

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Sedgwick County
2018



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Updated February 1, 2018



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Sedgwick County...
working for you

Key Initiatives:

1 Urban Area Designation.

Propose that Sedgwick County be declared an “urban area” pursuant to the Kansas Constitution, Article 2, Section 17.

2 Election Commissioner.

a) Post-election audit. Support legislation that permits, under certain circumstances, the audits of election results.

b) Change in the budget approval process and application of county policies to the Election Commissioner. Bring the budget authority from the Election Commissioner under control of the Board of County Commissioners as well as having Human Resources and personnel policies apply to the Election Commissioner’s Office.

c) The statutes authorizing mail-in ballots should be reviewed to make clear that voters using mail ballots can obtain assistance in marking their ballots and returning them to the election officer. The right of every voter to cast a vote, and have that vote count, should be protected in a way that also prohibits voter fraud.

3 Adequate support of mental health services.

a) The state hospital (Osawatomie State Hospital) has been consistently over census over the past few years for mental health admissions and there has been a moratorium on some admissions since 2015. Sedgwick County encourages the state to define the future role of the state hospital system, develop a system of regional state-operated inpatient units and insure adequate reimbursement for inpatient units.

b) Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) should provide support and sustained funding for local crisis stabilization services that can serve as alternatives to inpatient stays for some individuals.

c) Support policy change to suspend rather than terminate Medicaid eligibility upon incarceration. Suspension of, not termination of, Medicaid eligibility when an individual is incarcerated in a county facility or state prison will result in assuring the continuity of care and better transitions back to the community.

4 Economic Development.

a) Support workforce training, development and recruitment programs that help fill the advanced manufacturing workforce pipeline.

b) Support “mega deal” funds which would support manufacturing projects with at least one billion dollars in investment and 1,000 employees.

c) Encourage deregulation efforts to make Kansas more friendly to business expansion and growth.

d) Promote job creation through the support of educational programs designed to enhance and attract workforce.

5 Taxes.

Sedgwick County supports legislation that would require voter approval for all state tax increases and prohibit retroactive tax increases.

Secondary Initiatives for consideration (by department):

County Treasurer

- Proposed cancellation of taxes when amount due is less than \$10.
- Change to charge the debtor for the attorney fees on personal property tax collections.

Division of Corrections

- Change to pre-trial detention, would allow violations of pre-trial release to result in detention at the request of a Pre-trial Services Supervision Officer.

Division of Finance

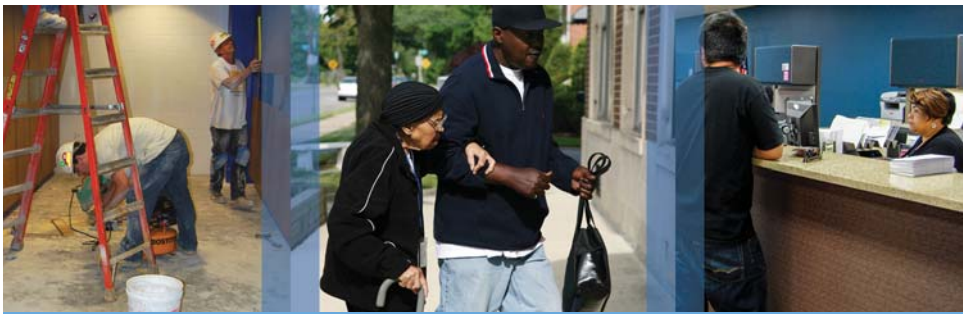
- Special fund to manage City-County code operations. There is current law in place to allow the creation of such fund however it has never been done. The issue is that revenues created by Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department (MABCD) may only be used for MABCD purposes. Finance staff would like to have a special fund set up to manage those funds but this must be done under state law.

Division on Aging

- Support of the Senior Care Act (SCA) program. State funded Senior Care Act services help keep people in their homes. The SCA provides basic care such as attendant care, homemaker, case management and respite care. These services are essential if Kansans are to stay in their communities, keep buying local goods and avoid or delay more costly services—such as nursing facility care or HCBS Frail Elderly services. The SCA program helps keep people off of Medicaid (KanCare). Without funding for SCA services, seniors will do without services or apply for Medicaid (KanCare). The FE waiver costs the State of Kansas much more than SCA monthly costs. Once seniors enter nursing facilities, most spend down their resources and become Medicaid (KanCare) eligible within two years. The cost difference is \$200 per month for SCA services compared to about \$3,000 per month for care in a facility.

Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department (MABCD)

- Legislation to clarify that municipalities' governing bodies may adopt their own electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and fuel gas codes without the need for review and possible denial by the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office.





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