



# 2026

**CITY OF OLATHE, KS**  
*Federal Priorities*



*City of Olathe*



# **CITY OF OLATHE, KANSAS 2026 FEDERAL PRIORITIES AND PROJECT REQUESTS** | April 2026

*The City of Olathe values its strong partnership with the Kansas Congressional Delegation and its continued support of priorities important to our residents, businesses, and taxpayers. Olathe's 2026 federal priorities are focused on practical projects and policy issues with direct local impact, strong public value, and meaningful return on investment.*

## **1 Downtown Post Office Relocation & Economic Redevelopment Project**

The City's highest current federal priority is support for the Downtown Post Office Relocation and Economic Redevelopment Project, including Community Project Funding being advanced by Congresswoman Sharice Davids.

Relocating the downtown post office will unlock one of the most strategic redevelopment sites in downtown Olathe and create a significant opportunity for workforce housing, mixed-use redevelopment, and long-term economic growth. The project will support housing supply, strengthen downtown vitality, and improve regional economic competitiveness by putting a high-value site back into productive community use. The project is locally and regionally significant, aligns with federal housing and economic development goals, and is positioned to leverage substantial local and state investment.

The City has already acquired the relocation site and is actively working with the United States Postal Service to finalize the agreements necessary to move forward. Federal support for this effort will help close the remaining funding gap and advance a project that is ready, strategic, and capable of producing long-term public benefit.

## **2 Invest in Transportation & Critical Infrastructure**

Support federal funding and financing tools for roadway capacity, congestion relief, traffic safety, freight mobility, grade separation, and other infrastructure necessary to support growth, redevelopment, and economic activity in local communities.

The City continues to prioritize improvements within the I-35 and Santa Fe corridor, one of the most heavily traveled and economically significant areas in the region. Olathe appreciates prior federal support for the I-35/Santa Fe interchange and related planning efforts and will continue advancing phased improvements to address congestion, safety, and long-term redevelopment opportunities. Continued federal partnership will be critical as these efforts move from planning into implementation.

The City is also advancing work related to the BNSF rail corridor through Olathe. Federal support has helped initiate study of the western rail crossings, which include some of the highest-traffic at-grade crossings in the state. These crossings create significant delays, impact emergency response times, and limit redevelopment potential in key areas of the community. The City is actively evaluating long-term solutions, including grade separation and corridor improvements, and anticipates pursuing federal funding opportunities as project concepts advance.

More broadly, Olathe continues to develop and position a pipeline of infrastructure projects to support regional growth, freight mobility, and economic competitiveness. This includes key corridors such as 167th Street and US-169, K-10 capacity improvements, and additional rail-related infrastructure needs. Federal investment will be essential to advancing these projects in a timely, coordinated, and cost-effective manner.

The City also supports reasonable federal permitting, environmental review, and implementation reforms that reduce unnecessary delay and help infrastructure and redevelopment projects move more efficiently from planning to construction.

## **3 Strengthen Public Safety & Emergency Response Capacity**

Maintain and strengthen core federal-local public safety partnerships, including support for law enforcement, fire, EMS, emergency communications, disaster preparedness, and interoperable response systems. Federal initiatives that require local participation should include adequate funding and reimbursement.

## 4 Public Safety Technology & Real-Time Information Program Support

Building on those partnerships, the City supports federal funding opportunities that assist local governments in modernizing public safety operations, including technology, equipment, interoperability, and real-time information sharing tools that improve response, coordination, and officer and community safety.

For Olathe, that includes support for public safety technology investments such as the City's Real Time Information Program and related operational infrastructure being advanced by Representative Davids through the appropriations process. These investments strengthen local law enforcement effectiveness, improve emergency response coordination, and support the public safety foundation necessary for community confidence, business activity, and continued redevelopment. We appreciate the 2025 COPS funding we received that is helping hire four new officers which will allow strategic deployment to reduce fentanyl-related violent crime through enhanced community policing.

## 5 Maintain Housing and Community Development Tools

The City supports continued funding and flexibility within federal housing and community development programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which provides critical resources to address local needs.

In Olathe, CDBG funding is used to support a range of activities that directly benefit low- and moderate-income residents and strengthen the broader community. These include housing rehabilitation and accessibility improvements, public facility and infrastructure upgrades, neighborhood revitalization efforts, and support for nonprofit service providers delivering essential programs such as senior services, disability support, and housing stability assistance.

CDBG also provides the City with the flexibility to respond to local conditions and emerging needs in a way that targeted or narrowly defined programs cannot. Maintaining this flexibility is essential to ensuring funds are deployed efficiently and in a manner that reflects community priorities.

The City urges Congress to avoid disproportionate reductions to CDBG and related programs and to preserve local discretion in how funds are allocated and implemented.



## 6 Support Economic Development & Job-Creating Investment

Support federal policies and funding opportunities that improve site readiness, infrastructure competitiveness, commercial and industrial growth, and long-term economic development in local communities. These investments directly reinforce the goals of the Post Office Redevelopment project and the transportation improvements outlined above, together creating a cohesive framework for Olathe's long-term growth.

The City supports federal policies that help communities remain competitive for private investment, workforce growth, and long-term tax base stability including the supporting of opportunity zones and/or other targeted opportunities to foster economic growth and job creation in local communities.



## **7** Support Water, Wastewater, & Environmental Compliance Flexibility

Support federal policies that recognize the real-world cost of environmental compliance and avoid imposing high-cost mandates with little measurable return. Where new federal requirements are imposed, local governments should have implementation flexibility and access to meaningful funding support.

## **8** Preserve Affordable Local Infrastructure Financing

Protect the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and oppose federal actions that would increase borrowing costs for local governments and taxpayers or make local infrastructure delivery more expensive.

## **9** Reduce Administrative and Payroll Compliance Burdens

The City urges Congress and federal agencies to ensure that new federal tax, payroll, and reporting requirements are administratively workable for local governments.

In particular, any federal overtime-related tax reporting or payroll tracking requirement should allow practical, low-burden compliance options rather than forcing costly payroll software redesigns or duplicative reporting systems. Local governments should not be required to spend significant taxpayer resources to implement reporting structures that could be addressed through simpler substantiation and employee reporting methods.

## **10** Protect Local Decision-Making & Reduce Unfunded Mandates

Support federal policies that preserve local control and avoid shifting federal costs or implementation burdens to local taxpayers. If federal funding is reduced, associated mandates and compliance obligations should be reduced as well.

Federal policy should also recognize that implementation matters. New requirements—whether tied to labor, tax, environment, or grant compliance—should be administratively feasible, cost-effective, and flexible enough to work in real local government operations.



- 1** Site of Chiefs Practice Facility
- 2** Halo Ridge Development Area
- 3** Downtown Post Office Relocation & Economic Development Project
- 4** I-35 & Santa Fe Interchange

- 5** Police Headquarters & Real-Time Information Program
- 6** Outdoor Firing Range Partnership with the FBI

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## **11 Recognize the Local Impact of Behavioral Health System Gaps**

Support adequate federal investment, accountability, and intergovernmental coordination related to mental and behavioral health systems. Local governments and first responders continue to absorb substantial operational and financial impacts when appropriate treatment and intervention systems are under-resourced.

## **12 Preserve Direct Federal Partnership with Municipalities**

Maintain and expand direct, competitive, and formula-based funding opportunities for municipalities. Cities should continue to have meaningful access to federal resources that address local infrastructure, safety, housing, and quality-of-life priorities.

The City of Olathe appreciates the delegation's continued partnership and looks forward to working together on the priorities outlined above—from the Downtown Post Office Redevelopment and critical transportation investments to housing, public safety, and long-term economic growth. Together, these represent practical, fiscally responsible federal investments that strengthen Kansas communities and protect local taxpayers.

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## **CITY OF OLATHE — EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM 2026**

The City of Olathe welcomes direct engagement with our Congressional Delegation and federal partners. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Mayor, City Council, or any member of the Executive Management Team listed below with questions, concerns, or opportunities to collaborate on behalf of our community.

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