Recent modeled data from Data USA put adult obesity in Anderson County at about 36.4% of adults with a body mass Index at 30 or higher. Kansas Health Institute county profiles show Anderson sitting in the high-30s for adult obesity at 37-39 percent over the last several years, and note that all seven Anderson County ZIP codes have adult obesity rates worse than national averages.

But Kansans fare slightly better than national averages. Centers for Disease Control national data show about 41.9% of U.S. adults had obesity in 2017–2020; newer analyses say roughly 4 in 10 adults are obese nationally and that the rate is currently high but roughly stable.

Anderson County's adult obesity is right in line with Kansas and a bit below the U.S. average, but every ZIP in the county "compared unfavorably nationally for rates of adult obesi-ty," according to the Saint Luke's Health System 2024 Community Health Needs

Being fat can lead to diabetes and its host of associated health problems. The American Diabetes Association and state reports estimated about 11% of Kansas adults have diagnosed diabetes. A more recent Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Systembased profile puts adult diabetes at 12.7% in Kansas in 2024. In the U.S., the ADA says 11.6% of Americans had diabetes in 2021. A 2024 CDC analysis estimates diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes at 15.8% of U.S.

The 2024 Saint Luke's Health Needs Assessment reports that mortality rates for chronic conditions associated with obesity-"such as heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure" are above U.S. rates in Anderson County. No published percentage

for obesity among Anderson County children could be sourced for this article, but local hospital assessments say childhood obesity is "on the rise" and strongly tied to generational obesity and higher-than-average child food insecurity. Kansas as a whole has about 15% of kids with obesity, and Anderson County is clearly not doing better than that, given its as reported by Saint Luke's.

Much of the policy dispute of obesity has centered on the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), administered in Kansas through the Department for Children and Families (DCF). SNAP is designed to help low-income

SCRAP...

Office

across the country. The

Greene County Sheriff's

Missouri, told KY3 News in

2021 that stolen bronze vet-

eran medallions were being

scrapped for their metal

content. Police in Dayton,

Ohio reached the same con-

clusion in 2019, with WDTN

reporting that thieves

admitted the thefts were

motivated by scrap value.

In Massachusetts, a 2021

case detailed by MassLive

involved a man accused of

stealing 64 grave markers

and selling them by weight

less frequent, involves

thieves taking the markers

for personal décor or resale.

Investigators in Butler

County, Pennsylvania, told

WPXI in 2020 that offend-

ers appeared to be stealing the cast-metal emblems to

use as "yard ornaments."

In New York, WWNY-TV

reported in 2018 that stolen

grave markers were discov-

ered being sold as "vintage

Americana" at a flea mar-

Vandalism also plays

Another motive, though

at a recycling center.

in Springfield,

residents purchase nutritious food. Federal USDA guidance notes that benefits can be used only for food "intended for home preparation and consumption," including produce, dairy, meats, cereals, shelf-stable foods, cold snacks, and non-alcoholic drinks. Hot prepared foods are explicitly prohibited, and therefore SNAP cannot be used at McDonald's or other fastfood restaurants in Kansas. Only states that opt into the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) — a federal carveout for elderly, disabled, and homeless populations — may allow restaurant purchases. Kansas does not participate in the RMP, according to USDA and DCF program descriptions. Even with the federal

restrictions on hot foods and restaurants, Kansas lawmakers have increasingly focused on soda, candy, and ultra-processed foods purchased with SNAP. A widely cited USDA analysis of transaction data, referenced in legislative hearings, found that sweetened beverages are the single largest individual purchase category for SNAP households nationwide, accounting for roughly 9 percent of SNAP food spending. A separate USDA purchasing review found soda alone made up about 5 percent of all SNAP food dollars — the largest single item — compared with about 4 percent for non-SNAP households. Kansas committee testimony has repeatedly pointed to those findings, with one 2024 hearing stating that "the number one purchase with food stamps is soda," tying the issue directly to childhood obesity and dia-

Public-health research used by supporters of new restrictions argues that high consumption of sugary drinks drives both obesity and type-2 diabetes. Modeling published in health-policy journals and summarized by the USDA suggests that banning soda from SNAP could reduce obesity and diabetes incidence in low-income populations more effectively than most other targeted interventions.

In early 2025, Kansas legislators passed Senate Bill 79, which would have required DCF to seek a federal waiver to prohibit the use of SNAP for soda pop and candy. Supporters argued the measure simply aligned the "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" with genuine nutrition by treating soda and candy similarly to alcohol, tobacco, and hot prepared foods, all of which are already prohibited under federal rules. They also argued that Kansas' high and rising obesity rates provided a strong fiscal justification for tightening the

Gov. Laura Kelly vetoed SB 79 on April 4, 2025, calling the measure "unnecessary red tape" that would "stigmatize low-income families without proven benefit." Her message echoed concerns cited by the USDA in past decisions rejecting similar waiver attempts in other states — namely, the difficulty of defining categories like "candy" or "soda," the large administrative burden on retailers, and the uncertainty of whether such bans produce meaningful health improvements since families can still purchase sugary items with cash.

Legislators attempted to override the veto but fell short in the House. Kelly's office and allied advocacy groups argued that obesity is a complex problem tied to poverty, food deserts, and lack of access to primary care — and that singling out SNAP recipients for dietary restrictions amounts to a "culture-war distraction," citing USDA's own caution that benefit-restriction waivers rarely receive approval.

After the veto, lawmakers advanced a second bill requiring DCF to request the waiver anyway, effectively attempting to bypass the veto's substantive effect. DCF has submitted that waiver request to USDA. As of late 2025, USDA has not approved the Kansas request, although several other states — including Nebraska, Arkansas, Indiana and Texas — have successfully advanced SNAP soda-and-candy restriction waivers through the federal process.

With Kansas obesity rates among the highest in the region and projected to worsen, the clash over soda purchases and SNAP rules reflects a deeper divide between public-health arguments and social-welfare concerns. Supporters of tighter rules say taxpayers should not subsidize junk food at a time when obesity is crippling state health budgets. Opponents counter that sweeping restrictions risk adding bureaucracy and humiliation at the checkout line while failing to solve the underlying

For now, Kansas SNAP recipients remain bound by federal food-item rules only: benefits may be used at grocery stores, convenience and farmers markets for most cold or shelf-stable foods — but not for hot food, not at McDonald's or other fast-food restaurants, and — pending federal approval — still allowed for the purchase of soda pop and

a role in some cases. A 17-year-old in Salina, Kansas, was arrested in 2017 for removing a veteran's marker during an act of cemetery vandalism, according to KSAL Radio. Police in Urbana, Illinois, reported a similar teen-related case in 2019 when markers were removed and discarded nearby, WCIA reported.

In other incidents, drug-related crimes are the driver. Fort Wayne, Indiana police said in 2015 that thieves admitted taking grave markers simply to scrap them to buy drugs, WANE-TV reported. In Georgia, the Rome News-Tribune reported in 2018 that a man confessed he stole multiple bronze medallions to fund a methamphetamine habit.

Veterans organizations say the pattern is widespread. Local chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion have issued warnings over the past decade that rising scrap-metal prices have led to repeated thefts of bronze grave medallions, often in clus-

ters from rural cemeteries.

The markers—typically cast in bronze, brass, or iron—hold little legitimate resale value, and selling them as collectibles is illegal in many states. But their weight makes them profitable to unscrupulous metal scavengers. In several states, including Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Ohio, and Massachusetts, recovered stolen markers have been found mixed into scrap-yard metal piles after being sold for pennies on the dollar.

Officials urge families and cemetery boards to report any missing markers to law enforcement and to monitor local scrap buyers, which increasingly cooperate with police to identify stolen memorial items. Many American Legion and VFW posts will replace stolen markers for families at little or no cost.

If thefts occur locally, authorities recommend notifying the cemetery district, contacting nearby metal recyclers, and filing a police report—steps that have helped recover markers in several confirmed cases nationwide.

<u>Public</u>

Current statewide Public Notice archive available at www.kansaspublicnotices.com

Your **RIGHT** to know, guaranteed by Kansas Law.

Notice of public hearing -Kincaid Revitalization Plan

(First published in The Anderson County Review, Thursday, November 27, 2025.)

Notice of Public Hearing The City of Kincaid will hold a public hearing for the consideration of adopting a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan for the City of Kincaid. The hearing will be held on the 8th day of December, 2025 at 7PM at the Kincaid City Hall.

Notice of resolution for Lone Elm property holder - 304 LE Second

(First published in The Anderson County Review, Thursday, November 27, 2025.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-004

A RESOLUTION FIXING A TIME

AND PLACE FOR PROVIDING FOR A NOTICE OF A HEARING BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LONE ELM, KANSAS; AT WHICH TIME THE OWNERS, THEIR AGENTS, OR LIENHOLDERS OF RECORD OF THE PROPERTY HERINAFTER DESCRIBED, MAY APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY CERTAIN STRUCTURES SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED AND ORDERED REPAIR OR DEMOLISHED AS DANGEROUS AND UNFIT STRUCTURE PURSUANT TO AND UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF NO. 43, SECTION I OF LONE ELM CITY ORDINANCE AND K.S.A. 12-1750 ET SEQ, AS AMENDED.

WHEREAS, the enforcing officer of the City of Lone Elm, Kansas did on November 5, 2025, file with the governing body of the said city, a statement in writing that the structure or structures hereinafter described, are dangerous and unfit for human habitation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LONE ELM, KANSAS:

That a hearing will be held on the 30th day of December 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lone Elm Community Building, Lone Elm, Kansas, at which time the owner, his or her agent, any lienholders of record, and any other parties in interest of the structures and may appear and show cause why such structure should not be condemned as an unsafe or dangerous structure and ordered repaired or Description of property and last known contact person:

304 LE Second, Kincaid, KS 66039; Block 10, Lots 16, 17, and 18 (Rebecca Rendell, 3907 NW 94th St., Topeka, Ks

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall cause this Resolution to be published and shall give notice of the aforesaid hearing in the manner provided

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the govern-

ing body of the Lone Elm City Council,

Lone Elm, Kansas, on the 12th day of November, 2025. CITY OF LONE ELM. KANSAS

/s/Gerald Morrison, Mayor ATTEST: /s/Eileen Johns, City Clerk

Notice of 2025 budget amendment - Anderson County

(Published in The Anderson County Review, Thursday, December 4, 2025.)

Notice of Budget Hearing for Amending the 2025 Budget

The governing body of

Anderson County

will meet on the day of December 15, 2025 at 10:00 AM at Anderson County Commission Chambers for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed amended use of funds.

> Detailed budget information is available at Anderson County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing

> > **Summary of Amendments**

	1				
		2025			
	Actual Amount of Tax			Proposed Amended	
Fund	Tax Rate	that was Levied	Expenditures	Expenditures	
Service Program for Elderly	0.353	48,593	52,797	132,797	
			0	0	
			0	0	
			0	0	
			0	0	
			0	0	

Julie Wettstein Official Title: County Clerk

Notice of 2026 budget - City of Kincaid

(Published in The Anderson County Review, Thursday, Decemeber 4, 2025.)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of City of Kincaid

will meet on August 11, 2025 at 7:15 PM at Kincaid City Hall for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Kincaid City Hall and will be available at this hearing. BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation

	Prior Year Actual for 2024		Current Year Estimate for 2025		Proposed Budget for 2026		
FUND	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	54,809	62.450	57,337	55.986	292,644	41,570	55.723
Debt Service							
Library							
Special Highway			5,000		34,229		
Water Fund	48,428		45,850		82,242		
Sewer Fund	5,591		11,687		121,330		
Trash Fund	6,747		7,000		43,077		
Non-Budgeted Funds-A							
Totale	115,575	62.450	126,874	55.986	573,522	41,570	55.723
Totals	113,373	. 62.430	120,874	33.980		ue Neutral Rate**	55.724
Less: Transfers	T ol		5,000		5,000	ac reas at ruit	33.724
Net Expenditure	115,575		121,874		568,522		
Total Tax Levied	41,570		41,570		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed	41,570		41,570		AAAAAAAAAAAAA		
Valuation	665,648		742,504		746,005		

Outstanding Indebtedness, Revenue Bonds Lease Purchase Principal

*Tax rates are expressed in mil ** Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Morgan Parks City Clerk