



City Hall ⑩ 8500 Santa Fe Drive
Overland Park, Kansas 66212
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March 11, 2025

The Honorable Jerry Moran
U.S. Senate
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington,
D.C. 20002

The Honorable Derek Schmidt
U.S. House of Representatives
1223 Longworth Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roger Marshall
U.S. Senate
479 A Russell Senate Office Building Suite
Washington, D.C. 20002

The Honorable Sharice Davids
U.S. House of Representatives
2435 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tracey Mann
U.S. House of Representatives
344 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ron Estes
U.S. House of Representatives
2234 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

RE: Municipal Bonds Should Remain Tax Exempt

Dear Honorable Members of Congress:

The City of Overland Park opposes any proposal to eliminate or reduce the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. This letter sets forth our position.

Tax-exempt municipal bonds are a well-established financing tool. The City issues debt securities to fund public projects. The interest earned by investors is typically exempt from federal income taxes. The tax exemption makes the bonds attractive to investors, which allows the City to borrow at lower interest rates.

The City finances many of its infrastructure projects through municipal bonds each year because of this tool's cost effectiveness, which allows the City to stretch its resources to get more projects done. These projects benefit the entire community, improving quality of life and providing infrastructure to support economic growth. If municipal bond interest were to become taxable, the City's borrowing costs would increase. This would result in reduced scope for public projects and increased property taxes.

Examples of the City's recent and future bond-funded projects include:

Clock Tower Landing (Farmers' Market) – A reconstruction of the City's Farmers' Market, which will feature the following:

- New, indoor spaces for the Overland Park Farmers' Market vendors and shoppers
- Permanent shade structures
- Additional seating for market visitors
- Expanded restroom access
- Improvements to adjacent Clock Tower Plaza, Overland Park Drive, and Marty Street
- A public gathering space for watch parties, concerts and other public events

Metcalfe Avenue 91st Street to 99th Street- A significant improvement to a major thoroughfare, including:

- Mill and overlay to refresh the road surface
- Raised medians with landscaping and irrigation
- New curbs, gutters and storm sewer upgrades for better water management
- Underground power lines to replace overhead lines
- Installation of decorative traffic signals and street lighting

Switzer Road 167th Street to 179th Street – Reconstruction of a two-lane road to an improved two-lane thoroughfare, including:

- Two new roundabouts
- A new bridge over Coffee Creek
- Sidewalk, multi-use trail, bike lane, street lighting, curb and gutter, and storm sewers

Quivira Road 179th Street to 187th Street – Replacement of existing two-lane asphalt road with concrete road with asphalt shoulders and construction of new road in gap between 179th Street and 183rd Street, including:

- A new roundabout
- Curb and gutter, storm sewer, street lighting, mixed use trail, sidewalk, and bike lanes
- Two new bridges over Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek Tributary

Pflumm Road Bridge over Coffee Creek

- Replace the existing bridge with a new one

College Boulevard Bridge over Indian Creek – Construction of a new bridge over Indian Creek, including:

- Replacement of the six-lane section of the current bridge
- Addition of bike/hike lanes on both sides

College and Metcalfe Mobility Enhancements – Improvements to a busy intersection to make it more traversable for bicycle riders and pedestrians, including:

- The Construction of a linear park
- A bike/walk path improving connectivity

Individual investors also benefit from the municipal bond tax exemption. Municipal bonds are a safe and stable investment, but changing their tax-exempt status would affect investors' personal savings and institutional portfolios.

I appreciate your time and attention to this important matter. Please work to preserve the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Curt Skoog', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Curt Skoog
Mayor
City of Overland Park, Kansas