



# City Council Committee Meeting Notice

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CITY COUNCIL  
City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street, Suite 255  
Topeka, KS 66603-3914  
Tel: (785) 368-3710  
Fax: (785) 368-3958  
[www.topeka.org](http://www.topeka.org)

**Committee:** Policy & Finance

**Meeting Date:** November 14, 2023

**Time:** 10:00am

**Location:** VIRTUAL ONLY, via Zoom

**Agenda:**

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Approve October 27, 2023 Minutes
- 3) 2024 Legislative Agenda; Review and Approve
- 4) Adjourn

STAFF REQUESTED: Amanda Stanley, City Attorney

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Spencer Duncan (Chair) – District 8  
Christina Valdivia-Alcalá – District 2  
Hannah Naeger – District 6

\*\*\* Please call the Council Office by 5:00pm on the date prior to the meeting to request Zoom link. \*\*\*

1 RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3 A RESOLUTION introduced by the members of the Policy and Finance Committee  
4 relating to the City of Topeka’s legislative agenda for the 2024  
5 legislative session.  
6

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
8 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that the following is hereby adopted as the City of Topeka’s  
9 legislative agenda for the 2024 legislative session:

10 **Home Rule.** Consistent with the Home Rule Amendment of the Kansas Constitution  
11 approved by voters in 1960, our local Governing Body, as the body closest to the people,  
12 is in the best position to make decisions for our community, particularly in regards to local  
13 tax and revenue decisions. The City of Topeka strongly supports legislation that respects  
14 our constitutional home rule authority.

15 **Finance & Taxation.**

16 (1) Taxing and Spending Powers; Local Ad Valorem Reduction Fund (LAVTR). Local  
17 spending and taxing decisions are best left to the local officials representing the  
18 citizens that elected them. Moreover, the City joins with the League of Kansas  
19 Municipalities in urging the Legislature to follow state law by funding the LAVTR  
20 program.

21 (2) Business Competition. We strongly oppose any state-imposed limits on the taxing  
22 and spending authority of cities and legislation that seek to exempt/waive property  
23 taxes for some businesses at the expense of the tax base as a whole on the basis  
24 of competition.

25 (3) Sales Tax. As the majority of commerce occurs inside city limits, cities should be  
26 able to impose voter-approved local sales taxes without interference from the  
27 county.

28 (4) Unfunded Mandates. If the state or federal governments seek to promote  
29 particular policy objectives, such mandates should be accompanied by an  
30 appropriate level of funding.

31 **Public Welfare.**

32 (1) Abandoned Housing. We support legislation that would give cities additional  
33 tools to deal with vacant and abandoned housing.

34 (2) Mental Health. We support allocating additional resources for mental health  
35 programs, up to and including the establishment of a new state mental health  
36 facility in the region to provide additional bed space for patients with mental health  
37 issues.

38 (3) Medicaid Expansion. Kansas is one of only 11 states that has not expanded  
39 Medicaid eligibility which is supported by 7 out of 10 Kansas voters. We urge the  
40 Legislature to do so in order to provide health care to individuals who cannot afford  
41 to access these services.

42 (4) Homelessness. We support allocating a portion of the budget surplus to help  
43 cities address homelessness and its underlying causes which include a lack of  
44 affordable housing and social services.

45 (5) Minimum Wage. We support passage of 2023 S.B. 140 which would allow cities  
46 to utilize their Home Rule power to require employers to pay wages higher than  
47 the minimum wage.

48 **Community Development**

49 (1) Menninger Property. We support efforts to secure state funding for projects to  
50 redevelop Menninger Hill.

51 (2) Broadband. The State should support efforts that invest in broadband as an  
52 essential utility for the success of the community.

53 **League of Kansas Municipalities**. We support the League of Kansas  
54 Municipalities 2024 Statement of Municipal Policy to the extent the Policy is consistent  
55 with the City's priorities and agenda, including opposing legislation limiting the City's  
56 Home Rule authority.

57 ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Governing Body on \_\_\_\_\_.

58 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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Michael A. Padilla, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brenda Younger, City Clerk