1 2 3 4 5 6 7	<b>RESOLUTION NO. 9480</b>
	A RESOLUTION introduced by the members of the Policy and Finance Committee relating to the City of Topeka's legislative agenda for the 2024 legislative session.
	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
8	CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that the following is hereby adopted as the City of Topeka's
9	legislative agenda for the 2024 legislative session:
10	Home Rule. Consistent with the Home Rule Amendment of the Kansas Constitution
11	approved by voters in 1960, our local Governing Body, as the body closest to the people,
12	is in the best position to make decisions for our community, particularly in regards to local
13	tax and revenue decisions. The City of Topeka strongly supports legislation that respects
14	our constitutional home rule authority.
15	Finance & Taxation.
16	(1) Taxing and Spending Powers; Local Ad Valorem Reduction Fund (LAVTR). Local
17	spending and taxing decisions are best left to the local officials representing the
18	citizens that elected them. Moreover, the City joins with the League of Kansas
19	Municipalities in urging the Legislature to follow state law by funding the LAVTR
20	program.
21	(2) Business Competition. We strongly oppose any state-imposed limits on the taxing
22	and spending authority of cities and legislation that seek to exempt/waive property
23	taxes for some businesses at the expense of the tax base as a whole on the basis
24	of competition.

- (3) <u>Sales Tax</u>. As the majority of commerce occurs inside city limits, cities should be
   able to impose voter-approved local sales taxes without interference from the
   county.
- (4) <u>Unfunded Mandates</u>. If the state or federal governments seek to promote
   particular policy objectives, such mandates should be accompanied by an
   appropriate level of funding.
- 31 Public Welfare.
- 32 (1) <u>Abandoned Housing</u>. We support legislation that would give cities additional
   33 tools to deal with vacant and abandoned housing.
- 34 (2) <u>Mental Health</u>. We support allocating additional resources for mental health
   35 programs, including establishment of a state mental health facility in Topeka to
   36 provide additional bed space for patients with mental health issues.
- 37 (3) <u>Medicaid Expansion</u>. Kansas is one of only 11 states that has not expanded
   38 Medicaid eligibility which is supported by 7 out of 10 Kansas voters. We urge the
   39 Legislature to do so in order to provide health care to individuals who cannot afford
   40 to access these services.
- (4) <u>Homelessness</u>. We support allocating a portion of the budget surplus to help
  cities address homelessness and its underlying causes which include a lack of
  affordable housing and social services.
- 44 (5) <u>Minimum Wage</u>. We support passage of 2023 S.B. 140 which would allow cities
  45 to utilize their Home Rule power to require employers to pay wages higher than
  46 the minimum wage.

## 47 **Community Development**

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48	(1) <u>Menninger Property</u> . We support efforts to secure state funding for projects to
49	redevelop Menninger Hill.

50	(2) Broadband. The State should support efforts that invest in broadband as an
51	essential utility for the success of the community.

52 **League of Kansas Municipalities**. We support the League of Kansas 53 Municipalities 2024 Statement of Municipal Policy to the extent the Policy is consistent 54 with the City's priorities and agenda, including opposing legislation limiting the City's 55 Home Rule authority.

ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Governing Body on November 21, 2023.
 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

Michael A. Padilla, Mayor

67 68 Brenda Younger, City Clerk

ATTEST:

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