



Professional Management Celebrates 100 years

In February 1917, Governor Arthur Capper signed legislation authorizing adoption of the city manager form of government by Kansas cities. In March of that same year, the cities of Wichita and El Dorado voted to adopt the city manager form of government and respectively installed their first city managers on June 18 and July 1, 1917.

Today, the city or county manager form of government has been adopted by voters in 73 Kansas cities and two counties, which combined serve 24% of the state's municipal population. Additionally, today another 97 cities and 30 counties have professional administrators serving over 67% of the state's municipal population.

The Kansas Association of City/County Managers (KACM) is the professional organization representing 192 local government administrators serving in Kansas cities and counties. KACM works to strengthen the quality of local government through professional management.

In Kansas, we have a strong history of higher educational opportunities for city management. The School of Public Affairs and Administration at The University of Kansas, the Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs at the Wichita State University, and a Master of Public Administration program at Kansas State University all prepare graduate students to work as professional city managers, city administrators, county managers and county administrators.

Throughout the month of June, KACM and the League encourages cities to highlight the field of public administration in their cities. Here are some suggestions:

- Post pictures and information about your manager/administrator;
- Ask the local media to do a news story on city management by interviewing the city manager/administrator;
- Hold a morning or evening event with the city manager to meet the public and talk about today's challenges in local government;
- Proclaim June 18, 2017 as City Management Day in your city (the League will provide a draft proclamation at www.kacm.us);
- Encourage local youth to meet with your city manager/administration to discuss career opportunities in local government; and
- Encourage city managers/administrators and elected officials from your city to visit surrounding cities that do not have a city manager/administrator form of government. Share stories and examples of how this form of government has strengthened local government.