



CityScene

Building a better foundation - a note from City Manager Zach Walker

In 2017, the City Council made bold promises to the citizens of Independence through the adoption of *Independence for All*. This five-year strategic plan includes four key goals: customer-focused, financial sustainability, growth and quality.



One year later, we have successfully completed more than 20 percent of the 74 strategies outlined in this plan. While I am incredibly proud of the work done over the last year, in order to sustain this momentum we must address the nation-wide problem of decreasing municipal revenue and increasing cost of services.

Meeting citizen expectations without growth in revenues requires a realignment of dollars away from legacy programs and redundant services. Last fall the City Council identified budget priorities for the second year of the *Independence for All* plan. My staff and I immediately evaluated ways to optimize our resources and control long-term costs to build a balanced budget around community priorities. I am pleased to present the proposed operating budget, in accordance with the City Charter, for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The proposed budget totals \$322,045,686 or an increase of \$3,919,113, approximately 1.2%.

I'd like to highlight a few of the key pieces of this proposed budget. I encourage citizens to read the entire budget proposal here, [indep.us/submittedbudget1819](https://www.independencemo.org/submittedbudget1819).

Customer-Focused: These recommended allocations continue communications with the public, increase customer service training and improve citizen reporting technology:

- \$25,000 to complete the biannual citizen satisfaction survey.
- \$20,000 to update customer relations management software, allowing citizens to make service requests from their mobile device.
- \$19,000 to provide effective customer service training for City employees.

Financial Sustainability: We are focusing on optimizing resources, increasing efficiencies, utilizing technology and identifying potential strategies to reduce or contain long-term costs. One of the steps we took earlier this year was the reorganization of the City's Health Department, which eliminated redundant services and saved the General Fund \$375,000. I also combined human resources, technology services and finance into a single Finance & Administration Department to reduce overhead and open up new opportunities for collaboration among internal services. I further recommend the elimination of the City's in-house copy center, rather utilizing more cost-effective outside services. Finally, I recommend creating the Department of Public Utilities, which is expected to save the electric fund

approximately \$275,000.

A key component of this strategy has been updating and developing the City's financial policies, including setting a new unrestricted fund balance target of 16% for the General Fund. This budget recommends adding \$102,239 to the unrestricted fund balance of the General Fund, which will increase the balance from 5.6% to an estimated 8.1%, a significant step toward meeting our new target. Many of our sales tax and other special revenue funds already have balances which meet or exceed targets.

Growth: This budget focuses on attracting and retaining quality employers. I recommended allocating \$10,000 to enhance the City's partnership with the Kansas City Area Development Council, helping us recruit and retain businesses. I also recommended the allocation of \$128,500 of Streets Sales Tax funds as the first payment on a loan to finance building the initial access road to the proposed Eastgate Business Park in accordance with the pre-development agreement authorized by the City Council in April 2018.

Some other growth-focused recommendations include:

- \$127,000 to fully fund the rising cost of transit services while avoiding any service cuts.
- \$70,000 to add one hour of service to all

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Proposed Budget overview

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Submit an Action Center Report,
[indep.us/actioncenter](https://www.independencemo.org/actioncenter).

CityScene is published monthly by the City Manager's Office located at 111 East Maple Street, Independence, MO 64050.

For information, call 325-7086.

#KeepHarrysHometownClean share pictures of you, family, friends and neighbors as you help to keep Harrys Hometown Clean.

Mark your calendar - July Events

Independence Day Celebration

July 3, 7 p.m.

The City's Annual Independence Day Celebration will once again take place on July 3 at 937 W Walnut in partnership with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Join us for a great night of free, family friendly fun.

Gates will open at 6 p.m. and entertainment will start at 7 p.m.

Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.

The fireworks will start at approximately 9:30 p.m. and will be accompanied by the Spirit of Independence Concert Band.



Please note alcohol, animals and outside fireworks are prohibited. No outside coolers will be allowed on the event grounds.

Visit the City's Facebook page for more info, [facebook.com/CityofIndependence](https://www.facebook.com/CityofIndependence).

Fourth of July

July 4

City offices will be closed on July 4 in honor of Independence Day.



Farmers Market

Open Wednesday and Saturday

The Independence Farmers Market will be open each Wednesday and Saturday in July from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Visit local farmers, crafters and more. The Market is located at the northwest corner of W. Walnut St. and S. Liberty St.

Be sure to stop by and follow the progress of the new Uptown Farmers Market being built on Truman between Osage and Liberty.

Drop-Off Depot

July 14, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Drop-off Depot will be held at 875 Vista Avenue on the second Saturday of each month, March through November, weather permitting. For more information or any questions, please call (816)325-7600.



31st Annual Bingham-Waggoner Antique & Craft Fair

July 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

100+ antique dealers and crafters on the beautiful grounds around the mansion. Original crafts to outstanding collectibles will be available for purchase.

The concession stands will provide tasty treats of Polish sausages, hot dogs and hamburgers as well as "Walking Tacos". Share a bag of kettle corn as you stroll, or some icy lemonade and homemade cookies from the Bingham-Waggoner Volunteer Cookie Booth while you enjoy the shade from a nearby tree. There will be a door prize drawing every hour.

Admission to the fair is free. The Spirit of Independence Community Band will play at noon. Mansion tours will be available from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the regular fee. The Bingham-Waggoner Estate is located at 313 W. Pacific.

Puppets on Strings

July 21

On Saturday, July 21, at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m., Puppetry Arts Institute presents "Puppets on Strings," performed by Clement McCrae Puppets, at 11025 E. Winner Road in Independence. Take a seat for a cast of lively marionettes in a revue of music and creative flair! Admission is \$6 per person. For reservations call 816-833-9777.

Trail Toys

Every Saturday June - July

Included with National Frontier Trails Museum admission

Ever wonder what children did for fun on the Oregon and California Trails? Saturdays this summer children can make a toy at the museum, just like they did on the westward trails. Each week we will feature a different toy; and there will be old-fashioned toys available for children to play with.

Inflow and Infiltration

The City of Independence sanitary sewer system is like all pipes; it is only capable of moving a certain amount of water. Wastewater flows are easily handled during normal dry weather, but what happens when we have a rain event? The inflow and infiltration (I&I) of stormwater into the sanitary sewer system can cause undue stress on the system. This stress can lead to manholes overflowing, basement backups, pipe breakage, and pump failure. On average, the City of Independence Wastewater Treatment Plant treats approximately 6 to 7 million gallons of wastewater daily. During a rain event, this can increase to over 30 million gallons per day.

So how does all of this stormwater enter into the sanitary sewer system? This happens in a number of ways. I&I can come from damaged old clay pipes and connected sump pumps, foundation drains, and downspouts. Unfortunately, it used to be common practice for these fixtures to be connected to the sanitary sewer. It did not take long for cities to determine that connecting these fixtures was not a good idea. For example, a standard 3,000 square foot roof will discharge 935 gallons of stormwater for every ½ inch of rainfall. Multiply that by thousands of roof tops and one can imagine how quickly the sanitary sewer system and treatment plant would be overwhelmed.

The current City Code does not allow for the discharge of unpolluted water such as stormwater, groundwater, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, surface water, or discharge from interior and exterior foundation drains into the sanitary sewer system. These fixtures are required to be disconnected from the sanitary sewer. An alternative is to redirect downspouts and sump pumps into rain barrels or discharge them onto your yard. Yard discharges should be at least 5 feet from your property line. This helps stormwater infiltrate into the ground and helps keep your neighbors happy.

If standing water or oversaturation is an issue, then downspouts, sump pumps, and foundation drains can be connected to a drywell. A drywell is a device that allows water to infiltrate into the ground below the surface over time. If there are no suitable locations for a drywell on your property, then unpolluted stormwater or groundwater may be directed into the storm sewer system with permission from WPC. Alterations to the city's storm sewer system cannot be made without written permission from WPC. Discharging stormwater or groundwater onto the street or driveway is not recommended. It prevents ground infiltration and causes icing during winter months.

For additional information on Inflow and Infiltration, please call Water Pollution Control at 816-325-7711.

2018-19 Proposed Budget overview continued

IndeBus routes so that routes will end at the transit center at 7 p.m. rather than the current 6 p.m.

- \$141,560 from the Parks & Recreation Sales Tax fund for operating and maintenance expenses associated with the new Independence Uptown Market. Facility rental fees will partially offset these costs.

Quality: I recommended several activities targeted at reducing blight, improving the visual appearance of major commercial corridors, stabilizing and revitalizing neighborhoods, while increasing the perception of safety within the community.

To achieve the strategy of targeting street and sidewalk maintenance along major corridors and around historic sites, I have recommended \$221,832 from the Community Development Block Grant funds to address

street and sidewalk improvements along College Avenue.

The following recommendations are related to blight reduction:

- \$40,000 to remediate blighted structures at the former Rockwood Golf Course.
- \$8,500 to reclassify an existing position to a Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer.
- \$370,000 (a \$57,400 increase) for property maintenance code enforcement abatements.
- \$200,000 (an \$8,000 increase) for dangerous building demolitions.
- \$2.5 million from Independence Power & Light to make continued progress in establishing a dedicated tree-trimming program.

Public safety is a key focus of this year's budget. I recommended a series of actions

within the Independence Fire Department that will enhance its capacity. To continue to address the strategy of reducing crime and disorder outlined in *Independence for All*, I recommended the following in law-enforcement related activities:

- \$340,000 to add five new Police Officer positions to establish a new Street Crimes Unit.
- A 5% increase to meet changing obligations in detention housing.

Finally, I'd like to encourage the public to learn more about the City's overall budget, the process we use to create it and the programs it supports throughout the City. This article is one of the many ways we are sharing with our citizens this year. You can find video of the Budget Town Hall online at indep.us/finance. As always, please feel free to contact me or your City Council with questions or concerns.

Firework Safety

Independence residents are allowed to possess, store, handle, and use class 1.4G fireworks from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. July 3 and 5 and 10 a.m. to midnight July 4. Residents under 16 must be under adult supervision.

It is unlawful to possess, store, handle, or use the following fireworks within the City:

- Sparkler bombs
- Sky lanterns
- Altered or combined fireworks

It is important to note the following are unlawful in Independence:

- To throw, use, explode, detonate, aim, point, or shoot fireworks in such a manner that it lands on property not owned by that person.
- To throw, use, explode, detonate, or shoot any class 1.4 G fireworks within any structure.
- Discharge fireworks within 600 feet of any church, hospital, mental health facility, or school.
- Discharge fireworks within 100 feet of any location where fireworks are stored, offered for sale, or a designated

historical site.

- Discharge fireworks within 300 feet of any permanent storage of ignitable liquid, gases, gasoline pump, or gasoline filling station.
- Discharge fireworks within or throw from a motorized vehicle, throw fireworks at another vehicle, or under a motorized vehicle.

Residents are encouraged to take precautions to protect themselves and their property. Always read the directions and only shoot fireworks outdoors. Shoot fireworks on a flat, smooth surface and keep a water source nearby. Never point or throw a firework at someone and always make sure others are away from the fireworks before lighting.

Please keep pets in mind. Find a safe, comfortable place for them before starting fireworks.

With precautions, we can all have a safe, happy holiday.

For more information about fireworks, contact the Independence Fire Department, Bureau of Fire Prevention at (816)325.7123 or visit: indep.us/ifdprevention.

Did you know?

Did you know that City Code regulates garage sales? Garage sales shall not be held or scheduled for more than three consecutive calendar days, and no person shall conduct a garage sale more than twice in any one calendar year.

It is unlawful for any person to sell goods at a garage sale not accumulated in ordinary dwelling usage, meaning items purchased for resale and goods accepted or taken in for sale from any commercial business or enterprise on a consignment basis are prohibited. No goods offered for sale at a garage sale shall be displayed for sale on any public street or right-of-way.

It is unlawful for any person to place any sign advertising a garage sale in any street right-of-way or on any public property, including street signs and posts, and traffic signs and posts, or on any public utility pole. Any sign properly placed on private property where permission has been granted advertising such garage sale and meeting all provisions of the City Code shall be removed on or before the last day of such sale. The person responsible for conducting any such garage sale shall be responsible for removing any such sign.



The 2017 Water Quality Report is available for your review on the City's website, independencemo.org/ccr. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made to provide safe drinking water.

To request a paper copy of this report, call (816) 325-7698



Council Corner -At-Large Member Mike Huff



I would like to take a moment and thank you for the opportunity to serve as your newest Councilmember. It is an honor to work with the constituents of Independence.

Some of you may not know I bring a unique perspective to the Council, having worked for the City of Independence Power and Light Department for more than 34 years. This position allowed me the opportunity to see many areas of the city and speak with citizens in a different way. Now as your At-Large Councilmember, I am in a position to create and encourage change.

One of the key areas I am focusing on is blight. My council colleagues set an ambitious course forward last year with the implementation of *Independence for All*, but there is still more work to do. I am specifically focusing on commercial buildings and look forward to working with community members as we discuss opportunities that look toward the future of these locations across the City.

Along those same lines, I am committed to continuing the work of improving our corridors. This is not something we can just do once and then move on. We must have long-term strategies in place to ensure citizens and visitors to our community see the Independence we know, and businesses have the safe welcoming access they need to grow in our community.

Economic and workforce development are vital pieces of this puzzle as well. We must continue to find ways to support our local businesses while encouraging new businesses to look at the many good things we have to offer here in Independence. The recent success of the Independence School District Academies is a great example of the ways we can work together to provide a new generation of employees with the skills businesses need.

Last month, City Manager Zach Walker presented a proposed budget which included five new police officers. As my colleagues and I determine what the final budget looks like, I must say public safety is an area that we have to focus on. A safe community inspires growth in new residents, jobs and visitors. I believe these new officers are a step in the right direction, and I will continue working to find new ways to improve the perception of safety in our community.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to encourage all of you to consider getting involved and becoming more engaged in the City. There are a number of boards and commissions in need of applicants with new ideas and a passion for the success of this community. This is a great way to take ownership of a problem you might see and help find solutions to move us all forward.

As the newest member, I know I still have a lot to learn, but I am excited about the future of this City. If you have questions, concerns or ideas, you are welcome to call me at (816)915-1286 or email me at mjhuff@indepmo.org.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

Eileen Weir (816) 325-7027

City Council Office (816) 325-7022
Online at, indep.us/citycouncil.

Councilmembers

John Perkins	District 1
Curt Dougherty	District 2
Scott Roberson	District 3
Tom Van Camp	District 4
Karen DeLuccie	At-Large
Mike Huff	At-Large

City Manager

Zachary Walker (816) 325-7170

Where can I...

Pay my Jackson County property taxes:

Historic Truman Courthouse
112 W Lexington, Suite 30
Independence, MO 64050
Phone: (816) 881-3232

Apply for a marriage license:

Historic Truman Courthouse
112 W Lexington, Suite 30
Independence, Missouri 64050
Phone: (816) 881-4608

Apply for a business license:

Independence City Hall
111 E. Maple
Independence, MO 64050
Phone: (816) 325-7079

Pay a ticket issued by the City:

Independence City Hall
111 E. Maple
Independence, MO 64050
Phone: (816) 325-7230
Some tickets may be paid online at
indep.us/paytickets.

For more information on Jackson County offices, visit www.jacksongov.org.

For more information on City offices, visit www.indepmo.org.



City of Independence
Government Access Television

City Council Meetings

6 p.m. Mondays*
10 a.m. Tuesdays
7 p.m. Wednesdays
2 p.m. Sundays

www.City7.TV *Denotes live meeting, all others are rebroadcasts.

Planning Commission Meetings

6 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays*
10 a.m. Wednesdays
7 p.m. Thursdays

Numbers to Remember

The City of Independence has an automated voice-response telephone system. Call (816) 325-7000 and say the name of the person or the department you wish to contact.

Adopt-a-Street	325-7602
Barking Dogs	325-7213
Building Permits	325-7401
Business Licenses	325-7079
Crime Stoppers Tips	474-8477
Drop-Off Depot/Trash	325-7600
Drugs	325-6272
Graffiti	257-7824

Municipal Court	325-7230
Neighborhood Watch	325-7643
Park Vandalism	325-7208
Police Non-Emergency	836-3600
Fire Non-Emergency	325-7123
Potholes	325-7624
Report Power Outage	325-7550
Street Lights	325-7535
Storm Water Pollution	325-7727
Utilities	
Customer Service	325-7930
Pay by Phone	325-SERV
Payment Assistance	254-4100
Weeds, Trash	325-7193

Regional Animal Shelter Operated by Great Plains SPCA

21001 E. Hwy. 78, Independence
Help them find a forever home.
Adopt a homeless pet.
Noon - 7 p.m. Wed.-Fri.
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat.-Sun.
Call (913) 808-3370

