

## ACTION AGENDA PRIORITIES

### Johnson County

- A. Supports increased funding for mental health services and community mental health center (CMHC) grants.
- B. Supports Medicaid expansion in Kansas.
- C. Supports the continued expansion of the eligibility of the Homestead Act and SAFESR – Kansas Property Tax Relief for Low Income Seniors.
- D. Supports dedicated funding of a comprehensive transportation plan including highways, airports, rail, trails, and transit.

The federal, state, and local governments have a partnership through which numerous governmental services are funded and made available to citizens. This partnership is dependent upon stable funding, decision-making at the appropriate level, and removing barriers to efficient and effective access to services. Johnson County strongly supports the following core principles as the means to an effective and improved partnership among each level of government and underlying issues.

### **1. RETAIN AND ENHANCE COUNTY HOME RULE AUTHORITY, MAINTAIN LOCAL DECISION MAKING AND OPPOSE UNFUNDED MANDATES.**

Johnson County supports the retention and strengthening of local home rule authority to allow locally elected officials to conduct the business of their jurisdiction in a manner that best reflects the desires of their constituents and results in maximum benefit to that community. The County opposes mandated responsibilities from the state without being fully funded.

The County further:

- A. Supports a constitutional amendment granting counties the constitutional home rule authority currently granted to cities.
- B. Supports continuing the ability for citizens and elected officials of each jurisdiction to determine if county elections are held on a nonpartisan or partisan basis and retain the ability of vacancies in nonpartisan elected positions being filled through nonpartisan means.
- C. Supports current law regarding the use of eminent domain by local units of government for utilities and public infrastructure improvements.
- D. Supports the repeal of 2016 Legislation granting the automatic placement of cell towers in city and county owned right of way to allow regulation of the placement of cell towers by reasonable local zoning processes which review important community values such as safety and neighborhood concerns.
- E. Supports the repeal of 2016 Legislation curtailing local control over inclusionary zoning policies and rental property licensing programs regulating interior inspections. Local officials, who are tasked with the responsibility to develop and maintain safe, sustainable cities and counties, should have the flexibility to address the need for affordable, varied types of housing as integral components of both their economic development and public safety duties.

## 2. MAINTAIN FINANCIAL STABILITY AND ENHANCE PROCESSES FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Many critical county government services are financed by federal and state governments. As a key provider, Johnson County seeks federal and state appropriations at levels adequate to meet the needs of the recipients. Furthermore, Johnson County opposes reductions in funding for services that result from actual reductions, as well as cuts in “real dollars” which result from a lack of inflationary adjustments. Johnson County does not support reductions in state funding, nor changes in state taxation that would reduce resources available for the State to carry out these critical functions. Moreover, the State should explore the possibility of providing greater flexibility to local units of government, allowing local control as opposed to implementing any additional reductions in programs or services due to State funding cuts.

The County further:

### Healthcare and Public Health

- A. Supports Medicaid expansion in Kansas.
- B. Supports evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies to promote and protect public health and the environment.
- C. Supports increased funding for local health departments.

### Infrastructure

- A-D. Supports funding of a comprehensive transportation plan including highways, airports, rail, trails, and transit. County acknowledges and is grateful for the increase in the short line rail rehabilitation programs in 2023 and supports a review of the statutory funding for the Kansas Airport Improvement Fund.
- B-E. Supports policies and funding to provide broadband development and internet access to improve economic development, telemedicine care, remote learning, and government efficiency.
- F. Supports allowance for the electronic submission and receipt of public works bids and accompanying surety.

### Appraisals

- ~~C. Opposes legislation based on hypothetical lease valuations or the dark store theory, which suggests that commercial properties should be valued as if vacant and available for sale or rent to a future hypothetical user rather than in the current use, which is often a functioning, occupied store.~~
- D-G. Supports allowing the County Appraiser, rather than the State of Kansas, the ability to grant property tax exemptions on property owned by governmental entities and used for an exempt purpose for efficiency.
- E-H. Supports maintaining the current system of non-centralized county appraisers to meet the needs of each county.
- F-I. Supports the valuation process remain constitutional and remove the 5% mandate; remove summary of reasons for determining value; amend the agricultural lease provision; remove independent appraisal after appeal; and allow the county appraiser to request recent fee appraisals and detailed income expense data during appeals process.

### State Services Provided by the County

- G-J. Supports the recently considered changes to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs) Tier 3 plan design to enhance benefits and bolster the recruitment and

~~retention. State fully funding its portion of the employer contributions at the Actuarial-Required Contribution (ARC) levels and at the required times to the Kansas Public-Employees Retirement System (KPERs).~~

~~H.K.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports greater flexibility in the use of technology for motor vehicle or other state services, including new approaches to service delivery and appropriate funding at the local level.

**Fiscal Impact**

~~I.L.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports the preservation and funding of local government revenues which pass through the State’s treasury, including Local Ad Valorem Property Tax Reduction (LAVTR), County City Revenue Sharing (CCRS), alcoholic liquor tax funds and the local portion of motor fuel tax to local governments.

~~J.M.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Opposes caps in property valuations and limitations on valuation methods that shift the property tax burden, benefiting one category of property to the detriment of all others, as unconstitutional and inequitable.

~~K.N.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports the current law that exempts local government and public construction projects from sales tax.

~~L.O.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports the state’s thoughtful consideration of reductions in sales tax on pharmaceuticals, while balancing the impact on, and obligations of, counties and local units of government across the state.

~~M.P.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports amending current statutes to allow counties the discretion to publish required notices on the official County website in lieu of publication in a newspaper.

~~N.Q.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports statewide economic development.

~~O.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ ~~Supports legislation facilitating the collection of compensating use tax from purchases made from sellers with no physical presence in Kansas based on the U.S. Supreme Court decision in South Dakota v. Wayfair.~~

~~P.R.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports legislation to ensure that 911 services across the state of Kansas remain high quality, appropriately funded and all counties are operating in the most efficient manner possible that may include consolidation or co-location opportunities.

~~S.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports the State investing in their information technology systems to enable effective data sharing between state departments and with their community partners, the ability to extract data for decision making and the effective and efficient service to those receiving services.

~~Q.T.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports the exemption of social security income from state income tax, as considered by the 2023 Legislature.

**Environment**

~~R.U.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports the state’s efforts to develop and implement cost-effective, scientifically-based environmental plans and provide local governments flexibility and resources to meet their environmental goals.

~~S.V.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports full statutory funding of the State Water Plan (SWPF) as established by 2023 HB 2302.

**Elections**

~~T.W.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports the legislature or Secretary of State establishing consistent election rules and regulations for counting votes in all 105 counties to provide confidence in the election process.

~~U.X.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports extending the 3-day postmark grace period to include mail ballot elections.

~~V.Y.~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Supports clean-up on election issues relating from move from spring to fall, regarding

how and where to file for city positions elected by district.

- ~~W.Z.~~ Requests clarification on ballot rotation in contests where there are more candidates than precincts.
- ~~X.AA.~~ Supports changing the deadline for requesting a multi-county recount from 5 p.m. on the second Friday after the election to 5 p.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup> day after the election to accommodate the 2018 statutory change allowing counties to hold their canvass on the 13<sup>th</sup> day following the election.
- ~~Y.BB.~~ Supports verifying the impact of voter system security across the state when making changes to statutes impacting elections.

## **Enhance Processes**

- ~~Z.CC.~~ Supports exempting surveys that do not collect personally identifiable student data from the Student Data Privacy Act.
- ~~DD.~~ Supports the Legislature clarifying that any structure used for events or activities related to Agritourism will meet local jurisdiction public safety codes.
- ~~AA.EE.~~ Supports clarifying numerous aspects of the process for citizens to place a question on the ballot, independent of the city in which the election would occur.

## **3. PRESERVE AND ENHANCE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

Many critical county government services provided are financed by federal and state governments for health, human services and public safety. As a key provider, Johnson County seeks federal and state appropriations at levels adequate to meet the needs of the recipients. The County further:

### **Healthcare**

- ~~A.~~ Supports Medicaid expansion in Kansas.
- ~~A.B.~~ Supports evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies to promote and protect public health and the environment.
- ~~B.~~ Supports the re-evaluation and increase in Medicaid rates within the Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) waiver and the Medicaid Mental Health Rehabilitation Codes to reflect the actual costs.
- ~~C.~~ Supports measures to enhance the capacity of and recommends adequate state psychiatric hospitals, including increased funding, to expand the availability of involuntary admissions, as well as restoring Osawatomie State Hospital (OSH) to a capacity of 206 beds and lifting the State imposed moratorium on admissions.
- ~~D.~~ Supports the proposed funding for enhancing the psychiatric residency training program in the Department of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center. The addition of new psychiatrists each year by 2021 would place an emphasis on rotations at state mental health hospitals and CMHCs.
- ~~E.D.~~ Supports an enhancement of the State's ombudsman program for individuals residing in long-term settings for themselves and their families.
- ~~F.E.~~ Support sustainable, dedicated funding for 988 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Center Hotline.

### **Senior Tax Relief**

- ~~G.F.~~ Supports continued expansion of the eligibility of the current Homestead Act and SAFESR programs – Kansas Property Tax Relief for Low Income

Seniors.-

**Human Services**

- G. Supports ~~the 2023 Legislatures increase~~ addition of \$13.5 million of funding for mental health services and community mental health centers (CMHC) grants and supports further efforts to expand the Mental Health Intervention Pilot program to optimize the relationship between school districts and CMHCs -
- H. Supports Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) funding to be distributed pursuant to the 2022 Legislatures funding formula.
- I. Supports a strategy to fund the statewide Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver program and its waiting list and evaluating and determining ways to improve the program for citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).
- J. ~~Supports ongoing I/DD provider reimbursement rate reviews and adjustments to address availability of services, workforce shortages, and cost of service imbalance caused by inflation and applauds the legislature for improvements made to the targeted case manager (TCM) reimbursement rate. Supports developing an approach to establish ongoing I/DD provider rate increases to address workforce shortages and challenges, as well as restoring cuts in state general funds to the I/DD system.~~
- J. Supports funding to continue the development of behavioral health resources for residents with I/DD.
- K. Supports ~~the State fully~~ enhanced funding all state-mandated human service programs at levels that reflect the actual cost of services, expanding funding for further establishments of public/private partnerships for psychiatric inpatient hospital beds, and the creation of regional Crisis Stabilization Units.
- K.L. Supports expanded access and usability of the Affordable Housing Tax Credit, the development of a state housing voucher program and other efforts to address housing across the entire continuum of care.
- L.M. Supports efforts to enhance and improve the administration and programmatic changes to the Senior Care Act to allow Area Agencies on Aging to expend their appropriated funds more efficiently and effectively. full funding of the Senior Care Act to meet the needs of the community.
- M.N. Supports the expansion of behavioral health programs for adult and juvenile community corrections populations.
- N.O. Supports continuation of enhanced funding for community correction’s agencies approved by the 2022 Legislature.

**Judicial**

- O.P. Supports amending the Juvenile Justice System to allow local discretion when dealing with Child in Need of Care (CINC) and juvenile offenders, and implementation of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM).
- P.Q. Supports an adequate budget for the Office of Judicial Administration to fully execute the duties of the judiciary.