



— CITY OF LENEXA, KANSAS —
**2024 LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES**



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The foundation of responsible local government is the Home Rule authority granted to municipalities by the Kansas Constitution. As the government closest to citizens, it is incumbent upon cities to be efficient, fair, and responsible with their tax dollars. The public places a great deal of trust in local government, which is consistently rated more trustworthy and effective than the state and federal governments. Lenexa favors local decisions being made at the local level. While we may differ in opinion on specific issues, Lenexa joins the League of Kansas Municipalities in advocating for local control and supports their Statement of Municipal Policy. We endorse this legislative platform and advocate for the positions therein on behalf of those who live and work in our community.

The Mayor and City Council commit to responsible governance and pledge that local decisions will be made in a transparent, thoughtful, and inclusive manner. We strive to do the right thing for the right reasons guided by these core principles.

Superior Quality Services: Ensure that services are provided efficiently and effectively in ways that create a safe, clean, and attractive community for residents, businesses, and visitors.



Prudent Financial Management: Provide exceptional value in public investments by committing to structural fiscal balance in operational and capital activities while upholding transparent finance and budgeting processes.



Strategic Community Investment: Purposefully invest in high-quality infrastructure, facilities, programs, and initiatives across all areas of the community.



Extraordinary Community Pride: Celebrate Lenexa's history and reputation as a visionary community and use that heritage to instill future generations with the pride that is reflected in the city's public places, plans, programs, and people.



Inclusive Community Building: Enthusiastically engage the public in community initiatives and visioning, including intentionally seeking input from a diverse assembly of stakeholders.



Responsible Economic Development: Fortify the city's economic base by encouraging high-quality private development as well as fostering economic opportunity through thoughtful planning processes and the judicious use of economic development investment programs.



Sustainable Policies and Practices: Lead by example in implementing sustainable and resilient practices where financially and operationally practical as well as enact community-wide policies and strategies that motivate both residents and businesses to do so when reasonable.



Values-based Organizational Culture: Create an organization that reflects the community's diversity and fosters superior culture by employing, supporting, and rewarding professionals who make decisions with integrity, deliver results through teamwork, provide exceptional service, lead into the future with vision, are dedicated to excellence, and who truly care about Lenexa.





— CITY OF LENEXA —

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

We support amending the Truth-in-Taxation Law to allow local governments to account for property tax revenue increases from new growth and expiring economic development investments in the calculation of the annual Revenue Neutral Rate.

We support property appraisals based on fair market value according to the Kansas Constitution and oppose caps on property valuation as unconstitutional and inequitable.

We oppose property tax exemptions for private enterprises that claim to be competing with public, voter-approved facilities.

We support State investment in establishing a crisis stabilization center in Johnson County.

We support including sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes in the Kansas Act Against Discrimination.

We support transitioning KPERS Tier 3 employees to a more effective retirement plan structure that does not negatively impact the City's annual actuarial contributions to KPERS.

We support investing in infrastructure through federal, state, and local partnerships based on the following principles:

- Preserving and maintaining infrastructure already in place.
- Prioritizing funding based on the best opportunities for economic growth, development and return on investment.
- Providing dedicated and consistent funding sources to pay for maintenance and improvements.
- Leveraging federal funding sources, such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), to enhance investment in the state's infrastructure and not to replace state funding.



SUPERIOR QUALITY SERVICES

Ensure that services are provided efficiently and effectively in ways that create a safe, clean, and attractive community for residents, businesses, and visitors.



92%

OF CITIZENS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE QUALITY OF SERVICES THEY RECEIVE FROM THE CITY OF LENEXA (2023 ETC INSTITUTE SURVEY)

We support providing state resources to further address mental health response both for citizens and law enforcement:

- State investment in a crisis stabilization center in Johnson County.
- Expanding Medicaid to ensure those who most need it have access to mental health care.

We oppose property tax exemptions for private enterprises that claim to be competing with public, voter-approved facilities.

- Enterprises in Lenexa that would be eligible for these exemptions differ from City facilities in the type of clientele served and services offered, and therefore do not compete.
- Places like community recreation centers are supported by general tax dollars and in most cases are specifically approved by taxpayers through referendums and bond issues.
- The Lenexa Rec Center was envisioned by a citizen-led strategic planning process and **paid for through a dedicated 3/8-cent sales tax** approved by voters in 2008.
- In Lenexa, the Public Market competes with the private sector in the restaurant business. However, **the Public Market also pays property and sales tax** like any other business.

We support the ability of local governments to use technology in the provision of city services to counterbalance the need for more staff, promote public safety, reduce accidents and solve crimes.



We support statewide policing policies that preserve local control over law enforcement according to the following principles:

- Ensure sound policing practices.
- Uphold the objectivity of criminal justice processes.
- Pursue justice for victims.
- Promote social equity.
- Recognize the increasing emphasis of mental health and wellbeing on law enforcement and the community.
- Allocate commensurate funding for any required education, training, transparency initiatives, or enhanced accountability systems.

RESPONSIBLE LAW ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES

Many of our personnel are members of and/or serve as board members for professional organizations. The ability to have first-hand knowledge and participation in shaping leading-edge policy and practices in law enforcement is immeasurable not only to our staff, but to our community.

The Lenexa Police Department is advised by a seven-member **Community Advisory Board** that is appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. The Board provides guidance and input to the Chief of Police in several policy areas:

- Preventing bias-based policing
- Use of force
- Mental health crisis response
- Criminal activity trends
- Promoting and increasing transparency
- Compassionate response to homelessness
- Use of technology

BY THE NUMBERS: MENTAL HEALTH

- Through a partnership with Johnson County, **two full-time, licensed clinicians** are embedded in the Lenexa Police Department as mental health co-responders to answer calls for service when a person is reported to be in a mental health crisis.
- Lenexa PD was the **first municipal law enforcement agency in the country** to be Gold-Certified by CIT International in crisis intervention training and best practices.
- **100%** of sworn Lenexa law enforcement officers are certified in Mental Health awareness, and 63% of all department personnel have completed basic crisis intervention training.
- The number of emergency calls for service that included a mental health element totaled 4,831 over the past five years (2019–2023), including **930** in 2023.
- Lenexa officers logged more than **9,037** hours on mental health-related calls for service in the past five years.

OUTREACH & TRANSPARENCY

- Lenexa was the **first law enforcement agency** in the Kansas City metro area to implement body cameras for all officers in 2009.
- The Lenexa Police Department regularly offers an **Understanding Police Use of Force Class** to educate members of the public about how law enforcement officers are trained to make decisions in high-stress situations.
- Lenexa's Understanding Police Use of Force class was **recognized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police** as a model curriculum and IACP will begin recommending implementation of the program to its members nationwide.
- The Lenexa Police Department also hosts **annual Citizens Police and Youth Police Academies** that educate participants about the structure, policies, and activities of our department.



PRUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Provide exceptional value in public investments by committing to structural fiscal balance in operational and capital activities while upholding transparent finance and budgeting processes.

We support transparency in taxation and property tax policies that do not negatively impact the ability of local governments to generate the necessary revenue to provide the services citizens expect, issue debt, or adversely affect municipal bond ratings.

We support the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and support the reinstatement of tax-exempt advance refunding municipal bonds.

- Federal tax law changes in 2017 ended the ability of local governments to save taxpayer money and benefit from more favorable borrowing terms by eliminating the tax-exempt status of advance refunding bonds.
- Federal level restrictions on the ability of local governments to raise revenue to support the issuance of debt will lead to higher interest payments on municipal bonds, ultimately costing taxpayers more money.

We support current local government sales tax exemptions.

If local government operational purchases (equipment, supplies, etc.) were taxable, the City of Lenexa would have expended an additional \$1.8 million on sales tax in 2023 alone. Of that total, **85% (\$1.53 million) represents a local tax revenue shift to the state.** The impact on capital projects is not included in this figure and would be even greater.

We support property appraisals based on fair market value according to the Kansas Constitution and oppose caps on property valuation as unconstitutional and inequitable.

- There are three traditional and generally accepted property valuation methods: sales comparison, cost, and income. Hypothetical future valuation, or “dark store” methods are not generally accepted by appraisal professionals.
- Artificial caps on annual property valuation are not a market driven solution for tax relief. They create a “lock-in” effect that results in severe inequities for future home buyers, exacerbating affordable housing issues.
- Lowering the residential property tax assessment rate over two years from 11.5% to 9% would reduce local resources by \$3.6 million – the equivalent of purchasing three new fire trucks or completely eliminating the City’s Information Technology Department.

We support the current structure of City/County sales tax revenue sharing.

- Since 1977, Kansas has successfully used a city-county revenue sharing formula for the benefit of all. The existing formula ensures there is a fair method to distribute funds that are generated primarily in cities.

71%

OF LENEXA CITIZENS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE VALUE THEY RECEIVE FOR THEIR TAX DOLLARS (2023 ETC INSTITUTE SURVEY)



PRUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

We oppose legislation that erodes the local or state ad valorem property tax base, puts municipalities at a competitive disadvantage with other states (especially neighboring ones) or levies a sales tax on professional services.

- 78% of Lenexa jobs are in “professional services” as defined by NAICS code.

We support a balanced state budget and fiscal policies that do not rely on reductions in funding for local units of government.

- The state’s current fund balance should be used judiciously for one-time expenses, such as modernizing state software systems, investing in infrastructure, and maintaining a healthy reserve balance to guard against future economic downturns.

We support fully funding all statutory demand transfer funds such as the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund (LAVTR), County City Revenue Sharing (CCRS) and the motor vehicle property tax portion of the Special City-County Highway Fund (SCCH).

- Since 2001, the state has failed to appropriate over **\$3 billion** in statutory local property tax demand transfers.
- If these demand transfers are ever funded and subsequently cease again, cities should be held harmless from the unfunded mandate to provide tax relief based on those demand transfers.

We oppose unfunded mandates that create an undue burden on personnel, resources or services of local governments.

OUR BUDGET

The City of Lenexa has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for **32 consecutive years**. The award recognizes local governments who demonstrate superior levels of taxpayer transparency in their budgeting process.

Through sound fiscal management, **Lenexa has lowered the mill levy for six consecutive years** and earned Triple-A bond ratings from both Moody’s (Aaa) and S&P (AAA).

In 2022, the City launched a **new budget management software** that allows the public to more easily understand how their tax dollars are being spent and the City hosted a **budget open house** for citizens.





STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Provide exceptional value in public investments by committing to structural fiscal balance in operational and capital activities while upholding transparent finance and budgeting processes.

We support investing in infrastructure through federal, state and local partnerships based on the following principles:

- Preserving and maintaining infrastructure already in place.
- Prioritizing funding based on the best opportunities for economic growth and development as well as return on investment.
- Providing dedicated and consistent funding sources to pay for maintenance and improvements.
- Leveraging federal funding sources, such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), to enhance planned investment in the state's infrastructure and not to replace state funding.

We support the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE) and urge the legislature to provide consistent funding for the state's transportation infrastructure over the term of the program.

- We support the K-10 Highway Expansion Project and the inclusion of the **K-10 & Lone Elm Interchange** in the scope of the project. This interchange will provide important connections between Lenexa neighborhoods and the schools south of K-10 in Olathe as well as foster economic development opportunities in the area.

We support the right of municipalities to manage local rights-of-way and infrastructure – and to collect reasonable fees from the private service providers and utilities using those public assets to deliver service to their customers.

74% OF LENEXA CITIZENS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THE CITY IS PLANNING FOR GROWTH (2023 ETC INSTITUTE SURVEY)



The BIL includes **\$110 billion** for investing in roads and bridges. The IIJA allocated **\$134 million** to Kansas for work on the state's highways and bridges.

BY THE NUMBERS: TRANSPORTATION

IKE allocates **\$1.3 billion** over 10 years for preventative maintenance in KDOT District 1.

K-10 HIGHWAY EXPANSION PROJECT

The Project, a major portion of which will be constructed in Lenexa, is currently in the IKE Development Pipeline. Inclusion of the **K-10 and Lone Elm interchange** in the scope of work for the Project is of paramount importance. Constructing the Interchange will make the corridor safer, enhance the transportation network surrounding the area, and provide economic opportunities for Lenexa and Olathe.

It is also imperative to take advantage of **federal funds awarded** to the City of Lenexa for design of the Interchange. It is currently designed to the field check stage, a break-in-access approved, and nearly all necessary rights-of-way in Lenexa have been acquired.



EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY PRIDE

Celebrate Lenexa's history and reputation as a visionary community and use that heritage to instill future generations with the pride that is reflected in the city's public places, plans, programs, and people.

We support the current cycle of local elections and oppose moving them to even years or making them political party affiliated.

- In Lenexa's most recent Citizen Survey, **76%** of residents rated the City's quality of leadership as effective or better according to ETC Institute.

95% OF CITIZENS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN LENEXA (2023 ETC INSTITUTE SURVEY)



95% OF LENEXA
CITIZENS
ARE SATISFIED WITH THE
OVERALL IMAGE OF THE CITY
(2023 ETC INSTITUTE SURVEY)

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY BUILDING

Enthusiastically engage the public in community initiatives and visioning, including intentionally seeking input from a diverse assembly of stakeholders.

We support including sexual orientation and gender identity as specifically protected classes in the Kansas Act Against Discrimination.

- We believe discrimination, in all its forms, is unjust and damaging to a community's growth. A diverse population of various cultures, perspectives and experiences creates a dynamic, welcoming and prosperous community.
- A patchwork of local ordinances is not the most effective solution to implement anti-discrimination laws and is especially problematic for businesses with multiple locations that must navigate the compliance requirements of each separate jurisdiction.
- The U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling on this matter in *Bostock v. Clayton County*. However, the decision pertains to matters of employment and not housing or public accommodations. Therefore, statutory protections are still necessary.

We support the ability of cities to use their websites or other widely distributed electronic and print media channels as the primary place to publish statutory public notices.

- The City's official website Lenexa.com logged more than **480,000 visitors** in 2023.
- The City has a combined **140,000 followers** on its official Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor accounts.

We support transparency in government and the current structure of open records requests through the Kansas Open Records Act.

PROTECTING OUR CITIZENS

The City of Lenexa passed a **Non-Discrimination Ordinance (NDO)** in order to provide employment, service and housing protections for individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Lenexa also enacted a corresponding **Hate Crimes Ordinance** that creates enhanced penalties for bias-based crimes.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLS IN LENEXA

Lenexa has leveraged its economic development investment tools to drive \$3.9 billion in development in the last decade, including nearly **\$2.3 billion in commercial development alone.**

Lenexa uses PILOT and other revenue sharing agreements to **ensure base-level tax revenues are maintained** and that they are used to fund public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, traffic signals, street lights, sidewalks, trails and stormwater facilities.

STATE VS. STATE

The duration of local Kansas economic development investment tools ranges from 10-22 years, depending on the program. In neighboring Missouri, similar programs can last for 25-35 years, a significant competitive disadvantage when trying to attract capital investment and jobs.

BY THE NUMBERS: EDUCATION + WORKFORCE

Lenexa is served by **three public school districts**: Shawnee Mission, Olathe and De Soto. The city is also home to St. James Academy, a highly-rated Catholic high school.

The **3,520** Lenexa businesses employ over 65,500 workers.

60% of Lenexa residents hold a bachelor's degree or higher.

88% OF CITIZENS ARE SATISFIED WITH LENEXA AS A PLACE TO WORK (2023 ETC INSTITUTE SURVEY)

RESPONSIBLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Fortify the city's economic base by encouraging high-quality private development as well as fostering economic opportunity through thoughtful planning processes and the judicious use of economic development investment programs.

We support amending the Truth-in-Taxation Law by allowing local governments to account for property tax revenue increases from new growth and expiring economic development investments in the calculation of the annual Revenue Neutral Rate.

- Lenexa is one of the most rapidly growing communities in Kansas. **New economic activity accounted for \$24.5 million (18.5%) in assessed value growth** in 2023.
- Local economic development efforts are integral to the state's fiscal health and provide support for statewide development projects such as the Panasonic plant in nearby De Soto.
- Economic development tools are fundamental mechanisms for promoting the growth and sustainability of a community by attracting new economic activity.

We support the current structure of local and state economic development investment tools.

- Economic development investment programs support development that **grows the tax base over the long term.**
- When used judiciously, these programs have **short-term benefits** through payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreements and tax increment sharing agreements.
- Changes or decreased flexibility in these tools result in a **competitive disadvantage for Kansas cities** contending with communities from neighboring states with similar or more robust programs.
- We support responsible use of STAR Bonds and legislative oversight of the program.

We support the right of municipalities to responsibly use eminent domain for all public purposes, including economic development.

We support investing in public education in a manner that ensures the state is building a workforce that our businesses and organizations can rely upon now and in the future.



95% OF LENEXA
CITIZENS
ARE SATISFIED WITH THE
OVERALL APPEARANCE OF
THE CITY (2023 ETC
INSTITUTE SURVEY)

SUSTAINABLE POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Lead by example in implementing sustainable and resilient practices where financially and operationally practical as well as enact community-wide policies and strategies that motivate both residents and businesses to do so when reasonable.

We support the ability of local governments to enact environmental or climate change policies within their jurisdictions.

- Lenexa has been a pioneer in environmental resilience strategies for many years and recently accepted the Climate Action KC Playbook as a framework to consider which sustainability initiatives makes sense for our community. To date Lenexa has:
 - **Established a stormwater utility** to address issues with stormwater runoff and the maintenance of related infrastructure, such as replacing corrugated metal pipe (CMP) in a systematic way.
 - **Rain to Recreation**
 - Leveraged a **1/4-cent sales tax** to fund flood control projects that also function as parks and recreational amenities like Lake Lenexa, Mize Lake and multi-use trails.
 - Enacted a **stream setback ordinance** to ensure the City's stream corridors are protected.
 - Implemented **water quality standards** to ensure runoff is treated before entering our water supply.
 - Launched a **cost share program** that reimburses home and business owners for installing rain barrels, rain gardens and native plants.
 - **Native plant propagation** saves taxpayer money by investing in City-grown, native plants to support erosion control, water quality, and beautification.
 - In 2019, the City chose to invest in **100% renewable electricity** for City facilities through Evergy Renewables Direct.
 - In 2023, the City installed six public charging EV stations at two locations in and plans to install eight more at two sites in 2024.
 - **City taxpayers save about \$300,000 annually** in electricity costs through converting street lights to LED.

We support statewide efforts addressing water quality/quantity planning and sustainability.

- Lenexa joined other communities and Johnson County in establishing a regional approach to stormwater through **six watershed management organizations**.



84%

OF LENEXA
CITIZENS ARE
SATISFIED WITH
THE QUALITY
OF CUSTOMER
SERVICE
RECEIVED FROM
CITY EMPLOYEES
(2023 ETC
INSTITUTE
SURVEY)



VALUES-BASED ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

Create an organization that reflects the community's diversity and fosters superior culture by employing, supporting, and rewarding professionals who make decisions with integrity, deliver results through teamwork, provide exceptional service, lead into the future with vision, are dedicated to excellence, and who truly care about Lenexa.



We support the authority of municipalities to manage employee/ employer relations.

We support transitioning KPERS Tier 3 employees to a more effective retirement plan structure that does not negatively impact the City's annual actuarial contributions to KPERS.

- Tier 3 members account for 55% of current local government KPERS membership and nearly 15% of all members.

The City of Lenexa employs a workforce of more than **800** from lifeguards to engineers.

LENEXA GOVERNING BODY

All Governing Body members can be reached by leaving a phone message at City Hall (913.477.7550)

MAYOR



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CITY COUNCIL WARD 1



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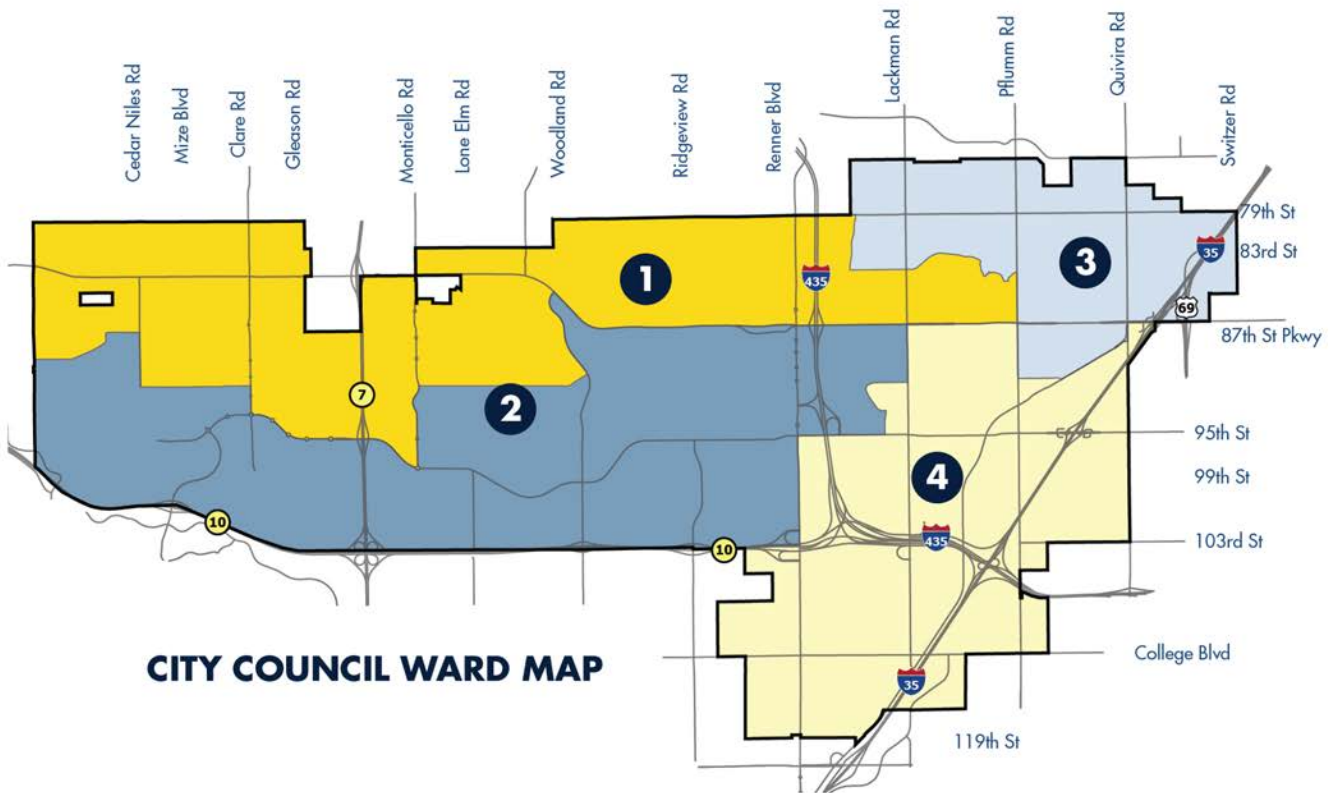
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CITY COUNCIL WARD MAP

CITY COUNCIL WARD 2



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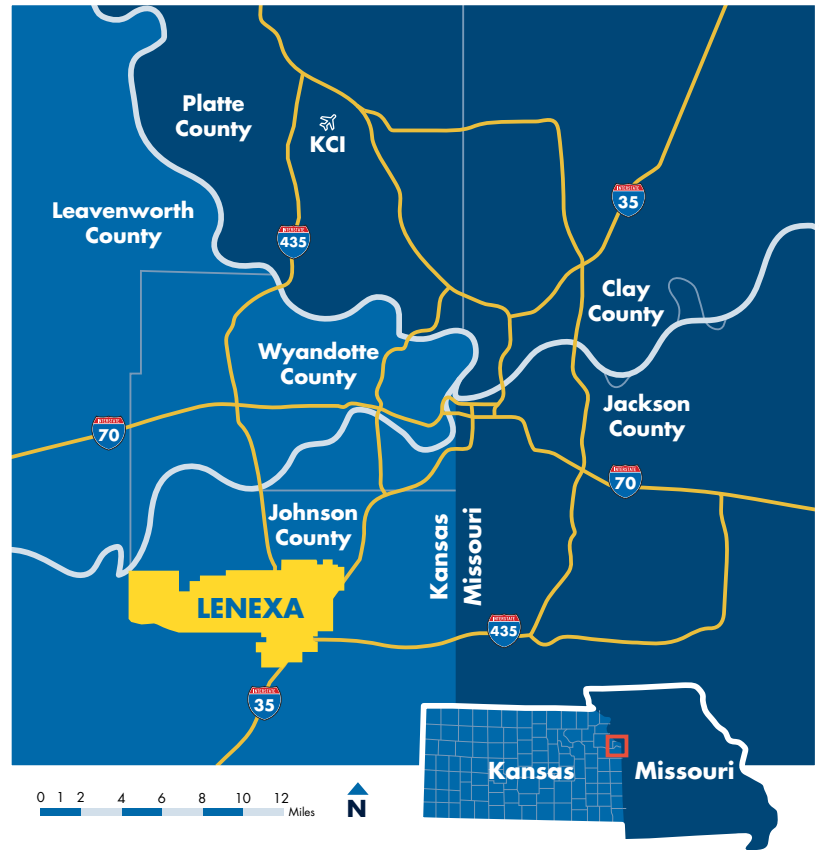
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COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

City of Lenexa, Johnson County, Kansas

KEY FACTS

59,686

Population

37.9

Median Age

2.4

Average Household Size

\$95,739

Median Household Income

EDUCATION

3%

No High School Diploma



13%

High School Graduate



25%

Some College



60%

Bachelor's/Grad/Prof Degree

BUSINESS



3,520

Total Businesses



65,486

Total Employees

EMPLOYMENT



80%

White Collar



11%

Blue Collar



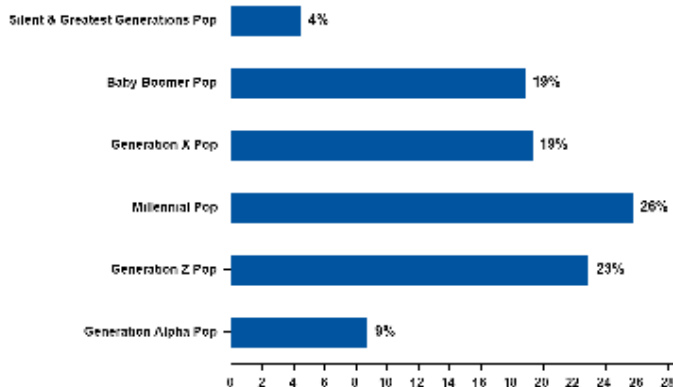
10%

Services

2.7%

Unemployment Rate

Population Generational Breakdown



2023 Households by income (Esri)

The largest group: \$100,000 - \$149,999 (21.4%)

The smallest group: \$15,000 - \$24,999 (4.2%)

Indicator ▲	Value	Diff	
<\$15,000	4.5%	-1.7%	
\$15,000 - \$24,999	4.2%	3.4%	
\$25,000 - \$34,999	5.5%	-2.0%	
\$35,000 - \$49,999	7.6%	4.5%	
\$50,000 - \$74,999	16.9%	-1.4%	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	12.9%	0.6%	
\$100,000 - \$149,999	21.4%	+4.6%	
\$150,000 - \$199,999	11.9%	+4.7%	
\$200,000+	15.0%	+8.1%	

Bars show deviation from Kansas