



## 2024 Legislative Program

This Legislative Program is based on the principle the State Legislature and County Governments are partners in the effort to make Kansas and its communities great places for people to live, work and play.

Kansas residents will be better served if the traditional partnership between local governments and the state government is restored and we all once again work with each other instead of against each other.

The Kansas County Commissioners Association supports leaving local decisions to locally elected officials as much as possible.

### **Property Tax**

**LAVTR:** The Kansas County Commissioners Association supports restoring the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund as required by the original law passed many decades ago. Under that contract LAVTR dollars are local sales tax dollars collected by the state with the promise of returning a share to help fund county government services.

**Property Tax Relief:** The KCCA supports a cooperative partnership with the State Legislature to reduce property taxes. In addition to restarting the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund (LAVTR), again distributing dollars from the City-County Revenue Sharing plan and Special City-County Highway Fund, as required by State law, would help relieve the growing tax burden on property owners.

**Property Valuations:** KCCA supports efforts to make the property valuation and taxation system more stable, predictable, fair and equitable. KCCA supports taxation that reflects the services furnished and funded by counties and takes into consideration economic realities and Constitutional fair market value for non-agricultural property.

**Property Tax Procedures:** The KCCA supports correcting the burdensome and costly procedures in the revenue neutral rate property tax disclosure process. While KCCA supports transparency measures in the way budgets are built and tax rates are set, those measures should not add additional costs to taxpayers. In the goal of full transparency, the KCCA calls for the requirements of the revenue neutral tax rate process to be followed by all taxing entities, including the state, school districts, community colleges, and special districts.

### **Healthcare**

**Medicaid Expansion:** Forty states and the District of Columbia have expanded Medicaid coverage to provide health insurance to the working poor and others who can't afford adequate healthcare. The KCCA strongly supports expansion of the Kansas Medicaid program to make healthcare coverage

possible for tens of thousands of at-risk Kansans and to increase support for rural hospitals and municipal emergency services.

**Mental Health and Jails:** KCCA supports greater efforts to increase accessible treatment to address mental health and substance-use disorders to reduce the number of individuals with mental or behavioral issues inappropriately incarcerated in county jails. KCCA supports the state's continued responsibility as the primary care provider for mentally-ill citizens.

### **County Governance Issues**

**Home Rule:** The KCCA supports Home Rule and Local Control. Elected city and county officials should be able to make decisions for their communities and the citizens they serve without legislative interference.

**Elections:** The KCCA believes secure elections and election integrity are essential to our democracy. However, we are concerned about legislation which makes voting harder for citizens who are legally eligible to vote or imposes costly and burdensome regulations on county election officials.

**Government Competition:** County governments should continue to keep local control over services provided to residents and businesses without punitive tax policies imposed by the Legislature.

**Motor Vehicle Fees:** The KCCA supports the proposal by Kansas County Treasurers to streamline the fees charged for titling/renewing car registrations.

**Public Property and Rights-of-Way:** The KCCA supports the ability of counties to control and manage public rights-of-way and to impose use fees on entities given the privilege of using public property for their business or personal purposes.

**Renewable Energy:** The KCCA supports the expansion of renewable energy technologies. Decisions about placement and appropriate regulation of wind turbines and solar farms should be left to County Commissioners and the citizens they represent.

**Medical Marijuana:** If the Kansas Legislature decides to make the sale and use of marijuana legal for medical or recreational purposes, it should also allow county governments to collect local sales or excise taxes on marijuana sales made in their jurisdictions.

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