

On July 16, officers with the Fredonia Police Department arrested Jerrod Andrew Coats, 47, of Fredonia, on charges of interference with law enforcement officers and domestic battery. He was processed and released on a \$2,500 cash/surety bond with a next court appearance date.

On July 20, Fredonia police arrested Augustin Hernandez-Lopez, 26, of Arkansas City, Ark., on the charges of no driver's license, driving without headlights, no

registration, no insurance. Following being processed at the Wilson County Law Enforcement Center, Hernandez-Lopez was found to also have an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer placed on him. He bonded on the Fredonia municipal charges and was released to Customs.

Also on July 20, Wilson County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Tisha Covey, 49, of Altoona, on a Neosho County warrant for probation revocation. She was released

SCR 1611 Constitutional Amendment

A PROPOSITION to amend sections 5, 8 and 15 of article 3 of the constitution of the state of Kansas; relating to the supreme court; providing for direct election of justices; abolishing the supreme court nominating commission; permitting justices to make contributions to and hold office in a political party or organization and take part in political campaigns.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Kansas, two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives concurring therein:

Section 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of the state of Kansas shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval or rejection: Sections 5, 8 and 15 of article 3 of the constitution of the state of Kansas are hereby amended to read as follows:

“§ 5. Selection of justices of the supreme court. The citizens of Kansas who are qualified electors shall elect the justices of the supreme court. The rules applicable for such elections and the designation of position numbers shall be provided by law. Justice positions 1, 2 and 3 shall be elected at the general election in November of 2028, justice positions 4 and 5 in November of 2030 and justice positions 6 and 7 in November of 2032, and every six years thereafter, respectively. Any vacancy occurring on the supreme court for an unexpired term shall be filled by election as provided by law.

(a) Any vacancy occurring in the office of any justice of the supreme court and any position to be open thereon as a result of enlargement of the court, or the retirement or failure of an incumbent to file his declaration of candidacy to succeed himself as hereinafter required, or failure of a justice to be elected to succeed himself, shall be filled by appointment by the governor of one of three persons possessing the qualifications of office who shall be nominated and whose names shall be submitted to the governor by the supreme court nominating commission established as hereinafter provided. (b) In event of the failure of the governor to make the appointment within sixty days from the time the names of the nominees are submitted to him, the chief justice of the supreme court shall make the appointment from such nominees. (c) Each justice of the supreme court appointed pursuant to provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall hold office for an initial term ending on the second Monday in January following the first general election that occurs after the expiration of twelve months in office. Not less than sixty days prior to the holding of the general election next preceding the expiration of his term of office, any justice of the supreme court may file in the office of the secretary of state a declaration of candidacy for election to succeed himself. If a declaration is not so filed, the position held by such justice shall be open from the expiration of his term of office. If such declaration is filed, his name shall be submitted at the next general election to the electors of the state on a separate judicial ballot, without party designation, reading substantially as follows:

—“Shall

(Here insert name of justice.)

(Here insert the title of the court.)

—be retained in office?”

—If a majority of those voting on the question vote against retaining him in office, the position or office which he holds shall be open upon the expiration of his term of office; otherwise he shall, unless removed for cause, remain in office for the regular term of six years from the second Monday in January following such election. At the expiration of each term he shall, unless by law he is compelled to retire, be eligible for retention in office by election in the manner prescribed in this section. (d) A nonpartisan nominating commission whose duty it shall be to nominate and submit to the governor the names of persons for appointment to fill vacancies in the office of any justice of the supreme court is hereby established, and shall be known as the “supreme court nominating commission.” Said commission shall be organized as hereinafter provided. (e) The supreme court nominating commission shall be composed as follows: One member, who shall be chairman, chosen from among their number by the members of the bar who are residents of and licensed in Kansas; one member from each congressional district chosen from among their number by the resident members of the bar in each such district; and one member, who is not a lawyer, from each congressional district, appointed by the governor from among the residents of each such district. (f) The terms of office, the procedure for selection and certification of the members of the commission and provision for their compensation or expenses shall be as provided by the legislature. (g) No member of the supreme court nominating commission shall, while he is a member, hold any other public office by appointment or any official position in a political party or for six months thereafter be eligible for nomination for the office of justice of the supreme court. The commission may act only by the concurrence of a majority of its members.”

“§ 8. Prohibition of political activity by justices and certain judges. No justice of the supreme court who is appointed or retained under the procedure of section 5 of this article, nor any judge of the district court holding office under a nonpartisan method authorized in subsection (a) of section 6 of this article shall directly or indirectly make any contribution to or hold any office in a political party or organization or take part in any political campaign, except when such judge is a candidate for election to a position on an appellate court.”

“§ 15. Removal of justices and judges. Justices of the supreme court may be removed from office by impeachment and conviction as prescribed in article 2 of this constitution. In addition to removal by impeachment and conviction, justices may be retired after appropriate hearing, upon certification to the governor, by the supreme court nominating commission that such justice is so incapacitated as to be unable to perform adequately his duties. Other judges shall be subject to retirement for incapacity, and to discipline, suspension and removal for cause by the supreme court after appropriate hearing.”

Sec. 2. The following statement shall be printed on the ballot with the amendment as a whole:

“Explanatory statement. This amendment gives the voters the right to elect the justices of the Kansas supreme court. The justices shall serve terms of six years, with the elections of justice positions 1, 2 and 3 to occur in 2028, positions 4 and 5 to occur in 2030 and positions 6 and 7 to occur in 2032, and every six years thereafter. The rules applicable for such elections and the designation of position numbers shall be provided by law. Any vacancy on the court for an unexpired term shall be filled at an election as provided by law.

“A vote for this proposition would give Kansas citizens the right to elect Kansas supreme court justices as provided by law. Justices will hold office for terms of six years. The Kansas supreme court nominating commission, whose membership consists of a majority of lawyers, would be abolished.

“A vote against this proposition would continue the current system in which the Kansas supreme court nominating commission, whose membership consists of a majority of lawyers, provides the governor a list of three individuals to choose from for vacancies on the Kansas supreme court. Justices hold office for a term of six years and retain their offices if they win a retention election in which they do not face an opponent.

Sec. 3. This resolution, if approved by two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives, shall be entered on the journals, together with the yeas and nays. The secretary of state shall cause this resolution to be published as provided by law and shall cause the proposed amendment to be submitted to the electors of the state at a special election, which is hereby called on August 4, 2026, pursuant to section 1 of article 14 of the constitution of the state of Kansas, to be held in conjunction with the primary election held on such date.

to Neosho County. Nicolas Fowler, 20 on a Wilson County warrant for failure to comply, Wilson County failure to comply, Wilson County warrant for a bond revocation and Johnson County no-bond warrant for 4 counts of harassment by telecom device. He is being held without bond with a next court appearance date.

Kenneth William Darby, 42 of Fredonia, turned himself in July

Shonda Denise Nowell, 35, deputies arrested Robert Mills, 61, of Basehor, KS on an Osage County \$3,000 cash/surety probation violation warrant, two Franklin County warrants for failure to appear with a combined bond of \$5,000 cash/surety. He is being held awaiting transport.

On July 21, Wilson County

(Published in the Wilson County Citizen on Thursday, July 23, 2026)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

State of Kansas
Special District
2027

The governing body of
Pleasant Valley Cemetery District #31
Wilson County

will meet on August 4, 2026 at 7:30 a.m. at 14373 Viola Rd, Chanute KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to levied. Detailed budget information is available at Debbie Bradford's residence and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual 2025		Current Year Estimate for 2026		Proposed Budget Year for 2027		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	3,090	0.930	5,195	0.907	9,095	2,984	0.834
Debt Service							
Totals	3,090	0.930	5,195	0.907	9,095	2,984	0.834
Revenue Neutral Rate**							0.834
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	3,090		5,195		9,095		
Total Tax Levied	2,967		2,962		xxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	3,194,184		3,285,360		3,576,178		

Outstanding Indebtedness,

Jan 1,	2024	2025	2026
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Pur. Princ.	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Debbie Bradford

Officer

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(Published in the Wilson County Citizen on Thursday, July 23, 2026)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

State of Kansas
Special District
2027

The governing body of
Mount Pleasant Cemetery District #34
Wilson County

will meet on August 13, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at 7830 500 Rd, Fredonia KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to levied. Detailed budget information is available at Gayla Ratzlaff's residence and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual 2025		Current Year Estimate for 2026		Proposed Budget Year for 2027		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	7,352	1.965	8,648	1.955	11,315	4,851	1.925
Debt Service							
Totals	7,352	1.965	8,648	1.955	11,315	4,851	1.925
Revenue Neutral Rate**							1.925
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	7,352		8,648		11,315		
Total Tax Levied	4,805		4,815		xxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	2,443,962		2,480,449		2,520,101		

Outstanding Indebtedness,

Jan 1,	2024	2025	2026
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Pur. Princ.	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Gayla Ratzlaff

Officer

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(Published in the Wilson County Citizen on Thursday, July 23, 2026)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

2027

The governing body of
Guilford Township
Wilson County

will meet on August 18, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at 15972 Lane Rd, Fredonia KS 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 Becky Bockover's residence and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual 2025		Current Year Estimate 2026		Proposed Budget 2027		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	1,560	0.316	2,908	0.299	4,785	1,040	0.227
Fire	3,759	0.625	3,400	0.620	4,900	2,646	0.577
Special Machinery							
Totals	5,319	0.941	6,308	0.919	9,685	3,686	0.804
Revenue Neutral Rate**							0.804
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	5,319		6,308		9,685		
Total Tax Levied	3,677		3,692		xxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation:							
Township	3,912,424		4,266,064		4,588,520		

Outstanding Indebtedness,

Jan 1	2024	2025	2026
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Purchase Principal	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Becky Bockover

Township Officer