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JOHNSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
STATE OF KANSAS

**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release:** September 17, 2009

**Contact:** Annabeth Surbaugh, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, at (913) 715-0500  
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## **Johnson County establishes advisory committee to envision county through 2030**

OLATHE, KS (Johnson County Square) —During its regular session on Thursday, September 17, the Johnson County Board of Commissioners formally established the Johnson County Citizens Visioning Committee, breathing life into a citizens advisory committee charged with developing a future vision for the community through the year 2030.

The Board's action not only established the committee, but also approved, by acclamation, a roster of 37 members representing stakeholder groups from throughout Johnson County. The creation of the new Visioning Committee was first proposed by Commission Chairman Annabeth Surbaugh during her 2009 State of the County Address on March 31.

"I believe that now is the time for a new Citizens Visioning Committee because of the many challenges facing our community," Surbaugh said. "These include opportunities associated with new economic opportunity; the need to develop the workforce of the future; the requirement to plan for growth while responding to the needs of an increasingly diverse and aging population; the critical need for mobility and public transit; and a heightened awareness of environmental impacts and sustainable solutions."

Commissioners gave the green light to Surbaugh's proposal in June, which opened a two-month recruitment period. Surbaugh also worked with the County Manager's Office on developing a budget proposal and request for proposals for professional services, all of which are aimed at supporting the committee's operation over an 18-24 month timeframe.

The roster of nominations approved by the Board of Commissioners includes representatives of large and small cities, the unincorporated areas, chambers of commerce, education, residential and commercial development, utilities, social services, health care, and the judiciary. In addition to the 29 seats for specific stakeholder groups, the committee includes eight district seats nominated by the six District County Commissioners, the District Attorney, and the Sheriff.

"Johnson County's number one advantage is that we have so many citizens who are willing to put their proverbial blood, sweat, and tears into making this a better community," Surbaugh said. "We're very fortunate to have such a diverse group of recognized leaders—all representing different aspects of Johnson County—who are willing to devote their time and talents to this endeavor."

Under the terms of the enabling resolution, the Visioning Committee is charged with ensuring a broad-based, inclusive process that incorporates and respects the voices of the full community.

"We want to make sure that citizens have ample opportunity to provide their input into what they would like to see for the future of this community, through multiple channels," County Manager Hannes Zacharias said. "To me, the more people who are engaged in this process, the more validity it has in the end with respect to any future plans we make as a community."

The Visioning Committee is required to submit a final report to the Board of County Commissioners that identifies specific goals to be achieved by the year 2030, along with associated strategies and action plans.

The Board's resolution now requires its clerk to notify all 37 individuals of their appointment to the Visioning Committee, and to convene a first meeting within 45 days. The County anticipates that first meeting being scheduled sometime in mid to late October.

It will be the second look toward the future of Johnson County in a dozen years. The county's landmark Citizens Visioning Committee was appointed by the Board in January 1996. Over two years, the 23-member panel developed a 20-year shared vision for Johnson County.

In 1997, the committee presented its recommendations about what Johnson County could look like by the year 2020. Almost all of recommendations advanced by that visioning committee have been achieved since the report was released.

# CITIZENS VISIONING COMMITTEE

## MEMBERSHIP ROSTER



Approved, by acclamation, by the Board of County Commissioners during regular session on Thursday, September 17, 2009.

### District Appointments/Representatives

—8 Seats—

First District Nominee = Kevin J. Albrecht  
Fourth District Nominee = Andrew Nave

Second District Nominee = Kevin Fern  
Fifth District Nominee = Kurtis M. Ruf  
District Attorney Nominee = Karl R. Hansen, Esq.  
Sheriff Nominee = Chief Ellen T. Hanson

Third District Nominee = Mike Brown  
Sixth District Nominee = Robin A. Lewis, Esq.

### Stakeholder/Group Representatives

—29 Seats—

#### COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Clay Blair III

#### HEAVY CONSTRUCTORS

Ed DeSoignie

#### COUNCIL OF MAYORS

The Hon. Michael A. Boehm

#### PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Mark Greene

#### SOCIAL SERVICES

Karen Wulkuhle

#### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Harriett Duff

#### JUDICIARY

Judge Larry McClain

#### SIERRA CLUB

Steve Baru

#### ARTS & HUMANITIES

Mary Tearney

#### HOMES ASSOCIATION

Arthur Smith

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

Carol Whitlock

#### COUNCIL OF MAYORS

The Hon. Larry Meeker

#### OLDER ADULTS/SENIOR CITIZENS

Carol Sader

#### NON-PROFIT/VOLUNTEER

Elaine Perilla

#### JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Terry Calloway, Ed.D.

#### FAITH-BASED INSTITUTION

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

#### UTILITIES

Mike Armstrong

#### MINORITIES

Charles Jean-Baptiste

Esther Valladolid Wolf

Merdad Kalantari

#### HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION

Tim Underwood

#### UNINCORPORATED AREAS

Rod Richardson, Esq.

#### CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Blake Schreck

#### YOUTH/YOUNGER CITIZENS

Lee Urban

#### HOSPITALS/HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY

Samuel Turner, Sr.

#### EDUCATION

Ron Wimmer

#### TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Wayne Flaherty

#### FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY

Gary A. Anderson

#### COUNTY MANAGEMENT TEAM

J. Joseph Waters