



REPRESENTATIVE SHARICE DAVIDS

THE STATE OF OUR SYSTEMS: WATER

An investigative series on the Kansas Third District's
infrastructure systems from Representative Sharice Davids

NOVEMBER 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Kansas Third District has long been a hub for transportation, with rail, highway, air, and water infrastructure converging right here in our backyard. However, decades of underinvestment have led to a growing need in communities across the country, Kansas City Metro included, for repairs, upgrades, and additions to the systems that allow us to live our lives, from bridges to broadband.

As Vice Chair of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and the first Kansan on the Committee in a decade, Representative Sharice Davids is working to reverse that trend and bring smart, sustainable investment to the Third District. Through policies that create jobs, tackle climate change, and encourage sustainable economic growth, we can ensure the Kansas Third remains a center for infrastructure for decades to come.



160,000
lead service
lines in KS

No comprehensive data exists, but one report estimates as many as **160,000 lead water lines** are in KS - the third-highest per capita nationwide ([Source](#)).

34 YEARS
since
reauthorization

1987 is the last time the Clean Water State Revolving Fund was reauthorized ([Source](#)).

95M
gallons of
wastewater per
day in KS-03

The daily capacity of wastewater treatment plants in the Kansas Third is **95 million gallons**, or 158 Olympic swimming pools ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

2,650+
miles of
stormwater lines
in KS-03

There are more than **2,650 miles** of stormwater pipes in the Third District. Laid end to end, that would cross Kansas 12 times ([Source](#)).

A CLOSER LOOK

Drinking Water

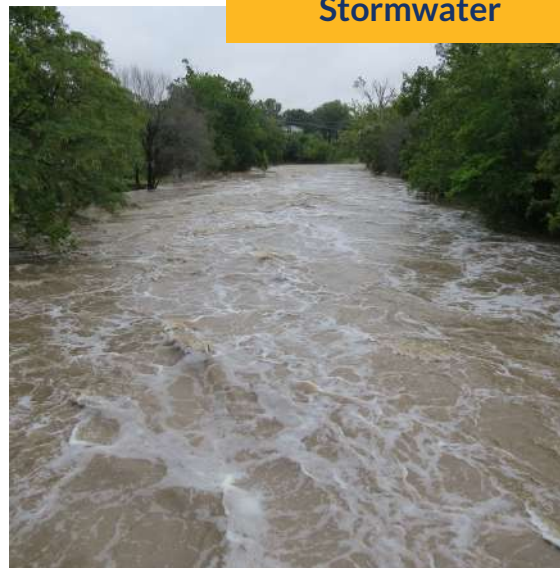


- **Risks and costs:** According to the CDC, there is no safe level of lead exposure for children.
 - Low levels of exposure in children are linked to damage to the brain and nervous system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing, and harm to blood cells.
 - Exposed adults can suffer from cardiovascular disease and adverse impacts on reproduction and the kidneys, among other harmful health effects.
- **Priority projects:** No comprehensive data exists on lead service lines in Kansas, but one estimate puts it as high as 160,000 service lines that carry drinking water.
 - Since 2017, the EPA has reported 31 health, reporting, and compliance violations in the Kansas Third's drinking water systems, and at least two cities may have ongoing contaminant monitoring in place.

A review is ongoing of how many lead services lines currently deliver water to households in the Kansas Third District—but the current number is unknown.

- **Risks and costs:** There are over 300 miles of storm sewer pipe in Johnson County with medium to high risk scores.
 - Estimated cost to repair: **\$1.3 billion**
- There are ~250 locations of stormwater structure failures in critical areas of Wyandotte County suburban development.
 - Estimated cost to repair: **\$100 million**
- **Priority projects:**
 - Indian Creek Nall Hills Flood Risk Reduction Project in Overland Park would alleviate flood risk to two dozen homes and three major roads.
 - Each Wyandotte County stormwater treatment facility is in need of **immediate maintenance**.

Stormwater



By 2031, over 80% of the Wyandotte County stormwater system is forecasted to be in emergency status, needing immediate repair.

A CLOSER LOOK (cont.)

Wastewater



- **Risks and costs:** There are 3,975 miles of wastewater pipes in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties. To prevent overflows and failures, over the next 25 years:
 - **More than half** of Johnson County's \$2 billion wastewater management plan will fund major facility upgrades.
 - **Over \$900 million** worth of wastewater infrastructure renewal and upgrades will be made in Wyandotte County.
- **Priority projects:**
 - State Line Road Pump Stations and Forcemain project is estimated to cost \$16 million and **save ratepayers \$100 million over 20 years** by reducing operating costs.
 - Nutrient removal projects are required at **two of the five** wastewater treatment plants in Wyandotte County, for an estimated cost of \$7-10 million.

Currently, during heavy storms, sewer system and wastewater facility overflows sometimes result in sewage discharge into the Kansas and Blue Rivers.



“From the water in our tap to the rain in our gutters, water infrastructure touches many parts of our lives. When those systems fail or weaken, it puts our health and safety at risk—including the possibility of lead exposure, wastewater contamination, and more. I’m working to ensure these systems are part of our infrastructure efforts at the federal level.”

-Representative Sharice Davids

HELP IS HERE: WATER

Representative Davids is a consistent advocate for bringing smart, sustainable infrastructure investments to the Kansas Third District. Davids supports several pieces of legislation that will bring jobs and growth to the region while addressing the impacts of climate change.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

- Gave Kansas an estimated \$2.7 billion for a variety of targeted uses, including investments in drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater projects.
- Set aside \$500 million in grants to support state water assistance programs for low-income households.

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEAL

- Makes the largest investment in clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in our nation's history.
- Based on past funding patterns, allocates \$454 million over five years to improve water infrastructure in Kansas and ensure that all Kansans have clean, safe drinking water in their homes, schools, and on Tribal lands.
- Includes \$15 billion of dedicated funding to identify and replace lead pipes and service lines, the primary cause of lead contamination in drinking water.
- Reauthorizes the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grants program at increased funding levels and replenishes the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program.
- Includes nearly \$16 billion of national funding for major infrastructure projects that will deliver substantial economic benefits to communities.