the local community. Home rule is one of the key principles of KLC's advocacy for cities.</p>
<b>Tax Modernization</b> <i>(Insurance premium taxes and other specific taxes should all be considered in overall legislation.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislators began to see need to reform tax plan; think outside the box</li> <li>Expected to be a big issue for 2005</li> <li>The concept of local rule is also a key part of this issue</li> </ul>	<p>KLC will proceed with development of a modernization plan and consider a campaign to convey message.</p> <p><b>Message to Legislators:</b> As soon as possible, cities need local options, based on what works for them.</p>
<b>History Property Tax Credit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2004 proposed legislation with strong bipartisan support that would provide incentives for rehabilitation of historic structures</li> <li>A pilot project with tax credits was approved for the 2006 budget</li> </ul>	<p>KLC has sanctioned a study to review the long term economic effects of historical tax credits and will monitor the pilot project.</p> <p><b>Message to Legislators:</b> The long term economic benefits outweigh the initial budget (incentive) investments.</p>
<b>Brownfields Legislation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue continues to come up</li> </ul>	<p><b>Message to Legislators:</b> KLC supports creation of further incentive programs.</p>
<b>Expanded Gaming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue continues to come up</li> <li>The thoroughbred industry has formed an advocate group, headed by former Gov. Brereton Jones</li> </ul>	<p>KLC will continue to monitor the issue.</p> <p><b>Message to Legislators:</b> Whatever happens with gaming, cities need a portion of revenues because services, such as policing, will ultimately have to be increased.</p>



Included in *The 2004 Legislative Update* document are synopses of:

**Alcohol Beverage Control**

HB 466 Caterer's and Supplemental Bar Licenses

**Collective Bargaining**

HB 570 Police Collective Bargaining - Consolidated Local Government  
 HB 572 Police/Fire Collective Bargaining - Urban County Government

**Economic Development**

SB 203 Industrial Development Authorities  
 SB 248 Existing Industry Financing  
 HB 593 Economic Development

**Emergency Services**

HB 427 Emergency Services Boards

**Fire Protection**

SB 195 Fire Protection Districts - Board of Trustees  
 HB 406 Fire Protection Districts - Tax Authority  
 HB 412 Fire Protection Districts - Merger/Boundary Change  
 HB 435 Firefighters Foundation Program

**Fireworks**

SB 273 Fireworks

**Housing**

SB 34 Home Inspectors

**Law Enforcement**

HB 413 Law Enforcement Citation Fee

**Local Government**

HB 438 Disposition of Surplus Property  
 HB 619 Annexation Maps

**Motor Vehicle Offenses**

HB 71 Handicapped Parking

**Planning and Zoning**

SB 95 Zoning of Firearms Manufacturers, Importers & Dealers  
 HB 404 Agricultural Uses of Land

**Retirement Systems**

HB 290 State Retirement Systems Reform  
 HB 519 Retirement

**Taxation**

HB 19 Insurance Premium Tax  
 HB 373 Taxation of Abandoned Urban Property  
 HB 458 Occupational Taxes

**Telecommunications**

HB 226 Wireless Interoperability  
 HB 627 Broadband Services

**Utilities**

SB 118 Sale of Electric Power  
 HB 202 Sewer Systems

## LAST WORD FIRST

### Many Deserve Thanks for Legislative Session Success



Ascribing to popular theory, the 2004 General Assembly was not a success. Certainly, ending without a budget does not represent a shining moment in the history of the Commonwealth but I have every confidence that our legislative leadership along with Governor Fletcher will come to a compromise and a budget will emerge in the near future.

Let this be a moment for KLC to thank a number of people for what we believe was a hopeful and successful session for cities and communities. Standing at the top of the list of achievements was HB 413, an additional \$20 fee added to any conviction, that in part takes the place of the lost base court revenue, but which also represented the recognition by legislators that our police need support throughout the state.

We saw the beginnings of important dialogue about the rights of local citizens to elect mayors and city councils to make important decisions on their behalf such as on smoking ban ordinances and other local matters. We saw the beginnings of dialogue on the important yet changing state and local partnership through a commitment by Governor Fletcher to look at local taxation as a part of an ongoing effort to achieve the important goal of tax modernization.

There are many people to thank for these efforts and I will begin with the state legislature. We appreciate these hard working men and women who have "stepped up to the plate" on our behalf and pledge to continue working with them as we all grapple with the difficult issues of the early part of the 21st century. It is our belief that our state and our entire country is in the midst of a transformation that if successful will take our way of life to a new level of achievement on the part of all our citizens. We pledge to continue working closely with legislators to engage in these important discussions.

We thank Governor Fletcher and his fine staff for working closely with KLC on tax modernization and its implications for our communities. We pledge to continue working with the Governor as he seeks to implement his vision for the Commonwealth. We are pleased that he recognizes the importance of cities and the development of an urban agenda for Kentucky if we are to be successful in the future.

We thank our hard working city officials who amaze me with their dedication to their own communities and their willingness to work on behalf of the betterment of their sister communities across the state. These are good citizens who simply care enough to try to make a difference. Most work with little or no pay and hold down full time jobs in a variety of professions. I am constantly humbled by the glare of their profound sense of citizenship.

In particular, I want to thank Mayor Karen L. Cunningham of Madisonville, KLC president, whose leadership is so evident in all we do. Whether called upon to testify, give a speech on the run, or just to come be present for a committee hearing, she graciously gave of her time and thereby helped not only Madisonville but other communities across the state achieve more. Thanks and kudos go to the KLC Executive Board and the KLC Board of Directors. It was the KLC Executive Board who made difficult "on the spot" decisions on behalf of 370 members and who accordingly took this task very seriously and devoted a great deal of time to deliberations on a variety of topics. Thanks to the KLC Board of Directors for providing us with a blueprint of success in our legislative program.

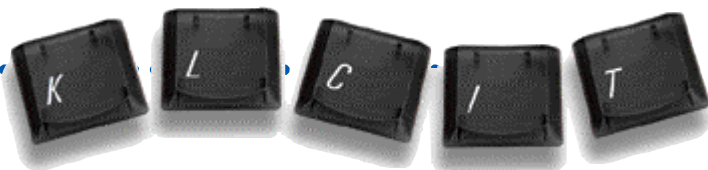
Finally, last but not least, I want to thank the KLC staff - the entire staff of 82 dedicated individuals. There are those among them who spend every single day in the hallways of the capitol, there are those who oversee the data bases for the mailing of legislative bulletins, there are those who field the calls from city officials who need clarification of an issue, there are those who pick up the slack and provide cheerful counterpoint as the winter wears on and the lobbyist tempers grow shorter. I am humbled by their dedication that comes from strength of character and dedication to a cause and thank them personally, professionally and every other way.

I would be remiss not to make special mention and offer a special thanks to Jerry Deaton, Phil Huddleston, and Bert May who carried the lion's share of the lobbying work, who stayed till midnight if it was necessary - and that was often - and who made the calls and did the "heavy lifting." It was clearly the most successful session we have had in years and in large part it was owed to these individuals. And, thanks Neil Hackworth, KLC Deputy Executive Director, whose excellent oversight and management of the process allowed the kind of high stakes maneuvering that resulted in success.

In the end, we thank all these folks and more for their efforts. We now take a deep breath and look down the road to new horizons and opportunities. Our work is not done and in many ways this session is but a beginning to a broader initiative. That initiative is to strengthen Kentucky cities and communities in a new global age where they will be more important to our future than ever before.

Sincerely,

Sylvia L. Lovely  
Executive Director/CEO  
Kentucky League of Cities



More than **75** Reverse Auctions  
have saved  
Kentucky cities **\$1.4 million.**

Want to learn more? Contact KLCIT @1-800-876-4552.

## KLC Direct

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The voice of Kentucky cities

**KLC Direct** is published monthly by the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC). KLC is a voluntary association of nearly 400 cities and provides a multitude of services to assist in improving local government. Please address any correspondence to KLC Direct, Kentucky League of Cities, 101 East Vine Street, Suite 600, Lexington, Kentucky 40507. Phone (859) 977-3700 or 1-800-876-4552. Fax (859) 977-3703. [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org).

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## STAFF NOTES

### Senate Saved the Best for Last!

**KLC Legislative Policy Analyst Phil Huddleston** was uniquely honored during the closing session of the Kentucky Senate on April 13, 2004 as they adopted a resolution adjourning the senate in honor of Phil Huddleston.

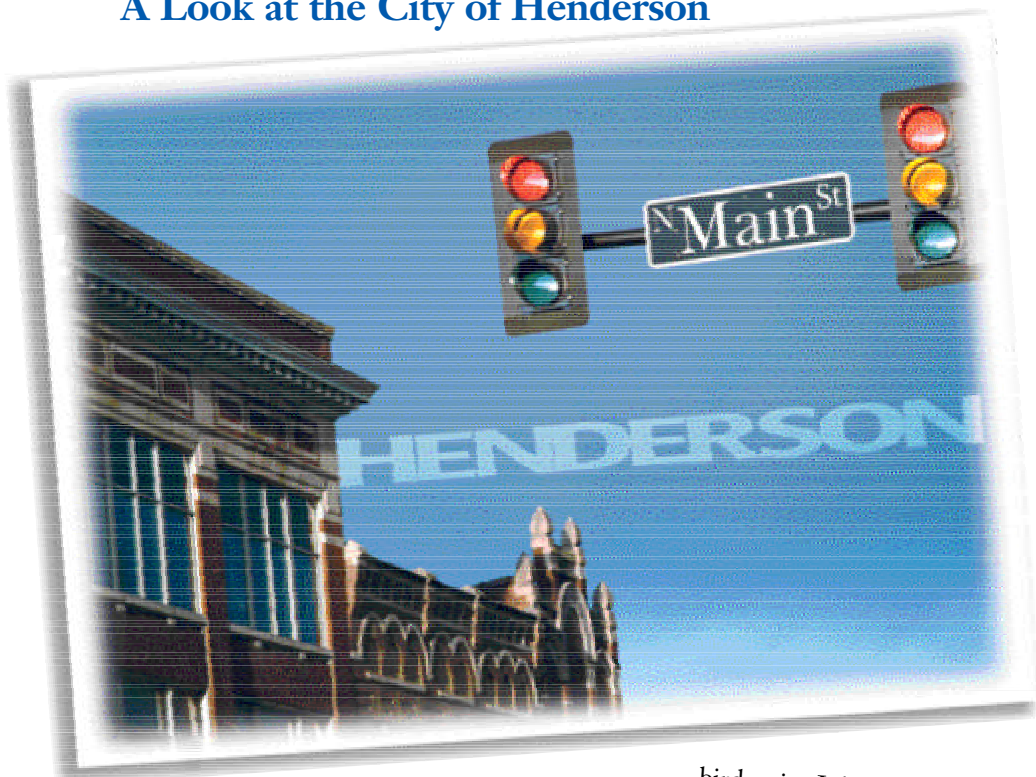


The resolution, which was read during the closing session, cites Huddleston's career in Frankfort, his years of services to the General Assembly and where he began with the Legislative Research Commission in 1980, ascending the ranks to become LRC Assistant Director. He also, and most importantly, served as chief of staff for the President of the Senate for three years.

It states that he garnered the respect and affection of legislators on both sides of the aisle and recognizes his services to the people of the Commonwealth with unwavering devotion, selflessness and good humor, earning the trust of his colleagues and members of both chambers.

## CITY POSTCARD

### A Look at the City of Henderson



**Mayor:** Henry G. Lackey

**Population:** 27,373

**Location:** "The Jewel on the Ohio" sits on the southern bank of the Ohio River. Several major highways intersect the community, including U.S. 60 and US 41 and Pennyriple and Audubon Parkways.

**History:** Henderson was founded in 1797, mapped with guidance of Daniel Boone and became a city in 1867, named for Colonel Richard Henderson. American woodsman and

bird artist, John James Audubon, was a long time Henderson resident. During an economic boom in the 1800's, Henderson had the second richest city per capita in the world. As a result, many charming and elaborate old homes remain there today.

**Special Events:** Henderson is home to the Audubon Museum and State Park a great Fine Arts Center, and hosts festivals including Tri-Fest, the W.C. Handy Blues and Barbecue Festival and the Bluegrass in the Park/Folk Life Festival.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Enterprise Cities Awards

KLC's Enterprise Cities Awards Program recognizes and encourages entrepreneurship, innovation and excellence in local governance in Kentucky among KLC members. Four awards are given, based on city population ranging from less than 5,000 to more than

40,000. Winning cities will be recognized at the October KLC Annual Convention and will be profiled in *City*.

*For more information, visit [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org) and click on the Enterprise Cities icon. The deadline for entries is July 30, 2004.*

### Water

Each year, the Waterfront Center Awards recognize cities with awards in three categories: built waterfront projects of any type and from any period, comprehensive urban waterfront plans, and grassroots citizen's

activities, either an individual or an organization.

*For more information about the awards, visit [www.waterfrontcenter.org](http://www.waterfrontcenter.org) or call 202-337-0356. The deadline for entries is July 16, 2004.*

### Homeland Security Funding in the Works

Through the State Homeland Security Grant Program, Kentucky will receive \$35 million, \$27 million of which must pass directly through on the local level.

KLC made cities aware of the application deadline (extended to July 9), and will keep

members informed of the awards, scheduled for August 1, 2004.

*KLC's Joseph Coleman, Federal Issues Analyst, is available to assist cities with questions about this and other federal issues. Contact him at 800-876-4552, ext. 3715 or email [jcoleman@klc.org](mailto:jcoleman@klc.org).*

## FROM THE FIELD

The **City of Whitesburg** was featured in the May 2004 issue of *National Geographic* as its "zip code" of the month.

The **City of Paducah** was awarded the American Planning Association's Outstanding Planning Award for a Special Community Initiative for its Lower Town Neighborhood Plan and Artist Relocation Project.

At a June 9 national conference **Campbellsville's** Team Taylor County received a national award from the U.S.

Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration in the area of Economic Adjustment Development Strategies. At the same conference, **Bowling Green's** Center for Information Technology (CITE) also received recognition in the area of Community Based Social Entrepreneurship.

The **Cities of Elizabethtown, Versailles and Lexington** will be locations for an upcoming movie "Elizabethtown" starring Susan Sarandon, Orlando Bloom and Kirsten Dunst.

## MEET ME AT KLC

### Staff Profile

**David Smith**  
Marketing Agent  
Joined KLC September 1999



As a veteran of the insurance industry for over 20 years, **Dave Smith** has proven to be a very valuable asset for KLC's Insurance Agency division. Dave works hard to assist cities and city employees in finding affordable and high quality health insurance. He also acts as an agent for life, disability, dental, and vision insurance. Dave says that the most rewarding part of his job is "being able to offer better and more cost-effective healthcare alternatives to municipal employees all across Kentucky."

Dave was born and raised in Louisville, and still lives there today. He enjoys all outdoor activities, but especially likes golf, fishing, and water skiing. Dave also coaches his daughter's sixth grade volleyball team. Despite living in Louisville nearly his entire life, Dave is an avid UK basketball fan.

Contact Dave at 1-800-876-4552 ext. 3759, or [dsmith@klc.org](mailto:dsmith@klc.org).

### Welcome New Staff

**Tom Ledford**  
IT Manager  
Joined KLC March 2004



Tom can be reached at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 4165, or by email at [tledford@klc.org](mailto:tledford@klc.org).

**Janice Kline**  
Grant Writer/Administrator  
Joined KLC May 2004



Janice can be reached at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3730, or by email at [jkline@newcities.org](mailto:jkline@newcities.org).

### Mark Your Calendar!

Come discover what services and programs are available for your community at the state level at the 29th Annual Governor's Local Issues Conference to be held August 16-17, 2004 at the Galt House East in Louisville. City officials can earn up to 3-6 hours of Leadership Training Center Credit. Register today at [www.dlg.ky.gov](http://www.dlg.ky.gov).

## LAW ABIDING

### A Home Run for Home Rule

#### KLC Shapes Benchmark Kentucky Supreme Court Decision

On April 23, the Kentucky Supreme Court decided the Lexington smoking ban case (*Lexington-Fayette County Food and Beverage Association v. Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government*). KLC intervened as *amicus curiae* because the case raised important issues concerning the powers of city governments and the relationship of those powers to state law.

In its brief, KLC took no position on whether cities should act to ban smoking. Rather, KLC focused its legal arguments on the broad home rule powers of cities to regulate for public health purposes and under what circumstances state law preempts the home rule power of cities.

In its 6-1 decision, the Supreme Court agreed with KLC's arguments that cities clearly had the power under home rule to ban smoking as a public health risk and that current state law did not preempt the exercise of that power. Justice Wintersheimer, writing for the majority and borrowing extensively from KLC's brief on this issue said "this case is not about whether the decision of a local government to enact smoking restrictions is a sound policy matter. Such policy decisions are completely within the province of the local legislative body."

The Court went on to hold that under police powers, city governments "have wide latitude to adopt ordinances which promote the health, safety, morals or general welfare of the people." On the

issue of preemption, the Court's decision made it evident that an action by a city government will only be preempted when such action directly conflicts with state law or when the legislature has used unmistakable language barring action by a city government.

The Court's willingness to preserve the independence of city governments to make policy decisions for local communities under home rule and its refusal to extend the doctrine of preemption are significant victories for all of Kentucky's city governments.

*Have a legal question? Contact KLC Legal Services at 1-800-876-4552.*

## CITY PEOPLE

### "I Survived My First KLC Legislative Marathon"

*Terry Whittaker, Councilmember, City of Elsmere*

March 24, 2004

Dear Kentucky League of Cities,



I survived my first KLC Legislative Marathon!

Taking advantage of the opportunity KLC offers city officials to "shadow" our lobbyists, I recently observed and participated in discussions between KLC lobbyists and our State legislative officials.

Little did I know when I arranged the visit with the KLC lobbying team that I would be involved in one of the longest foot races in the state!

I left home in northern Kentucky before the roosters stirred and headed to our State's Capitol arriving at 7:30 a.m. for the start of the race. My partners were Bert May and Phil Huddleston. After reviewing updates, changes and amendments to legislation from the previous day, the gentlemen outlined a plan of action. With a jolt of caffeine, we were off and running to speak with as many officials as possible.

Up the stairs, across the hall, down the corridor...brake, brake, brake! Phil stops a senator

in the hall to discuss HB 413. However, Bert does not even brake stride as he continues around the next bend and into the north forty. After discussing the bill with a senator, off we go again. Up an elevator, turn right, turn left and stop. May we speak with the Senate President Pro Tem? "Certainly," replied the office assistant, "please take a seat." Ah, a nice quiet office and soft chair so I can give my tired feet in high heels a brief rest. Whiplash! There goes Phil into the hallway chasing another senator.

And so the next several hours went. As the day ended, the KLC staff gathers to discuss the outcome of their contacts for the day and a preliminary plan for the next day. I realized how much more needed to be done to keep our legislative issues on the right track. More importantly, I realized that shadowing one of our KLC lobbyists left me knowing I should and must do more. Kudos to our KLC Legislative team for all their efforts on our behalf and for dragging me to the finish line!

*You can be part of the KLC Frankfort Shadowing program. Contact Tresa Short at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3777 or tshort@klc.org.*

### Make the Most of Schmoozing

Legislative meetings. Social events. Business gatherings. They call for us to introduce ourselves and engage in multiple conversations, often with people we don't know, sometimes with people who make big decisions that affect us.

So, what's appropriate and what's not when it comes to schmoozing? How can you make the most out of these situations?



Lori Silverman is a nationally renowned speaker; consultant, trainer, and author whose highly enthusiastic approach will help you go beyond the small talk and build important relationships in a single meeting. Silverman will be one of several exciting speakers at this year's KLC Annual Convention, October 6-9, 2004 in Owensboro.

*For more information or to register online, go to [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org) and click on the Cities on the Move icon.*

## LEGISLATIVE FLASH

### "Cities United!" Proves the Skeptics Wrong

*Jerry Deaton, Director of Governmental Affairs*



Skeptics abounded earlier this year as cities marched into Frankfort armed with a progressive legislative agenda. People made light of our theme "Cities United!" and suggested that no measure seeking to increase revenue could pass this session, and for that matter, suggested that very few bills would pass, period. Looks like they were wrong! Cities not only passed three bills this session, but one of those, HB 413 - our Law Enforcement Fee bill, increased city law enforcement revenue by \$8 million per year. Cities were definitely united and successful.

With regard to HB 413, we owe State Representative Steve Riggs (D-Jeffersontown) an enormous debt of gratitude as the bill sponsor. He was a true champion for city issues this session. Also playing a major role in the passage of HB 413 was State Senator Robert Stivers (R-Manchester), who made sure the bill came through his

committee unamended, and actually handled our bill on the floor of the Senate explaining its merits.

House Bill 619, a measure that clarifies requirements for annexation maps, was sponsored for KLC by State Representative Adrian Arnold (D-Mount Sterling). It was prepared with the assistance and support of the Kentucky Association of Professional Surveyors and the Kentucky Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and as such, demonstrates the power of collaboration.

KLC's third bill, HB 438, was sponsored by State Representative John Vincent (R-Ashland) and provides additional methods for cities to sell or otherwise dispose of surplus real and personal property, including donation to another governmental entity and by electronic auction.

To all the city people behind the scenes and the legislators themselves, thank you for your support of KLC's legislative program and the resulting benefits they provide to cities and citizens across the Commonwealth!

### What a Site!

Did you know you can post city job openings on the KLC website? You can review most all KLC publications, register for a Leadership Training & Education Center program and even check the real time status of all your KLC insurance business accounts at [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org).

### Homeland Security in Your Hometown: Crime Prevention Works!

If you are working to prevent crime, join the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and colleagues at the Eastern Regional Crime Prevention Conference on September 8-10, in Cincinnati, Ohio at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. For more information on how to register, visit [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org).



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Educate, Celebrate, Participate

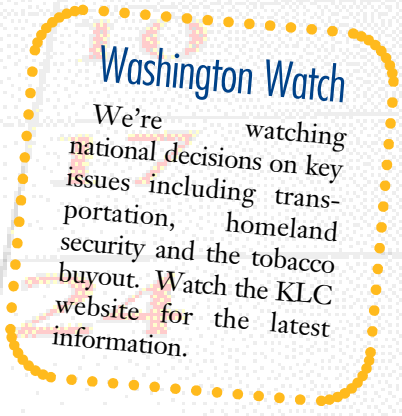
#### JULY 2004

- 15 Wage & Hour Basics**  
Clark County Extension Office  
Winchester, Kentucky
- 23 Planning & Zoning to Meet HB 55 Requirements**  
Grayson Conference Center  
Grayson, Kentucky
- 27-28 Kentucky Watershed Roundtable**  
Holiday Inn North  
Lexington, Kentucky

- 30 Hazard Assessments: Choosing Personal Protective Equipment**  
Hal Rogers Regional Fire Training Center  
Somerset, Kentucky
- 30 Trenching and Excavation Safety**  
Hal Rogers Regional Fire Training Center  
Somerset, Kentucky

#### AUGUST 2004

- 18 20/20 Vision: Strategic Planning for New Cities**  
Mt. Washington City Annex Building  
Mt. Washington, Kentucky



For more information or to register online, visit KLC's website at [www.klc.org/leadership](http://www.klc.org/leadership). With questions, contact Doreen Caines at 800-876-4552, or [dcaines@klc.org](mailto:dcaines@klc.org).

## We Want to Hear from You!

To submit a story or commentary for KLC DIRECT departments, please contact the KLC staff listed or go to [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org). For overall feedback, contact Terri Johnson at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3784, or [tjohnson@klc.org](mailto:tjohnson@klc.org).

### Let's Keep that Momentum Going!

**I want to extend my thanks for the great support you showed during the 2004 legislative session.**

This year, KLC staff, as well as city officials spent a great deal of time in Frankfort advocating for cities. As your KLC Board President, it was my pleasure to represent you in the halls of the Capitol. While some days were filled with frustration, there were definitely victories for cities. Obviously the most notable was the passage of House Bill 413.

It was encouraging to see committee rooms filled to the brim with mayors, commissioners and councilmembers, police officers and other city officials and employees. Our physical presence definitely made a powerful statement. Legislators noticed the support.

I know that many of you spent countless hours traveling to and from, and in the halls of Frankfort talking with legislators. You also contacted legislators via email, letters and phone - and it worked. Congratulations on a job well done.



*Karen L. Cunningham*

While it was vital that local elected officials be in Frankfort, we could not have done it without the very talented KLC staff. In particular, our advocacy team of Jerry Deaton, Phil Huddleston and Bert May did a tremendous job working with key people. They have the ability to present our case in a way that wins support and they are all respected by legislators. For 2004, they were relentless in their quest to protect cities from harmful legislation and to guide bills through the process that are to our advantage. And, as is often the case, behind these great men is a great woman; thanks also to Tresa Short, KLC's Frankfort Legislative Assistant.

Additionally, Joe Ewalt, Dag Ryen, Joseph Coleman and all of the policy and research staff did a tremendous job on the telecom tax bill, and many other issues. Joe Mefford used his expertise to assist with the Broadband deployment issue. Bill Hamilton kept a watchful eye on bills related to insurance, especially in the area of health insurance. Nancy Yelton and Bill Thielen read and

analyzed hundreds of bills, making sure that the best interest of cities was not overlooked. As usual, Neil Hackworth and Sylvia Lovely were everywhere. They did a masterful job of keeping up with everyone and the issues to assure that KLC fought for cities on every front.

All of them, as well as the entire KLC staff deserve a very hearty "thank you" from the membership for their extraordinary efforts during the session. KLC is highly respected by legislators, the Legislative Research Staff as well as the Executive branch.

Finally, thank you again for your efforts. I appreciate what each of you did to bring cities to the forefront of discussion and decision making in Frankfort. **As we gear up for 2005, let's keep that momentum going!**

Sincerely,

Karen L. Cunningham  
President, KLC Board of Directors  
Mayor, City of Madisonville

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Any comments or article suggestions should be forwarded to:  
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## HB 413: Anatomy of a Victory

Neil Hackworth, Deputy Executive Director

The Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) has had its share of success in Frankfort over the years. Many have been defensive victories in which a bad piece of legislation has been stopped or amended to a better form. Seldom, however, have we been able to push for passage of a major initiative for cities; that is until this session and House Bill 413, which is a major milestone for KLC in several ways.

Primarily, it represents a major victory in what has become a very tough place to achieve even minor success. The legislature has become a very different body over the past 10 years. Prior to 1998, both chambers were controlled by one party. That

felt that it played a huge role in our success.

House Bill 413 also required numerous legal and technical changes as the process played out. KLC's Legal Department made sure these changes were what we needed when we needed them. Had we not had these experts available, we would have had to rely on outside sources for our information, reducing effectiveness and timeliness.

Events such as City Night also played a major roll in the passage of HB 413 and the defeat of harmful legislation.

The event grows each year and legislators see it as a real opportunity to talk one on one with constituents.

So where is all this leading? It is leading to a very successful organization that is not only able to react to change, but also to plan for it. KLC is able to have such a powerful team only because we are able to pay for it. How are we able to pay for it? Not by membership dues. KLC membership dues provide only around 3% of the total revenue for operations. The other 97% comes from city participation and utilization of KLC products and services such as our insurance, finance and information technology programs. Without these programs in place and being utilized by member cities, it is very likely that we would still be the position that we were in as late as the early 1990's. That scenario involved one lobbyist that also served as General Council and researcher. In this day and time of annual legislative sessions, a clear two party system, and with the volume of legislation that impacts cities, KLC would not stand a chance under those conditions.

Our success in Frankfort on behalf of cities is why it is so important that KLC member cities give the greatest consideration to KLC finance, insurance and reverse auction programs. While occasionally another provider may offer a slightly lower interest rate or slightly lower insurance premiums than KLC, will that slightly cheaper product bring with it the other long-term benefits that come with KLC products? Will you be able to call that firm and ask a legal question regarding council quorums? Probably not. Will utilizing a product other than KLC produce representation for you in Frankfort? Absolutely not. Will other companies provide safety grants to your city because you use their product? Probably not. Will other companies constantly be looking at ways to help cities save money through innovative programs such as the online reverse auction? Definitely not.

When you think about it, the revenue that HB 413 will bring to more than 350 cities in Kentucky was made possible because member cities support KLC programs that in turn support vital staff positions and service. They were created to benefit cities and your use of these programs will help insure our success in the future.



### HB 413: Law Enforcement Fee at a Glance

- ♦ \$20 fee added to court costs of all criminal cases
- ♦ Fees are already being collected across the state
- ♦ Funds awarded by formula to local governments with police services
- ♦ Payments will be quarterly, beginning October 1, 2004
- ♦ Money must be used to supplement local policing efforts

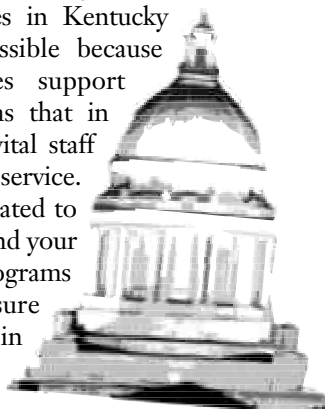
*Want more specifics about your own city? Contact KLC's Joseph Coleman at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3715 or [jcoleman@klc.org](mailto:jcoleman@klc.org).*



obviously has changed along with control of the Governor's office, which has caused every group that lobbies in Frankfort to change its approach. For the most part, any group seeking to pass legislation must work literally the entire 138 member General Assembly to ensure passage of their bill.

When contacting legislators, it is critical to be armed with factual information that backs up your position on a bill. KLC is very fortunate to have both Legal and Policy/Research Departments, who provide our lobbyists with the information they need to give our bills a chance. HB 413 is an excellent example. Every legislator wanted to know how much his or her city would receive under this proposal. We also found ourselves in the position of defending the amount of our request and how the existing court cost was divided among various entities. Had KLC not done these projections, they would not have existed.

Simply having information is not enough. It must be readable and interesting, or else it runs the risk of being placed in the tall stack of papers that legislators receive, and forgotten. KLC's Communications Department helped craft consistent messages in formats for our lobbyists, legislators, membership and media. State Representative Steve Riggs was extremely impressed by our ability to produce this type of information and



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

*October 6-9, 2004*

Executive Inn Rivermont ♦ Owensboro, Kentucky



Photo courtesy of Charles Mabinger

♦  
Educational Sessions

♦  
Networking Opportunities

♦  
Mobile Workshops

♦  
Interactive Demonstrations

♦  
Nationally Renown Speakers including  
Arch Lustburg and Joey Novick

Join us for the 75th Annual  
Kentucky League of Cities Convention.  
To register online, reserve your hotel room  
or to review the course schedule,  
visit our website at  
**[www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org)**.

(Online registration requires prepayment.)

