

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the 2024 Interim

November 12, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The sixth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Local Government was held on November 12, 2024, at 9:00 AM in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Randy Bridges, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Robby Mills, Co-Chair; Representative Randy Bridges, Co-Chair; Senators Greg Elkins, Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Christian McDaniel, Michael J. Nemes, Damon Thayer, Phillip Wheeler, and Gex Williams; Representatives Adam Bowling, Josh Bray, George Brown Jr., Steven Doan, Deanna Frazier Gordon, Chris Freeland, Mark Hart, Mary Beth Imes, Marianne Proctor, Rebecca Raymer, Sarah Stalker, and Walker Thomas.

Guests: J.D. Chaney, Executive Director and CEO, Kentucky League of Cities (KLC); City of Benton Mayor Rita Dotson, KLC President; City of Beaver Dam Mayor Paul Sandefur, KLC First Vice President; City of Pineville Mayor Scott Madon; Jim Henderson, Executive Director, Kentucky Association of Counties (KACO); Shellie Hampton, Director of Governmental Relations, KACO; Harlan County Judge/Executive Dan Mosley, KACO President-Elect; and Union County Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan, KACO First Vice President.

LRC Staff: Mark Mitchell, Christopher Jacovitch, and Cheryl Walters.

Approval of Minutes

Upon the motion of Representative Bowling, seconded by Senator Thayer, the minutes from the October 22, 2024, meeting were approved.

Recognitions

The Co-Chairs recognized retiring members from the committee, which included Senators Harper Angel and Damon Thayer; and Representatives Bentley, Dixon, and Justice.

Presentation of the Kentucky League of Cities' (KLC) Legislative Platform for the Upcoming 2025 Session of the General Assembly

J.D. Chaney, Executive Director and CEO, Mayor Rita Dotson, President, and Mayor Paul Sandefur, discussed KLC's legislative agenda, which was set by the Board of Directors. KLC's top three priorities for 2025: road funding allocations, restaurant revenue, and revenue diversification.

Senator McDaniel commented that KLC needs to focus their long list of items as it is short session. Regarding KLC's opposition to centralized collection of local revenue, Senator McDaniel stated businesses do not like the number of returns that must be filed. For example, his business has to file over 46.

In response to Senator Wheeler, Mr. Chaney stated the road formula was not predicated on the ten percent gas tax increase, but was in the same bill. Senator Wheeler said he receives more complaints about the condition of rural roads in his district than city roads, and it would not be wise to take away from the present formula.

Senator Thayer commented that rural roads need to be in good shape for the transportation of food.

Presentation of the Kentucky Association of Counties' (KACO) Legislative Platform for the Upcoming 2025 Session of the General Assembly

Jim Henderson, Executive Director, County Judge/Executive Dan Mosely, President-Elect, and County Judge/Executive Adam O'Nan, First Vice President, discussed KACO's top three priorities for the 2025 Session: sharing responsibility for jails, protecting county revenue streams, and maintaining county road and bridge funding.

In response to Senator Wheeler, Mr. Henderson said the National Association of Counties has been working on the issue of jail costs and Medicaid. County Judge/Executive Mosely shared a lack of jail space for local inmates is an issue for many counties but not all.

In response to Senator Elkins, Judge Mosely stated many jails have shifted to a larger group management scenario for food services. The largest cost for Harlan County's jail is employee costs.

Senator Mays Bledsoe commented that people still want their services, and it is time to start discussing how to provide those services in light of changing revenue streams.

Senator McDaniel expressed budgeting concerns of adding more people in Kentucky to Medicaid in light of potential federal formula changes regarding Medicaid eligibility.

Senator Mills commented that some thought should be given to allowing county government to manage library services.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.