

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barbara Allen at 10:45 A.M. on March 7, 2007 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

## Committee staff present:

Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Gordon Self, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Judy Swanson, Committee Assistant

## Conferees appearing before the committee:

Frank Denning, Johnson County Sheriff  
Gary Howell, Johnson County criminalistics Laboratory  
David Lindstrom (Written only)  
Doug Wood, Johnson County Commissioner  
Mary Birch, Johnson County Education Research Triangle  
Bob Regnier, Triangle Advocacy Council  
Annabeth Surbaugh (Written only)

## Others attending:

See attached list.

**Hearing on SB 370—Countywide retailers' sales tax authority for Johnson county**

Frank Denning, Johnson County Sheriff, testified there is great need to improve the public safety infrastructure in Johnson County. (Attachment 1) Johnson County Commission approved the construction of a 416-bed addition to the county jail, but it does not solve the problem of more inmates than the county can handle. After discussion, Sheriff Denning said he was agreeable to taking operational costs out of the bill. He had no objection to language in the bill, "not to exceed 10 years".

Gordon Self, Revisor, explained the mechanics of **SB 370**. The passage of the bill would not necessarily mean an additional sales tax will be imposed, it must be voted on in a local election first.

Gary Howell, Director of the Johnson County Criminalistics Laboratory, expressed the need for additional money in his department. (Attachment 2) The Johnson County population is growing at a 3% rate annually, and the rate of serious crime offenses is increasing by 9% annually. He explained how the laboratory is solving crime in Johnson County. A new crime laboratory will help reduce the amount of crime in the community.

Doug Wood, Johnson County Commissioner, reviewed county projects that would benefit if **SB 370** passed. He will provide written testimony at a later date to the Committee. Jails are being used as mental health facilities and are not equipped to meet these needs. The highest sales tax in any city in Johnson County is 7.685%. A 1/4 cent sales tax would raise approximately \$36 million, which would be shared two-thirds to the county, one-third to the cities. The current reserve in Johnson County is \$53 million in unrestricted funds. Senator Allen said the total reserve is about \$125 million.

Written testimony was received from David Lindstrom, Johnson County Commissioner, in support of **SB 370**. (Attachment 3) The hearing was closed.

**Hearing on SB 375—An act creating the Johnson County education research triangle authority**

Bob Regnier, Triangle Advocacy Council, explained the need for the Johnson County partnership among three educational institutions. He will provide written testimony at a later date. If passed, this would allow a sales tax or property tax to be split among the University of Kansas Cancer Center, Kansas State University Food Security & Research Institute and the University of Kansas Edwards Campus. Mr. Regnier reviewed the

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee at 10:45 A.M. on March 7, 2007 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

potential benefits for the three campuses with regard to jobs, research and community benefits. (Attachment 4) The Johnson County Research Triangle Authority is a long-term project, and would have tremendous infrastructure benefits. There would be an election to create the Authority. The language would be placed on the ballot by the Johnson County Board of Commissioners, or alternatively, through the petition process. Proceeds from such imposed tax would be used for bricks and mortar at all three sites simultaneously. The project is a combination of education and economic development, (not just education,) and is a far-sighted approach. Olathe has donated 40 acres for the KSU campus.

Mary Birch, Johnson County Education Research Triangle, said the emphasis of the project is that Johnson County should play a role in the development of educational facilities. There is strong combined support for this project within the Johnson County community by KU and KSU. For every \$1 invested into research, an \$8-\$10 return is realized by a community. Ms. Birch reviewed the proposed buildings that will be constructed if funds become available. With regard to governance, a seven-member board, consisting of Johnson County elected officials, would be created. This board would oversee the equal distribution of taxes collected among the three beneficiaries.

Richard Cram, KDOR, suggested a technical amendment to the bill to make the legislation conform to the streamlined sales tax law. He will provide appropriate language to the Committee for consideration.

Written testimony was received from Annabeth Surbaugh, Chairman of the Johnson County Commission, stating the Commission remains neutral on both Johnson County bills. (Attachment 5) The hearing was closed on **SB 375**.

Chairman Allen announced the Committee would meet March 8 for the purpose of consideration of **SB 337**, **Sub HB 2171**, **SB 347**, **SB 305**, **SB 370** and **SB 375**.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

SENATE  
ASSESSMENT & TAXATION COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST

DATE: 3-7-07

NAME	REPRESENTING
Glen Stotts	KD02
Diane Cospello	Obitel Shawnee Chambers
Ronda Keepr	Shawnee Chambery
Wm. Wood	self / commissioner
Mary Birch	Jo Co Ed Res. Triangle
Joshua Lewis	Sen. Schmidt
Dud Burke	City of Olathe
DAVID ADKINS	KUMC
Michelle Peterson	Capitol Strategies
Charlotte Esau	self
Keith Esau	self
Stuart Little	Johnson County Govt.
Erik Sartorius	City of Overland Park
Bob Clark	Univ. of Kansas Edwards Campus
Derck Hein	Hein Law Firm
Te & Werner	Ks Govt. Consulting
Ben Cleaves	DOR
Bob Keller	JCSO

SENATE  
ASSESSMENT & TAXATION COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST

DATE: 3/7/07

NAME	REPRESENTING
DAVID A. BURGER	JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFC
Jaegue Nagel	Americans for Prosperity



OFFICE OF THE  
Johnson County Sheriff

*Courthouse*  
125 N. Cherry  
Olathe, Kansas 66061

Frank Denning  
Sheriff

*Telephone*  
913-791-5800

*Fax*  
913-791-5806

David Burger  
Undersheriff

Kevin Cavanaugh  
Undersheriff

To: Chairperson Allen, Vice Chairperson Donovan, and distinguished members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

From: Sheriff Frank Denning

Date: March 7, 2007

Chairperson Allen, Vice Chairperson Donovan and Committee Members,

The public safety infrastructure needs in Johnson County have exceeded the ability of the existing funding sources to keep up. The need is great, and merely saying "we can't afford it" doesn't make the need go away: it only gets worse over time.

Similar to what you have seen at the State level, Johnson County is weathering a perfect storm of societal, economic, and political demands that are challenging our ability to meet them. We've never been this big or grown this fast, so we need some way to catch our collective breath.

When I took office in 2005, I walked into an environment of studies in progress, delayed jail expansion plans, a courthouse replacement proposal, and nothing being done to expand a crime laboratory in crisis. It was operating in a facility in need of repair and only 25% of the size recommended for an accredited crime lab serving a population the size of Johnson County. Mr. Gary Howell, the Director of the Johnson County Crime Lab is here as a conferee, and will speak to you more about that need.

I'm boarding out more than 350 of our 900 inmates per day in 19 counties across eastern Kansas because we're about seven years behind on our jail building schedule. The Johnson County Commission has approved the construction of a 416 bed addition to the Johnson County jail and it is in the design stage right now. Substantial as that is, it doesn't solve the problem. Our studies and those of outside consultants show that when the new jail addition

Assessment & Taxation  
Date 3-7-07  
Attachment # 1

opens in late 2009, the inmate population will have grown to the point where I will still be 200 beds short. Those same studies warn of projected inmate populations of 1,376 by the year 2010. Our failing to address the demand will not reduce the demand. They're coming.

As Johnson County continues to grow, public safety infrastructure needs will grow. The Johnson County Commission has approved and funded the hiring of 120 additional staff to run the jail that will open in 2009. That many people requires a lot of effort to, first recruit them, then hire them, then train them, and then continually keep their training and certifications current.

I enjoy a terrific relationship with the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson, and the Johnson County Regional Police Academy on the campus of the Johnson County Community College, but not even those strong affiliations can insure sufficient academy space to accommodate our training needs.

The Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center has outgrown the space available to it. In fact, a portion of the building has been condemned, and can't be used at all.

As alternatives to incarceration are explored, the Department of Community Corrections will need facilities and upgrades to keep pace with the demand for services, many of which play a critical role in controlling inmate populations and directing clients to badly needed treatment and training programs.

This is not the time to fix blame; that won't make the problem go away. This is the time to fix a growing problem our county is facing now, and into the future. The measure before you will give Johnson County a tool we can use to catch our breath.

In conclusion, I want to personally thank you, Senator Allen, and all of the members of this committee who have given your time and serious consideration to this bill. It probably goes without saying that I urge your support voting it out favorably, and if you have any questions I would be glad to try to answer them for you now or after the other conferees have had a chance to speak.



Frank Denning  
Sheriff

*Telephone*  
913-791-5800  
*Fax*  
913-791-5806

OFFICE OF THE  
Johnson County Sheriff

*Courthouse*  
125 N. Cherry  
Olathe, Kansas 66061

David Burger  
Undersheriff

Kevin Cavanaugh  
Undersheriff

**To: Chairperson Allen, Vice Chairperson Donovan, and distinguished members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee**

**From: Johnson County Criminalistics Laboratory Director Gary Howell**

**Date: March 9, 2007**

**Chairperson Allen, Vice Chairperson Donovan and Committee Members,**

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory has significantly outgrown its current facility. The current building has been modified 4 times since 1975 to accommodate the needs of the public safety community. The current facility is grossly inadequate to accommodate the forensic science services the community needs. An independent study by McClaren, Wilson & Lawrie, Inc. indicates there should be at least 51,000 square feet of laboratory space to meet the needs of our community. The current laboratory occupies an equivalent of approximately 19,000 square feet. The increase in need for forensic services is unprecedented and has both national and local contributing factors.

During this decade, Johnson County is growing at an incredible rate for a community of its size. The population is growing at a strong 3% per year. Disturbingly, the rates of serious crime offenses are surpassing these other trends by increasing 9% a year. Serious crime, also known as Part 1 crime, entails murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, grand theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. FBI statistics show that Johnson County citizens were the victims of a reported 15,844 serious crimes in 2005.

The Law Enforcement community is responding:

- 1) Cities are significantly increasing the number of police officers.
- 2) New crime prevention programs are being developed with renewed emphasis on crime awareness and crime prevention.
- 3) The Sheriff's Office is forced to handle more prisoners in a burgeoning jail population.
- 4) Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) specialists are being added to investigation units. In 2000, there were no full-time CSI's in Johnson County. Now there are 8 dedicated CSI's collecting evidence to be sent to the Crime Lab.
- 5) All CSI's are collecting more sophisticated evidence.

Assessment & Taxation  
Date 3-7-07  
Attachment # 2

In recent years, there has been a paradigm shift on how crimes are investigated. DNA analysis is the most powerful investigative tool ever developed. DNA analysis is still developing and is challenging the forensic science community to institute even more specific and more sensitive methods. Evidence awareness and contamination issues are being addressed with detectives and district officers. The emphasis on DNA analysis has precipitated interest in all areas of forensic science; there is now more dependence on physical evidence to help solve crimes than ever before. Digital video analysis, automated fingerprint identification, automated bullet and cartridge case searching, and DNA database searching are all in our tool chest of forensic technologies. These advancements in forensic science capabilities lead to the need for more comprehensive crime scene searches. The application of enhanced technologies to the management of crime scenes produces better evidence. A recent comprehensive study of the effectiveness of forensic science has recently been published. The business model determined that for every dollar spent on DNA typing in a crime laboratory; saved the community \$34 in costs to society. The constantly evolving forensic science capabilities of the JCCL make the laboratory an effective and efficient tool in the reduction of crime in this community.

The Johnson County community is at a crossroads with respect to the number one quality-of-life issue: public safety. Investment in public safety will assure the ability to concentrate on the other quality-of-life issues so important to our citizens.

The new powerful forensics will impact crime by:

- 1) Solving minor crimes and thereby intervening earlier in offenders lives will have a dramatic impact on addressing the problem.
- 2) Solving more difficult cases by the use of the new emerging sciences will solve cases that were "unsolvable" just a few years ago.
- 3) Advancing CSI training to allow the investigation to put into practice this new resource on more types of crimes than in the past

A new Crime Laboratory built to accommodate our existing operation as well as growth in personnel and technology will help reduce the amount of crime in our community.

Gary R. Howell  
Director, Johnson County Criminalistics Laboratory





BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

---

MEMORANDUM

March 5, 2007

To: Frank Denning, Sheriff  
Copy: Board of County Commissioners  
Michael B. Press, County Manager  
From: David A. Lindstrom, Commissioner, Third District *David A. Lindstrom/KE*  
Subject: Local Sales Tax Authority

\* \* \*

Following your presentation last week, I want to write to express my personal support for efforts to secure authority from the state legislature to develop a sales tax proposal to be presented to the voters in order to support local public safety and infrastructure initiatives. As you know, public safety is the top priority of government, and Johnson County is at a crossroads. We must find a funding source to pay for our needs. To that end I support efforts to get authority to place a question on the ballot so that our voters can be better informed of our community's needs and make an informed decision on these issues.

While I personally support such efforts you have undertaken, I do not want my support to be seen as an exclusive endorsement of the specific proposal you have developed.

I am supportive of any proposal that would give the Board of County Commissioners the ability to structure a question and submit it to the voters with respect to the increasing public safety and infrastructure needs of our community.

If I can be of assistance in this respect please call upon me.

(913) 715-0430

111 SOUTH CHERRY STREET, SUITE 3300  
OLATHE, KANSAS 66061-3486

(913) 715-0440 FAX

Assessment & Taxation  
Date 3-7-07  
Attachment # 3



# Triangle Advocacy Council

---

## Co-Chairs:

Robert Regnier

Fred Merrill

Ron Wimmer

Mike Brown

James Hubbard

Laura McKnight

Greg Graves

Laura McConwell

Drue Jennings

Samuel H. Turner, Sr.

Barb Unell

Sandy Price

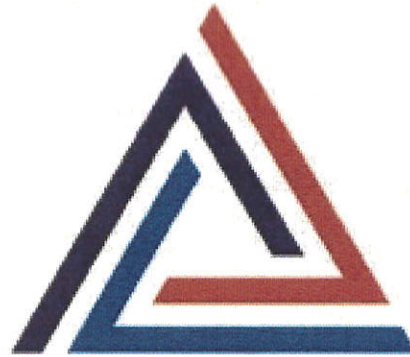
Charles Sunderland

Jeffrey Gaidos

Lyle Pishny

# Johnson County Education & Research Triangle

---



JOHNSON COUNTY  
EDUCATION & RESEARCH  
TRIANGLE

**A unique partnership for the future of higher  
education and the Johnson County economy**

WISCONSIN

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Assessment & Taxation  
Date 3-7-10  
Attachment # 4

4-7





## 3 New Higher Education Facilities

---

1. University of Kansas Cancer Research Center
2. Kansas State University National Food Security Research Institute
3. University of Kansas Edwards Campus Business, Engineering & Technology Center

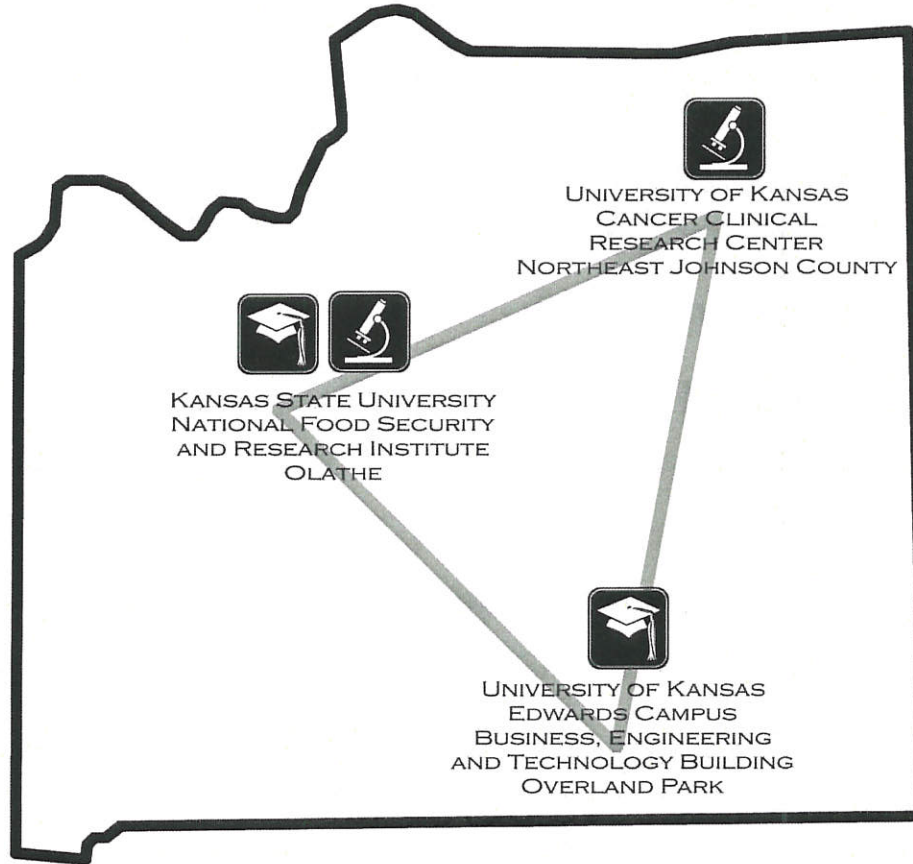
# Our Purpose

---

*To secure enabling legislation and voter support for a permanent revenue source to fund higher education research and degree offerings and to request that KU and KSU locate three new facilities in Johnson County to enhance the economic future of Johnson County residents, the state of Kansas and the region.*

# The Triangle

## JOHNSON COUNTY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TRIANGLE



# Time To Get It Right

## *A Strategy for Higher Education in Kansas City*

- Cancer Prevention & Cancer Cures
- National Cancer Institute Designation
- KSU World-Class Biosecurity Research
- Growing Animal Health Life Sciences Industry in Greater Kansas City
- Graduate Degrees in:
  - Business applied science, technology, engineering, food safety and animal health research
- Investment in Research & Degrees has a significant economic impact:
  - Attracts & produces new companies and jobs and increases personal earnings for Johnson County residents



**TIME TO GET IT RIGHT**  
A STRATEGY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN KANSAS CITY

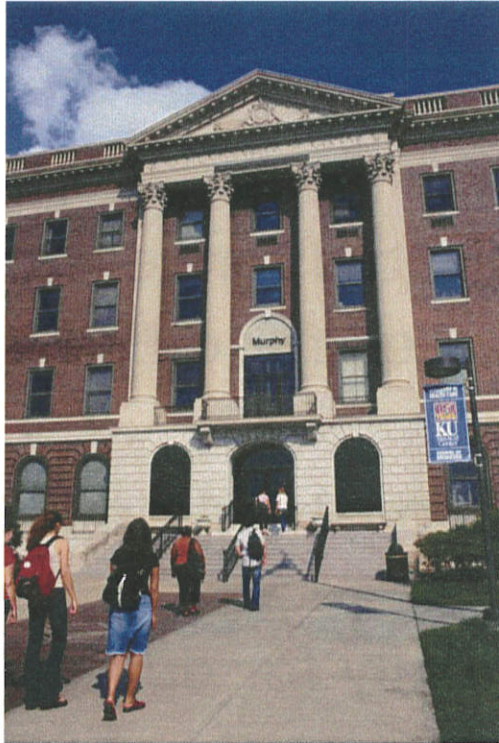


GREATER KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# University of Kansas Cancer Center

---

Assessment & Taxation  
Date 3-7-07  
Attachment # 4-7



- NE Johnson County location
- Located close to KU Medical Center campus, The University of Kansas Hospital Westwood Campus, Stowers Institute for Medical Research & Midwest Research Institute
- Phase I Clinical Trials Unit



# University of Kansas Cancer Center

---

## By the Numbers:

- 70,000 square ft. facility
- 67,000 square ft. dedicated for research
- 3,000 square ft. dedicated for office space
  
- \$25,000,000 worth of construction & equipment costs
- \$500,000 needed annually for operation

# National Food Security Research Institute

---

- Core research areas in cooperation with Midwest Research Institute
- Focused areas include:
  - Threat Assessment & Prevention, Forensic Ag Science, Agroinformatics & Modeling, Communications Strategies, and Advanced Ag Technology
- Potential Graduate Programs:
  - Forensic Biology, Strategic Studies in Food Science, Food Safety & Security, and Public Health/Animal to Human Translation



# National Food Security Research Institute

---

International Certificate and short course offerings for professionals in the fields of:

- Agricultural & Food Emergency Response
- Federal Law Enforcement & Intelligence



# National Food, Security & Research Institute

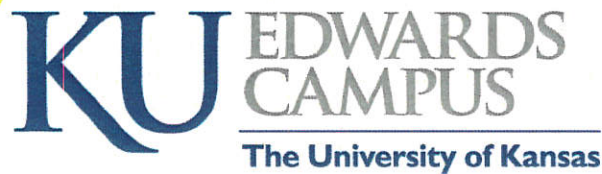
---

## By the Numbers:

- 103,000 square ft. facility
- 30,000 square ft. dedicated for lab space
- 73,000 square ft. dedicated for classrooms
  
- \$28,000,000 worth of construction & equipment costs
- \$800,000 needed annually for operation



# KU Edwards Campus Business, Engineering & Technology Center

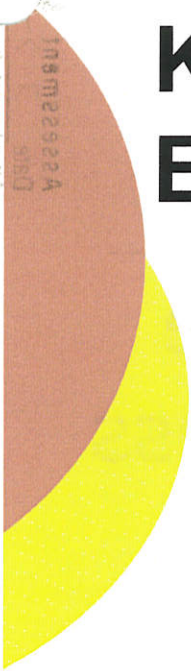


- Undergraduate Partnerships with JCCC & Masters Degrees:

- Business
- Applied Science & Technology
- Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Engineering

- Professional Science Masters Degrees:

- Molecular Bioscience
- Engineering



# KU Edwards Campus Business, Engineering & Technology Center

---

## By the Numbers:

- 75,000 square ft. facility, dedicated to classrooms and offices
- \$23,300,000 worth of construction & equipment costs
- \$650,000 needed annually for operation

# How will this benefit the citizens of Johnson County?

---

- Better Training, Jobs, Quality of Life
- Knowledge Economy Competitiveness
- New Jobs
- New Businesses
- Nationally Recognized Expertise



# How will this benefit the citizens of Johnson County?

---

## Humanitarian and Economic Gains

- Food Safety
- Cures and Treatments
- Expanding Educational Opportunities



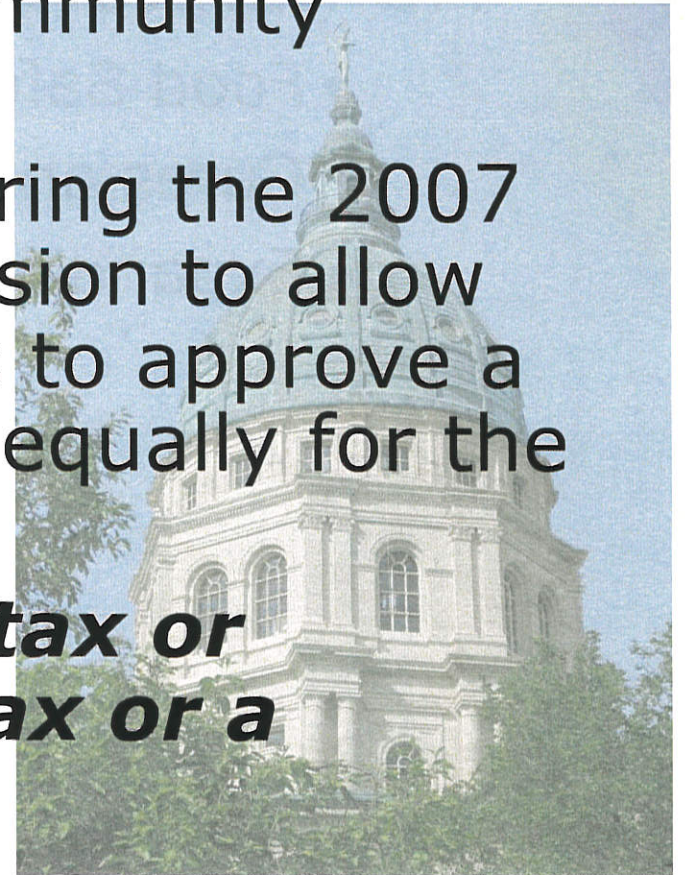


# How Do We Make It Happen?

---

- Educate & organize community support
- Enabling legislation during the 2007 Kansas Legislative Session to allow Johnson County voters to approve a local tax to be divided equally for the 3 projects

\*2/10<sup>th</sup> cent ***sales tax or 2 mills of property tax or a combination of both***



# Oversight & Governance

---

Johnson County Education and Research Triangle Authority consisting of seven to eight Johnson County elected officials appointed by:

- Governor
- Kansas Board of Regents
- Johnson County Commissioners
- Kansas State University
- University of Kansas
- University of Kansas Medical Center
- Johnson County Community College



# Oversight & Governance

---

- Ensure revenue is divided and distributed in three equal parts
- All money remains in Johnson County
- All money is “new” money for new construction, research and education programs
- Not to be used as substitute revenue for existing high education programs from the State

# The Opportunities Ahead

---

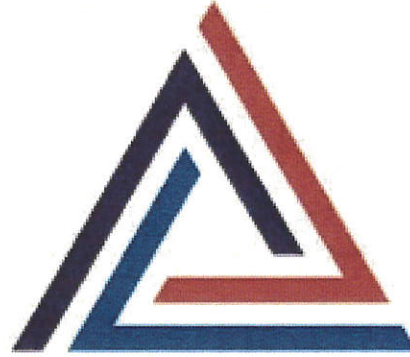
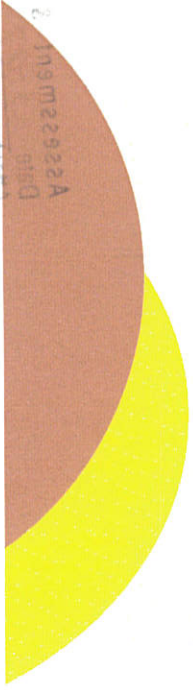
- Private Contributions
- Federal Grants
- National Cancer Institute Designation
- New Companies and Jobs
- Potential Partnerships for Growth
- Safer
- Smarter
- Healthier



4-20

Assessment & Taxation

Date 3-7-20  
Attachment # 20



JOHNSON COUNTY  
EDUCATION & RESEARCH  
TRIANGLE

**Safer. Smarter. Healthier.**

Assessment & Taxation  
Date 3-7-20  
Attachment # 20



### **Benefits the Edwards Campus brings to the Economy and Community**

- KU's Edwards Campus is always used as a selling point to companies – particularly high profile companies – considering moving to the County. The availability and quality of higher education is a top question people ask, and KU has the national reputation that people respond to.
- “Business = Johnson County” Understanding this helps to focus on what helps business. KU Edwards Campus has expertise to contribute to filling business needs now and in the future.
- “KU Edwards Campus helps to brand Johnson County” through its linkage with KU and KU's national reputation.
- Education produces wealth and KU Edwards Campus produces world-class education.
- KU Edwards Campus contributes to a stronger workforce and a stronger workforce brings a stronger County economy and community.
- Image is important to marketing the County and its cities; a growing KU Edwards Campus adds to the image.
- A growing KU Edwards Campus will bring the research of KU, and the economic impact that follows, to Johnson County.

### **Impact of the JCCC Partnership**

- Creates a groundbreaking partnership, merging the strengths of two great institutions by creating a complete public higher education environment in Johnson County
- Significantly broadens access for Johnson County citizens and employers to nationally recognized, high quality, public higher education
- Offers JCCC students and faculty the opportunities associated with being, in effect, the lower division partner of a major research university; offers KU students and faculty the opportunity to be the upper division partner of a major community college
- Creates a high quality public higher education infrastructure that strengthens Johnson County's competitive position to attract and retain business, yielding significant economic impact

Bayer HealthCare  
Animal Health Division



Joerg Ohle  
President and General Manager  
North America

To Whom It May Concern

On behalf of Bayer HealthCare LLC, Animal Health Division, I would like to convey our sincere support for the Johnson County Education and Research Triangle Partnership and enabling legislation for a permanent revenue source to fund higher education research and degree offerings in Johnson County.

As a major employer in this region, Bayer strongly recognizes the critical importance of supporting an ongoing and growing skilled labor pool, particularly in the scientific and technology disciplines. Adding additional higher education facilities to our region represents a significant and essential step toward this realization. The three new facilities proposed by the Partnership will also assuredly bolster the region's growing opportunities in the life sciences and animal health industries. In addition, funding these new facilities will add new degree holders that will enhance the regional talent pool and thereby further contributing to our ability to attract new companies and industries to the region.

In closing, I urge you to support the Johnson County Education and Research Triangle partnership and its mission to secure the enabling legislation and voter support for a permanent revenue source to fund new facilities that will make us all safer, smarter, and healthier!

Sincerely,

Joerg Ohle  
President and General Manager

March 1, 2007

Bayer HealthCare LLC  
Animal Health Division  
P. O. Box 390  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66201-0390

Phone: 913 268-2750  
Fax: 913 268-2855

Assessment & Taxation  
Date 3-7-07  
Attachment # 4-22

**Dr. Ron Wimmer**  
**26458 W. 109<sup>th</sup> Terrace**  
**Olathe, Kansas 66061**

March 4, 2007

Mary Birch  
Government Relations Coordinator  
Lathrop & Gage  
10851 Mastin St., Ste 1000  
Overland Park, KS 66210

Dear Mary:

Please accept this brief letter indicating support for legislation to create authority to pursue realization of the Johnson County Education Research Triangle. As a resident of Johnson County for the past forty two years and an involved community member for most of my professional career, I have seen many projects proposed for Johnson County and the metropolitan Kansas City area. I honestly believe the Education Research Triangle project brings to Johnson County and Kansas one of the most exciting opportunities from which all Kansans will benefit.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to travel to San Diego with other community leaders to see firsthand the impact of biotechnology and medical research on education and the local economy. All who made this exciting trip left California with a greater understanding of the tremendous value of research initiatives on higher education, economic development, local and state tax revenues, and the medical discoveries saving lives and creating new cures. We can do the same in Kansas if only we have the creativity and courage to take bold steps to implement possibilities included in the Education and Research Triangle.

As Superintendent of Schools in Olathe for fourteen years prior to my retirement in 2005 and as an active community member of Olathe and Johnson County, I offer my full support and encouragement for support of this unique and timely opportunity. I am confident that we have the leadership, knowledge, and skills in Kansas to make this project work for the benefit of our country, state, and county.

Sincerely,



Ron Wimmer, Ed.D.

Assessment & Taxation  
Date 3-7-07  
Attachment # 4-23





# Uncle Dan's Report Card<sup>SM</sup>

3004 West 118th Street, Leawood, Kansas 66211 • Phone: 913-481-6364 • Fax: 913-451-6269  
Web: [UncleDansReportCard.org](http://UncleDansReportCard.org) • Email: [bob@uncledansreportcard.org](mailto:bob@uncledansreportcard.org)

February 26, 2007

To Whom It May Concern,

As a parenting author, parent educator and education advocate for over 25 years, I have been a strong supporter of Johnson County's proactive role in providing educational excellence. I am proud to have been a founding board member of the Blue Valley Educational Foundation in 1990, an innovative strategy that has offered exceptional learning opportunities in K-12 public education and character development for over 15 years.

It is this life long commitment that leads me to support the new Johnson County Research and Education Triangle. This investment in this cornerstone of progress locally, as well as the national implications of this project, will return huge dividends for our county's and country's citizens in the years ahead. The education it will provide will help us prepare for the technology jobs of the future right here in the Heart of America.

For employers who demand a technically proficient employee base, the benefits are also great. They will now be able to provide their employees with the needed skills; and new technology employers will be motivated to bring their businesses—and new jobs—to our county.

I must note another benefit of this project that connects with a cause of profound local and national concern. As the founder of Back in the Swing, the area's only organization that focuses on program development and clinical research in the new field of breast cancer survivorship, I cannot overstate the critical importance of this investment in cancer research to lifelong health and well-being, and to the national reputation of our area's medical services.

Finally, I unequivocally support the leadership role for Johnson County as our metropolitan area's economy shifts to become a bio-industry center.

I urge you to support the Johnson County Education Research Triangle.

Sincerely,  
Barbara C. Unell, President

Assessment & Taxation  
Date 3-7-07  
Attachment # 4-24

March 2, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am proud to be part of the effort to advance the future of higher education in Johnson County. Many who are much more eloquent than I will address the myriad reasons for increasing public support for our Kansas universities, particularly by way of the Research Triangle concept. The vision is sound, and now is the time to pursue it.

I have been actively involved in regional economic and educational development matters for over 25 years. I learned early that our most valuable natural resource is our intellectual capital, and our ability to leverage it for preserving and enhancing the quality of life we enjoy in this region. We CREATE intellectual capital with high-quality educational systems; we RECRUIT same because of those systems; and, we RETAIN our best and brightest when we offer them enhanced local educational and career opportunities. The Research Triangle will be a vital catalyst in moving this area to a level far beyond what we now enjoy.

Spending on research and advanced education is occurring, and will continue. Our challenge--indeed our responsibility--is to see that that investment is made HERE--not in Charlotte, Dallas or Palo Alto. Let's get going!

Drue Jennings

March 2007



*Samuel H. Turner, Sr.  
President & Chief Executive Officer*

March 5, 2007

To: Whom It May Concern

Re: Johnson County Education Research Triangle

As a volunteer co-chair to the Triangle Advocacy Council, I would like to express my sincere support for the proposed Johnson County Education Research Triangle project.

This project will bring many benefits to the citizens of Johnson County and Kansas.

It will establish Johnson County's role in the new knowledge economy bringing life sciences and food safety research to the forefront.

This new economic engine will provide opportunities for cancer cures and treatments, for food safety research and degrees and the battle against agri-terrorism, and much needed higher education degrees in the areas of engineering, technology, applied sciences and business.

Our citizens will be able to access these opportunities to have a smarter, safer and healthier life for themselves and there family as well as better training for better jobs.

As a healthcare executive for over 20 years, I have worked all over the country. The high quality of life in this community is because our citizens have continuously made education a priority from K-12 to our nationally ranked Johnson County Community College. The Triangle is the next step toward that continued excellence.

Sincerely,

Samuel H. Turner, Sr.  
President and Chief Executive Officer

*SHT:cjc*

T 913-676-2000

9100 W. 74th Street  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66204  
www.shawneemission.org



WILLIAM A. HALL  
ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN

March 2, 2007

Ms. Mary Birch  
Government Relations Coordinator  
Lathrop & Gage  
10851 Mastin Street, Suite 1000  
Overland Park, KS 66210

Dear Mary:

I am writing in support of the research triangle proposal. We believe this is an exciting opportunity for both Johnson County and the entire Kansas City region.

As the *Time to Get It Right* report indicated, we have a great opportunity to advance our community through enhancing our higher education resources. The research triangle builds upon those resources – K-State and the animal health industry, the Edwards Campus and engineering/technology, and the Medical Center and cancer research.

With regard to animal health, K-State is a world leader in food safety and security and Kansas City is a world leader in animal health sciences. This opportunity to bring advanced research together with commercial interests will yield great dividends.

Kansas City is a major center for engineering but not a major center for engineering education. Firms like Black & Veatch, Garmin, Burns and McDonnell, and HNTB all have the need for advanced engineering degrees. Enhancement of the Edwards Campus to provide additional engineering, technology, science and business will allow these firms to expand and maintain Kansas City as a true engineering center.

The Stowers Institute makes Kansas City a life science center. Their efforts, combined with recent advances by the KU Medical Center, provide an opportunity to not only dramatically increase research efforts and the resulting spin offs, but also advance clinical care to a world class level.

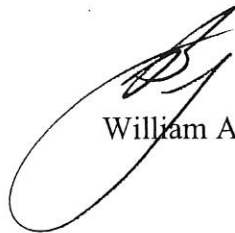
Ms. Mary Birch  
March 2, 2007  
Page Two

We are in a knowledge based global economy. While the nineteenth century was about bigger and better farms, and the 20<sup>th</sup> century about bigger and better factories, the 21<sup>st</sup> century is about bigger and better ideas. This is one of those ideas that could significantly transform Johnson County, the state of Kansas and the Kansas City region. It brings together the knowledge economy with existing assets and builds upon three community strengths.

Visionaries are not only those who see opportunity but those who seize it. This is one of those visionary moments where we have an opportunity to transform our future and the futures of our children and grandchildren. I hope that we can find a way to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



William A. Hall

wt

Assessment & Taxation  
Date 3-20-07  
Attachment # 4-28



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

---

March 6, 2007

Senator Barbara Allen  
Room 122 East  
Kansas State Capital  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator Allen:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Johnson County Board of Commissioners to clarify the BOCC's position on the sales tax bill for the Johnson County Research and Education Triangle, public safety (SB 370), and increased sales tax authority for all Kansas Counties (HB 2532).

The Johnson County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) is faced with considering three competing sales tax proposals, each of which has merits and value and would, in some capacity, make wise use of the public funds generated from such sales taxes in Johnson County.

The Johnson County Research and Education Triangle bill would provide funding for innovative and forward-thinking research projects in conjunction with the state's regents university system, a cornerstone of the economic and education environment in the County.

Senate Bill 370 would address critical public safety issues in Johnson County for a jail, juvenile detention center, crime lab or other county administrative or operational facilities dedicated to public safety. All these are worthy and needed projects.

House Bill 2532 (currently in House Taxation Committee) is the Kansas Association of Counties county-wide sales tax authority legislation for all counties to have the authority to increase county sales taxes up to 1 additional percent for general purposes and up to an additional 1 percent that could be used for special purposes. If HB 2532 were passed, both the taxing authority and funding mechanisms to accomplish the Research Triangle sales tax and Senate Bill 370 could fall under the authorization granted in the bill. Additionally, passage of House Bill 2532 would further accomplish the goal of a uniform sales tax policy the legislature began to initiate with the passage last session of the cities' increased sales tax authority.

After reviewing all three bills on Thursday, March 1, the BOCC recommended we remain neutral on the Johnson County Research and Education Triangle bill and Senate Bill 370. Additionally, the Commission decided to continue our support of House Bill 2532.

Our neutrality on the two Senate Bills is not a comment on the virtues of either piece of legislation, but a statement of our commitment to continue to favor a comprehensive taxation approach that addresses the broadest range of our needs and benefits the largest number of citizens of Johnson County.

In addition to the public safety items articulated in Senate Bill 370, the County has a long list of projects that demand attention and action including a new courthouse, jail operations, and increasing demand for human services. We continue to postpone these vital projects in anticipation of some resolution from the state on sales tax policy. Without such tools, the BOCC (at some point) will be confronted with making decisions on reductions in services or increases in property taxes to meet the expectations of the citizens of Johnson County.

I hope this letter clearly states the position of the Board of County Commissioners. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

*Annabeth Surbaugh by Julie A. Smith*  
Annabeth Surbaugh, Chairman of the Board

Assessment & Taxation  
Date 3-7-07  
Attachment # 5-2