



News & Updates from the Office of Councilman Kevin McManus

\$800 million General Obligation Bond Update



Discussion continues at City Hall about a potential \$800 million General Obligation (“GO”) bond proposal. The present proposal authorizes roughly \$40 million in GO Bonds per year for 20 years with the proceeds to be used for significant upgrades and improvements to our city’s basic infrastructure. The City Council is considering placing the GO bond proposal on the April 2017 ballot, which would require voter approval of 57% for the authorization to pass. The City Council has until January 19th to finalize the language for the April ballot.

Councilman McManus sits on both the city’s Finance & Governance and Transportation & Infrastructure Committees. These committees have held a number of joint public hearings on the GO bond proposal to discuss basic infrastructure needs and to receive public testimony from residents.

The city’s bond counsel has recommended that the \$800 million GO bond authorization be split into three separate ballot questions based on the type of infrastructure to be funded with corresponding dollar amounts. These ballot questions would be for: (1) streets, bridges and sidewalks; (2) flood control; and (3) public building improvements (specifically, ADA accessibility improvements in city-owned buildings as mandated by federal law, and the construction of a new animal shelter, which is will also be paid for with matching private funds).

In addition, the City Council is considering a companion resolution that includes:

- a detailed list of specific road, bridge, flood control and ADA projects;
- parameters for a comprehensive Neighborhood Sidewalk Program; and
- mechanisms for public input and accountability to ensure bond proceeds are used in a transparent and efficient manner.

With respect to the Neighborhood Sidewalk Program, the present proposal removes the burden on adjoining property owners to pay for sidewalk repair through special assessments, which can often be a significant cost to residents, and shifts this cost to the city. It also offers a process for residents to petition for new sidewalks where sidewalks presently do not exist and receive a minimum 50% match from the city.

All past and future hearings on the GO Bond proposal are broadcast on Channel 2 and can be viewed [online](#).

Kansas City's State & Federal Legislative Priorities for 2017

Councilman McManus serves as Co-Chair of the Council's Legislative Committee, which develops the city's priorities at the federal and state level.

After a series of public hearings to get input from residents and community stakeholders, the Legislative Committee passed resolutions outlining the legislative priorities of the city.

These resolutions were adopted unanimously by the Mayor and Council.



Kansas City's top state legislative priorities for 2017 include:

- **Preemption:** Oppose any efforts to undermine local control for Kansas City, including any new state requirement or state budget decision that does not include adequate state funding.
- **Earnings Tax:** Oppose any efforts to undermine the Earnings Tax, which provides over 40% of the revenue in the city's general fund.
- **Discriminatory Laws:** Oppose legislation that would be reasonably viewed as discriminatory toward any citizen of the State of MO and harmful to its economy.
- **UMKC:** Support UMKC's Downtown Campus for the Arts.
- See a complete list of the city's state legislative priorities can be found [here](#).

Two of Kansas City's top federal legislative priorities were funded in the final weeks of 2016. In December, Congress passed and President Obama signed the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. This includes over \$500 million in federal funding for several flood protection projects in Kansas City, including the Turkey Creek Basin, Swope Park Industrial Area, Armourdale and Central Industrial District Levees, and the Blue River Basin. In addition, Congress approved \$200 million in funding for demolition and remediation of the Bannister Federal Complex, so that it may be redeveloped for private use.

A special thanks is owed to our city's congressional delegation for their hardwork and strong support in securing the federal funding necessary for these important local projects.

A complete list of the city's federal legislative priorities can be found [here](#).



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY



2nd Friday Meeting: Legislative Update with South KC Chamber

Our next 2nd Friday meeting will be held tomorrow with the South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. 6th District Councilmen McManus and Taylor will be joined by Kansas City's senior advisor on state and federal affairs, Sam Pannettiere. They will provide an update on the City's federal and state legislative priorities.

As always, our 2nd Friday meetings are open to the public, so please join us.

2nd Friday - Legislative Update - January 13, 2017

Burns & McDonnell - 9450 Ward Parkway (use entrance facing Wornall)

7:30 - 9:00 am



**SOUTH KANSAS CITY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Connecting, Educating, Growing Together



Councilman Kevin McManus



Councilman Scott Taylor



Sam Pannettiere

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