

02-19

February 15, 2019

**In This Issue:**

Medical Marijuana	1
Senate Energy Committee Approves OML Priority Bill	1
Public Safety District Bill	1
Bills on the Move	2
Next Week at the Capitol	7

*The Advocate* is published by the Oklahoma Municipal League. Forward your comments or suggestions to:

Oklahoma Municipal League  
201 N.E. 23rd Street  
OKC, OK 73105  
Phone: 1-800-324-6651 / 405-528-7515  
Fax: 405-528-7560  
Email: [jlewis@oml.org](mailto:jlewis@oml.org)  
Internet: [www.oml.org](http://www.oml.org)



**MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

The bipartisan, bicameral legislative medical marijuana working group met on Wednesday, February 13 for the thirteenth time. This ad hoc committee discussed a 93-page committee substitute for a bill referred to by the cannabis industry as the "Unity Bill." Multiple amendments were submitted and approved by the working group. The bill will now go through the normal legislative process. It is anticipated that the bill will be assigned to the Rules Committee in the House and the Rules Committee in the Senate.

**SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE APPROVES OML'S PRIORITY BILL**

[SB 881](#) by Sen. Paxton (R - Tuttle) was unanimously approved in the Senate Energy Committee on Thursday, February 14.

SB 881 improves the Certificates of Convenience and Necessity notification process by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. Many municipalities are unaware that broadband internet companies have been given permission by the Corporation Commission to lay fiber in municipal Right of Ways. This bill requires notice by mail or personal service be given to all political subdivisions before commencing with the installation of these services.

**PUBLIC SAFETY DISTRICT BILL COULD BE HEARD IN COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK**

[HB 1992](#) by Rep. Nollan (R - Sand Springs) could be heard in the House County and Municipal Government Committee as early as next Wednesday, February 20. This bill allows governing boards the means to determine if the citizens of the municipality want to create and fund public safety protection districts. If it is approved, an annual assessment of no greater than five (5) mills will be assessed on the property in the district within municipal boundaries. The assessment does not apply to real property zoned for agriculture or industrial land use.

The proceeds may be spent on the operation and maintenance of the district, including expenses related to purchasing and maintaining public safety equipment and vehicles, payment of salaries and benefits of municipal employees who provide law enforcement, fire protection, and/or emergency medical services within the district, as well as municipal expenses related to housing prisoners. Please contact your member of the [House County and Municipal Government Committee](#) and ask them to vote **YES** on HB 1992. Send copies of any correspondence you have with your legislators to [jlewis@oml.org](mailto:jlewis@oml.org) or fax to 405-528-7560, attn: Jodi for our records.

---

## Bills On The Move

### *A Snapshot of Bills Impacting Cities and Towns*

**Sales Tax Exemption/American Legion:** [HB 1003](#) by Rep. Mike Sanders (R-Kingfisher) adds a sales tax exemption for the American Legion. See companion bill [SB 8](#).

The bill has been referred to the House A&B Committee.

**Sales Tax Exemption/Aquarium:** [HB 1005](#) by Rep. Lonnie Sims (R-Jenks) amends 68 O.S. Section 1356 by adding an exemption from tax levied by Section 1350 for the sale of tickets for admission by an aquarium exempt from taxation via 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3) or owned or operated by a public trust or political subdivision.

The bill has been referred to the House A&B Committee.

**Sales Tax Exemption/Veterans:** [HB 1997](#) by Rep. Jeff Boatman (R-Tulsa) expands the existing sales tax exemption for disabled veterans by dropping the disability requirement from 100% to at or above 30% and the disability shall be permanent or temporary.

The bill was laid over in the House A&B on Finance Subcommittee on Monday.

**Sales Tax Exemptions/Veterans:** [HB 2296](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) expands the current sales tax exemption for disabled veterans by excluding the purchase price of a vehicle from the \$25,000 maximum purchases per year which qualify for the sales tax exemption. In addition, 68 O.S. Section 1404 is altered by adding the purchase of motor vehicles by a disabled veteran. The bill contains exceptions.

The bill has been referred to the House A&B Committee.

**Credit Cards/Surcharges:** [HB 1425](#) by Rep. Ben Loring (D-Miami) amends 14A O.S. Section 2-417 regarding regulation of a surcharge on the use of a credit card or debit card. The bill authorizes municipalities and a public trust with a municipality as a beneficiary to also add, on an online transaction, the cost of providing for secure transaction, portal fees, and fees necessary to compensate for increased bandwidth. These may also be added to the service fee. Also amended is 28 O.S. Section 151 regarding clerks of the district court and other trial courts of record to charge and collect a service fee for the acceptance of the nationally recognized credit or debit card. The bill contains details.

The bill was laid over in the House A&B on Judiciary Subcommittee on Monday.

**Law Enforcement/Uniformed Controlled Dangerous Substances:** [SB 421](#) by Sen. Stephanie Bice (R-OKC) amends the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act in a variety of ways. Included is synthetic substances, transportation of substances with an exception for marijuana, providing quantities for certain substances and penalty changes with exceptions/inclusions for marijuana of various quantities. The bill provides details.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee by a unanimous vote and has since been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**Law Enforcement/Mental Health Transport:** [SB 609](#) by Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) amends municipal law enforcement's responsibility for transporting any individual found or initially contacted within such municipality's jurisdiction. Initially contacted shall include contact made by a law enforcement officer, firefighter, EMT or health care provider, either in person or by electronic or telephone communication. Reimbursement for transportation is also changed. For transportation by a sheriff or peace officer on behalf of any county or municipality, within a 20-mile radius from the transporting sheriff's office, shall be reimbursed in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act. Any transportation provided outside the 20-mile radius from the transporting sheriff's office shall be reimbursed at a rate negotiated with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services prior to transporting to or from any facility. Current law does not contain the 20-mile radius limitation.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee with the title stricken by a vote of 9-2. It has since been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**CLEET/Municipal Academies:** [SB 658](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) removes the population component from current laws approval of separate basic training academies. No longer would a municipality need 65,000 persons or any county a population of 500,000 in order to operate a basic law enforcement academy.

---

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee by a vote of 11-1. It has since been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**Firearms/License:** [SB 669](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) amends various sections of law regarding handgun licenses for active military, members of the Reserve or National Guard or who has formally served. If qualified, they shall not be charged a renewal fee. The bill contains details.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee with the title stricken by a unanimous vote. It has since been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**Municipal Buildings/Changing Tables:** [HB 2017](#) by Rep. Kelly Albright (D-Midwest City) is new law requiring new construction, renovations and replacement of state and municipal buildings open to the public, include at least one baby changing table. The bill contains details.

The bill passed the House A&B on General Government Subcommittee by a unanimous vote. It has since been referred to the full House A&B Committee.

**Law Enforcement/DNA Collection:** [SB 184](#) by Sen. Wayne Shaw (R-Grove) amends 22 O.S. Section 210 requiring DNA collection and testing for persons over 18 arrested for a felony. Samples must be collected by trained medical personnel, law enforcement judicial personnel and employees or contractors of these organizations as qualified via this statute. Provision is made for DNA identification matching purposes, use of Rapid DNA technology by a jail or detention facility, an additional condition is added for non-analysis of the sample and a current exception from the requirement for DNA collection for convicted or arrested persons who have previously submitted a sample is removed. The bill contains details.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with the title stricken by unanimous vote. It is now waiting to be heard on the Senate floor.

**Municipal Court/Veteran Treatment:** [SB 454](#) by Sen. Joe Newhouse (R-Broken Arrow) creates the Oklahoma Veterans Treatment Act authorizing any district or municipal court to establish a treatment program. The bill contains exceptions, offender rights, reasonable sanctions and court costs. The bill contains details.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee by a unanimous vote. It has since been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**Condemnation/Commissioners Report:** [SB 632](#) by Sen. Rob Standridge (R-Norman) amends 66 O.S. Section 55 by adding new law where the award of the court-appointed commissioners is \$75,000 or less. The condemning party may serve the defendant with an offer of judgment no sooner than 120 days after the commissioner's award and no later than 20 days prior to trial. The bill contains details

The bill was laid over in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday.

**Sales Tax Exemptions:** [SB 513](#) by Sen. Stephanie Bice (R-OKC) amends sales and use tax remittance by remote sellers. Among the changes in current law is deletion of remote sellers leaving a marketplace facilitator or a referrer for those in 68 O.S. Section 1392(A)-(F) defined as sales worth at least \$10,000. In new Section G, a remote seller is redefined as aggregate sales or delivery to locations within the state worth at least \$100,000 during the preceding or current calendar year shall collect and remit the tax imposed under provisions therein. Remote seller is also generally removed from Sections 1393-1396. When mentioned, reference is made to the new Section 1392(G). The bill provides details.

The bill passed the Senate Finance Committee with the title stricken by a unanimous vote. It is now waiting to be heard on the Senate floor.

**Economic Development/Oklahoma Community Pooled Finance:** [SB 749](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) amends the Oklahoma Community Economic Development Pooled Finance Act in a variety of ways. Included are new definitions for Federal government defense entities and Public-Private Partner Development Pool. Federal government defense entities are Fort Sill, Tinker Air Force Base, Altus Air Force Base, Vance Air Force Base and McAlester Army Ammunition Plant. New law in the bill authorizes the Oklahoma Development Finance Authority to act as a conduit issuer for the benefit of at least one eligible local government entity, to issue obligations and provide financing under specific criteria. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce is authorized for rule-making for the funding of authorized infrastructure projects and to establish a scoring system to evaluate projects. The bill contains a number of new definitions as well as extensive details.

The bill passed the Senate Finance Committee with the title stricken by a unanimous vote. It is now waiting to be heard on the Senate floor.

**Law Enforcement/Jury Duty:** [HB 1969](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) amends 38 O.S. Section 28 by adding to those excused from jury service. This includes

---

municipal or state law enforcement officers employed in any county with a population of 255,000 or more and federal law enforcement officers. Municipal or state law enforcement officers in a county with a population of less than 255,000 shall be eligible to serve on noncriminal actions only.

The bill passed the House Judiciary Committee by a unanimous vote. It is now waiting to be heard on the House floor.

**Initiative and Referendum/Signatures:** [HB 2119](#) by Rep. Charles Ortega (R-Altus) amends 11 O.S. Section 15-103 by altering the number of required petition signatures for initiative and referendum. The election is the most recent preceding general municipal election or biennial town meeting. The total number of votes cast is the sum of the votes cast for all candidates in the race for the highest-ranking at-large municipal office appearing on the ballot. If such office does not appear on the ballot, then the total number of votes cast shall be the sum of votes cast for or against the municipal question or proposition receiving the largest total number of votes on a ballot. The bill contains details.

The bill passed the House Rules Committee with the amendment adopted by a unanimous vote. It is now waiting to be heard on the House floor.

**Taking/Oil and Gas:** [HB 2150](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Mulhall) creates a taking whenever a municipality, county or political subdivision, other than the Corporation Commission, adopts or implements an ordinance, resolution, rule, regulation or other form of official policy concerning oil and gas operation as described in the bill. This includes substantially interfering with the use and enjoyment of the mineral estate, imposing or enforcing a limitation that adversely impacts the use and development of minerals, or prohibits access to develop the mineral estate, thereby substantially increasing the costs of oil and gas operations, or thereby substantially reducing the fair market value of the mineral estate. This does not apply to any ordinance, resolution, rule, regulation or other forms of official policy adopted or implemented prior to December 31, 2014.

The bill passed the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee by a vote of 14-5. It is now waiting to be heard on the House floor.

**Workers' Compensation:** [HB 2367](#) by Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) contains over 170 pages altering a number of sections of the Workers Compensation Act.

There are several statutes that are repealed. The bill contains details.

The bill was laid over in the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday.

**Firearms/Carry:** [HB 1142](#) by Rep. Tammy Townley (R-Ardmore) amends 21 O.S. Section 1289.6. It impacts conditions on open/concealed carry without a handgun license by removing the phrase open and not concealed.

The bill passed the House Wildlife Committee by a vote of 9-2. It is now waiting to be heard on the House floor.

**Law Enforcement/Electric-Assisted Bicycle:** [HB 1265](#) by Rep. Carol Bush (R-Tulsa) amends several sections of Title 47 and creates new law regarding electric-assisted bicycles. The bill contains details including definitions, different classes of bicycles, underage driving of these bicycles, provisions for operators' rights and privileges including exemption from financial responsibility, insurance and the like. 47 O.S. Section 11-805.2 is repealed.

The bill passed the House Transportation Committee by a unanimous vote. It is now waiting to be heard on the House floor.

**Airport/Contracts:** [HB 2518](#) by Rep. Tammy West (R-Bethany) amends 3 O.S. Section 65.5 impacting airports, air navigation facilities or aircraft maintenance or manufacturing facilities owned, leased or controlled by a municipality. Current law's term of 40 years for contracts, leases and other arrangements for a primary term is increased to 50 years.

The bill passed the House County & Municipal Government Committee by a unanimous vote on Wednesday.

**Elections/Dates:** [SB 595](#) by Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-Broken Arrow) alters available elections date for political subdivisions in 26 O.S. Section 3-101. No regular or special election shall be held except on the second Tuesday of March (current law is February) in any year other than a presidential election year; the date of the Presidential Preferential Primary election in a presidential election year; the date of any regularly scheduled statewide state or federal election in an even-numbered year; the second Tuesday of June (current law is September) and the second Tuesday of August in an odd-numbered year; and the second Tuesday of November in an odd-numbered year. In elections to fill a vacancy in an elective office may only be held on those dates in current law in Subsection C of Section 3-101.

---

The bill was laid over in the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday.

**Inspectors Act/Fines:** [HB 1956](#) by Rep. Judd Strom (R-Copan) amends the Oklahoma Inspector Act in various ways including expanding investigation authority and requiring municipalities of more than 10,000 population to provide a list of all building and construction inspectors and update the list within 30 days of a change in personnel with new fines for violation. New fines are also proposed for inspectors without proper licenses.

The bill passed the House Business and Commerce Committee with the amendment adopted by a unanimous vote.

**Water/Funding:** [SB 539](#) by Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) amends apportionment of gross production tax for the Community Water Infrastructure Development Revolving Fund, the OWRB Rural Economic Action Plan Water Projects Fund, Conservation Commission Infrastructure Revolving Fund and the Tourism and Recreation Department Capital Expenditure Fund. The apportionment currently expires on June 30, 2019. It is extended to June 30, 2022. This bill also amends the distribution of the gross production tax by changing the date to July 17, 2018 for the levy on natural gas and for the levy on oil. A companion bill is [SB 557](#).

The bill was laid over in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday.

**Sales Tax Exemption/ Rolling Stock:** [HB 1261](#) by Rep. Hilbert (R-Depew) expands the current sales tax exemption for the sales or lease of rolling stock. This includes railroad car maintenance and retrofitting.

The bill passed the House A&B Committee with the title stricken by a unanimous vote on Wednesday.

**Sales Tax Exemptions/Medicare Reimbursement:** [HB 1262](#) by Rep. Kyle Hilbert (R-Depew) expands the current sales tax exemption in 68 O.S. Section 1357.6 for drugs, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prosthetic devices and the like. Added is sales of medical equipment including prosthetic devices, durable medical equipment and mobility-enhancing equipment as defined in Section 1357.6. The bill contains details.

The bill passed the House A&B Committee with the title stricken by a unanimous vote on Wednesday.

**Bond Oversight/Bond Advisor:** [HB 2668](#) by Rep. Wallace (R-Wellston) amends the Oklahoma Bond Oversight and Reform Act in a variety of ways including substituting the

Deputy Treasurer for Debt Management for current law's State Bond Advisor in some statutes and the State Treasurer as a substitute in other provisions.

The bill passed the House A&B Committee by a unanimous vote on Wednesday.

**Firearms/Unlawful Carry:** [HB 2597](#) by Rep. Echols (R-OKC) makes a number of changes to various sections impacting firearms. Impacted is unlawful carry, exchanging "firearm" for current law's "handgun" in several statutes including on property designated by a municipality as a park, recreational area, wildlife refuge, wildlife management area and fairgrounds. Among other changes are regarding convicted felons, when firearms may be carried, firearms in vehicles, illegal aliens, transporting a loaded firearm, preemption is expanded to carrying "or possession" of a firearm and notification to law enforcement that the person is in actual possession of a firearm.

The bill passed the House by a vote of 70-30 on Wednesday.

**CLEET/Certification:** [HB 1148](#) by Rep. Sherrie Conley (R-Newcastle) prohibits performance of law enforcement duties without first obtaining CLEET certification unless under the direct supervision of a CLEET-certified officer. Every person employed as a law enforcement officer shall complete the CLEET certification course within 6 months of the hire date.

The bill was laid over in the House Public Safety Committee on Thursday.

**CLEET/Certificate Reimbursement:** [HB 1207](#) by Rep. Sherrie Conley (R-Newcastle) impacts reimbursement to the original employing agency who paid for CLEET training and the salary of the person while completing the basic police course. If the person leaves within one year after initial employment, in addition to the salary, reimbursement will also include the cost of CLEET training. In addition, if the person leaves the original employing agency later than 1 year, but less than 2 years, after initial employment, the second agency or the person receiving the training shall reimburse the original agency 50% of the cost of CLEET training and salary paid to the person while completing the basic police course by the original employing agency.

After being reassigned from the House A&B Committee, the bill passed the House Public Safety Committee with the amendment adopted by a unanimous vote.

---

**Employment/Discrimination:** [SB 645](#) by Sen. Kay Floyd (D-OKC) prohibits employers from discriminating in the payment of wages, benefits or other compensation, as between the sexes, or pay any person in the employ of the employer salary or wage rates less than the rates paid to employees of the opposite sex for work of like or comparable character. The bill contains exceptions, penalties and details.

The bill was laid over in the Senate Business, Commerce & Tourism Committee on Thursday.

**Employment/Discrimination:** [SB 649](#) by Sen. Kay Floyd (D-OKC) is new law prohibiting an employee from discharging in any other manner discriminating against an employee because the employee inquired about, discussed or disclosed the wages of the employee or another employee with someone employed by the company. There is an exception for a human resource employee, supervisor or the like. There is a penalty provision and details.

The bill was laid over in the Senate Business, Commerce & Tourism Committee on Thursday.

**License/Right to Earn a Living:** [SB 651](#) by Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-Broken Arrow) creates the Right to Earn a Living Act which requires all occupational regulations be limited to those demonstrably necessary and carefully tailored to fulfill legitimate public health, safety or welfare objectives. Within one year following enactment, every agency shall conduct a comprehensive review of all occupational regulations and occupational licenses within their jurisdictions. An agency shall be broadly construed to include the state, all agencies, boards and commissions of state government and all political subdivisions and shall exclude no entity established under the constitution or state law. The bill contains definitions, details of the review, requirement for action including repeal to the extent the agency finds the regulation does need meet the bills standards, mandates to notify the legislature, right of any person to petition for repeal or modification and authority to file a court action to challenge an occupational regulation including an award of attorney fees if successful. The bill contains details. Please note, agency includes all political subdivisions.

The bill passed the Senate Business, Commerce & Tourism Committee by a unanimous vote on Thursday.

**Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations:** [SB 802](#) by Sen. Stephanie Bice (R-OKC) is new law creating the Electrical Vehicle Charging Station Inspection Act. The Department of Labor is authorized to inspect and permit public

electrical vehicle (EV) charging stations installed and operating within the state. The Department has rulemaking authority which includes, among others, a requirement that a municipal permit for the electrical installation of EV charging station equipment. The Department of Labor shall encourage municipalities to establish ordinances, infrastructure requirements and permitting procedures for the siting and installation of EV charging stations. The Department shall develop a checklist for municipalities in evaluating their power supply requirements, equipment or infrastructure upgrades as may be needed. The bill contains details.

The bill passed the Senate Business, Commerce & Tourism Committee with the title stricken by a unanimous vote.

**Building Design/Prohibition:** [SB 862](#) by Sen. Joe Newhouse (R-Broken Arrow) is new law prohibiting counties and municipalities from regulating residential building design elements. There are exceptions for local historic districts, a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places or designated as a local, state, or national historic landmark. In addition, the regulations must be directly and substantially related to requirements of applicable safety codes, applied to manufactured housing consistent with applicable law or adopted as a condition for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The bill contains details including definitions.

The bill was laid over in the Senate Business, Commerce & tourism Committee on Thursday.

**Finance/Tax Resale:** [SB 594](#) by Sen. Frank Simpson (R-Ardmore) amends 11 O.S. Sections 22-111 and 22-112 regarding the authorization for municipalities to clean property of trash and weeds or grass and cause a dilapidated building to be torn down and removed. If payment is not made to the municipality, the bill prohibits the property to be sold at an annual tax resale if the only amount due at the time of resale is a lien created under these sections, the home is occupied by the owner and either the owner is 100% disabled veteran, or qualifies for disability under 42 U.S.C. 416, or is over 65.

The bill passed the Senate General Government Committee by a vote of 11-1. It is now waiting to be heard on the Senate floor.

---

## Next Week at The Capitol

**Monday, February 18, 2019**

**Senate Public Safety Committee  
Room, 419C, AAI**

**Marijuana/OBNDD:** [SB 882](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) is new law authorizing the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics to develop and implement a program for the disposal of medical marijuana waste. The bill contains details on who and what is impacted as well as methods utilized in the disposal program and rulemaking authority.

**Law Enforcement/Sexual Assault Kits:** [SB 967](#) by Sen. Kay Floyd (D-OKC) is new law authorizing the OSBI to implement a statewide electronic tracking system for evidence collection kits used to collect and preserve evidence of a sexual assault or other sex offense. Any law enforcement agency, medical provider or forensic laboratory that has a previously untested collection kit used for a forensic medical examination shall comply with established protocols relating to all untested kits. Consistent with protecting victim confidentiality for unreported sexual assaults, a law enforcement agency having custody of a kit shall take reasonable measures to provide appropriate tracking information to the affected victim. The OSBI, no later than January 1, 2020, shall require participation in the tracking system by all medical providers, law enforcement agencies, forensic laboratories or others that have custody of a kit.

**House A&B Committee  
Room 206, 10:30 a.m.**

**Credit Cards/Surcharges:** [HB 1425](#) by Rep. Ben Loring (D-Miami) amends 14A O.S. Section 2-417 regarding regulation of a surcharge on the use of a credit card or debit card. The bill authorizes municipalities and a public trust with a municipality as a beneficiary to also add, on an online transaction, the cost of providing for secure transaction, portal fees, and fees necessary to compensate for increased bandwidth. These may also be added to the service fee. Also amended is 28 O.S. Section 151 regarding clerks of the district court and other trial courts of record to charge and collect a service fee for the acceptance of the nationally recognized credit or debit card. The bill contains details.

**Tuesday, February 19, 2019**

**House Energy & Natural Resources Committee  
Room 432A, 1:30 p.m.**

**Water/Rights:** [HB 1048](#) by Rep. Danny Sterling (R-Tecumseh) is a shell bill creating the Water and Water Rights Efficiency Act of 2019.

---

## Advocating For Your Community

This year, several bills have been filed that will have a negative impact on our members, which means we need YOU more than ever. Here are a few tips to help you help us.

Stay vigilant, stay informed. Let OML be your clearing house for legislative information and news. OML sends out many GRIP Alerts to our members to let you know when a pressing issue needs your attention. Pay attention to these emails, as we send them for your benefit. You can also read any version of any bill on the Legislature's website at [oklegislature.gov](http://oklegislature.gov).

Be active. If you can't be at the Capitol, call, text, and email your legislators. They want to hear from you!

Act swiftly. Often times, bills heard in committee or on the floor can come and go very quickly. This means that you have a small window to communicate with your legislators. Same day action is paramount.

Send us your comments. Is a particular issue or bill important to your community? Tell us about it. We also frequently send out bills and ask for comments from you for guidance. These comments remain completely in-house, so don't be afraid to speak up. Your words are safe with us!

Build a coalition. Never has the phrase "strength in numbers" been more relevant. Discuss these issues with community leaders and surrounding municipalities. Collaboration is invaluable in the legislative process.

Build a relationship with your legislators. Legislators appreciate hearing from their constituents back home. They're also usually happy to give their phone numbers and email addresses out to remain in contact with you.

Say THANK YOU! This one is a no brainer. Never underestimate the power of saying thank you.

## Future Issues

Look for the Legislative Advocate to highlight bills that exemplify the ways in which municipalities are squeezed dry. We will also highlight some positive developments from the Capitol including bills that we are lobbying on behalf of individual members.

Cities and towns either win or lose together at the State Capitol since it takes a majority of legislators from all over the state—whether urban or rural, democrat or republican—to carry the day. The number-one ingredient for success at the legislature and state agencies is a united collective municipal voice.