



Derby, Kansas



2013 Legislative Agenda



The 2013 legislative principals for the City of Derby seek to preserve both the values and funding that are essential to our local community. These principals ensure that services to Derby citizens remain intact, especially as it concerns state funding issues. This year's legislative agenda identifies these principals that are important to the City of Derby and our residents.

Core Principles

Home Rule

In 1960, the voters of the state of Kansas passed a constitutional amendment granting Home Rule authority to cities. This amendment recognized that local decisions should be made by locally elected officials. The Amendment states in part, "Cities are hereby empowered to determine their local affairs and government including the levying of taxes, excises, fees, charges and other exactions...Powers and authority granted cities...shall be liberally construed for the purpose of giving to cities the largest measure of self-government" (Kansas Constitution, Article 12, Section 5).

Specifically, local governments should control their rights of way, have condemnation authority, be immune from tort liability, and be free to voluntarily cooperate with other public and private entities, as well as state government, to ensure the best level of service for our citizens.

We do not support actions at the state level that erode representative democracy or local self-determination.

Local Tax Decisions

The City of Derby continues to be committed to keeping property and sales tax rates low. Consistent with Home Rule principles, the City opposes any statutory limitation of the ability of locally elected officials to make this decision.

Concealed Weapons

If a bill allowing concealed weapons in public buildings is considered again, legislators should keep several issues in mind. First, the 2012 bill would have affected many city buildings, not just city halls. Affected buildings include the library, senior center, municipal court, and fire stations, among others. There is no possible way for the City of Derby to secure such buildings with metal detectors and security guards. The cost would be astronomical. The City of Derby sees no need for this bill.

Second, the bill should not add any mandates about how cities designate areas of their buildings to which the public has access or how cities write their personnel policies. The 2012 bill passed by the House included a directive that encroaches on cities' home rule authority to establish our own personnel policies.

Third, any bill should treat cities the same as other governments. No public purpose is served by concealed firearms being allowed in city halls but not in county courthouses or state office buildings in the capitol complex (as in HB 2353 Am H Cmte of the Whole).



Core Principles

Local Elections

The City of Derby strongly opposes any legislation designed to change the timing of local elections away from their current election cycle, which is the first Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years. The strength of local elections is grounded in the conviction that non-partisan spring elections provide the ability for communities to focus on local issues—the issues that matter the most to them—without the interference of undue partisanship.

In legislation considered just last year, municipal elections included not only city council elections but also elections for school board, community college, drainage, extension, irrigation and library districts.

Annexation

The ability of Derby to promote and plan for growth is inherent to the ultimate success of our community. The City supports the ability of all cities to use their annexation authority as currently established in state statute. We oppose any change that limits the authority of cities to grow through annexation.

Unfunded Mandates

The City of Derby opposes unfunded mandates. If the state or federal governments seek to promote particular policy objectives, an appropriate level of funding should accompany such mandates.

Partnerships

Derby supports the legislative agendas of the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) and Visioneering Wichita to enhance the economic interests of South Central Kansas.

The City of Derby is a member of Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU), which advocates on behalf of publicly-owned utilities, and a member of the League of Kansas Municipalities, which advocates for the interests of Kansas cities.

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