

Linn County News

Issue 9, Volume XLIX

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

\$1 ©2026

Change Existing Residential Property 2021-25					
County	Change	County	Change	County	Change
Allen	42%	Greeley	13%	Osborne	60%
Anderson	63%	Greenwood	27%	Ottawa	46%
Atchison	54%	Hamilton	37%	Pawnee	45%
Barber	17%	Harper	50%	Phillips	40%
Barton	50%	Harvey	37%	Pottawatomie	29%
Bourbon	27%	Haskell	31%	Pratt	31%
Brown	71%	Hodgeman	37%	Rawlins	28%
Butler	42%	Jackson	34%	Reno	36%
Chase	27%	Jefferson	52%	Republic	34%
Chautauqua	18%	Jewell	48%	Rice	42%
Cherokee	49%	Johnson	40%	Riley	29%
Cheyenne	83%	Kearny	36%	Rooks	46%
Clark	27%	Kingman	38%	Rush	43%
Clay	33%	Kiowa	15%	Russell	54%
Cloud	51%	Labette	17%	Saline	27%
Coffey	48%	Lane	47%	Scott	50%
Comanche	18%	Leavenworth	38%	Sedgwick	38%
Cowley	51%	Lincoln	57%	Seward	22%
Crawford	32%	Linn	91%	Shawnee	38%
Decatur	45%	Logan	29%	Sheridan	16%
Dickinson	28%	Lyon	37%	Sherman	37%
Doniphan	16%	Marion	41%	Smith	54%
Douglas	41%	Marshall	35%	Stafford	31%
Edwards	17%	McPherson	19%	Stanton	23%
Elk	29%	Meade	28%	Stevens	22%
Ellis	33%	Miami	48%	Sumner	42%
Ellsworth	32%	Mitchell	37%	Thomas	33%
Finney	39%	Montgomery	39%	Trego	28%
Ford	28%	Morris	26%	Wabaunsee	37%
Franklin	48%	Morton	15%	Wallace	54%
Geary	36%	Nemaha	44%	Washington	45%
Gove	31%	Neosho	21%	Wichita	26%
Graham	23%	Ness	40%	Wilson	26%
Grant	25%	Norton	17%	Woodson	33%
Gray	35%	Osage	39%	Wyandotte	66%

Source: Kansas Dept. of Revenue

CHART COURTESY OF KANSAS POLICY INSTITUTE

2025 data is in: Four straight years of unaffordable assessed valuation hikes.

Where's the relief?

BY DAVE TRABERT
KANSAS POLICY INSTITUTE

Assessed valuation changes for 2025, released this morning, reiterate the need for a constitutional amendment to limit the increases.

The average increase for existing residential property (not counting new construction) of 5.9% is more than double the inflation rate, and that's not the worst of the story. Homeowners in a dozen counties had double-dig-

it increases – Barton, Cheyenne, Coffey, Jewell, Kingman, Lane, Linn, Marshall, Ness, Rush, Smith and Wallace. All but one (Linn) has been losing population, so it's hard to imagine that the valuation hikes are driven by demand.

Since 2021, the average increase for existing homes is now 40%. Residents of Linn County have the worst experience, with a 91% increase. Other outrageously unaffordable increases include

Cheyenne County (83%), Brown County (71%), Wyandotte County (66%), Anderson County (63%), and Osborne County (60%).

You might think that these unaffordable increases would make it easy to pass a constitutional amendment to limit the annual increase in taxable assessed valuations to 3%. After all, 75% of voters say they want the limit, with only 13% opposed.

But it's an election year, and some powerful lobby-
SEE VALUATION HIKES, A3

Commissioners hear from appraiser on valuations report from KPI

BY BARBARA PROFFITT
LINN COUNTY NEWS
LINNCOUNTYNEWSREPORTER@GMAIL.COM

During the meeting on March 2, the Linn County Commissioners heard from County Appraiser Lisa Kellstadt who stated that in response to the KPI (Kansas Policy Institute) report on valuations she had sent documents to each commissioner and would like to report on those.

Kellstadt then handed documents to each commissioner before returning to the podium, at which point Commissioner Alison Hamilton asked if the valuation numbers going around on Facebook that show Linn County valuations increasing by 91 percent since 2021 could be addressed by either Kellstadt or County Counselor Jacklyn Paletta.

Kellstadt acknowledged that "Linn County has been growing and the val-

uations have increased."

Hamilton asked if that was over the last five years with Kellstadt responding, "Really, since covid hit."

Kellstadt went on to explain that most of the state is seeing already that covid had a big impact on market values.

Hamilton then asked if, when looking at Miami or Johnson counties in the KPI report, it was safe to say they were already close to their proper valuations, referencing the fact that the report shows an increase of only 48 and 40 percent, respectively, over the last five years for those counties.

Kellstadt replied, "Probably so."

Hamilton then clarified, "So, their increase is lower because we were not caught up to where we needed to be prior to that?"

Kellstadt replied that she had not had a chance to go back and research all of that and added that when

the previous appraiser took over, the county had to go back and essentially re-do several things because another company was doing all of the analytical work.

She then noted that despite that work, and that values had been raised the first two or three years, the state had come in two years ago and said the county was not in compliance.

Commissioner Jim Johnson then commented, stating, "Well, last year was the first year that we were in compliance that I remember, we were always low."

He then referenced Anderson County's increase per the KPI report and asked, "So, you're saying Anderson County was 63 percent off?"

Kellstadt replied "I don't know what their statistics are, but all the county appraisers' offices that I have talked to have increased
SEE APPRAISER ON KPI, A3

New parking



JACKIE TAYLOR | LINN COUNTY NEWS

Mound City Superintendent John Bruns works on rip rap and a new sidewalk replacing an older bridge on the east side of the Mound City Historical Park. The repair will increase parking for the park along 7th Street; other improvements are also in the works.

USD 346 potential \$10 million bond issue discussed

BY BARBARA PROFFITT
LINN COUNTY NEWS
LINNCOUNTYNEWSREPORTER@GMAIL.COM

The USD 346 Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 25, to discuss options for renovating the science suite at Jayhawk Linn along with several other items.

The meeting began with discussing a timeline, with HVAC and plumbing kicking things off and a pre-construction meeting set for the week of spring

break.

The board then looked at the financial side of the project including costs associated with demolition, setting barriers, concrete work and other aspects of the project. That will be followed by installation of equipment as well as storage and cabinetry. From there the discussion moved to the various companies currently lined up to work on different levels of the project.

Superintendent Shawn Thomas moved the board discussion to the possi-

bility of a bond initiative, noting that now there are only two options for doing a bond issuance; one in the spring and one in the fall.

Thomas added the district has the opportunity to seek a bond for approximately \$10 million. He then noted that many of the board members went to school there, as did he, and that the building is beginning to show its age. He touched on the subject of security issues in the classrooms with the old

SEE USD 346 BOND, A7

Legislative Coffee planned Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m.

BY JACKIE TAYLOR
LINN COUNTY NEWS
JACKIELCN1@GMAIL.COM

The Linn County Republican Central Committee and Republican Women's Committee are

hosting a Legislative Coffee Saturday, March 7 at 10 a.m. at the Pleasanton Community Center.

Sen. Caryn Tyson, Reps. Fred Gardner and Rick James are slated to appear to update Linn County on

current bills, etc. being discussed or passed in Topeka.

Coffee and donuts will be served, please attend to hear the latest in events affecting our county and the state.



Don't forget! Move your clocks forward Saturday night!

To contact our staff, see our listing at www.linncountynews.net



VISIT US HERE



DEATHS

Bernard Thomas Brownback
Bernard E. "Gene" Post

INSIDE THIS WEEK

ClassifiedsB7 Public NoticesB6 Sports B1-3
OpinionA4 Religion Week at a GlanceA3
ObituariesA5