

Conversations about the Future JOHNSON COUNTY 2013 Community Interviews

JOHNSON COUNTY

I. Community Profile: Johnson County



Johnson County courthouse in Franklin,
Indiana



Location in the state of Indiana



Indiana's location in the U.S.

Founded 1823

JOHNSON COUNTY

County Seat	Franklin
Area	321.79 sq mi (833 km ²)
- Total	320.43 sq mi (830 km ²)
- Land	1.36 sq mi (4 km ²),
- Water	0.42%
Population	
- (2010)	139,654
- Density	436/sq mi (168.4/km ²)
Congressional districts	6 th , 9 th
	Indiana Senate districts 32, 35, 36, 37 and 41
Indiana Legislature	Indiana House of Representatives districts 47, 58, 59 and 93.
Website	www.co.johnson.in.us

Major highways

-  Interstate 65
-  U.S. Route 31
-  Indiana State Road 37
-  Indiana State Road 44
-  Indiana State Road 252
-  Indiana State Road 144
-  Indiana State Road 135

JOHNSON COUNTY

Geography

According to the 2010 census, the county has a total area of 321.79 square miles (833.4 km²), of which 320.43 square miles (829.9 km²) (or 99.58%) is land and 1.36 square miles (3.5 km²) (or 0.42%) is water.

Adjacent counties

- Marion County (north)
- Shelby County (east)
- Bartholomew County (southeast)
- Brown County (southwest)
- Morgan County (west)

History

Johnson County was formed in 1823. It was named for John Johnson, a judge of the Indiana Supreme Court. This is probably John Johnson of Knox County, delegate to the State constitutional convention, appointed to the Supreme Court in 1816.

Cities and towns

- Bargersville
- Edinburgh
- Franklin
- Greenwood
- New Whiteland
- Princes Lakes
- Trafalgar
- Whiteland
- The south end of the county is also home to the Camp Atterbury military installation.

Townships

- Blue River
- Clark
- Franklin
- Hensley
- Needham
- Nineveh
- Pleasant
- Union
- White River

JOHNSON COUNTY

Government

The county government is a constitutional body, and is granted specific powers by the Constitution of Indiana, and by the Indiana Code.

County Council: The county council is the legislative branch of the county government and controls all the spending and revenue collection in the county. Representatives are elected from county districts. The council members serve four-year terms. They are responsible for setting salaries, the annual budget, and special spending. The council also has limited authority to impose local taxes, in the form of an income and property tax that is subject to state level approval, excise taxes, and service taxes.

Board of Commissioners: The executive body of the county is made of a board of commissioners. The commissioners are elected county-wide, in staggered terms, and each serves a four-year term. One of the commissioners, typically the most senior, serves as president. The commissioners are charged with executing the acts legislated by the council, collecting revenue, and managing the day-to-day functions of the county government.

Courts: The county maintains a Circuit Court can handle all types of cases, unless a particular case type is specifically reserved to another court. The county also maintains three Superior Courts that also handle all types of cases, and also handle the small claims and juvenile cases. The judge on each of the courts is elected to a term of four years and must be a member of the Indiana Bar Association.

County Officials: The county has several other elected offices that are mandated by the Indiana Constitution. These include sheriff, coroner, assessor, auditor, recorder, surveyor, and circuit court clerk. Each of these elected officers serves terms of four years and oversee different parts of the county government. Members elected to county government positions are required to declare party affiliations and to be residents of the county.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Historical populations

Census	Pop.	%±
1830	4,019	—
1840	9,352	132.7%
1850	12,101	29.4%
1860	14,854	22.8%
1870	18,366	23.6%
1880	19,537	6.4%
1890	19,561	0.1%
1900	20,223	3.4%
1910	20,394	0.8%
1920	20,739	1.7%
1930	21,706	4.7%
1940	22,493	3.6%
1950	26,183	16.4%
1960	43,704	66.9%
1970	61,138	39.9%
1980	77,240	26.3%
1990	88,109	14.1%
2000	115,209	30.8%
2010	139,654	21.2%

Preceding section adapted from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnson_County,_Indiana

JOHNSON COUNTY

Johnson County, Indiana

People Quick Facts	Johnson County	Indiana
Population, 2012 estimate	143,191	6,537,334
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	139,654	6,483,800
Population, percent change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012	2.5%	0.8%
Population, 2010	139,654	6,483,802
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2011	6.7%	6.6%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2011	26.0%	24.5%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2011	12.5%	13.2%
Female persons, percent, 2011	50.8%	50.8%
White persons, percent, 2011 (a)	94.7%	86.8%
Black persons, percent, 2011 (a)	1.5%	9.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2011 (a)	0.3%	0.4%
Asian persons, percent, 2011 (a)	2.1%	1.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander persons, percent, 2011 (a)	Z	0.1%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2011	1.4%	1.7%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin, percent, 2011 (b)	3.2%	6.2%
White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2011	91.8%	81.3%
Living in same house 1 year & over, percent, 2007-2011	85.5%	84.4%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2007-2011	3.4%	4.5%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent age 5+, 2007-2011	4.9%	7.9%
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2007-2011	90.7%	86.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2007-2011	26.4%	22.7%
Veterans, 2007-2011	10,011	478,030
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2007-2011	25.9	23.1
Housing units, 2011	57,319	2,800,614
Homeownership rate, 2007-2011	75.2%	71.1%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent,	15.6%	18.5%

JOHNSON COUNTY

2007-2011		
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2007-2011	\$145,000	\$123,300
Households, 2007-2011	51,420	2,472,870
Persons per household, 2007-2011	2.62	2.53
Per capita money income in the past 12 months (2011 dollars), 2007-2011	\$28,694	\$24,497
Median household income, 2007-2011	\$62,754	\$48,393
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2007-2011	8.5%	14.1%
Business QuickFacts		
	Johnson County	Indiana
Private nonfarm establishments, 2010	2,936	145,019 ¹
Private nonfarm employment, 2010	37,376	2,400,382 ¹
Private nonfarm employment, percent change, 2000-2010	-5.9	-9.4 ¹
Nonemployer establishments, 2010	8,576	380,097
Total number of firms, 2007	11,957	482,847
Black-owned firms, percent, 2007	S	4.6%
American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms, percent, 2007	F	0.5%
Asian-owned firms, percent, 2007	3.1%	1.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned firms, percent, 2007	F	0.0%
Hispanic-owned firms, percent, 2007	0.8%	1.8%
Women-owned firms, percent, 2007	26.6%	26.8%
Manufacturers shipments, 2007 (\$1000)	1,609,901	221,877,814
Merchant wholesaler sales, 2007 (\$1000)	682,332	67,634,947
Retail sales, 2007 (\$1000)	2,072,896	78,745,589
Retail sales per capita, 2007	\$15,169	\$12,408
Accommodation and food services sales, 2007 (\$1000)	208,425	11,669,759
Building permits, 2011	414	12,618

JOHNSON COUNTY

Geography Quick Facts	Johnson County	Indiana
Land area in square miles, 2010	320.43	35,826.11
Persons per square mile, 2010	435.8	181.0
FIPS Code	081	18
Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area	Indianapolis-Carmel, IN Metro Area	

1: Includes data not distributed by county.

(a) Includes persons reporting only one race.

(b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.

D: Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information

F: Fewer than 100 firms

FN: Footnote on this item for this area in place of data

NA: Not available

S: Suppressed; does not meet publication standards

X: Not applicable

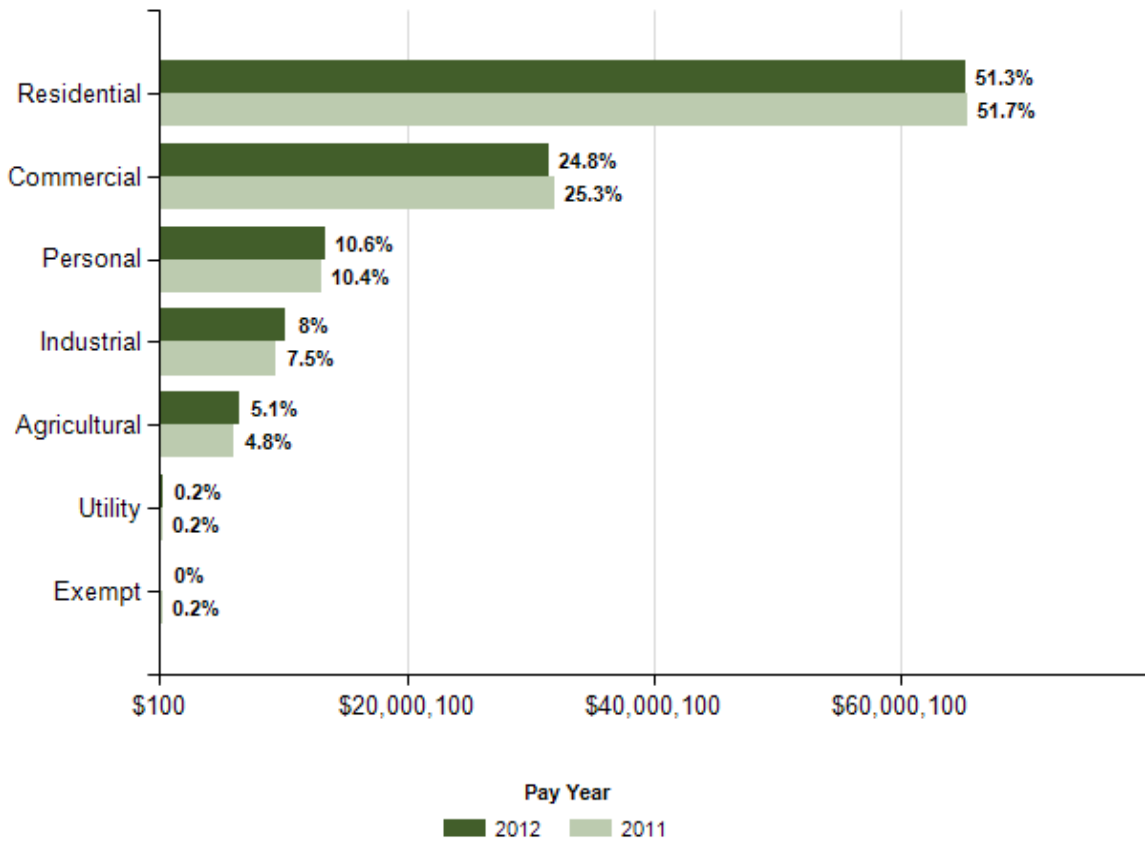
Z: Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown

Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits, Consolidated Federal Funds Report

Last Revised: Monday, 11-Mar-2013 14:12:00 EDT

JOHNSON COUNTY

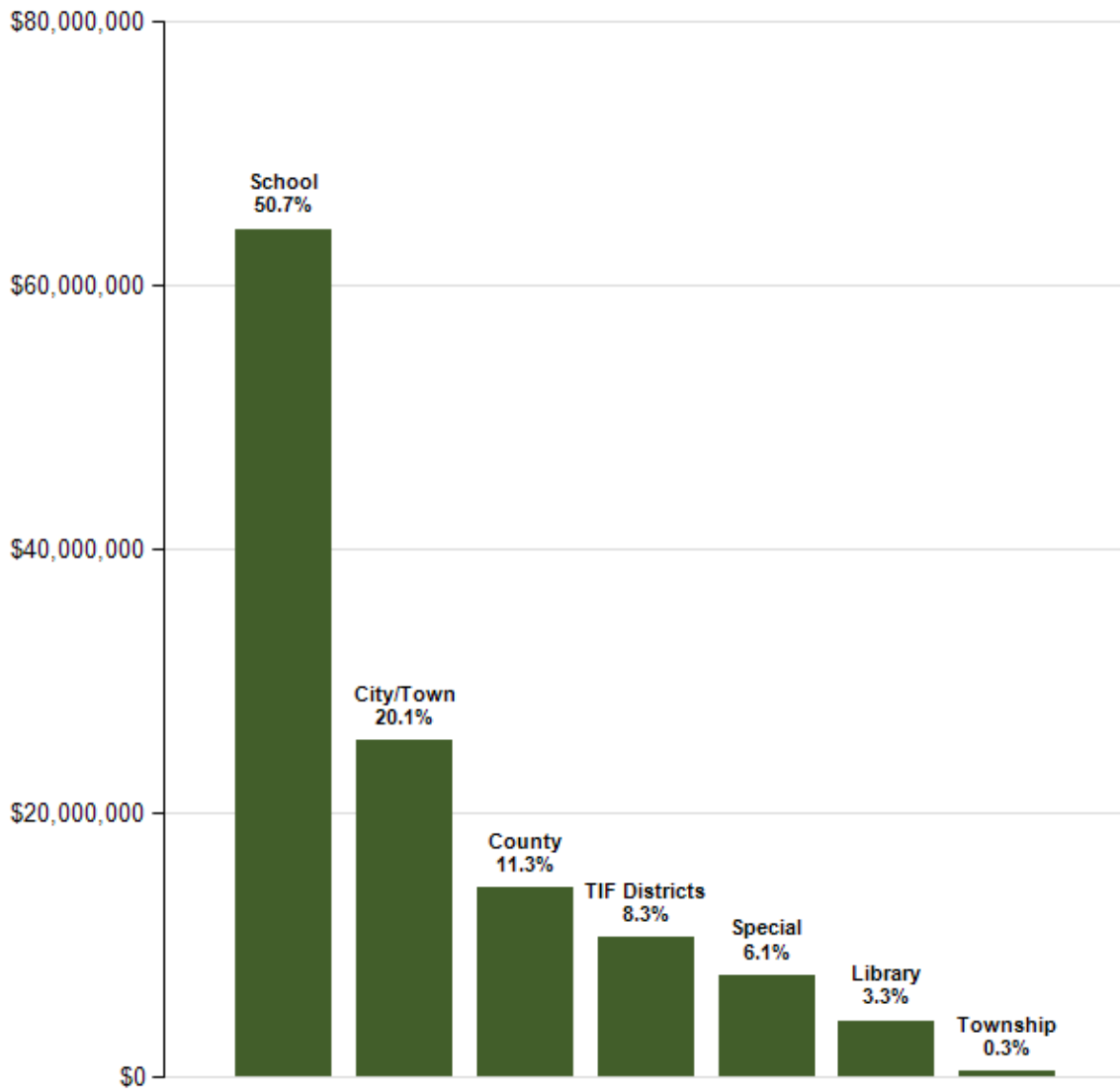
Who Pays Property Taxes



Source	2012	% Total	2011	% Total
Residential	\$65,242,593	51.3%	\$65,415,592	51.7%
Commercial	\$31,503,655	24.8%	\$32,007,474	25.3%
Personal	\$13,429,944	10.6%	\$13,147,534	10.4%
Industrial	\$10,184,049	8.0%	\$9,434,978	7.5%
Agricultural	\$6,497,730	5.1%	\$6,059,898	4.8%
Utility	\$294,086	0.2%	\$269,538	0.2%
Exempt	\$17,001	0.0%	\$241,157	0.2%

JOHNSON COUNTY

Who Receives Property Taxes



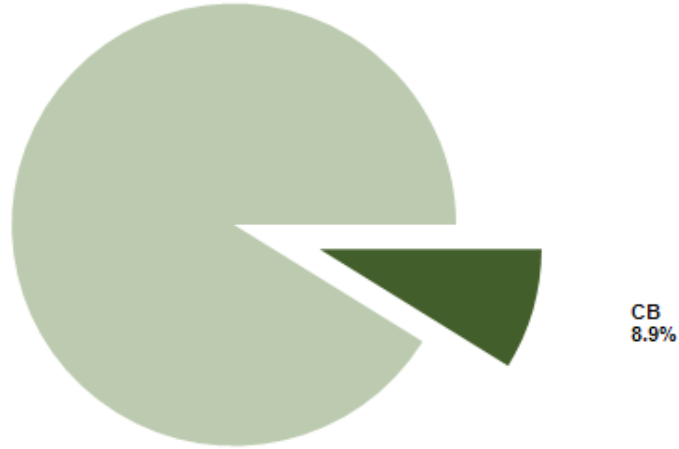
Source	2012	% Total
School	\$64,273,754	50.7%
Cities/Towns	\$25,450,555	20.1%
County	\$14,321,746	11.3%
TIF	\$10,541,601	8.3%
Special Districts	\$7,717,824	6.1%
Library	\$4,243,132	3.3%
Township	\$344,197	0.3%

JOHNSON COUNTY

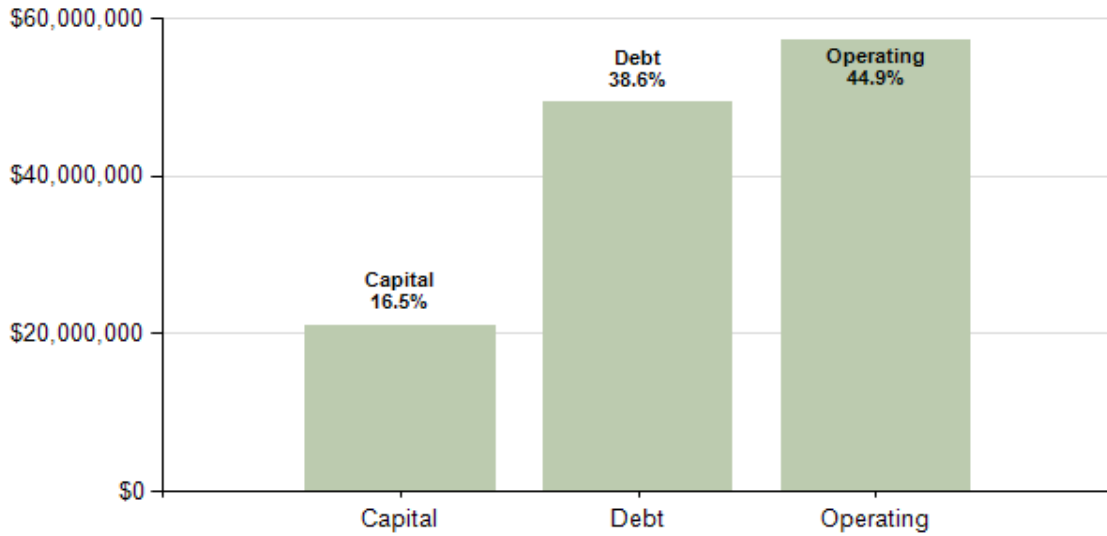
How Much is Received in Circuit Breaker Credits

1% Cap Recipients	2% Cap Recipients	3% Cap Recipients	65+ Cap Recipients	All CB Classifications
\$5,035,424	\$5,034,557	\$1,431,212	\$78,029	\$11,579,222

Circuit Breaker Credits as a Percent of Certified Levies



How Unit Budgets are Apportioned



Source	2012	% Total
Capital	\$21,092,936	16.5%
Debt	\$49,324,037	38.6%
Operating	\$57,322,661	44.9%

JOHNSON COUNTY

Property Tax Levies by Unit Within County

Unit Name	2012 Levy	2011 Levy	Percent Change
Johnson County	\$15,376,412	\$14,942,616	2.9%
Blue River Township	\$61,864	\$60,712	1.9%
Clark Township	\$17,151	\$13,136	30.6%
Franklin Township	\$144,695	\$142,206	1.8%
Hensley Township	\$8,946	\$6,747	32.6%
Needham Township	\$14,848	\$20,193	-26.5%
Nineveh Township	\$25,357	\$24,771	2.4%
Pleasant Township	\$109,350	\$104,844	4.3%
Union Township	\$0	\$0	0.0%
White River Township	\$0	\$0	0.0%
White Lake Conservancy District	\$18,524	\$39,999	-53.7%
Northeast Lake Conservancy District	\$5,174	\$4,998	3.5%
Hants Lake Conservancy District	\$9,999	\$19,318	-48.2%
North Lake Conservancy District	\$12,398	\$11,991	3.4%
Edinburgh-Wright-Hageman Public Library	\$120,759	\$151,872	-20.5%
Greenwood Public Library	\$1,234,780	\$1,009,747	22.3%
Johnson County Public Library	\$3,208,121	\$3,053,027	5.1%
Franklin Civil City	\$11,239,499	\$10,633,908	5.7%
Greenwood Civil City	\$12,581,206	\$12,900,547	-2.5%
Bargersville Civil Town	\$1,775,168	\$1,083,728	63.8%
Edinburgh Civil Town	\$1,855,063	\$1,859,778	-0.3%
New Whiteland Civil Town	\$748,762	\$721,672	3.8%
Princes Lakes Civil Town	\$271,682	\$216,407	25.5%
Trafalgar Civil Town	\$288,722	\$281,784	2.5%
Whiteland Civil Town	\$444,221	\$434,700	2.2%
White River Township Fire	\$3,893,674	\$3,975,071	-2.0%
Amity Fire Protection	\$80,002	\$53,650	49.1%
Nineveh Fire Protection District	\$102,907	\$99,902	3.0%
Needham Fire Protection District	\$345,527	\$273,897	26.2%
Bargersville Fire Protection	\$2,665,769	\$2,588,311	3.0%
Whiteland Fire Protection	\$406,403	\$296,794	36.9%
Hensley Fire Protection	\$158,435	\$155,928	1.6%
Johnson County Solid Waste	\$425,684	\$409,543	3.9%
Clark-Pleasant Community School Corp	\$20,710,480	\$21,766,331	-4.9%
Center Grove Community School Corp	\$20,219,285	\$20,848,315	-3.0%
Edinburgh Community School Corporation	\$1,599,150	\$1,697,681	-5.8%
Franklin Community School Corporation	\$17,690,848	\$16,975,541	4.2%
Greenwood Community School Corporation	\$7,482,034	\$7,792,195	-4.0%
Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson United Sch Corp	\$2,881,449	\$3,052,577	-5.6%
Total	\$128,234,348	\$127,724,437	0.4%

Source: IN Department of Local Government Finance

II. Historical Perspective

A. Location

1. Johnson County is in close proximity to Indianapolis and Brown County.
2. The county and its businesses and residents are influenced by Camp Atterbury.
3. Louisville, KY and Cincinnati, OH are within easy driving distance.
4. The county has three main components: urban, small town, rural.

B. Population Characteristics

1. Residents tend to have a conservative approach to change.
2. The population has grown a lot in the last 30 years.
3. People here are perceived as friendly and laid-back.
4. A large older population lives here.
5. Many people are long-time residents of Johnson County.

C. Desirable Communities

1. Good quality of life
2. Good school systems throughout the area
3. Affordable taxes
4. Viewed as a "good value" – ratio of income to cost of living
5. Great fairs, festivals, and other varied events
6. Lower crime rate than in larger city areas

D. Want to Conserve

1. Sense of history
2. Core Values: faith, friends, family

JOHNSON COUNTY

3. Balance of rural and small town atmosphere
4. Agriculture – land preservation
5. Great fairs, festivals, and other varied events

E. Significant Events

1. 2008 Edinburgh and Camp Atterbury tornado
2. 2008 Flood – community reaction was a testament to our strong sense of community and resourcefulness
3. 2008/2009 economic downturn leading to the recession
4. Construction of new schools and renovation of existing schools in the Franklin, Center Grove, and Clark Pleasant school districts

III. Current Facts

A. Budget and Funding Constraints

1. Current tax caps will lead to the need for alternative taxing and funding sources.
2. Constraints are far-reaching and impact nearly every business, agency, employee, and resident.
3. Having to do more with less is a common challenge – this can foster creativity but can also negatively impact morale over time.

B. County Growth and Development

1. County is growing but at a slower rate.
2. Heavy growth is happening along SR 135.
3. There is currently no county-wide tourist bureau.
4. Growth has not always been planned or controlled.
5. 25% of Johnson County residents smoke compared to a national average of 20%.

6. Increased technology both “helps” and “hurts.” Technology allows more opportunities to be shared and in a timely manner. Schools have seen social media become the main source of bullying and other bad behavior. Some entities have complained that some changes are made just because the technology is available without thought to practicality.

C. Workforce and Employment

1. Individual income has decreased over the past 15 years while cost of living has increased.

2. A change in expectations must follow which is difficult for people to accept.

3. County sees many low-skill, low-paying jobs. Higher-skill, higher-paying jobs are available but individuals lack the skills needed for these positions. Training is needed to fill these “gaps”.

4. Leadership training is available to ALL adults through Leadership Johnson County.

5. Central Nine Career Center offers business and industry career training.

D. Social Services

1. Some agencies have seen a tenfold increase in needs-based services requested.

2. Several school districts have 50%-60% of their students using the free/reduced lunch program.

3. A high number of services for the elderly are offered throughout the county.

4. There is less stigma attached to “asking for help” since so many more people are having to utilize services that they haven’t required in the past.

5. There are numerous ways to dispose of materials, not just standard recycling.

6. There are misconceptions as to the role of many agencies in the county and their scope of responsibility.

IV. Patterns and Themes (Bold = Included in Local Plans)

A. Better Infrastructure

1. Hopeful that an East-West corridor will be built.
2. Would like to see the Indiana connector embraced.
3. Encourages exploration of an I-69 & SR 37 corridor.
4. **IndyConnect and Access Johnson Co are planning on connecting their routes.**

B. Encourage Business and Higher Education Development

1. Wants to encourage new businesses east of I-65.
2. Feels that controlled growth is necessary.
3. Would like to see more affordable advertising.
4. Need to capitalize on the abundance of schools and higher learning facilities in the county.
5. Wants people to embrace the flexibility of alternative learning opportunities and education paths (community colleges, etc.).
6. **There are plans to expand Ivy Tech's campus.**
7. **Franklin College is working on collaborating and blending the campus with the community and extending their sphere of influence throughout the county.**
8. **There are more emerging partnerships between the community and Franklin College.**
9. **There are more emerging partnerships between the community and the Job Corp.**

10. Johnson County Development Corporation is completing a new strategic plan with hopes of being a convener and collaborator for businesses and economic development.

C. Improve Local Workforce and Decrease County Un-/Underemployment

1. Would like to see improved training to enhance employee skills.
2. Feels that there is a need for better accessibility to training.
3. Wishes to improve the identification of workforce needs.
4. Would like to attract and retain more of the skilled work force and college graduates.

D. Quality of Life and Amenities

1. Hopeful that parks and trail systems will be added to, improved upon, and connected.
2. Believes more cultural activities should be offered.
3. Would like improved access to affordable, quality healthcare.
4. Wishes for a "Welcome Wagon" service.
5. Believes unique shopping, dining, and entertainment opportunities should be offered, encouraged, and promoted.
6. Would like to see curbside recycling service offered county-wide.
7. **Several cities are working toward passing or improving non-smoking ordinances.**
8. **Johnson County Community Hospital is working on:**
 - a. **incorporating technology such as offering email access to doctors.**

b. enhancing regional collaboration to bring more sophisticated services to the area – “Health Fund Trust.”

c. Offering on-site clinics to employers such as schools and government entities.

9. Priority has been given to creating urban forests and restoring nature to the area.

E. Maintaining the Identity of the Community

1. Would liked to keep the mix of urban, “small town,” and rural components.

2. Believes agri-tourism should be cultivated and promoted.

F. Revitalization of Downtown Areas

1. Feels priority should be given to better gateways/I-65 exits.
2. Would like to see better signage.
3. Believes we should play to each community's uniqueness. (ex: "county seat", "quaintness", "historical architecture", "college town", "closeness to Indy")
4. Wishes for increased funding to meet development needs.
5. **New building facades are being planned in some downtown areas.**

G. Collaboration Between Social Service Agencies

1. Need to improve socialization for all ages, especially Senior Citizens.
2. Wants to increase awareness of scams that target vulnerable individuals.
3. Dreams of having enough funding to meet social service needs.
4. Believes enhancing and supporting family units would be positive and have far-reaching effects on the community.
5. **Several social service agencies are conducting needs-based assessments.**
6. **Many social service agencies are planning or are already distributing information in multiple languages.**

H. Better Communication and Dialogue throughout the County

1. Would like to see more online classes and instruction available and advertised between agencies.

JOHNSON COUNTY

2. Hopes for better vision and visionary leaders to help build a strong legacy and also that people would see the value in planning for the future.
3. Wishes that personal agendas and territorial attitudes would disappear to allow working together for the common good.
4. Need to foster civil dialogue and wholesome communication county-wide.
5. Would like to have access to factual information, shared without "spinning" or tailoring to opinion.
6. Wants people to take more personal responsibility and to have more integrity.
7. Overall would like to improve and enhance "Community Connectedness."
8. Believes the County would benefit from having a strategic plan.
9. **Many agencies are using technology and focusing on improving their websites because the public expects an "online home."**
10. **Most organizations are using in-house training and online classes/meetings as a way to save money and because specialized instruction is more accessible and affordable this way.**

I. Resolution of Center Grove and Greenwood Incorporation

1. Would like to see balance brought to the tax base by encouraging stable corporate and residential growth.
2. Need to enhance Center Grove's image as an attractive, executive community.

J. Public Safety

1. Would like for neighbors to help and look out for each other.

- 2. A county-wide dispatch system for 911 calls (“PSAP”) is being implemented.**
- 3. Consideration of expanding both the county judicial system and correctional facilities is ongoing.**

V. Emerging Insights

- A.** Communication is Key
- B.** We Should Share Our Resources
- C.** Would Like Community Groups to Partner
- D.** Want to Conserve Attributes that make our Communities Special
- E.** Need to Plan for the Future and Build Our Legacy

VI. Provocative Possibilities

- A.** Additional joint programming offered, both on- and off-site with Johnson County Parks, Johnson County Museum, Job Corp, C9, Senior Services.
- B.** Send newsletters with specific programs for target populations.
- C.** Have kiosk or library racks on-site at the outlet mall, Water St. Café, Job Corp, C9, etc.
- D.** Work more directly with Franklin College, Ivy Tech, Job Corp, possibly offering internships.
- E.** Offer library cards to Job Corp students.
- F.** Revisit programming with the jail and related detention centers.
- G.** Be in touch with Work One and other entities that currently offer Library flyers to provide a more formal update and follow up procedure.

VII. Illustrative Highlights

- A. “Front Porch Community”**

- B. "Small Town Feel"**
- C. "Friendliness"**
- D. "Gathering Place"**
- E. "Environmentally Conscious"**
- F. "City Rivalry"**
- G. "County is resistant to change."**
- H. "Don't make changes for sake of change."**
- I. "Lack of Funding"**
- J. "Must consider the best use of assets and resources."**
- K. "It's time for a fresh start."**
- L. "We need to get back to basics – simplify."**
- M. "Grow with foresight and strive for the future."**
- N. "Help all people reach their full potential."**
- O. "Young, energetic leaders"**
- P. "Collective Vision of Greatness"**
- Q. "Build a sewer, they will come."**
- R. "One Stop Shopping for Social Services"**
- S. "The Library is the essence of a good quality of life."**
- T.** An elderly woman was found by a Senior Services driver and was helped to safety.
- U.** Access Johnson County helped with supply deliveries during and after the 2008 flood.
- V.** Grandparents are raising their grandchildren. One grandmother needed assistance when trying to help her granddaughter fill out college applications and scholarship forms.

JOHNSON COUNTY

- W.** A member of local government buys 100 crosses at the beginning of each year and puts them on his desk for anyone to take.
- X.** When BMV started offering specialty plates it became more difficult to see at a glance where cars are from. This hinders police and neighborhood watch groups in determining if a vehicle “belongs” in that area.
- Y.** A woman who was issued a traffic ticket called in. When the person taking her call looked into the matter, it was determined that a lack of signature on the registration was the cause. The employee then pushed new legislation so that registration signatures are no longer required and it passed.
- Z.** The 2008 flood caused communities and agencies to come together. Many agencies and their programs, including the United Way, were made more visible and recognizable to the public.