

ECONOMY

Economic Development

*See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report
for an overview of Economic Development*

Trends and Key Issues

1. Overall job growth and employment opportunities
2. Regional focus on multi-modal transit locations to foster economic development
3. Surviving and easing out of the recession better than other areas in the region
4. Sustainability efforts underway to improve the performance of the county and increase the quality of life for residents

Does the list at the left reflect the range of issues to be addressed specific to this topic?

Please note any comments below.

Are there any additional issues to be added?

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ECONOMY

Economic Development

*See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report
for an overview of Economic Development*

Challenges and Opportunities

1. With so many players, what is Johnson County's Role?
2. What policies and actions should the County implement to promote their role in economic development and regional competitiveness?
3. Does the regional vision of a sustainable/green, transportation, and health focused economy offer opportunities for Johnson County?

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ECONOMY

Financing and Taxation

See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report for an overview of Financing and Taxation

Trends and Key Issues

1. Johnson County employs an advanced budgeting process and does a good job of reporting finances to residents
2. Ad valorem (property) taxes are the lowest of all counties in Kansas and contribute 27% of the County's total revenue
3. Recent increase in sales tax rate to 2.225%
4. Rising demand for county services with an increasing population
5. Continued desire to maintain the low tax rate while continuing to provide exceptional services to the community
6. Decline in property valuations and new building starts – meaning a decrease in revenue

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ECONOMY

Financing and Taxation

*See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report
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Challenges and Opportunities

1. Are changes needed to the current balance of fiscal policies and service delivery?

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COMMUNITY

Social, Health, and Human Services

See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report for an overview of Social, Health, and Human Services

Trends and Key Issues

1. Johnson County population is forecasted to reach 750,000 people by 2030
2. Rise in senior population—individuals over 65 will reach nearly 130,000 by 2030
3. National trends such as increasing poverty in the suburbs, “financial squeeze” on the middle class, and unequal wage distribution have affected Johnson County
4. Growing diversity of the population
5. Dispersed population growth
6. Number of residents paying more than 35% of their income for housing is on the rise – indicating the need for affordable housing
7. Obesity and chronic disease are on the rise
8. Access to health care is an increasing problem
9. Need for developmental services exceeds current availability of services

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COMMUNITY

Social, Health, and Human Services

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Challenges and Opportunities

1. What efforts should be made on the part of the County, local governments, and nonprofit organizations to plan for and adapt to the impacts of changing demographics?
2. How can the County work with its local government and nonprofit partners to help meet the needs of its growing vulnerable, low income population?
3. How do these social and human services trends relate to other planning issues, such as transportation, land use patterns, and the fiscal ability to provide services?

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COMMUNITY

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report for an overview of Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Trends and Key Issues

1. Crime rates in Johnson County are lower than other counties in Kansas possibly due to a higher law enforcement staff ratio
2. Criminal populations were increasing, but have since stabilized, allowing proposed jail expansion plans to be deferred
3. Alternative criminal justice programs are being tested to further reduce pressure on existing facilities and reduce recidivism
4. Disaster readiness is a constant task for the County, especially with a growing population
5. Opportunities to increase the efficiency of fire service in rural parts of the County through consolidation are being explored
6. Demand for emergency services is projected to continue to increase

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COMMUNITY

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

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Challenges and Opportunities

1. Looking at crime prevention solely as a matter of capacity in the jails can be counterproductive. Are the alternative programs underway effective? What additional steps should be taken to reduce crime rates and rehabilitate criminals back into society in a way that reduces repeat offences?
2. What role do criminal justice/public safety issues and topics overlap with quality of life issues?
3. What steps should be taken to help balance increasing demand for public safety services (fire, EMS, etc.) with budget constraints?

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**COMMUNITY
Education**

*See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report
for an overview of Education*

Trends and Key Issues

1. School districts established by the state allow individual districts to participate in long-range strategic planning
2. Increasing economically disadvantaged enrollment
3. Funding sources for school have fluctuated over the last several years
4. Intergovernmental coordination is necessary between the school districts and local governments

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**COMMUNITY
Education**

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Challenges and Opportunities

1. How can the School Districts and County most efficiently prepare for and fund the future development of new schools?
2. What is the best way to foster good coordination and support between communities/municipalities, County, and school districts?
3. How should transportation, land use and school planning be coordinated?
4. What priority should educational excellence have in the County's vision for the future?

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COMMUNITY

Culture, Arts, and Humanities

See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report for an overview of Culture, Arts, and Humanities

Trends and Key Issues

1. Libraries are a source of pride
2. Johnson County Museum is responsible for the stewardship of local history and unique cultural assets as well as the County's historic landmarks and sites
3. Museum is in the planning states to become a National Museum of Suburban History
4. The Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund provides funding to local cultural efforts
5. The Arts Council of Johnson County enhances quality of life through strengthening the arts
6. Other organizations participate in local historic and cultural preservation and interpretation activities

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COMMUNITY

Culture, Arts, and Humanities

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Challenges and Opportunities

1. What role should the County government play in culture, arts, and humanities in the future? How important are these issues as a function of County government?
2. How are these amenities maintained and what does their presence contribute to the community as a whole?

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COMMUNITY Parks and Recreation

*See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report
for an overview of Parks and Recreation*

Trends and Key Issues

1. The Park District operates, maintains, and polices 9 developed parks, 4 future parks sites, a streamway parks system, and a number of nature and recreation facilities
2. The “green” network creates connection through the park system
3. The park acreage ratio is currently low but is targeted to reach 22-acres per thousand established by national standards and approved in MAP 2020
4. Desire to maintain the exceptional levels of service currently enjoyed at the population grows
5. Need to identify the role that land resource management can play in a sustainable future

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COMMUNITY
Parks and Recreation

*See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report
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Challenges and Opportunities

1. How important are parks as a quality of life amenity?
2. How can investments in parks keep up with rising demands in a time of declining revenues?

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BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Land Use

See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report for an overview of Land Use

Trends and Key Issues

1. Growth projections remain strong despite a slight decline in residential permits in 2009—households are projected to increase by 38 percent between 2010 and 2030.
2. Household growth in unincorporated areas of the County is projected to be nearly 55 percent during the same time. Some of this growth attributed to planned Sunflower army ammunition plant redevelopment and Intermodal Center.
3. Regional growth alternatives targeting “adaptive land use” –focused on infill and redevelopment and strategic transit investments
4. Recent corridor studies in NE areas of the County (Vision Metcalf) are consistent with adaptive land use alternative

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BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Land Use

*See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report
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Challenges and Opportunities

1. How will the region's ongoing discussions related to adaptive land use affect this vision?
2. How will planned growth in Southwest Johnson County and in the County's incorporated cities affect this vision?
3. Are current policies related to sewer policies (see infrastructure section) and annexation practices effective in helping to implement this vision?

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BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Transportation

See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report for an overview of Transportation

Trends and Key Issues

1. Public transportation is limited in many areas of the County and travel generally requires a car.
2. Increasing the range of transportation choices available in the County is a key goal
3. Funding is limited, however, a recent TIGER grant will improve transit infrastructure along Metcalf Avenue and Shawnee Mission Parkway
4. As population and congestion increases, multi-modal transportation will become increasingly important to maintain connections within the region
5. Integration of land use and transportation decisions will be critical
6. Consensus on future roadway connections through rural areas of the County has yet to be reached

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BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Transportation

*See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report
for an overview of Transportation*

Challenges and Opportunities

1. How can future transit improvements in the region be expanded in a way that is cost-effective and balanced with the benefit received?
2. Should a new roadway connection be established through Southwest Johnson County in light of planned growth and employment in this area?
3. Should additional steps be taken to ensure that future land use and transportation decisions are aligned with the County's vision?

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BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
Other Infrastructure

*See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report
for an overview of Other Infrastructure*

Trends and Key Issues

1. Sewer expansion policies are not always consistent with market demand
2. Landfill is scheduled to reach capacity by 2027—numerous efforts underway to reduce solid waste and promote more sustainable practices

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BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Other Infrastructure

*See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report
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Challenges and Opportunities

1. What role should sanitary sewer service play as a growth management tool?
2. How can the County and the municipalities more effectively coordinate planning relative to infrastructure service?
3. Can the Stormwater Management Program be a template for other successful collaborations between the County and the municipalities?
4. Are additional waste reduction efforts needed to address the issue of future landfill capacity?

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BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Natural Resources and Environment

*See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report
for an overview of Natural Resources and Environment*

Trends and Key Issues

1. Numerous efforts underway to protecting natural resources and the environment in the County and region as a key quality of life issue
2. County's sustainability goals also support protection of natural resources and the environment through increasing community awareness and participation

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BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Natural Resources and Environment

*See the Draft Johnson County Snapshot Report
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Challenges and Opportunities

1. Are current efforts related to the protection of natural resources and the environment sufficient?
2. Are there other initiatives that should be considered?
3. How can Johnson County increase awareness and encourage participation in its sustainability initiatives within the community?

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