



Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.

- Harry S. Truman

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CityScene is published monthly by the City Manager's Office located at 111 East Maple Avenue, Independence, MO 64050. For information, call (816) 325-7086.

A look at the 2019-2020 Proposed Budget with City Manager Walker

Over the last three years I have shared the ongoing financial challenges municipal governments across the country face. Like Independence, many communities have depended on retail sales tax revenue for a large portion of their budget. Earlier this year, CNBC reported that for the first time online sales have surpassed brick and mortar retail sales. Many other revenue sources are also declining as technology changes.

As we adjust to this new normal, we also know that the cost to do business as the City is increasing. Our citizens rightfully demand high quality service. This year, we face a \$4.2 million budget shortfall in the General Fund. The General Fund is responsible for paying for many basic services such as public safety, street maintenance, park maintenance, blight removal, and code enforcement. We have worked hard over the last three years to raise new revenues, cut what could be cut, remove redundant services and be as efficient as possible.

As these traditional funding sources erode and costs to provide basic services increase, I am offering suggested changes in the Proposed Fiscal year 2019-20 Budget that will not only help us address this shortfall this year but put us on better footings for years to come.

I continue to challenge my staff to focus on financial sustainability and this year's budget looks at ways to utilize technology while optimizing resources. We are eliminating unfilled positions and contracting for necessary services, such as cyber security, at a savings to our citizens.

I am recommending two changes be made to the City's Schedule of Fees in order to provide better cost recovery associated with Businesses License Fees and the Drop-Off

Depot.

We are evaluating changes to our employee and retiree health insurance. The Budget is very fluid and we are working with the various groups involved to come to the most sustainable long-term decision for our community and provide benefits that are consistent with current industry standards.

In addition to these changes, we are also looking at accelerating capital maintenance projects such as curb and gutter deferred maintenance, Complete Street Projects on 24 and 40 Highways, deferred bridge maintenance and more. I am recommending a bond issuance payable from the Street Sales Tax Fund that would total over \$15 million, and debt service would be approximately \$1.1 million for 15 years to assist in these efforts.

I encourage everyone to watch my May 13 budget presentation and the video from the May 15 Budget Town Hall, which are available on the City's YouTube Channel, indep.us/youtube, and follow the budget process.

The Council will vote on the final budget on June 17 as we prepare for the July 1 beginning of the 2019-2020 fiscal year. You can find the proposed budget and adopted budget at indep.us/finance.

The budget is a year-long process. As soon as the 2019-2020 budget is approved, we will begin planning and evaluations for the 2020-2021 budget.

Please follow the City's social media, Facebook (facebook.com/CityofIndependence), Twitter ([@CityofIndepMo](https://twitter.com/CityofIndepMo)), [Nextdoor](https://www.instagram.com/cityofindependencemo) and [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...), for updates on this and other topics related to our community. We encourage your feedback and input as we look toward our City's future.

Changes coming to CityScene

Beginning this fall, CityScene will transition online and a print edition will be mailed in bills quarterly. Those who wish to receive a print version of CityScene can email mlewis@indepmo.org or call (816)325-7086. Those who would like to receive a digital newsletter and other information from the City can register at indep.us/email.

We understand CityScene is an important way to communicate with our citizens and

believe these changes will allow us to better share information in a timely manner that is less dependent on a printing schedule. Additionally, we will be able to share up-to-date notifications of upcoming events, classes, programs and more happening throughout the City. And, in the case of an emergency, we can share details directly with citizens as well as through traditional media outlets and social media.

Mark your calendar - July Events

Independence Day Fireworks July 3, 5:30 - 10 PM

Celebrate Independence Day with the City of Independence. Join us at 937 W. Walnut St. for this family-friendly event.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m. Don't miss the free performance by Red Head Express, an American country music band consisting of four sisters, at 7 p.m. The Spirit of Independence Concert Band will play at 9 p.m. and fireworks will begin at 9:30 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy this amazing performance (hosted by the Independence Missouri Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints). Snacks, shaved ice and pizza will be available for purchase.

Independence Day July 4

Happy Independence Day from the City of Independence. City offices will be closed in observance of the July 4th holiday.

Farmers' Market

Wednesdays & Saturdays, 7 AM - 1 PM

The Farmers' Market at the Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd., is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from June - Oct. Market hours are from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Local farmers and growers offer fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables, jams and jellies, honey and much more. There is also a wide array of crafts to choose from during your visit. Stop by and check them out.

Popsicles in the Park Tuesdays, 6:30-8 PM

Join us for one of our most popular summer events: Popsicles in the Park. Bring your blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy a night at the park. Enjoy games, juggling tricks and performances by special entertainers below:

- July 9 - George Owens Nature Park
1601 S. Speck Rd.
- July 16 - Country Club Park
2930 S. Norton Ave.
- July 23 - Glendale Park
16010 E. Crackerneck Rd.
- July 30 - Sycamore Hills Park
3700 S. Haden Dr.



Toddler Town on Tour Wednesdays, 9 - 11 AM

Enjoy summer fun while exploring various playgrounds throughout Independence. City staff will be on hand to help with simple craft projects.

Toddler Town on Tour will be cancelled in case of inclement weather. Parents are required to remain with their children. Please bring a towel to dates at water locations. No charge, no pre-registration.

For information call 325-7115

- July 10 - Adventure Oasis Water Park
2100 Hub Dr.
- July 17- Bundschu Park
11400 E. 9th St. S.
- July 24 - Glendale Park
16010 E. Crackerneck Rd.
- July 31 - Beckett Park
2701 S. Cherokee St.

Summer Concert Series July 12, 7 PM

See Bob & Una Walkenhorst live at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 12, at the Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd. The concert is free and open to the public. Food and drink will be offered for sale inside the venue. This concert is part of a monthly summer concert series presented by the City of Independence and the Independence Chamber of Commerce.



Drop-Off Depot July 13, 8 AM - 3 PM

The City's Drop-Off Depot will be open on Saturday, July 13 weather permitting. The Drop-Off Depot is open the second Saturday of each month March-November at 875 Vista Ave. from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit indep.us/dropoffdepot.



32nd Annual Antique & Craft Fair July 13, 9 AM - 3 PM

Join us at the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific, for the 32nd annual Antique & Craft Fair. This is one of the finest shows in the area, featuring more than 100 quality vendors. Enjoy free admission and parking, plus door prizes, music and food.



Uptown Flea Market July 14, 9 AM - 2 PM

Calling vendors and bargain hunters alike: Visit the Uptown Flea Market between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 14 at the Independence Uptown Market. The flea market takes place on the second Sunday of each month, 12 months a year.

Dude Perfect Pound It Noggin Tour July 19, 7 PM

YouTube sensations Dude Perfect have announced their first-ever live tour across the United States. The Pound It Noggin Tour will stop in Independence on July 19.



These five best friends from Frisco, Texas, have more than 70 million social media followers and will be giving fans a look into the fun world of Dude Perfect, highlighting—live and in person—fan favorites such as Overtime, Stereotypes, Battles and stunts. Some lucky fans will even have the chance to participate with the dudes in their crazy antics!

2nd Annual Rivalry Renewed Series July 28, 6 PM

Phog's Boys (University of Kansas basketball alums) take on Black & Gold (University of Missouri basketball alums) in the 2nd annual Rivalry Renewed at the Silverstein Eye Centers Arena, 19100 E. Valley View Pkwy.



Inflow and infiltration

The City of Independence Wastewater Treatment Plant treats 6 to 7 million gallons of wastewater every day. This amount is easily handled during normal dry weather, but during a rain event that can increase to over 30 million gallons per day.

This drastic increase is due to Inflow and Infiltration. I & I occurs when groundwater and stormwater find their way into the sanitary sewer system.

Pipes and manholes can develop cracks or leaks due to age, design, and installation or maintenance issues. Water can seep in through these areas. Years ago it was also common practice to connect sump pumps, foundation drains, and downspouts to the sanitary sewer. Cities quickly determined that connecting these fixtures was not a good idea. For example, a standard 3,000 square foot roof can discharge over 900 gallons of water for every ½-inch of rain. Multiply that by thousands of rooftops and you can see how quickly the sanitary sewer system and treatment plant would be overwhelmed.

Sanitary sewer systems are only capable of moving a certain amount of water at any time. Significant added stress can lead to overflowing manholes, basement backups, pipe breakage, and pump failure. This increases treatment costs and can potentially lead to accidental discharges into lakes and rivers once capacity at the treatment plant has been reached.

The current City Code prohibits the discharge of unpolluted water into the sanitary sewer system. Examples of unpolluted water include stormwater, groundwater, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, surface water, and discharge from interior and exterior foundation drains. Fixtures draining unpolluted water must be disconnected from the sanitary sewer. Redirect downspouts and sump pumps into rain barrels or discharge them onto your yard. Keep in mind that yard discharges should be at least 5 feet from your property line. This allows stormwater to infiltrate, or soak, into the ground.

If standing water or oversaturation is an issue, then downspouts, sump pumps, and foundation drains can be connected to a drywell. A drywell allows water to infiltrate into the ground below the surface over time. If there are no suitable locations for a drywell on your property, unpolluted stormwater or groundwater may be directed into the storm sewer system. However, any changes to the City's storm sewer system cannot be made without written permission from the Water Pollution Control Department. Discharging stormwater or groundwater into the street or driveway is not recommended because 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.

Share your story

From the earliest days of Independence, we have been a community of many stories. From the trappers selling their wares to tradesmen and pioneers, to the Civil War, to President of the United States, the City of Independence is full of unique stories, history and many chapters that are as different as the individuals and families who call this community home.

We want to share these stories with one another and mark them for generations to come. Do you have stories of Truman walking through your neighborhood? Cruising down Noland Road with your friends? The history of your family in Independence? The unique craft you are now making and selling here in Independence? We are collecting all of these stories and will work to share them through the City's website, social media and City7, our government access channel.

Throughout the year we will share prompts to give you ideas of stories you might share. This summer we encourage you to think about the roles your father/or father figure played in your lives, how your family comes together to celebrate Independence Day, and how education has shaped you and your family.

To get things started, we ask that you email mlewis@indepmo.org with an overview of your story and any pictures you are willing to share.

Water Quality Report now available



INDEPENDENCE ★ WATER DEPARTMENT ★

The 2018 Water Quality Report is available for your review on the City's website. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made to provide safe drinking water. You can find it online at indep.us/ccr18.

To request a paper copy, please call (816) 325-7698.

Enjoy the holiday using fireworks safety

The City of Independence wishes all a happy Fourth of July holiday and would like to remind the public about the rules and regulations regarding fireworks in Independence.

The City permits the use of class 1.4G fireworks from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on July 3 and 5 and from 10 a.m. to midnight on July 4. Class 1.4G fireworks are defined as consumer fireworks intended for use by the general public. Perhaps more importantly, it is illegal to possess, handle or use the following fireworks within the City of Independence: sparkler bombs, sky lanterns and altered or combined fireworks. Those under 16 years of age may not possess or discharge fireworks within the City, unless under the supervision of a parent.

Several additional regulations apply to persons using fireworks within the City, specifically relating to how and where discharging fireworks is prohibited.

1. Fireworks may not be used in any such manner that they land on property not owned by that person.
2. Fireworks may not be discharged within any structure.

3. Discharging fireworks is prohibited within 600 feet of any church, hospital, mental health facility or school.
4. Discharging fireworks is prohibited within 100 feet of any location where fireworks are stored, offered for sale or designated historic site.
5. Discharging fireworks is prohibited within 300 feet of any permanent storage of ignitable liquid, gases, gas pumps or gas stations.
6. Fireworks may not be discharged at, under or from a motorized vehicle.

The National Fire Protection Association and Consumer Product Safety Commission make several recommendations regarding fireworks safety. Among those tips are to keep a water source or garden hose nearby, be sure others are out of range before lighting fireworks and do not attempt to reignite malfunctioning fireworks (instead, put them directly into a bucket of water).

For a full list of safety tips, and to review the City of Independence's regulations on fireworks, visit indep.us/fireworksafety.

Enjoy the holiday and remember to keep your safety, and the safety of those around you, top of mind.



Council Corner - Third District Councilmember Scott Roberson



As a small business owner, I have paid the use tax for over 30 years on supplies and equipment purchased from out of state companies. All businesses in Missouri are supposed to self-report and pay this sales tax to the state that is not charged by the out of

state sellers.

Many of us regularly make online purchases. If you have bought from Amazon, you are now paying a 4.25 percent use tax to the state. Only cities like Grandview, Kansas City, Liberty, Maryville, Pleasant Valley and St. Joseph are also collecting this sales tax because their citizens voted to do so.

On May 20, the City Council approved the ordinance and ballot language for Proposition P. This proposition, if passed, would allow the City of Independence to collect its share of online sales taxes and these would be used to fund the animal shelter and more police.

While estimates of what the use tax from Prop. P would generate for the shelter and police are based on information from 2018, it is believed that at least \$1,500,000 would be collected per year to be split equally for these two new funds.

All indications show that the future direction of mobile and online buying will only increase. This means as on-line use taxes increase the City's retail sales tax income, which is the largest share of support for the

City's General Fund, will slowly decrease.

If passed, Prop. P will create two new funds. These funds will be overseen by two separate citizen committees that will evaluate spending and use of the funds generated, reporting back to the Council and citizens on a regular basis. The ordinance behind Prop. P also states that once the shelter is fully funded and funding for up to 30 police personnel is generated, any excess use tax would flow over into the sales taxes including the City's General Fund and special sales tax funds to support all other City services.

This decision will go to voters on August 6. In the meantime, the City is working closely with Jackson County and Great Plains SPCA on a smooth transition for the Jackson County Regional Animal Shelter. My peers and I approved a proposed agreement in which the City would take over operations of this facility in May and it is expected the County will do so in early June. This is a two-year agreement that gives the City time to find alternate funding to makeup an estimated \$500,000 gap in revenues for the shelter. If Prop. P is not passed by the voters, the City will evaluate other funding methods for this facility.

Additionally, public safety is a regular conversation in the City and we know it is important to our citizens based on the most recent Citizen Satisfaction Survey. It is estimated 30 additional police officers would cost approximately \$3.5 million.

The deadline to register to vote in the August election is July 10. You can register and find your polling place at www.jcebmo.org.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Eileen Weir (816) 325-7027
City Council Office (816) 325-7022
 Online at indep.us/citycouncil.
 Email at citycouncil@indepmo.org.

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 114
 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.

City7

City of Independence
 Government Access Television

City Council Meetings

Live meetings at 6 p.m. on Mondays
 9 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
 1 p.m. Sundays

Planning Commission Meetings

Live meetings at 6 p.m. on 2nd and 4th
 Tuesdays of month
 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays
 1 p.m. on Saturdays

Learn more at indep.us/city7.

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	325-7300
Fire Non-Emergency	325-7123
Potholes	325-7624
Report Power Outage	325-7550
Street Lights	325-7535
Stormwater Pollution	325-7727
Utilities	
Customer Service	325-7930
Pay by Phone	325-SERV
Payment Assistance	254-4100
Weeds, Trash	325-7193

Regional Animal Shelter

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



Always Spay or Neuter!

