

Consolidation of the City of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County

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KANSAS CITY

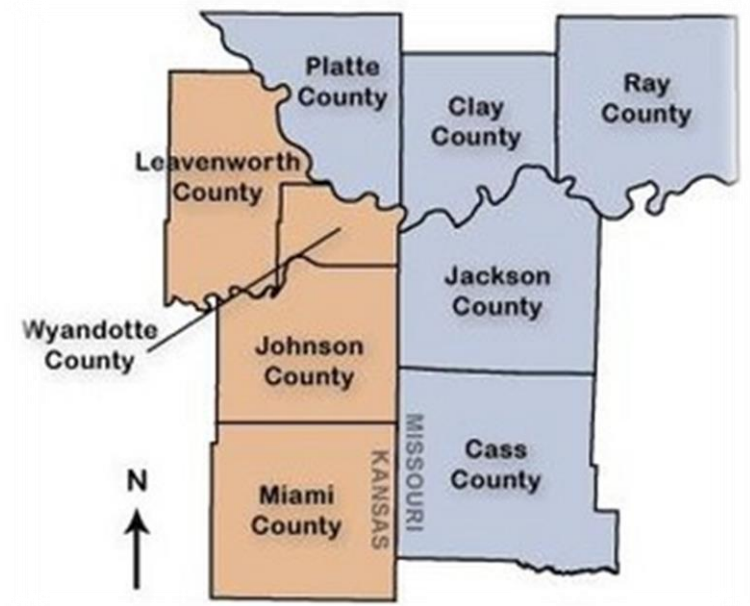
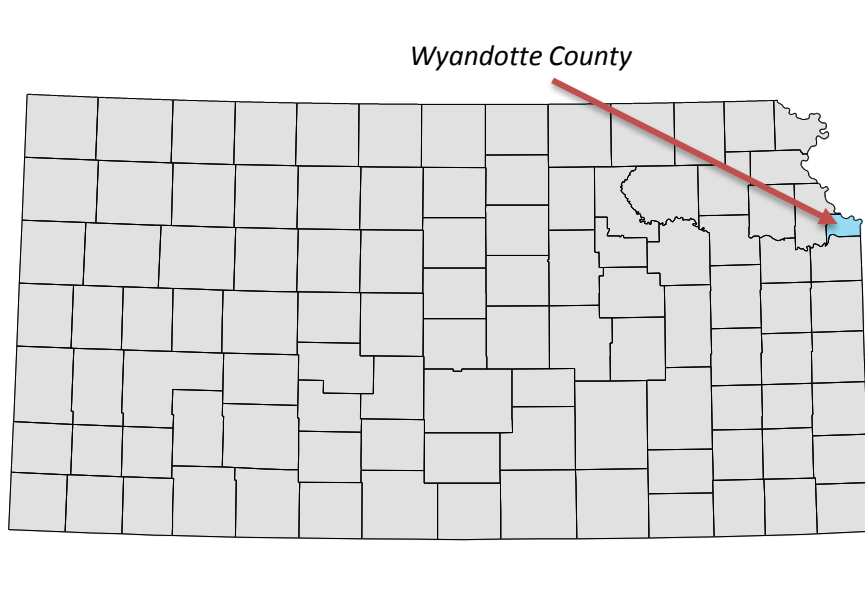
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- Consolidation of the City of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County Governments in 1997
- Process to Accomplish
- Community Impact
- Successful or Not?



State of Kansas

Population
+2,900,000

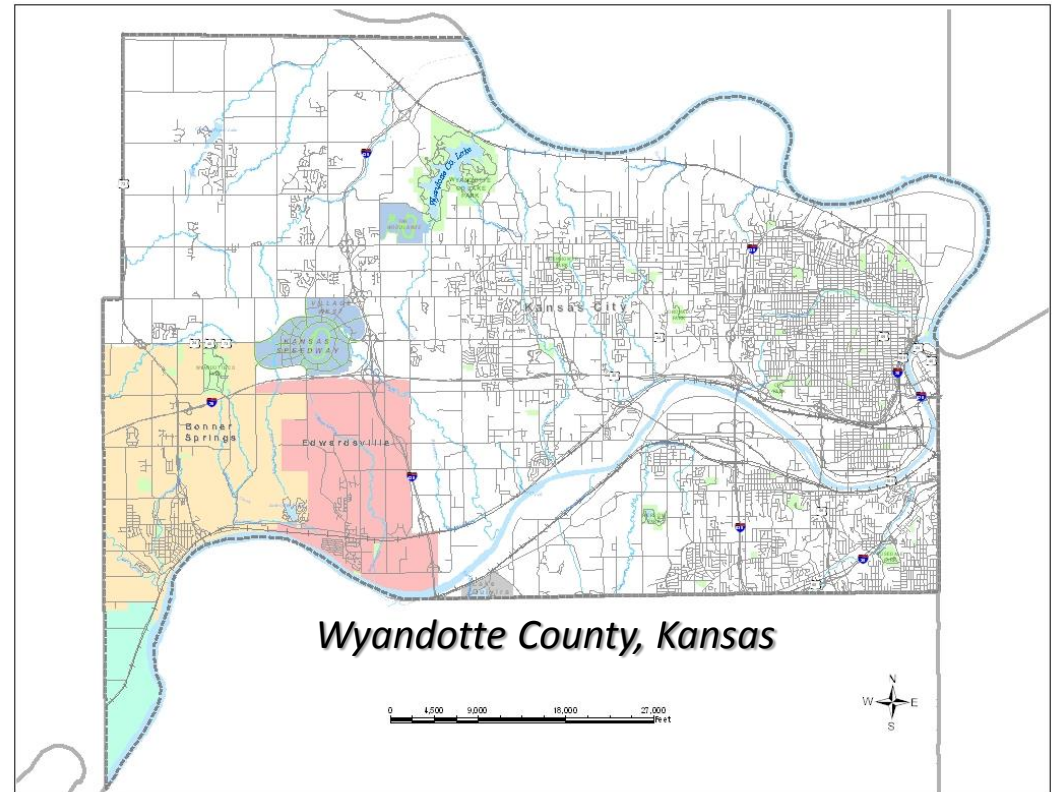


Kansas City Metropolitan Area

Population
+2,000,000



- Wyandotte County
Population – 163,369
 - Kansas City – 151,306
 - Bonner Springs – 7,600
 - Edwardsville – 4,390
- Ethnicity
 - 42.1% White
 - 27.7% Hispanic
 - 23.2% African American
- Square Miles
 - 156 square miles



Chronology

- **Early 1990's**
 - Grass Roots Citizen Effort to Promote Consolidation
 - Joint City/County Committee Reviews & Researches Concept of Consolidation
- **1995**
 - Consolidation Initiative Debated During Mayoral Election
- **1996**
 - Kansas Legislature Authorizes Consolidation Study Commission
 - Study Commission Develops Recommendations
 - Public Hearings Held



Chronology

- **1997**
 - State Legislature Approves Recommendation
 - April 1 – Voters Overwhelmingly Approve Consolidation
 - April to September – Transition Team Formed
 - Responsible for Preparation for Orderly Transformation to New Unified Government
 - October 1 – New Unified Commission Sworn Into Office
- **1998**
 - Commission Adopts New Budget & Organizational Structure
- **January 1, 1999**
 - Functional Date of Full Consolidation



Impetus for Consolidation

- Negative Perception of Community (Corrupt Government)
- High Tax Rate
- Declining Population
- Lack of Development
- Declining Valuation
- Inability to Advance New Policy or Community Vision

Our Community Was Going In The Wrong Direction With No Change In Sight



New “Unified” Government

- One Government
- Progressive and Professional Policies
- Improved Image and Perception
- Ability to Undertake Major Economic Development Projects



Single Policy Making Board

- Established Clear Leadership for Community
- Eliminated Finger Pointing by Elected Bodies
- One Professional Management Team
- Vision for the Future of the Community
- Eliminated Elected Officials (County Treasurer, County Surveyor, County Clerk, Public Administrator)
- Ethics Policy and Administrator
- Independent Legislative Auditor



New Policy & Direction

- Professional Policies & Procedures (HR, Procurement, Finance, Legal)
- Consolidated Overlapping Governmental Services & Administration
- 15% Reduction in FTEs through Attrition
- Development Strategy
- Community Master Plan
- Since 1997, the Unified Government has reduced its City/County Mill Rates by 16.8%



Improved Image and Perception

- Community Pride
- Image Within Metropolitan Area
- Confidence in Government
- Efficiency of Governance
- Open and Transparent Policy Making



Ability to Undertake Major Economic Development Projects

- Risk Taking
- Community Investment
- Confidence from the Development Community
- Kansas Speedway said “YES!”
 - Catalyst for New Opportunity
 - Eminent Domain
- Tourism District (Village West)
 - Purchased 400 Acres
 - Negotiated Major Development Agreements
- Continued Growth in Manufacturing Industry



Measuring Success

- Increased Valuation
- Increased Population
- Reduced Crime Rate
- New Development
- Reduced Tax Rate
- Improved Image

Consolidation Event Changed the Perception and Reality of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County



Questions/Comments?





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