

KLC Direct

A Kentucky League of Cities Publication



Strategizing Our Next Move in Frankfort

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November/December 2004

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FRONT PAGE NEWS

Strategizing Our Next Move in Frankfort
KLC's Policy Development and Research Team



Information Central: KLC Policy Development & Research Staff Is Watching Your Back!

KLC's Policy Development and Research team is the "back office" operation that supports KLC's legislative advocacy efforts while simultaneously performing multiple information service roles for staff, KLC members, media and responding to nearly 1,000 inquiries a year from member cities. Legislative support includes bill drafting, analysis of legislation and daily tracking of the more than 200 bills that KLC follows closely during a typical General Assembly. They are also the team that produces valuable member and public information such as the KLC *Primer* and *Salary Survey*.

Department head **Joe Ewalt, Director of Policy Development**, has prior experience as a mayor's aide, lobbyist and worked for 14 years as a broadcast journalist covering the White House, Congress and national politics. Joe has a respected reputation in Frankfort, gained during his years serving as a member of the KLC advocacy and lobbying team. In addition to his managerial responsibilities, Ewalt tracks developments in brownfields remediation and telecommunications. (Email Joe at jewalt@klc.org)

Senior Policy Analyst Dag Ryen is our resident Norwegian (yes, he's from Norway) and Policy Development Wise Elder. Dag examines research data to spot trends and indicators for case building toward new policy, or to defend cities from attacks on current policy. A former international journalist and outstanding writer, Dag is a published author and teaches public policy courses part-time at the

University of Kentucky Gatton School of Business. (Email Dag at dryen@klc.org)

Legislative Counsel Nancy Yelton handles legal research and bill drafting. During legislative sessions, Nancy serves as an air traffic controller, keeping track of dozens

of bills with potential impact on cities and scrutinizing newly filed legislation. If anyone understands the complexities of proposed legislation and what they could mean for cities, it is Nancy. She is a UK Law School graduate with experience in the Attorney General's office and in private practice. (Email Nancy at nyelton@klc.org)

The Policy Resource Center and its staff is headed by **Policy Resource Manager Joseph Coleman** and it compiles the volumes of budgetary data, research reports, news clips and other tidbits that are vital to policy analysis and the formation of new policy. In addition, Joseph tracks federal issues for KLC and initiates alerts to membership when there's a need to communicate with members of Congress. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Kentucky. (Email Joseph at jcoleman@klc.org)

If you're looking for any of the thousands of reports, files, publications, and training videos in the Policy Resource Library, **Resource Librarian Barb Pace** holds the keys to the kingdom. She has a Master of Library Science degree and keeps her stockpile of information well organized and easy to access. The library is not only the hub of activity for the Policy Development team but also serves all KLC departments. (Email Barb at bpace@klc.org)



Neil Hackworth
KLC's Deputy Executive Director

Policy Analyst Rebecca Brickey holds a master's degree from the UK Martin School of Public Administration and makes good use of her skills in research, writing and data analysis. Rebecca works directly with KLC members, gathering valuable survey information for the League. (Email Rebecca at rbrickey@klc.org)

If it's city financial and budget information you need, **Data Coordinator Deanna Wright** will be involved in meeting your request. Dee's primary role in the Policy



Barb Pace

Rebecca Brickey

Deanna Wright

Resource team is to manage the database containing the revenue and expenditure information reported by Kentucky's cities, which is critically important for legislative action. (Email Deanna at dwright@klc.org)

In summary, KLC's Policy Development team uses research, analysis, writing and strategic planning to compliment the on-scene presence of the League's lobbyists in Frankfort and to give cities a strong and credible voice in the legislative process. Additionally, they provide a critical stream of information on city issues year round.

KLC's Advocacy & Lobbying Team

KLC's Advocacy and Lobbying Team: Frankfort and in the thick of it!

What does the Lobbying Team do for you? They help pass legislation and build relationships that in 2004:

- Saved you millions of dollars (HB 103)
- Gained you millions of dollars (HB 413)
- Supported and lobbied for issues that impact your city every day
- Worked with and listened to city leaders about their concerns and ideas



Jerry Deaton

Bert May

Phil Huddleston

Tresa Short

During the 2005 session, watch for weekly (sometimes daily) KLC updates and real-time alerts via email on critical issues that could need your attention.

Do we have your preferred email? If not, please let us know how we can best communicate with you when it matters most. Contact Tresa Short at tshort@klc.org or call her at 800-876-4552, ext. 3777.

City Issues in 2005

- Tax Modernization
- Health Insurance for CERS Retirees
- Historical Property Tax Credits
- Self Insurance Pools
- Home Rule
- Merger/Consolidation of Services
- Expanded Gaming

To obtain an overview of KLC's position on these key issues, get a copy of the 2005 Legislative Priorities pocket guide by calling 800-876-4552 or download it at www.klc.org/u_publications/KLC_Legis.pdf.



Watch for more information in the January thru March 2005 issues of KLC Direct as the session progresses.

THE LAST WORD FIRST

Deliberation Day Proves People Still Care Deeply



Can a butterfly fluttering its wings over Tokyo cause a tornado in Texas? It's the age old question of cause and effect. And had I been asked this question 40 years ago, my answer would have been no.

But today, in post 9/11, I think the answer is yes.

That idea came to mind when about 100 citizens from Central Kentucky gathered at the Kentucky Educational Television (KET) studios for an exciting but largely unheralded event - the "By the People" initiative sponsored by MacNeil/Lehrer Productions. The program was held in conjunction with KET, Central Bank, the Kentucky League of Cities and the NewCities Foundation. And it was borne of a desire to find ways to engage public television in fostering and facilitating greater understanding of how global issues affect our local communities.

Kentucky was one of 17 sites across the nation where citizens gathered on Saturday, October 16. Participants were chosen through random digit dialing of telephone numbers within a 90-minute drive of Lexington. These people first gathered in small groups, deliberating on two major issues - the global economy and national security. Outsourcing of jobs was also a prominent subject in the small group discussions. What was clear is that much is unclear regarding that complicated issue.

"Why," asked one participant, "did I still pay \$140 for Nike shoes if workers overseas are being paid 20 cents per hour? Where are the profits going?"

And the program moderator asked a question that brought a pause to all the chatter.

"Are we as consumers who demand lower and lower prices contributing to the loss of quality American jobs?"

In an era of deflected responsibility, this was a question that begs close scrutiny. National security proved the most contentious topic and challenged the skills of moderators who had forewarned the participants to be respectful of one another. As is often the case with the basic human need for safety and security, strong and differing opinions challenged order.

The basic question was whether a preemptive strike by the US is a legitimate tool in the arsenal against terrorism. The path the question blazed led directly to the Iraqi War, and the discussion that ensued was heated.

"We tried to engage the UN," pleaded one pro-war person. "But they were unresponsive, just as they have been in Africa and anywhere else that people have been slaughtered. We were justified in Iraq!"

Someone else said that he was grateful his children were not being raised in the violence of Baghdad, which brings thought to our responsibility to the children of other nations. One key observation emerged for me. Our citizens continue to grapple with what the role of a citizen is in a very changed world. It was far easier when Mayberry prevailed. Every town seemed a microcosm of the simple life, each with its bell curve of the rich and the poor, each with the smart and wise Andys, the bumbling but good hearted Barneys, and the beatific Aunt Bees who looked after the children and stabilized the home.

Today we have less attachment to a place. The best and brightest can live and work anywhere, and some of them change locales frequently. Too often they have left behind towns that are dying in the heartland, and too often the more desirable places are beginning to be congested and unlivable. And of course, just as the butterfly's motion may have an effect thousands of miles away, we too are affected by forces from every part of the globe. In every place, images of war and destruction and strife cross the screens of our TVs. Quite literally, we cannot run nor can we hide from such a world - a world that is always in our face.

But there was a heartening note on which Deliberation Day ended. What emerged was a keen sense that here was a group of deeply caring citizens groping for ways to take huge issues and turn them into bite-sized community pieces to chew on - bringing about greater involvement by people at all levels.

We should look at what transpired on Saturday, October 16, as one tiny triumph of democracy and the spirit that drives its greatness. And we should strive to build on it in 2005 and for the rest of our lives as public officials and citizens.

Sincerely,


Sylvia L. Lovely
KLC Executive Director/CEO

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 40507-3700. Phone (859) 977-3700 or 1-800-876-4552. Fax (859) 977-3703. www.klc.org

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By providing pertinent information, the Kentucky League of Cities does not necessarily endorse the views, services, programs or initiatives described in the listed references or websites, nor is the Kentucky League of Cities responsible for any statements or material contained therein. This publication provides information and links as a service to readers for their consideration.

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We're starving for feedback and information about your city!

We want to hear from you!

KLC Direct is a tool for cities to share ideas and get the recognition they deserve, but we need to hear them from you. Please contact Terri Johnson, KLC Senior Communications & Marketing Manager, with information on positive projects or events, as well as great city employees or officials that you'd like us to feature.

Contact tjohnson@klc.org, go to www.klc.org and click on "tell the story" link or call 800-876-4552, ext. 3784.

YOUNG VOICES

City Government Month: Our Cities - Our Future



our cities our future

Learning can be fun, especially when it involves your city! Cities across Kentucky are teaming up with primary schools throughout January to bring civics lessons out of the textbook and into the classroom for the celebration of City Government Month. This is a collaborative program presented by the Kentucky League of Cities and NewCities Foundation, designed to promote citizenship in Kentucky communities.

City Government Month activities include the following:

- Host an event at city hall
- Have city officials visit local schools
- Sponsor a letter writing/essay contest
- Work with your local media to spotlight local government
- Recognize what teachers do for the community

Participating city officials are eligible to receive course credits from the Public Officials Essential Skills Institute in the Leadership Training Center. Get City Government Month tools online at www.klc.org.



LEGISLATIVE FLASH

How Does the Congressional Spending Bill Affect Your City?

The United States Senate and House of Representatives passed an omnibus spending bill in a rare session December 6, 2004. The 3,000-plus page legislation includes funding for nine FY 2005 spending bills. As a whole, the law is a mixed bag for priority issues of the National League of Cities. Of particular interest to Kentucky cities may be the status of public safety funding:

Public Safety - The overall COPS account was funded at roughly \$606 million for FY 2005, a reduction of nearly \$150 million. Only \$9.7 million for officer hiring grants were left in this year's bill. Of that amount, nearly \$5 million was set aside for school resource officers. Other programs within the COPS account, however, did fairly well. Congress funded COPS interoperability grants at nearly \$100 million dollars, an increase of \$15 million over last year's sum. Similarly, the methamphetamine hot spots

account received more than \$52 million, while the Bullet Proof Vests account was allocated roughly \$25 million. Finally, to help localities catch up on the backlog of forensics and DNA evidence, the bill allocates roughly \$125 million, a slight increase over last year.

Another program of interest to local governments is the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) program. The omnibus bill merges this important program with the Byrne Grant program and allocates roughly \$628 million for the two combined. Both programs together were funded at roughly \$650 million in FY 2004. The new program, referred to as JAG, will allocate funds via a formula where localities will receive roughly 40 percent of the total allocation directly from the Department of Justice. For this year, that means local governments will receive nearly \$245 million in direct federal funding for policing

activities, a slight decrease of \$10 million from last year. The bill earmarks \$95 million of JAG funds for Boys and Girls Clubs and other programs. While this lowers the amount that can go to local governments, there is a significant difference this year in that the states will actually have to shoulder 60 percent of that cost - something that fell to only local governments in past bills.

You can read all the particulars of how the federal legislation affects cities by visiting NLC's website at www.nlc.org or via the KLC website at www.klc.org. Included in the summary are details on public housing, transportation and other types of federal dollar issues.

For information on state and federal issues in general and how it affects your city, contact Joseph Coleman, KLC Policy Resource Manager, at 1-876-4552, ext. 3715 or jcoleman@klc.org.

SHOW ME THE MONEY

HUD Affordable Communities Awards Reward Local Innovative Thinking!

The Housing and Urban Development Program (HUD) announced a new national awards program designed to recognize 10 local governments for reducing regulatory barriers (see below) to affordable housing. The Affordable Communities Awards Program builds on the Bush Administration's Opportunity Zone Initiative to create more jobs and expand homeownership opportunities for lower income families living in transitioning communities.

Interested individuals or groups may nominate either a State or local government that has

demonstrated extraordinary achievements in eliminating regulatory barriers to housing affordability. State and local governments may Applications for the 2005 Affordable Communities Awards must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2005.

For a detailed description of the nomination and selection process, visit www.bud.gov/affordablecommunities or contact Brian Sullivan at 202-708-0685, ext. 7527.

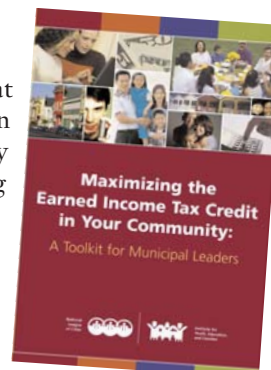
Bring Big Money into Your City

There's a potential gold mine that could be uncovered in your city - and the National League of Cities (NLC) has developed a toolkit to help municipal officials tap into it. This resource helps you to maximize the impact of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The NLC estimates that helping eligible residents claim the EITC can bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars to your city (and even millions in some cases) that otherwise would go unclaimed.

National estimates suggest that 15 to 20 percent of eligible recipients do not make claims - but you can change this. An easy-to-use electronic version

of the toolkit is online at www.nlc.org/iyef. Or you can order a hard copy of the kit by emailing iyef@nlc.org or calling 202-626-3014.

NLC's Institute for Youth, Education and Families (YEF Institute) is also available to provide additional information about the strategies highlighted in the toolkit. Just contact Abby Hughes Holsclaw at 202-626-3107 or email holsclaw@nlc.org.



What is a regulatory barrier?

Regulatory barriers are public statutes, ordinances, regulations, fees, processes and procedures that significantly restrict the development of affordable housing without providing a commensurate health or safety benefit. These barriers can effectively exclude working individuals such as teachers, police officers, firefighters, nurses and returning veterans from living in the communities where they work.

In addition, senior citizens often find it extremely difficult to find suitable housing near their adult children while young families likewise face difficulties in finding a home in the communities where they were raised. Local communities interested in sharing innovative strategies to overcome regulatory barriers to affordable housing can visit www.regbarriers.org.



FACTOID

Sidewalk Etiquette

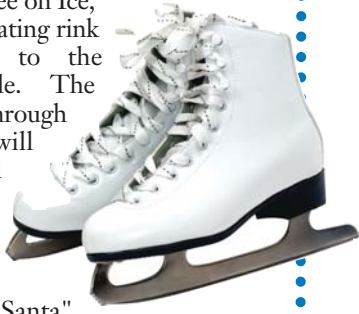
There's road rage, airplane rage and now "pavement rage" happening in cities across the country! According to the December 2004 issue of *Hope Health Letter*, pavement rage is when people are in a hurry to get somewhere but are delayed by slower moving pedestrians on the sidewalk!

The solution: Observe "slower walkers on the right" approach, as cars do on the street, and don't walk side by side in groups that block the sidewalk. Finally, for those in a hurry, it's healthier to walk briskly, but exercise some patience - and watch for icy spots as the weather gets cold. Will it really matter if you reach your destination 15 seconds later?

FROM THE FIELD

Newport on Ice Open for the Holidays

Newport on the Levee introduced a new holiday tradition with the opening of its "Levee on Ice," a festive outdoor skating rink located adjacent to the Levee's valet Circle. The rink is open daily through January 17 and will feature special performances. Close by is the Newport Aquarium, which features "Scuba Santa" through January 2, 2005. Check out www.newportonthelevee.com for more information.



Bardstown's Mayor Gibbs Profiled as a Trailblazer

Bardstown Mayor Dixie Gibbs was the featured profile in the December 2004 issue of *Kentucky Monthly* magazine. The article notes Mayor Gibbs' history of personal firsts in the city as Bardstown's first female councilmember, first female mayor, and first mayor to use a computer in her office. Read the entire profile in *Kentucky Monthly*.

Smart Growth Blooms

A great example of "Smart Growth" through mixed use development on a 1.8 acre vacant lot is happening in Versailles. The City of Versailles and the Vision Versailles 2000+ Program used a Renaissance Kentucky application to further the project. See more photos at www.downtownversaillesky.com.



Supporting the Troops

The City of Alexandria adopted and supports Charlie Battery 2-44 ADA 101st Airborne Division from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, through the ASA's Adopt a Unit Program. Alexandria Councilmember John Stein said it's a great way for communities to show their support to our troops and indicated that other Ft. Campbell units may still need "adopting." For more information, visit www.themilitary.net or www.AdoptaPlatoon.org.

KLC STAFF NOTES

Executive Assistant Freda Meriwether was recently featured on WLEX-TV for her work as a Habitat for Humanity "nurturer." In this volunteer role, Freda works with families once they have been accepted into the Lexington Habitat for Humanity program by helping them fulfill their volunteer and other Habitat commitments, plan the dedication of their home, guide them to resources if needed, and provide overall support and encouragement.

Paralegal Andrea Shindlebower has been appointed the new National Federation of Paralegal Association's Leadership Co-Coordinator.

Senior Marketing and Communications Manager Terri Johnson has been named to the Board of the Lexington Advertising Club which bestows the well-known Addy Awards.

Executive Assistant Tammy Lyons graduated *summa cum laude* with an associate's degree in business management from Sullivan University and also earned the distinguished President's Cup.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

City Employees Get a State Park Discount! Use Code CC5

Make your reservations now for some post-holiday rest and relaxation in one of Kentucky's state parks - recognized nationally as the best in the country!

One of the many benefits of being an active or retired employee of state or local government is being able to take advantage of our annual Commonwealth Connection program, offering you greatly reduced rates on lodge rooms and cottages at Kentucky State Resort Parks.

Rates are effective from now through February 28, 2005:

Lodge rooms:	\$39/night
One-bedroom cottages:	\$69/night
Two-bedroom cottages:	\$79/night
Three-bedroom cottages:	\$89/night

You may now make reservations on-line using our new reservation system. Log onto www.Kentuckytourism.com, and click on the

icon at the bottom of the page entitled "Park Lodge Reservations."

Select the park you wish to visit. You will then be prompted to enter information as to your length of stay and number of guests. When you see a box on the right side of the screen entitled "Promo Code," type in "CC5" and you will have access to the lower rates.

If you prefer to reserve by phone, call 1-800-255-PARK (7275) and select your resort park. Once you are connected to that park, you may request your special "Commonwealth Connection" rate.

Rooms and cottages are subject to availability, and you may not use this offer in conjunction with any other offer.



More Benefits with KLC Card

KLC, in conjunction with the Secretary of State's Office, issued Government Official cards to all elected officials. You should have received your card in early November if you are a current, reelected or newly elected mayor, councilmember or commissioner. As a city official, this card entitles you to travel and other discounts.

If you didn't get your card, contact Robyn Miller, Membership Services Manager, at rmiller@klc.org or 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3745.



In Memoriam Charles Bethel Honeycutt

1926 to 2004 (December 2) • City of Glasgow, Kentucky

City Council for 13 years • Mayor for 17 years

KLC President in 1996

Preceded in death by his wife Dianne Bradbury Honeycutt, Nov. 22, 2004.

BIG IDEAS/INNOVATIONS

KLC Capital Funds Program Helps Your HUD Dollars Go Further

KLC Financial Services now offers the KLC Capital Funds Program which allows public housing authorities (PHA's) to borrow larger amounts of money for multiple years and use their annual HUD funds as a means of repayment. KLC developed the Capital Funds Program with HUD and has standardized it for use among cities and housing authorities.

Additionally, the KLC model will be replicated nationally by the NewCities Foundation.

For more information on the Capital Funds Program, bonds, financing or to have our financial staff discuss overall financial solutions for your city, contact Garrett Drakeford (gdrakeford@klc.org) or Nancy Wylie (nwylie@klc.org) or call KLC Financial Services at 800-876-4552.

Covington's \$3.2M Gold Tower Renovation will Improve Housing for Seniors with KLC Cap Funds Program

"My new apartment is going to be wonderful. Instead of a studio, I'll have my own bedroom with closets and even room in the living area for a big Christmas tree during the holidays," said Judy Andrews, a resident of Covington's Golden Tower Apartments, an affordable apartment building for residents 55-years and older, that is being renovated through a unique

Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) housing program. "By renovating our existing facility, we are proving that local housing authorities can go beyond traditional public housing and reinvest in the community's existing properties to help expand housing opportunities," said Bill Simon, director of the Housing Authority of Covington.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



PLAYING BY THE RULES: 2005 KLC CITY OFFICIALS ACADEMY (COA)

January 19-21, 2005, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Lexington, KY
\$149 for KLCIS Customers; \$249 for KLC Members

What you need to know to play by the rules:

- ♦ Legal
- ♦ HR
- ♦ IT
- ♦ Media and a lot more . . . plus hospitality fit for a ruler!
- ♦ Legislative
- ♦ Insurance/Loss Control
- ♦ Finance

Register online at www.klc.org or call 1-800-876-4552.
Hotel Information: Radisson Plaza, Lexington, 1-800-333-3333



6TH ANNUAL KMESHA SAFETY CONFERENCE

February 23-25, 2005, Hopkinsville, KY
(Feb. 24 spent at Ft. Campbell)
\$195 for KLC members

Great topics, speakers and special events for anyone with safety responsibilities, interests or concerns. Topics include safety workshops, FATS system, case studies, hands-on training, legal and HR issues and more.

February 24 at Ft. Campbell - recycling, water, fire, security, airfield, urban warfare and a special visit to the airborne training center.

Register online at www.klc.org or call 1-800-876-4552.
Hotel Information: Best Western, Hopkinsville, 270-886-9000

For more information or to register online, visit KLC's website at www.klc.org/leadership. With questions, contact Karen Butcher at 800-876-4552, or kbutcher@klc.org.

Attention all CERS Employees!

LEADERSHIP ADVANTAGE

Here's One "Bill" You'll Want this January

When you receive your CERS ballot in early January, vote for the candidates that represent local government and a balanced viewpoint for all CERS employers, employees and retirees.

Bill Thielen, General Counsel

Kentucky League of Cities



"Local government employers, active employees and retirees deserve qualified and experienced representation on this important board. I plan to represent both employer and employee interests in a balanced way and will bring 30 years of broad legal and legislative knowledge and experience to the table in dealing with key issues such as maintaining high quality, affordable health insurance for local government retirees."

KLC, the Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association and the Kentucky Association of Counties have collaboratively endorsed KLC General Counsel, Bill Thielen, as well as Vince Lang, Executive Director of the Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association, to represent the people who keep communities going - you.

Priority concerns once elected:

- ♦ Preserve affordable health insurance benefits for retirees
- ♦ Ensure financial integrity of the retirement system
- ♦ Manage increases in the employer contribution rates
- ♦ Represent all interests in a balanced fashion, not the interests of any one group

Only you can make positive changes possible in the CERS program and in your future. Vote for Bill and Vince!

Send in your ballot!

Vince Lang, Executive Director

Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association



"As a CERS employee myself, I see a need for more diverse representation on the board, and I believe the local government work I do in my current position, as well as my past experience working with state, local and numerous professional groups are critical assets. Local government employees owe it to themselves to take this vote seriously and elect members to the board to truly represent their interests."

KLC Direct is designed internally to save our customers money.



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KLC Direct is a monthly publication of the Kentucky League of Cities.
Any comments or article suggestions should be forwarded to:
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