RESOLUTION NO. 8036

A RESOLUTION introduced by Deputy Mayor Brett Blackburn and Councilmember Lana Kennedy, adopting the City of Topeka’s legislative agenda for the 2008 legislative session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that the following is hereby adopted as the City of Topeka’s legislative agenda for the 2008 legislative session:

- Oppose unfunded mandates by state government.
- Oppose legislation that interferes, abrogates or otherwise preempts local control over franchise agreements and fees for utilities, cable television, telecommunications and other providers utilizing the public right-of-way.
- Urge the legislature to adopt tax and revenue policies with an eye toward preserving the local tax base, achieving tax equity for city/county residents and broadening city revenue sources (e.g. demand transfers and other local taxes); as well as, encourage the Legislature to allow local motor fuel tax or increase existing motor fuels tax to help cities overcome the rapidly rising cost of street maintenance due to the burden of rising maintenance costs.
- Support legislation that will not restrict cities’ exercise of eminent domain beyond that required by the United States Supreme Court.
- Oppose new legislation that would limit cities’ ability to annex property and oppose any changes to the current annexation statutes.
- Propose and support legislation that provides a consistent means, such as but not limited to, a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT), for the State of Kansas and other tax-exempt governmental entities to financially assist equitably and reasonably in city wide infrastructure improvements, as well as enhancements to
the downtown area.

- Enhance/preserve the state's program of economic development tools.
- Oppose any State imposed local tax/spending lids.
- Support efforts to achieve a fully funded public employee retirement system within a reasonable period of time and monitor legislation related to KPERS that might impact cities.
- To the extent consistent with the goals of the City of Topeka, support the 2008 Legislative Priorities of the League of Kansas Municipalities.
- Institution of statewide building codes to provide for uniformity across jurisdictions.
- Institution of statewide licensing for building trades (one license allows tradesmen to work anywhere in the state).
- Support legislation that amends suspended driver's license statutes to allow for more cost effective and reasonable enforcement of and penalties for violations.
- Support legislation providing first class cities the opportunity of levying a earnings tax to have commuters help pay for local city/county services thus reducing local property tax burden for cities/counties.
- Continued support of Star Bond programs. Cities should have the ability to utilize STAR bonds in order to promote economic development in their communities.
- Support the Streamlined Sales Tax Project including a local compensating use component. Cities should be able to determine local sales and use tax rates.
- Support increased funding for the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA).
ADOPTED and APPROVED by the City Council February 26, 2008.

CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

William W. Bunten, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda Younger, City Clerk