



Unified Government Clerk's Office

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

To the Members of the Governing Body of the
Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas:

You are hereby notified that a Special Meeting of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, is scheduled to be conducted in a hybrid format on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 5:00 PM, for discussion of the draft UG Legislative Agenda, in the fifth-floor conference room of the Municipal Office Building, 701 N. 7th Street, Kansas City, Kansas. A copy of the draft is attached to this notice.

The public will be able to observe or listen to the special session live on YouTube or UGTV, or through ZOOM; information is below. The public may also view the special session from the fifth-floor conference room of the Municipal Office Building, 701 N. 7th Street, Kansas City, Kansas.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89032198131>

Webinar ID: 890 3219 8131

Or One tap mobile:

+12532158782,81423989537# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,81423989537# US (Houston)

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

+1 253 205 0468 US; +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 444 9171 US; +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose); +1 719 359 4580 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

877 853 5257 US Toll-Free

888 475 4499 US Toll-Free

International numbers available:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdRkxFHgMf>

Dated this 18th day of November 2024.

DRAFT Unified Government 2025 State Legislative Agenda

1 Provide Funding for World Cup preparations

Appropriation

Provide funding to support preparations for the World Cup in 2026.

2 Expand Medicaid

Legislation

The Unified Government supports expansion of the Kansas Medicaid program which will improve access to care for those most vulnerable in Wyandotte County. It is estimated that expansion would provide insurance for ~7,500 uninsured Wyandotte County residents who would become eligible for KanCare. It would bring over \$64 million in new annual healthcare spending to Wyandotte County and create hundreds of new healthcare jobs.

3 Allow Flexibility for Revenue Sources

Legislation

Cities should be authorized to approve revenue sources which best suit the individual community in order to maintain appropriate levels of funding for the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens. This includes special highway funds, local earnings/income taxes, property tax, e-commerce delivery fees, and other local taxes and fees. Sales tax exemptions should only be applicable to the state portion of sales taxes.

4 Support Infrastructure Funding

Appropriation

The Unified Government is strongly supportive of state funding for infrastructure needs. There is urgent need for funds to repair or replace bridges such as the Central Avenue Bridge.

5 Expand Child Care Access

Appropriation

Strengthening and enhancing the child care subsidy program so that more families can access child care and more providers will participate in the program.

6 Pay Prevailing Wage

Legislation

The Unified Government supports paying prevailing wage on public works projects and economic development projects where tax incentives are given. The Unified Government strongly urges the Kansas Legislature to repeal the law banning the use of prevailing wage on public works and economic development projects.

DRAFT Unified Government 2025 State Legislative Agenda

7	Increase Funding for Mental Health and Psychiatric beds	Appropriation
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The Unified Government supports full state funding for mental health services, including additional bed space for psychiatric patients. This will reduce the number of people with behavioral or substance abuse issues who are inappropriately incarcerated in county jails or who end up unhoused. This includes expanded State of Kansas mental health facilities that are backlogged.

8	Support Funding for Unhoused	Appropriation
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Provide state funding for permanent supportive housing, supportive housing for youth that age out of foster care, and emergency shelter. Increase state funding for services for unhoused such as health and housing navigators and social workers. Support the development of a statewide plan to address homelessness - both the amelioration of suffering and the expansion of housing.

9	Protect STAR Bonds	Legislation
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STAR Bonds have proven to be one of the most effective economic development and job creation tools in the State of Kansas. The Unified Government encourages the Kansas Legislature to continue a workable STAR Bond policy with maximum flexibility and without unnecessary restrictions.

10	Support Public Education Funding	Appropriation
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The Unified Government supports the funding formulas for public education, which provides vital funding and an even playing field for children in Wyandotte County. Fully funding special education would reduce the burden on local taxpayers and provide increased services to students most in-need. Restore a higher state funding share for capital projects to help modernize school facilities.

11	Legalize Cannabis	Legislation
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The Unified Government supports de-criminalizing marijuana, removing the felony charge for a third possession, and lifting the ban on sale. Marijuana sales should be subject to existing state and local sales tax and cities should be able to levy their own excise fees and receive a portion of any state funds. Cities should have the ability to opt-in to allowing dispensaries in their city, and the cultivation and processing of marijuana and THC should be limited to licensed facilities.

12	Expand Treatment and Harm Reduction Approaches for Substance Abuse	Legislation
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The Unified Government supports expanded state funding for substance abuse in-patient and out-patient treatment

DRAFT Unified Government 2025 State Legislative Agenda

13	Support Services for At-risk Youth	Legislation
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- 1) Provide State financial support to youth who age out of the foster care system at age 18. Additional financial support improves the likelihood of successful transition from foster care to being a productive resident and reduces risk of people who age of foster care ending up in the criminal justice system.
- 2) Expand Child-in-Need-of-Care Support Services to provide cognitive behavioral counseling and enhanced support for youth to prevent future incarceration or violence.

14	Protect Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	Legislation
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Approximately 19,000 people in Wyandotte County experience food insecurity. Research demonstrates that greater access to SNAP results in reducing hunger and poverty; and improving dietary intake, academic performance, mental health, economic self-sufficiency, and local job growth. The UG opposes making it more difficult for Wyandotte County residents to access SNAP.

15	Create a Riverfront Authority	Legislation
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Legislation authorizing the creation of a Kansas City, Kansas Riverfront Authority to develop the Kansas and Missouri riverfronts into a premier attraction.

16	Support Housing Programs	Legislation
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The Unified Government supports the expansion of existing programs and creation of new programs at the state level that encourage access to affordable housing. These include, but are not limited to the Housing Investor Tax Credit Act, the Kansas Affordable Housing Tax Credit Act, the Historic Kansas Act, and the Kansas Housing Incentive District Act.
