

# 2018



## **Unified Government Federal Legislative Agenda 115<sup>th</sup> Congress**

**Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas  
701 North 7th Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101**

### **Critical Highway Infrastructure Projects**

The Unified Government supports Federal funding to assist with needed improvements to the I-70/Turner Diagonal interchange and I-70/I-435 interchange near Village West. Both of these major highway infrastructure projects would help generate hundreds of millions of dollars in new economic development activity and create hundreds of jobs, while improving safety for the driving public.

### **Railroad Quiet Zones**

The Unified Government urges Congress to reexamine the Train Horn Rule with the Federal Railroad Administration. Rules for implementing quiet zones should be less burdensome and allow for differences in community circumstances while continuing to protect public safety. We also request Congress provide federal funds for the purpose of establishing quiet zones and consider new technology which may enhance the safety of quiet zones while minimizing or eliminating train horn noise.

### **Community Development Block Grants**

The Unified Government supports continued funding for Community Development Block Grants, Community Service Block Grants, and HOME Grants. These programs' CDBG funding is an essential component of cities' strategies to fund critical community services and infrastructure needs.

### **Protect Municipal Bonds**

The Unified Government calls on Congress and the President to preserve the federal income tax exemption on municipal bonds. Municipal bonds are critical for local governments to finance public infrastructure that supports everyday life. Removing the tax exemption will increase the cost of building streets, bridges, sewers and other municipal projects, greatly increasing the cost for local taxpayers.

### **Marketplace Fairness**

The Unified Government supports legislation to permit the collection of *existing* sales and use taxes from remote sellers. The issue of collecting remote sales taxes has escalated in recent years due to the Internet's growth as a retail marketplace. As a result, state and local governments have lost billions in uncollected sales taxes and Main Street businesses find themselves at a significant competitive disadvantage to online merchants.

### **Immigration Reform**

The Unified Government supports a federal solution to immigration reform, including a permanent solution to address "Dreamers", the group of people brought here as children. Any immigration policy should not negatively impact local governments with additional burdens on law enforcement, administration, and should not impose financial penalties.

### **Stormwater**

The Unified Government supports a clean and safe public water supply and the protection of public health and aquatic life. We endorse federal investments and cooperative solutions that address water quality challenges and take into account municipal cost concerns. The Unified Government supports simple and flexible federal regulations of municipal stormwater run-off that allow for orderly and cost-effective development.

### **Water Development Resources Act**

The WRDA Federal grant program is vital in funding needed upkeep and improvement of the river levee system protecting Kansas City from floods on both the Missouri and Kansas rivers.

### **Broadband**

Encourage and promote deployment of broadband networks in a competitive and technologically neutral manner, while preserving local authority to take action to ensure that residents have access to high-speed Internet and other communications services.

### **Mental Health**

The Unified Government supports programs and legislation to reduce mental illness in jails and provide appropriate treatment to those in custody, while protecting overall public safety.