This Section Includes:

- County Profile (Page B-2)
- Comparable Counties (Page B-10)
- Organizational Structure (Page B-13)
- Organizational Chart (Page B-16)
County Profile

The County Profile section of the FY 2017 Budget provides basic demographic and trend information about Johnson County, as well as national comparable counties. The first section highlights basic population, employment, housing, ethnicity, crime, business industry data, and some general information to provide a snapshot of the County.

The second section includes additional measures, or “community indicators”, in an effort to align the FY 2017 Budget with the Board of County Commissioners’ (BOCC) strategic goals: 1) Improve the lives of vulnerable populations by addressing emerging poverty and crime and through job creation, 2) Evaluate the sewer financing structure to determine if the cost to provide services in certain locations exceeds the revenue generated by associated growth, 3) Continue developing a high performing organization, 4) Finalize improvement strategies for the Johnson County Courthouse, 5) Provide and support planning for and construction that supports multi-modal transportation to provide alternatives for transporting people and, 6) Continue Core 4 and initiate discussion and coordination with urban counties.

The comparable counties included in this section provide indicators for the County and its departments and agencies as they research and analyze different best practices and benchmarks in the delivery of services to the community.

Section I - Johnson County Demographic and Statistical Profile

Image #1

Image #1 depicts Johnson County’s location within the State of Kansas.
Johnson County was founded August 25, 1855, six years prior to Kansas becoming the 34th state to enter the Union. Johnson County is Kansas City's metropolitan area's growth engine. It lies at the heart of the nation while possessing all the ingredients necessary for economic growth and success. The County boasts nationally ranked schools, low crime rate, high quality neighborhoods, low cost of living, and a variety of cultural and entertainment amenities. Johnson County is known for its beautiful parks, award winning school districts, affordable housing and access to jobs.

Johnson County accounts for 48% of the new businesses and job growth in the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and 59% of the total job growth in the state of Kansas. The county added an average of 25 new businesses each month between 2005 and 2015.

The Johnson County Park and Recreation District offers over 6,500 acres of public park land, with more than 3,000 acres available for future expansion as the population continues to grow. During 2015, over 7 million people visited Johnson County's parks, and over 2.8 million people participated in Park activities.

The area is comprised of gently undulating terrain ranging in elevation from 742 feet above sea level near its northern border along the Kansas River to 1,130 feet in the south central part of the County. The County and its 20 incorporated cities and seven townships continue to work together to ensure that the necessary infrastructure improvements are in place to accommodate further growth. Currently, 60% of the 477 square miles of land in the county has been developed, leaving about 40% as rural/unincorporated area.

There are 32 educational institutions of higher learning in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area offering 276 degrees and credentials. The county has 7 school districts (K-12) totaling over 94,000 students. Seven nationally-recognized Blue Ribbon schools are located within the county.

Johnson County and the Kansas City Greater Metropolitan Area consistently rank among the best places to live and work in the country. In 2014, the New York Times ranked Johnson County as the 11th “easiest place
to live" out of 3,135 counties throughout the United States. The ranking was based upon six criteria: education, unemployment rate, median household income, disability rate, life expectancy, and obesity rate. WalletHub also ranked Leawood as the 3rd best small city in the U.S. out of 1,268 small cities in 2016.

Johnson County has experienced continued growth in population, diversity, and development from 2000 through 2015. The county population has increased by approximately 26 percent, and is projected to grow over the next decade. As of July 1, 2015, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates the total County population to be 580,159.

![Chart A - Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2015, Pop. Estimates](image)

**Chart A** demonstrates that Johnson County has experienced sustained population growth over the past ten years.

### County Population by City 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overland Park</td>
<td>186,515</td>
<td>Fairway</td>
<td>3,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olathe</td>
<td>134,305</td>
<td>Mission Hills</td>
<td>3,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawnee</td>
<td>65,046</td>
<td>Spring Hill</td>
<td>3,475*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenexa</td>
<td>52,490</td>
<td>Edgerton</td>
<td>1,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leawood</td>
<td>34,579</td>
<td>Westwood</td>
<td>1,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Village</td>
<td>21,877</td>
<td>Lake Quivira</td>
<td>895*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardner</td>
<td>20,868</td>
<td>Westwood Hills</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merriam</td>
<td>11,288</td>
<td>Mission Woods</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>9,491</td>
<td>Bonner Springs</td>
<td>0*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roeland Park</td>
<td>6,827</td>
<td>Unincorporated</td>
<td>14,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeSoto</td>
<td>6,074</td>
<td>Johnson County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These Cities have boundaries outside of Johnson County. The number included above represents the Johnson County portion of the population only. Source: County Economic Research Institute

**Chart B** illustrates the population of Johnson County by municipal jurisdiction. An estimated 14,857 Johnson County citizens live outside municipalities.
Chart C illustrates the diversity of Johnson County’s population. In 2015, 18.1% (107,010) of Johnson County residents identify with a racial or ethnic minority. The population identifying with a racial or ethnic minority has grown an average of 3.3% since 2010.¹

Chart D reflects the number of reported crimes from 2010 through 2015. While the number of crimes reported to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation increased over the past year, crime is down significantly since 2010. Despite sustained population growth in Johnson County, violent crime is down 1% compared to 2010 and property crime is down 6% in that same period. (Violent crime is defined as Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assaults). The majority of crimes in Johnson County are property related.²

¹ MARC Estimates for States, Counties: Population by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin
² Kansas Bureau of Investigation, 2015 Crime Statistics, Johnson County
**Chart D** Johnson County indicates a 4.6% increase in average home sale prices during 2015 and a 15.8% increase over the past five years. Historically, the housing market has responded to local trends as strong income growth and a desirable location have driven housing prices up in the County. Average home sale price jumped from $245,242 in 2010 to $283,937 in 2015.

**Chart E** - The number of new and existing home sales also indicates a strong market. Home sales in Johnson County increased by over 10% in 2015, reaching a ten year high of 10,987.
Chart F - The County’s unemployment rate has been decreasing since 2012, and continues to be lower than both the state and national rates.

Chart G - Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Charts G and H reflect the largest industry sectors of Johnson County by number of firms and number of employers. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, Health Care and Finance/Insurance account for 35.9% of jobs in Johnson County.

Chart I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Local Employment</th>
<th>Industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sprint</td>
<td>6,300</td>
<td>Wireless Telecommunications Carriers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olathe Unified School District</td>
<td>4,541</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; Secondary Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawnee Mission School District</td>
<td>3,974</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; Secondary Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garmin International Inc</td>
<td>3,684</td>
<td>Radio/TV Brdcstg &amp; Wrlss Comm Equip Mfg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson County Government</td>
<td>3,388</td>
<td>Executive &amp; Legislative Offices, Combined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Valley School District #229</td>
<td>3,313</td>
<td>Elementary &amp; Secondary Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawnee Mission Medical Ctr</td>
<td>3,060</td>
<td>General Medical &amp; Surgical Hospitals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black &amp; Veatch</td>
<td>2,649</td>
<td>Engineering Svcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HyVee Food Stores</td>
<td>2,509</td>
<td>Supermarkets &amp; Groceries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wal-Mart</td>
<td>2,474</td>
<td>Discount Department Store</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart I: Depicts the top ten largest employers in Johnson County. “Largest” is based on the number of employees.

The Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area consistently ranks among the top cities for small businesses and entrepreneurs, including a #16 ranking among the best places to start a business by Wallethub in 2016. Wallethub also ranked Overland Park as the 2nd best large city for job seekers out of the 150 largest U.S. cities in the nation.
Other Information of Interest:

Educational Institutions: Johnson County contains seven distinct school districts which serve over 94,000 students grade K-12. There are 155 public schools with a student to teacher ratio of 16/1, which exceeds the state average of 14/1.\(^3\) Johnson County is also home to 56 private schools with an enrollment of 13,497 students. It is the home of Johnson County Community College, the Edwards Campus of the University of Kansas and the School for the Deaf.

Public Safety Institutions: Johnson County has 16 Law Enforcement agencies and two School District Police Departments. There are approximately 1,300 sworn officers and 325 civilian employees in Law Enforcement in Johnson County.\(^4\) Johnson County Emergency Communications Center serves the 11 individual fire departments in the County, as well as Johnson County MedAct, the Countywide ambulance service, Miami County EMS, and Gardner Public Safety.\(^5\)

Culture and Recreation: Johnson County Park & Recreation District has provided high-quality parks, park services, and recreational programs in more than 6,500 acres of parkland and open green space. Each year, the District records more than 7 million park visitors and nearly 2.8 million recreation participants in over 4,000 programs.\(^6\)

Johnson County Library serves over two million people from 13 library buildings in Northeast Kansas. The Library staff are helped by 900 volunteers who donate over 50,000 hours of their time each year. The Johnson County Library loans over six million books, ebooks, audio books, and DVD's each year.\(^7\)

Johnson County Museum maintains a collection of over 1 million photographs, 15,000 3-D artifacts, and 3,000 cu. ft. of archival material. The museum has also built a significant collection documenting the suburban experience in Johnson County. The museum offers long-term and changing exhibits, a speakers bureau, online resources for research, teacher training, school and public programming, summer camps, and special events. Each year, the museum serves 35,000 visitors onsite and nearly 100,000 people via its online resource materials.\(^8\)

Transportation: Johnson County offers air/bus transportation to the region. Two airports are maintained through the Johnson County Airport Commission, New Century Air Center and the Executive Airport. The Executive Airport is the 3rd busiest general aviation airport in the state of Kansas, with approximately 90,000 annual operations, while the New Century Air Center has approximately 50,000 annual operations.\(^9\) Johnson County Transit, which merged with the Kansas City Area Transit Authority in December 2014, provides public transportation services to much of Johnson County, downtown Kansas City, Mo., Kansas City, Kan., and other outlying areas. The JO, operates weekday commuter services with most routes running during peak morning and afternoon times. Special Edition provides paratransit services to Johnson County seniors and disabled residents. In FY 2015, Johnson County had an average ridership of 1,870 passengers each weekday.\(^10\)

Utilities: Johnson County Wastewater (JCW) is responsible for the safe collection, transportation, and treatment of wastewater generated by residential, industrial, and commercial customers. Johnson County Wastewater provides sanitary sewer service to more than 400,000 people throughout the County. The wastewater system covers a service area of more than 172 square miles and 16 cities. Johnson County Wastewater operates a total treatment capacity of nearly 64 million gallons per day. Johnson County Wastewater processed an average of 18.5 billion gallons of wastewater in 2015.\(^11\)

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\(^3\) Kansas Public School Review: Johnson County
\(^4\) Kansas Bureau of Investigation - Law Enforcement Statistics
\(^5\) Johnson County Emergency Communications Center. Jocogov.org
\(^6\) Johnson County Park & Recreation District - jocogov.org
\(^7\) Johnson County Library, jocogov.org Library/home
\(^8\) Johnson County Museum, jocogov.org, Museum/home
\(^9\) Johnson County Executive Airport Masterplan
\(^10\) Kansas City Transit Authority
\(^11\) Johnson County Wastewater, jocogov, About Us
Section II - Comparable Counties

A group of eight counties - Jefferson, Colorado; Dakota, Minnesota; St. Charles, Missouri; Chester, Pennsylvania; Collin, Texas; Denton, Texas; Dane, Wisconsin; and Waukesha, Wisconsin - are located throughout the country and have been deemed comparable to Johnson County in a number of categories:

- Total population;
- Constituent education level;
- Rate of employment;
- Household and personal income;
- Proximity to a large metropolitan statistical area.

While none of these counties mirror Johnson County in every category, when viewed as a whole, each provides its citizens with a lifestyle and overall environment similar to that of Johnson County. The following charts provide statistical comparisons between Johnson County and comparable counties, including a number of social demographics and economic indicators.

Chart J - Population

Johnson County has grown an average of 1.2% each year from 2010 to 2015. The 2015 Johnson County population was 580,159. Chart J shows the Johnson County population in relation to the comparison Counties.

![Chart J - Population](image)

**Median Age** has remained constant over the past five years at or near the 2015 level (36.4 years). Chart K shows the 2015 median age for Johnson County in relation to the comparison counties.

![Chart K - Median Age](image)
Chart L & M - Race and Language

Chart L shows the 2015 race percentage (white) for Johnson County in relation to the comparison counties. Chart M shows the percent of the population in Johnson County that does not speak English as their primary language (2015).

Chart L - Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2015
Chart M - Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2015

Chart N - Educational Achievement

Chart N shows the percentage of the Johnson County population that has a college degree in relation of the comparison counties.

Chart N - Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2015
**Chart O & P - Poverty and Disabilities**

*Chart O* shows the percentage of the Johnson County population that is below the poverty line in relation to the comparison counties (2015). *Chart P* shows the percentage of the Johnson County population with a disability in relation of the comparison Counties (2015).

![Chart O](chart_o.png)  
*Chart O - Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2015*  
![Chart P](chart_p.png)  
*Chart P - Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2015*

**Chart Q & R - Median Home Value**

*Chart Q* shows the median home value for Johnson County from 2010 to 2015. *Chart R* shows the 2015 median home value of Johnson County in relation to the comparison counties.

![Chart Q](chart_q.png)  
*Chart Q - Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2015*  
![Chart R](chart_r.png)  
*Chart R - Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2015*

**Chart S - Average Work Commute Time**

*Chart S* shows the 2015 Johnson County average commute time in relation to the comparison counties.

![Chart S](chart_s.png)  
*Chart S - Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2014*
Chart T - Unemployment & Labor

Chart T shows the 2015 Johnson County labor force and unemployment percentages in relation to the comparison counties.

![Unemployment Rate - 2015 Comparison](image)

*Chart T - Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2015*

Chart U - Median Household and Per Capita Income

Chart U shows the 2015 Johnson County median household income in relation to the comparison counties.

![Household Income - 2015 Comparison](image)

*Chart U - Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2014*

Organizational Structure

The organizational chart for Johnson County Government is presented on page B.16.

Elected Officials

Johnson County is governed by a seven-member Board of County Commissioners, which meets in regular business session once each week. The Chairman of the Board is elected on a county-wide basis and serves as a full-time County official. District commissioners are elected by residents in specific geographical areas, or districts of the County and serve as part-time County officials. The Chairman and the district commissioners serve four-year terms with no term limitations.

Currently, the Board of County Commissioners is comprised of the following individuals:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commissioner</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Initial Year as Commissioner</th>
<th>Term Expires</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed Eilert, Chairman</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Shaffer</td>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Allen</td>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven C. Kilka</td>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Osterhaus</td>
<td>District 4</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Ashcraft</td>
<td>District 5</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Toplikar</td>
<td>District 6</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the Board of County Commissioners, residents of Johnson County elect the following positions:

- District Attorney
- Sheriff

These positions are elected at large and serve four-year terms with no term limitations.

**Appointed Officials**

In 1984, Johnson County government was designated by the International City-County Management Association (ICMA) as a Council-Manager form of government. As a result, the Board appoints a professional County Manager to administer a variety of County functions. The County Manager is responsible for policy implementation, budget development and implementation, and the appointment and direction of certain department directors.

In addition to the County Manager, the Board also appoints members for four (4) governing boards:

- Airport Commission
- Developmental Supports
- Library
- Park & Recreation

The governing boards for these four (4) agencies are responsible for a number of items, including the appointment and direction of an Executive Director and the submission of an annual budget request to the Board of County Commissioners.

In 2013, The Board of County Commissioners dissolved the Mental Health Board and assumed responsibility for that area. A Mental Health Advisory Board was appointed following this action, in accordance with state statute.

**Home Rule Charter**

In January of 1996, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) appointed a Citizens' Visioning Committee (JCCVC) to develop a 20-year vision for Johnson County and to recommend a future role for County government. The JCCVC completed and submitted its report to the Board in July of 1997. One of the recommended actions in the JCCVC report was the following:

"Restructure the BOCC to enhance the opportunities for county leadership that will be necessary to achieve this vision for the future. Among the changes that must be considered are the at-large selection of at least one county commissioner; selection of the chairperson (possibly by direct election of the voters) who will serve a full term as chair; and the abandonment of the annual rotation of the chair among the members of the BOCC."

In response to the JCCVC recommendation, the Board appointed a Charter Commission in May of 1999 to develop a proposed Home Rule Charter for Johnson County. The Charter Commission, which was composed of 25 citizens, met more than 30 times over a 12-month period and held six (6) public hearings. In May of 2000, the Charter Commission submitted its report and a proposed Home Rule Charter to the Board.
In November of 2000, voters approved the Home Rule Charter. Overall, no major changes in the County's operations occurred until after the election in November of 2002, which added an additional district commissioner and a commission chairman elected on a countywide basis. The next major change occurred in January of 2005 when the elected positions of County Clerk and Register of Deeds were combined into one appointed office titled the Director of Records and Tax Administration. In addition, the position of County Treasurer became an appointed office in October of 2005.

The Home Rule Charter became effective on January 11, 2001 and includes the following timeline and action items:

1. The Board of County Commissioners appointed a County Manager by December 31, 2001 (this was completed in December of 2001, when the existing County Administrator was appointed County Manager).
2. The four (4) governing boards conformed to the general administrative policies of the County by December 31, 2001.
3. Redistricting for the six (6) commissioner districts was completed by April 1, 2002.
4. Reorganization of the Board of County Commissioners with six (6) district commissioners and the elected chairman occurred on January 16, 2003.

The Home Rule Charter contains seven (7) separate articles. In addition to the items discussed above, the Charter:

1. Establishes four-year terms for all commissioners, including the chairman, with no term limitations.
2. Makes each election non-partisan. Primary elections will be held if there are more than two (2) candidates for the position. The two candidates who receive the most votes in the primary election are placed on the ballot for the November election. If there are two or less candidates who file for a position, then no primary election will be held.
3. Requires the Board of County Commissioners to appoint a Charter Review Commission. The Review Commission meets at least once per year for five (5) years, and is composed of seven (7) members who served on the Charter Commission.

Under the Home Rule Charter, the Board of County Commissioners will continue to appoint members for four (4) governing boards.