

**To:** Board of County Commissioners  
Penny Post oak Ferguson, County Manager  
**From:** Mark Dapp, Senior Management and Budget Analyst  
**Date:** December 1, 2022  
**Re:** Adoption of the 2023 State Legislative Platform

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**Issue:** Consider adopting the 2023 Johnson County State Legislative Platform.

**Suggested Motion:** I move to adopt the 2023 Johnson County State Legislative Platform.

**Background:** Each year the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) develops a state legislative platform. The purpose of the platform is to:

- Convey the position of the Board of County Commissioners on certain issues that may come before the Legislature to legislators, the media, and the public; and,
- Provide direction to staff and our contract lobbyist about how to advocate for issues and the relative importance of those issues.

The platform is not intended to encompass all issues which may impact the County. Rather, it generally contains those issues that the Board believes are of high importance to the operations of the County or to its citizens, which are likely to be considered by the Legislature in a given year or are considered standing positions.

**Analysis:** The 2023 Johnson County State Legislative Platform has identified four Action Agenda Priorities:

- A. Supports increased funding for mental health services and community mental health center (CMHC) grants.
- B. Supports Medicaid expansion in Kansas.
- C. Supports 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, trails, and transit.

Overall, issues are categorized under three core principles and by topic.

1. Retain and Enhance County Home Rule Authority, Maintain Local Decision Making and Oppose Unfunded Mandates.
2. Maintain Financial Stability and Enhance Processes for County Governmental Services.
  - a. Healthcare
  - b. Infrastructure
  - c. Appraisals
  - d. State Services Provided by the County
  - e. Fiscal Impact
  - f. Environment

- g. Elections
  - h. Enhance Processes
3. Preserve and Enhance Health, Human Services and Public Safety.
- a. Healthcare
  - b. Senior Tax Relief
  - c. Human Services
  - d. Judicial

**Funding Overview:** This item has no funding impact.

**Alternatives:** 1. Modify proposed legislative platform language prior to approval.  
2. Not approve the platform. The impact of not approving the platform is that staff and our lobbyist will not have direction from the BOCC for legislative issues.

**Recommendation:** Adopt the 2023 Johnson County State Legislative Platform.

**Purchasing Review:** This item does not need purchasing approval.

**Budget Review:** This item has no budgetary impact.

**Legal Review:** Legal review has been provided as requested during the development of the platform.