

## **CORE PRINCIPLES**

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.

### **1.1 RETAIN AND ENHANCE COUNTY HOME RULE AUTHORITY AND MAINTAIN LOCAL DECISION MAKING**

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 further supports putting forth a constitutional amendment granting counties, as one of the cornerstones of Kansas government, the constitutional home rule authority currently enjoyed by cities. (Added in 1998)

### **1.2 MAINTAIN FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

Many critical county government services are financed by the federal and state governments and subsequently provided by local 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 is a partner in providing services for the State of Kansas (State), annually spending over \$165 million to provide state services for the citizens of Johnson County. Over five years, net county tax dollars used to support state-mandated services increased 14.87 percent. Over that same period, state support for mandated services went from \$17.41 million in 2013 to \$17.6 million in 2017 – an increase of less than one percent. We do not support reductions in state funding, nor do we support changes in state taxation that would reduce resources available for the State to carry out these 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. (Added in 1998. Updated in 2018, 2019)

### **1.3 OPPOSE UNFUNDED MANDATES**

Johnson County supports minimizing the financial and staffing implications of “devolution,” the passing down of responsibilities to counties by the state and federal governments, by seeking funding for mandates and reasonable periods of time to phase in new responsibilities. Any budget reductions or changes in state taxation that reduce state resources with an impact on county government services should be evaluated closely by the State and based on a cost-benefit analysis of how such reductions would increase cost demands at either the local or state level. If the State reduces funding for county government services, the State should provide greater flexibility and increased local ability to raise revenue beyond primarily sales and property tax sources. (Added in 1998)

## **ACTION AGENDA PRIORITIES**

### **Top Seven Action Priorities**

#### **2.1 ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO THE PROPERTY TAX LID**

The Legislature should review and consider including appropriate exemptions that existed largely under the prior tax lid but were not included in the current law such as: employee benefit costs, Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs) costs, Public Building Commission debt, infrastructure, as well as costs for intellectual and developmental disabilities services and mental health services among other items. (Added in 2016. Updated in 2017, 2018, 2019)

#### **2.2 STATEWIDE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID**

Johnson County supports Medicaid expansion through KanCare in Kansas. Providing Medicaid is the responsibility of the state and federal government. The County is required to have a public health department and provide mental health services and the decision to limit Medicaid expansion has an impact on the citizens of Johnson County. Absent the state's participation in Medicaid expansion, county taxpayers are required to pay for these services that would otherwise be covered by Medicaid. Through local tax revenue, Johnson County provides over \$7 million in charitable care for mental health services and over \$2.2 million in uncompensated care for emergency medical care through Medical Action (MED-ACT) (approximately 1 mill) that could be significantly reduced by Medicaid expansion. (Added in 2014. Updated in 2017, 2018)

#### **2.3 COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

The current funding level is far from adequate to address ongoing statewide infrastructure needs in the areas of preservation, additional projects that support growth and development, and safety; therefore, it is crucial for our state highway funds to be used for the purpose they are collected. To ensure the critical well-being of Kansas infrastructure funds should be allocated strategically to ensure there is an identifiable long-term return on investment for the entire state. Here are several critical projects important to Johnson County – I-35 south of 119<sup>th</sup> St., I-35 and 75<sup>th</sup> St., US-69 south of I-435, K10, and the Gateway Project Phase 3.

Additionally, because investment in growth areas is vital to creating a sustainable revenue stream that will address statewide infrastructure needs, we encourage the state to invest in public transportation that specifically demonstrates regional coordination in both rural and urban areas, and to support innovative platforms like "Mobility on Demand" (MOD), "Mobility as a Service" (MaaS), and the "Internet of Mobility" (IoM) to increase access to employment and educational opportunities, as well as ease congestion and delay the need for costly road expansion. (Added in 2010. Updated in 2017, 2018, 2019)

#### **2.4 KPERs FUNDING**

We support achieving a fully-funded public employees' retirement system within a reasonable period of time. Local governments have fully funded their share of the KPERs pool. The State should fully fund its portion of the employer contributions at the Actuarial Required Contribution (ARC) levels and at the required times. We do not support the elimination of \$99 million in delayed 2016 contributions and we would prefer a re-payment plan similar to the 2017 delayed contribution. While we would have preferred the state to make its 2016 and 2017 re-payment with interest immediately, we appreciate that the State Lawmakers passed HB2052 to begin

repaying the 2017 contributions in a series of twenty annual payments of \$6.4 million with the first re-payment received by the System in July 2017 and a second scheduled for July 2018. Additionally, we expect the state to honor their contribution commitment in future years and not delay or withhold payment of the 2017 contribution re-payment program. The system should accumulate sufficient assets during members' working lifetimes to pay all promised benefits when members retire. The actuarial levels of the local government assets need to be protected from the state shortfall. Additionally, we support current provisions as they relate to accumulated leave and other human resources policies to determine a retiree's benefit. Possible policy changes could have a negative impact on local government employee recruitment and retention, particularly in competitive employment markets. (Added in 2010. Updated in 2017, 2018, 2019)

## **2.5 COLLECTION OF COMPENSATING USE TAX ON REMOTE SALES**

Johnson County encourages the Kansas Legislature to pass legislation facilitating the collection of compensating use tax from purchases made from sellers (with no physical presence in a state) based on the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *South Dakota v. Wayfair*. Sales tax collected should be distributed using existing methods/formulas for the state and local governments. (Added in 2017. Updated in 2018)

## **2.6 EXPAND HOMESTEAD ACT AND SAFESR ELIGIBILITY**

Johnson County supports expanding the eligibility of the Homestead Act and SAFESR – Kansas Property Tax Relief for Low Income Seniors to provide property tax relief for those on fixed incomes.

## **2.7 MOTOR VEHICLE SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES**

Johnson County supports greater flexibility in the use of technology as a driver for automating and transforming the operation, new approaches to service delivery and appropriate funding at the local level for providing motor vehicle services. Johnson County specifically supports elimination of the requirement for County Treasurers to verify proof of insurance and requests the State to include decals with plates at the time of digital plate production. Johnson County also supports the Kansas County Treasurers Association legislative initiative to simplify and establish a flat fee structure that creates transparency for customers, increases fee revenue to fully support motor vehicle operations and increases delinquent fees for both new registrations and renewals. (Added in 2010. Updated in 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019)

## **Second Tier Issues**

### **2.8 TAX POLICY**

We support stable revenue sources and urge the Kansas Legislature to avoid applying any further exemptions to the ad valorem property tax base, including exceptions for specific business entities or the state/local sales tax base, as well as industry-specific special tax treatment through exemptions or property classification. The local tax burden has shifted too far to residential property taxes due to State policy changes. The County will continue to be engaged on matters at the Statehouse related to legislation impacting property taxes and the property valuation process. The County supports maintaining the current system of non-centralized county appraisers. We do not support changes in State taxation policy that would narrow the tax base or significantly reduce available funding for key joint State/County programs such as corrections, mental health, and public health. These changes would place the County at

a further competitive disadvantage with the state of Missouri. We do not support a sales tax on professional services. (Added in 2012. Updated in 2016)

## **2.9 STATUTORY PASS-THROUGH FUNDING**

We call for the preservation of local government revenues which pass through the State's treasury. These funds come from a longstanding partnership between local governments and the State and are generated via economic activity at the local level. Both alcoholic liquor tax funds and the local portion of motor fuel tax should not be withheld from local governments and siphoned into the State General Fund. The State's use of these local funding sources may benefit the State, but it will increase the local property tax burden to replace the lost revenue or reduce services. Local governments have had to cope with the Kansas Legislature not funding Local Ad Valorem Property Tax Reduction (LAVTRF), County City Revenue Sharing (CCRS) demand transfers, and the machinery and equipment property tax "slider" and should not be forced to further aid in balancing the State's budget. Since 1997, more than \$2.2 billion in formula demand transfers from the State to local governments have not been made. LAVTR dates back to the 1930s with the existing statutory framework being established in 1965. LAVTR represents the local share of certain cigarette revenue, stamp taxes and cereal malt beverages taxes that the state removed in exchange for the commitment to fund the LAVTR. CCRS was established in 1978 as part of an agreement between the State and local governments regarding a number of different taxes related to cigarette and liquor enforcement. (Added in 2010. Updated 2016, 2018)

## **2.10 MEDICAID RATE INCREASE**

Medicaid rates within the mental health system have not been increased or re-assessed since the "Mental Health Initiative 2000" in 2004. Johnson County 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 2018 actual costs. (Added 2019)

## **2.11 INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Johnson County supports efforts to fully fund the statewide Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver program and its waiting list which includes nearly 600 Johnson County citizens who have intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Furthermore, Johnson County supports developing an approach to establish ongoing IDD provider rate increase to help in building network capacity. Johnson County encourages and supports efforts by the State of Kansas to participate in federally approved financing plans for services. Johnson County supports the State's Employment First Policy with competitive and integrated employment being the first option considered when serving people with disabilities. Johnson County encourages the State to align the Employment First Policy with the various programs through which Kansans with disabilities receive supports and services. Johnson County encourages Kansas Rehabilitation Services to financially support Project Search, a program that has demonstrated success in Johnson County and throughout Kansas. Implementing additional workforce initiatives, such as a 1915i Medicaid waiver for employment services would provide additional flexibility for community service providers to assist people with disabilities obtain and maintain jobs in the community. (Added in 2007. Update in 2015, 2016, 2018)

## **2.12 ELECTION GUIDELINES**

Johnson County supports the legislature or Secretary of State establishing consistent election guidelines for counting votes in all 105 counties to provide confidence in the election process.

## **2.13 PREDICTABLE FEES FOR REGISTER OF DEEDS**

Johnson County supports legislation to establish “predictable fees” for the recording of documents in the office of the Register of Deeds that is revenue neutral. The proposed legislation will replace the current multiple fee schedule with 2 or 3 categories and a flat or “predictable fee” for each category. The implementation of predictable fees eliminates the need to count pages and calculate fees based on page type and volume. This schedule also provides continuity in all 105 County Register of Deed Offices as they record new and different types of documents. This change in fees will streamline the recording process for both the submitter and recorder. The legislation will also eliminate the \$125 Mortgage Cap and seeks a 10 point font requirement.

## **2.14 K-12 EDUCATION FINANCING**

Johnson County Government is supportive of the Kansas Legislature adequately and equitably funding primary and secondary education to a level that places Kansas among the leading states in support of a “world class” education. (Added in 2004)

## **STANDING POSITIONS**

### **Taxation, Finance, and Other Administrative Issues**

#### **3.1 SALES TAX EXEMPTION**

Johnson County supports the current law that exempts local government and public construction projects from sales tax. State imposed tax on current government purchases and projects will have a local effect: increased local property taxes. Purchases have to be made and construction must occur; imposition of a sales tax would increase the local tax burden to cover those added costs. This sales tax revenue does not help local government, but in fact, hurts our local economy and our residents who have to pay higher property taxes. Increased property (and sales taxes) ultimately reflects negatively on the state, particularly given our proximity to the state of Missouri. (Added in 2016)

#### **3.2 SALES TAX ON FOOD AND PHARMACEUTICALS**

Johnson County supports the state reviewing incremental reduction of sales tax on food and pharmaceuticals, while taking fair and full consideration of other state program funding needs.

#### **3.3 PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT ENTITIES**

Johnson County 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.

#### **3.4 MORTGAGE TITLE TRANSACTIONS**

Johnson County supports statutory amendments requiring the tracking of all land record mortgage instruments through proper public notification of assignments and releases as directed by KSA 58-2308. The recording of these documents must include an accurate paper trail to ensure a complete chain of title to protect the interests of the property owner and lending institution. (Added in 2012)

### **3.5 REMOVAL OF THE 5% MANDATE IN K.S.A. 79-1460**

The Johnson County Appraiser, along with other county appraisers, request the removal of this commercial valuation mandate. This mandate is unfair to the county and to other property owners because the property owner's recommendation of value is presumed correct unless the county provides a fee appraisal of the property. In the event, the property owner also provides a fee appraisal, it is presumed correct. This makes the valuation process unfair and inequitable, also likely unconstitutional. (Added in 2017)

### **3.6 REMOVAL OF THE SUMMARY OF REASONS REQUIREMENT IN K.S.A. 79-1448 AND AMEND THE AGRICULTURAL LEASE PROVISIONS**

This is a very costly, time-consuming process. Counties provide any and all data used in establishing a property's value upon request, at no cost to the property owner. We encourage this exchange of information because it helps resolve questions and appeals, while ensuring the appraiser's values are accurate. Most of the appeals that result in value reductions are a result of this two-way exchange of information between property owner and county. Mandating this is unnecessary and it only promotes additional misconceptions about the appraisal process.

The agricultural lease provisions unfairly allow a property owner to file a lease and gain agriculture use classification regardless of whether any agriculture use is actually occurring. The County is already mandated to verify agriculture use annually. (Added in 2017)

### **3.7 REPEAL OF K.S.A. 79-1496-INDEPENDENT APPRAISAL AFTER APPEAL**

This legislation is unconstitutional since it essentially caps valuation changes. In Johnson County alone, the valuation increases have ranged 3-6 percent for residential properties and 6-8 percent for commercial properties. Placing caps on valuations quickly causes inequities among individual properties, and cause many properties to pay tax burdens shifted to them as a result of the inequities. This would be unconstitutional since all properties are required to be at fair market value per the Kansas Constitution. (Added in 2017)

### **3.8 AMEND K.S.A. 79-1412a(c) TO ALLOW COUNTY APPRAISER TO REQUEST INFORMATION FROM A TAXPAYER**

During the appeals process, the County Appraiser should be able to request (1) independent recent fee appraisals; (2) fee appraisals done during the last twenty-four months; and (3) detailed income and expense information for commercial properties. Independent recent fee appraisals can be an excellent point of reference in valuation appeals. Many times, tax representatives have balked at providing recent appraisals done for mortgage finance purposes because they validate the county's valuation. The county provides any and all data used in valuations. It would be unfair to counties to be unable to request information, such as these fee appraisals. Fee appraisals done during the last 24 months or less can be a great source of information during the resolution of valuation appeals. The additional sales data, income and expense data, etc. can have a positive effect for counties and property owners when establishing accurate values. Detailed income and expense information is crucial to any appraiser (mass or fee) when establishing accurate values for commercial properties. In fact, Kansas statutes say county appraisers are supposed to use the income approach as the primary/preferred valuation method, if possible. This information is considered confidential and not an open record according to Kansas statutes. (Added in 2017)

### **3.9 COMMERCIAL VALUATION METHODS**

Johnson County opposes any legislation based on hypothetical lease valuations or the dark store theory, which suggests that occupied big-box stores 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. This would be unconstitutional since all properties are required to be assessed at fair market value. (Added in 2018, Updated 2019)

### **3.10 LOCAL OPTION FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ACT**

Johnson County supports the continuation of local option provisions in the Public Employer-Employee Relations Act (PEERA). Local governments should remain empowered to decide collective bargaining issues based upon local conditions, circumstances, needs, values, and the desires of local taxpayers. (Added in 2000)

### **3.11 KANSAS OPEN RECORDS AND OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

Johnson County believes that an open government is essential to building public confidence. We support the retention of the limited exceptions in the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) and the permitted subject matters for executive sessions contained in Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) currently found in the law. Additionally, Johnson County opposes statutory caps for copying charges and supports local control for such decisions. (Added in 2004. Updated in 2018)

### **3.12 OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS ON INTERNET**

Johnson County supports amending current statutes to allow counties the option of publishing required notices on the official County website in lieu of publication in a newspaper. (Added in 2012)

### **3.13 LEGISLATIVE PARTICIPATION**

We support local officials and their representatives' ability to freely participate in the legislative process through advocacy and education on issues affecting local governments. Local officials, representing their citizens and taxpayers, must retain the authority to make decisions regarding membership in organizations and to participate in the legislative process through advocacy without cumbersome reporting requirements. (Added in 2014)

### **3.14 NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS**

Johnson County supports continuing local elections on a nonpartisan basis. Vacancies in nonpartisan elected positions should be filled through nonpartisan means. The Johnson County Charter, approved by voters in 2000 and reviewed by a Charter Commission in 2011, specifically looked at the issue of partisan elections and determined that they were not in the best interest of Johnson County citizens. This is an issue that is best determined by the citizens and elected officials of each jurisdiction. (Added in 2014)

### **3.15 LOCAL CONTROL OF RIGHT OF WAY**

2016 Legislation granting the automatic placement of cell towers in city and county owned right of way, should be repealed. Regulation of the placement of cell towers should be subject to reasonable local zoning processes which review important community values such as safety and neighborhood concerns. (Added in 2017)

### **3.16 DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE STATE OF KANSAS**

We strongly encourage the State of Kansas to develop a comprehensive plan to foster and enhance the State's fledgling economy. (Added in 2017. Updated in 2019)

### **3.17 PUBLIC SAFETY CODES**

We encourage the Legislature to clarify that any structure used for events or activities related to Agritourism will meet some acceptable standard of public safety codes set forth by the County. (Added in 2018)

### **3.18 CONSOLIDATED FIRE DISTRICT NO 2 BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Amend K.S.A. 19-3614a to change the current requirement for a 7-member governing board for Consolidated Fire District No. 2 to a governing board consisting of at least 5, but not more than 7, members, appointed by the board of county commissioners of Johnson county.

### **3.19 REPEAL OF THE PROPERTY TAX LID**

We support local elected officials have the ability to make taxing and spending decisions and urge the repeal of the property tax lid legislation passed during the 2015 Session and revised in the 2016 Session. We believe those elected to manage the affairs of cities and counties can be most responsive to the local taxpayers and make budget and tax decisions that are most reflective of the community's needs and financial interests. We note that these same taxing and spending limits on cities and counties were not placed on state government. State government should abide by the same taxing and spending decisions as they impose upon cities and counties. Absent its full repeal, the state-imposed tax lid on local governments should be modified to require a public vote based on a protest petition provision.

## **Infrastructure and Environment**

### **3.20 SOLID WASTE**

Home to the largest regional landfill in Kansas, Johnson County supports a regional approach to landfill management and waste reduction methods. Johnson County also supports state legislation that ensures counties and cities will receive their fair share of landfill tonnage fee revenue to support local waste reduction projects. (Added in 2006)

### **3.21 WASTEWATER DISCHARGE LIMITS**

Johnson County recognizes that clean and safe water resources are critical to the environment, public health, safety, and recreation. The County supports sustainable water quality standards that are based upon the latest available scientific information and a public decision-making process related to water quality standards and use designations when determining wastewater discharge limits. (Added in 2006)

### **3.22 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENERGY CONSERVATION**

Johnson County supports state efforts to (1) develop and implement cost-effective, scientifically-based energy and environmental plans, including plans to address greenhouse gas emissions, (2) stimulate investment in energy conservation and alternative energy technology (3) consider economic, social and natural resource impacts when making decisions, and (4) provide local governments flexibility and resources to meet the community's energy and environmental goals. (Added in 2010)



### **3.23 ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES**

Johnson County supports the use of alternative and renewable energy sources and encourages the Kansas Legislature to provide incentives for such energy sources that protect air quality and reduce dependence on oil. (Added in 2002)

### **3.24 EMINENT DOMAIN**

Johnson County supports current law regarding the use of eminent domain by local units of government. The County believes that restrictions upon the purpose and/or the future transfers of title be left to the local governing body. Johnson County has not used and has no intention of using eminent domain for economic development purposes, but only for utilities and public infrastructure improvements. (Added in 2005)

### **3.25 KANSAS AVIATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Johnson County supports the Kansas Department of Transportation Kansas Aviation Improvement Program (KAIP) which is part of the Comprehensive Transportation Program. This program has been a useful tool supporting infrastructure and technology improvements at New Century AirCenter and Executive Airport. The aviation industry has over a \$20 billion economic impact in the state with more than \$200M in total output only from the two Johnson County Airports. A common linkage has been expressed between increased aviation infrastructure investment and job growth by Kansas' top industry manufacturers. New Century AirCenter has potential to be an exceptional case study to demonstrate that important linkage. We encourage greater support above the historic \$5M state appropriation for this matching grant program. (Added in 2018, Updated in 2019)

## **Human Services**

### **3.26 STATE AID PROGRAMS**

As a local safety net provider for vulnerable residents, Johnson County supports the State fully funding all state-mandated human service programs at levels that reflect the actual cost of services. (Added in 2005)

### **3.27 AGING SERVICES**

Johnson County supports the continued full funding of the Senior Care Act (SCA) Funds for Area Agencies on Aging. These services are essential to keep the aging population out of the Medicaid Nursing Home Program and are cost effective for the state and federal funding sources that support the frail and elderly population. By example, it costs on average \$200 per month to serve someone on the SCA program compared to \$6,000 per month to serve the same person in a Medicaid facility bed. (Added in 2015. Updated in 2018)

### **3.28 ADEQUATE STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL RESOURCES**

We support adequate state psychiatric hospital funding and resources to restore Osawatomie State Hospital (OSH) to a capacity of 206 beds as well as have all beds recertified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and lift the State imposed moratorium on admissions. We Oppose privatization of the State Mental Health Hospital safety-net to a "for-profit" entity. (Added in 2003. Updated in 2007, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2019)

### **3. 29 REGIONAL CRISIS STABILIZATION UNITS FOR ADULTS**

We support continued state funding for Rainbow Services Inc. (RSI) and expanded funding for further establishments of public/private partnerships for psychiatric inpatient hospital beds as well as the creation of regional Crisis Stabilization Units to help alleviate the demand on the state hospital system.

### **3.30 JUVENILE CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTERS (JCIC)**

Johnson County supports the provision of funding to provide a single point of triage with communities to provide crisis assessment, short-term observation, treatment, case planning, and referral in an effort to prevent out-of-home placements and provide an opportunity to connect with a young person (and their family) earlier, to provide the right level of care, resulting in children realizing their potential.

The goals of this initiative include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Decrease admissions to inpatient psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs) for juveniles who could be stabilized in the community in ten (10) days or less by connecting them and their families to services and resources in their community.
2. Increase 24-hour community diversion options for youth with mental health, substance use, and/or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.
3. Increase 24-hour community options for youths who are at risk of out-of-home placement and to preserve the family (this is inclusive of foster home placements). (Added in 2019)

### **3.31 FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED**

Johnson County supports the restoration of state funds to the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services budget, and opposes any further reduction to community mental health centers (CMHC) grant funding. While State funding slightly increased in (FY) 2018, from FY 2007-2014, state funding to CMHC's has been reduced significantly, with Johnson County losing a cumulative \$1.2 million during that time. As a result of these reductions as well as other policy decisions, Johnson County spent over \$7 million on charitable care for the uninsured and underinsured from July 2016 to June 2017. (Added in 2018)

### **3.32 HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES (HCBS) IN THE KANCARE PROGRAM**

As the KanCare program enters its second version, of the demonstration project and the State of Kansas seeks federal approval of the next application, Johnson County urges the State to evaluate the success of HCBS programs in KanCare and determine if the KanCare program is well suited for continuation of overseeing HCBS programs. The KanCare program was created with a commitment to people with IDD and their families that their relationship with their case managers would remain unchanged. That promise should continue in this next version of KanCare. (Added in 2017. Updated in 2018, 2019)

### **3.33 INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES & MENTAL HEALTH**

Johnson County supports funding to address the lack of acute community options for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and mental illness who are experiencing a crisis situation. Funding should also be dedicated to training both the IDD and mental health systems to develop greater community capacity at the direct staff level as well.

### **3.34 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS (CDDOs)/COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS (CMHCs)**

Johnson County supports Kansas law designating CDDOs and CMHCs by boards of county commissioners. Determination of the appropriate structure for services to Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities or mental health needs should be determined locally or regionally. The KanCare Medicaid-managed care contracts with the privatized managed care companies must continue to adhere to the CDDO and CMHC structures rooted in state statutes. (Added in 2004).

### **3.35 LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS**

Johnson County strongly supports increased state funding of local health departments that have many mandated, but unfunded functions. Kansas lags behind public health investments nationwide with a current ranking of 47<sup>th</sup> in spending per capita at \$12.40. The state's ranking for health status has dropped from 12 in 1990 to 25 in 2017 as reported by America's Health Rankings. State funding is needed, particularly around prevention and control of communicable disease, which negatively impacts quality of life and increasingly drives up the overall cost of health care for all Kansans. Driving the expanding rates of chronic disease is the ever-escalating number of overweight and obese Kansans (30% obesity rate of adults). Investment in Public Health prevention activities and implementation of system, environmental and policy changes that support healthy choices are critical to stopping the rate of increase in obesity and improving the overall health of the population.

Control of communicable disease is a bedrock function of public health and the reduction of vaccine-preventable diseases is among the greatest achievements of public health. That progress must be sustained by protecting the current requirements for childhood immunizations. Additionally, Johnson County urges the Kansas Legislature to ensure that appropriate federal funds directed at containing and treating communicable disease outbreaks reach local health departments. Local health departments are partners with the state in the responsibilities and costs associated with responding to such outbreaks. (Added in 2011. Updated in 2015, 2018, 2019)

### **3.36 KANSAS K-TRACS SYSTEM**

The Kansas K-TRACS system is a critical resource in the ongoing fight to reduce the number of overdose deaths due to opioid use/abuse. As Kansas's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, K-TRACS is used by physicians and pharmacists to identify potential misuse or overuse of controlled substances, including opioid products. Funding of K-TRACS is an important investment for the state and Johnson County supports all efforts to assure continuation of this vital tool in the fight against opioid addiction and overdose. (Added in 2019)

### **3.37 CHILDCARE REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES**

Johnson County supports legislation introduced by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) which would affect Johnson County Department of Health and Environment's (JCDHE) child care regulatory responsibilities. These responsibilities and duties are mandated through contractual agreement with KDHE. KDHE is currently prioritizing state legislative priorities for child care licensing and this potential legislation may be introduced in the next legislative session. Historically, JCDHE has provided testimony on proposed legislation that could alter child care regulations. (Added in 2019)

### **3.38 REGISTERED DENTAL THERAPIST**

Access to dental care continues to be a challenge for low-income Kansans, including those in Johnson County. In its recent Community Health Assessment, 1 in 10 people in Johnson County said they had a problem getting healthcare for themselves or a family member in the last 12 months, and of those 32 percent had difficulty accessing dental care. Passage of the Registered Dental Therapist legislation will increase access to quality, cost-effective dental care for Kansas families. (Added in 2017)

## **Education**

### **3.39 INCREASED INVESTMENT IN EARLY LEARNING**

Johnson County supports expanding and strengthening proven effective early learning programs, such as Head Start, Parents as Teachers and all-day kindergarten, since early childhood is a critical time to impact school and life-long success for children age 0 to 5. (Added in 2008)

### **3.40 STUDENT DATA PRIVACY ACT**

Johnson County supports changes to the Student Data Privacy Act to exempt surveys that do not collect personally identifiable information. The act, passed in 2014, jeopardizes the viability of the Kansas Communities that Care (KCTC) student survey. The KCTC survey does not collect personally identifiable information, but the requirement under the law of obtaining parental consent puts the rate of participation of the survey at risk. The survey provides vital data needed for monitoring, evaluating and prevention planning vital to youth health and safety, as well as tracking longitudinal trends across the County. It provides data needed by the County in order to apply for community grants that include Office of National Drug Control Policy grants, Department of Justice grants, and Drug Free Communities. In order to not put the future of prevention planning at risk, Johnson County supports changes to the Student Privacy Act that exempt surveys such as the KCTC that do not collect personally identifiable information. (Added in 2015)

## **Public Safety**

### **3.41 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS/CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Johnson County recognizes the value of a state and local partnership that strives to promote public safety through the use of highly structured supervision being offered by community corrections programs.

With the passage of Senate Bill 367 in the 2016 Legislature, Johnson County has been working with all of its stakeholders who work with youth in our community to ensure that the intent of the bill is realized with our local youth. Section 13 (now codified as K.S.A. 75-52, 164) states that state funds saved as realized by the reduction in out-of-home placements in the state shall be utilized to support community programming for youth as alternatives to out-of-home placements in an amount of up to \$8 million. Johnson County supports the use of the savings for community programming and encourages the Kansas Legislature to hold to the promise that was made for the use of these funds in Senate Bill 367 as the savings increase in future years. The Kansas Department of Corrections needs to be very transparent with the amount of funds saved and how those funds are being utilized. In order to help youth remain in their homes in the community, there will need to be much community support and programming. Effective, evidence-based

prevention programming aids in the development of competencies that enable children and their families to become responsible and productive members of the community and helps avoid further penetration into the criminal justice system.

Johnson County supports the expansion of behavioral health programs for adult community corrections populations and urges the continuation of state funding to reduce recidivism, prevent the return of intensive supervision probation offenders to prison beds at a higher cost, and help to alleviate overcrowding of the state prison system.

Johnson County also supports the efforts of the District Court, District Attorney and County Corrections in local jurisdictions across Kansas to pursue pretrial supervision of defendants by deploying validated risk assessment tools to guide the release-and-detention processes. The purpose is to ensure that courts have the best information available regarding bail decisions and to more accurately assess which defendants may represent a greater risk of new criminal charges or failure to appear for future court hearings. Pre-trial supervision represents a viable alternative to protect the public while also reducing the cost of incarceration for defendants charged with low-level offenses and presumed to be probation-eligible, if convicted. (Added in 2001. Updated in 2006, 2015, 2016, 2018)

### **3.42 COURT ADMINISTRATION**

Johnson County supports the repeal of one judge, one county, to reflect Kansas' population distribution. The efficient administration of justice is required to protect the rights of all our citizens.

Johnson County also supports an adequate budget for the Office of Judicial Administration to fully execute the duties of the judiciary. Constant turnover and diminished labor pools create delays in the administration of justice, including hearings for those who may be held in county jails, which then impacts county budgets. Additionally, Johnson County supports market rate compensation for judicial employees and judges. (Added in 2007. Updated in 2009, 2015, 2017, 2018)

### **3.43 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT FUNDING**

Johnson County supports continued funding from Kansas State General Funds (SGF) for domestic violence and sexual assault agencies in Kansas, including SAFEHOME. SAFEHOME was awarded \$338,266 in SGF funding for the 2017-2018 grant period, and their SGF award for 2018-2019 decreased to \$325,447. The SGF funds provide support for critical public safety services provided by SAFEHOME, and the funds are required for federal matching awards. (Added in 2018. Updated 2019)