

# 2021 Legislative Agenda

- **Property Tax Lid** – Keep the existing property tax lid instead of burdening Kansas counties with the proposed new property tax lid, which would force Kansas counties to send out notices on behalf of cities and townships. The proposed new system would create another unfunded mandate on Kansas counties and require the addition of staffing in the existing County Clerk’s office, while doing nothing to minimize the growth of property taxes in local taxing districts.
- **Support modification of a KDOT policy excluding major county road approaches from highway overlay projects** - Butler County has seen a deterioration of the asphalt surfaces at the approaches from County paved roads to State maintained highways for several years. KDOT has indicated they are not including the resurfacing of these approaches in maintenance overlay projects and is creating potholes and asphalt deterioration. This lack of maintenance is causing safety concerns especially with approaches on K254, which are need of immediate attention
- **Demolition of the KDOC minimum security facility at El Dorado Lake** - In 2009 the Kansas Department of Corrections eliminated operations at the minimum security facility located below the dam at El Dorado Lake. The structure has not been utilized since and is currently in a state of disrepair and should be razed from the property. The County is currently working with the Corps of Engineers to sub lease the property from the Department of Wildlife and Parks and one of the conditions will be the demolition of the facility and restoration of the site as required by the current contract with KDOC. The County requests the Legislature immediately allocate funds for the demolition of the building so the site may be developed for future uses.
- **Constitutional home rule for Kansas Counties** - Butler County favors extending constitutional protection for county home rule authority—a change that will enable county leaders to best serve their constituents. Butler County stands on the principle that government closest to the people will best understand and serve the community’s needs. This principle should be constitutionally protected. Restrictive laws by the state and federal governments serve only to minimize effectiveness at the local level.
- **Nuisance abatement authority for all Kansas counties** - Support legislation allowing all Kansas counties the authority to abate nuisance properties in the same manner as Kansas municipalities. This would allow Butler County to perform cleanup on properties and recoup some of the expenses associated with the project, such as the IPS property in the El Dorado Industrial Park.
- **Equity in taxation with alternative energy projects** - In 2018 the legislature modified the property taxation of these projects to allow for a ten (10) year exemption similar to IRB projects after which the projects would be placed back on the tax roll. This change created major inequity with wind farm projects across the state and even created inequity with two different solar projects in Butler County. The County believes these inequities conflict with constitutional law in taxation and valuation and would encourage the Legislature to readdress the bill and treat all projects the same by making all projects taxable after the 10 year abatement
- **Support uniform funding of Community Colleges statewide to equalize the impact from regional institutions** - The tax differential between the host county and neighboring counties retards economic and population growth in the host county. This is unfair to host counties like Butler. The legislature should adopt a broad-based funding system that shares costs equitably among those benefitting from our Kansas Community Colleges.