

# Boards and Commissions Disclosure Filings

Scope Statement – December 6, 2021

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## Background

Boards and commissions have major authority and responsibilities within Kansas City government. They promote opportunities for public involvement, representation, transparency, and accountability in local governance of city affairs. Many city services and functions are carried out and influenced by appointed boards. Boards and commissions provide direction and recommendations related to city fund use. This includes uses related to economic development, planning, parks, and art. Our [2019 Governance Assessment audit](#) identified 14 boards and commissions with combined spending of about \$328 million in Fiscal Year 2018.

City Code<sup>1</sup> identifies over 50 boards and commissions whose members must submit a Conflict of Interest (COI) Annual Report to the City Clerk. On the report, board and commission members must disclose certain real estate, business, and personal interests. The City Clerk retains these public records. The public can review the COI reports completed by city board members to evaluate potential conflicts of interest.

## Why audit boards and commissions disclosure filings?

Conflict of Interest reports are an important tool to help ensure the transparent and ethical use of public funds. The public has an interest in the transparent use of city funds. The reports should deter board members from using their board position for personal financial gain and increase public confidence in city government.

Our [2019 VisitKC audit](#) found that not all board members were filing COI reports as required.

## Audit objective

Our objective is to answer the following question(s):

- Are members of boards and commissions submitting conflict of interest disclosures as required by city code?

## Audit methods

We will interview city staff, board contacts, and board members; review city code; compare submitted Conflict of Interest Annual Reports to a list of board members required to file; and evaluate whether the current COI report contains all required questions from city code and other essentials to identify potential conflicts of interests.

## Anticipated release date

We plan to issue the audit report in April 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> Code of Ordinances, Kansas City, Missouri, Sec. 2-2024.