

## **Focus groups gives Johnson County residents a voice on budget priorities**

If you are a Johnson County resident, the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners would like to invite you to dinner and a focus group of residents in your district. As a result of a challenging economy, commissioners are facing some hard choices related to balancing the budget and they want to know what residents think. They have hired Consensus to conduct focus groups to find out.

At the focus group, you would complete an online budget simulator and then work with other residents to discuss the results. Only a dozen people from each district can be included in each focus group, and we are seeking a mix of people who roughly reflect each district. To be eligible to participate, neither you nor a member of your immediate family can be employed by Johnson County government and you must be at least 18 years of age.

You do not need to be an expert in the Johnson County budget. We won't be asking you technical questions. Instead, we'll be interested in how you made your decisions and what mattered most to you when you considered different choices. We're looking forward to a lively, honest discussion.

To RSVP, contact Jennifer Wilding at [jenwilding@consensuskc.org](mailto:jenwilding@consensuskc.org) or [816.531.5078](tel:816.531.5078). With so few spaces available, they are sure to go quickly so please get in touch soon.

Not a Johnson County resident? Forward this invitation to a friend or colleague who is.

### **About Consensus and Consensus Consulting**

Consensus Consulting is the consulting arm of Consensus, a Kansas City nonprofit with decades of experience "putting the public in public policy." While Consensus works on engaging citizens in the Kansas City area to get involved in important issues, the consulting group works both in Kansas City and nationally on projects that fit within the mission of Consensus.

Consensus Consulting works mainly with governments, nonprofits and educational institutions. We use the wide-ranging experience of Consensus to help our clients understand what their constituents are thinking, lead discussions of important issues and provide results-oriented reports.

### **Focus group dates**

The meetings will run from 6 to 8 p.m. at a central site in each district.

Dates include:

**District 1: Wednesday, February 15 (Commissioner Ed Peterson)**

**District 2: Thursday, February 9 (Commissioner Jim Allen)**

**District 3: Thursday, March 1 (Commissioner David Lindstrom)**

**District 4: Monday, February 13 (Commissioner Jason Osterhaus)**

**District 5: Monday, March 12 (Commissioner Michael Ashcraft)**

**District 6: Wednesday, February 8 (Commissioner Calvin Hayden)**

Not sure of your district? Check the County website

at [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?lir=cyq9b8dab&et=1109124400603&s=1461&e=0018aG37dM44MIwTZhJq94PzAC8aSefU4WYPQo9skYvCalzZrMd2z3s1SVR5PPuHbNe\\_Hyi9pN0f8f40t\\_1RLqSoKUFNiIRnu1b8UaYyGd0rOd7NZA1NtRNAddxnG\\_4j\\_dmkMteaeJViWc=](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?lir=cyq9b8dab&et=1109124400603&s=1461&e=0018aG37dM44MIwTZhJq94PzAC8aSefU4WYPQo9skYvCalzZrMd2z3s1SVR5PPuHbNe_Hyi9pN0f8f40t_1RLqSoKUFNiIRnu1b8UaYyGd0rOd7NZA1NtRNAddxnG_4j_dmkMteaeJViWc=)