

Prairie Village Elected Officials

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**City of Prairie Village
Johnson County**



2013 Legislative Priorities

State and local government are partners providing numerous governmental services that are funded and made available to citizens. Local units of government are closest to the citizens and very closely represent the interests of citizens in the communities in which they live. The partnership depends upon stable funding, efficient use of citizens resources, and responsiveness at the city and county level. We support respect and preservation of local authority, maintenance of local control of local revenue and spending, and oppose the devolution of State duties to local units of government without planning, time, and resources. The Johnson County Government and Cities advocate on the following issues in the interests of our elected representatives and on behalf of the citizens who live in our county and cities.

TAX POLICY

We oppose any further exemptions to the ad valorem property tax base or the state/local sales tax base. We support a thorough and comprehensive review of all exemptions and repeal of those exemptions that would not merit a state appropriation. Exemptions only shift the burden of financing vital services to an increasingly narrow tax base. Additionally, we do not support changes in State taxation policy that would significantly reduce available funding for key programs, put Kansas counties and cities at a competitive sales tax disadvantage with Missouri, or impose a sales tax on professional services.

KPERS FUNDING

We support achieving a fully-funded public employee's retirement system within a reasonable period of time. The State should fully fund its portion of the employer contributions, and the local KPERS system should be separated from the state and school retirement system. The system should accumulate sufficient assets during members' working lifetimes to pay all promised benefits when members retire.

STATUTORY PASS-THROUGH FUNDING

We call for the preservation of local government revenues which pass through the State of Kansas' 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 fuels taxes should not be withheld from local governments and siphoned into the State General Fund. Local governments in recent years have had to cope with the legislature not funding LAVTRF demand transfers and the machinery & equipment property tax "slider" and should not be forced to further aid in balancing the State's budget.

MAINTAIN LOCAL CONTROL OF REVENUE AND SPENDING

Recognizing that communities are best served and citizens' values and standards are best reflected when local control of taxing and spending is controlled by local voters and taxpayers, we oppose any state imposition of tax or spending lids which place limits on how much revenue a local government can raise or spend from year to year.

KANSAS OPEN RECORDS AND OPEN MEETINGS ACT

We believe that an open government is essential to building public confidence. We support the retention of the exceptions in the Kansas Open Records Act and the permitted subject matters for executive sessions contained in the Open Meetings Act currently found in the law.

COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Recognizing it is critical to maintain Kansas infrastructure, we urge the Legislature to follow through on the commitments in the 2010 transportation plan. We recognize the current funding level is far from adequate to address ongoing statewide infrastructure funding needs. As such, it should be allocated strategically to ensure there is an identifiable long-term return on investment for the entire state. Investing in growth areas is critical to economic vitality and job creation.