

Johnson County Fund Balance Policy

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”) has issued Statement 54 (“GASB 54”), a new standard for governmental fund balance reporting and governmental fund type definitions that became effective in governmental fiscal years starting after June 15, 2010.

The Johnson County Board of Supervisors is required to implement GASB 54 requirements, and to apply such requirements to its financial statements.

Fund balance measures the net financial resources available to finance expenditures of future periods.

A Non-spendable Fund Balance is an amount legally/contractually required to be maintained intact. Amount in spendable form i.e. inventories, prepaids, long-term amounts of loans/notes receivable, and property acquired for re-sale.

A Restricted Fund Balance is restricted due to external imposition by creditors (debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws/regulations of other governments. Can also be imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation (must be legally enforceable).

A Committed Fund Balance is an amount that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the government’s highest level of decision making authority. Fund Balances of Johnson County may be committed for a specific source by Resolution of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors. Amendments, modifications, or the discontinuance of the committed fund balance must also be approved by Resolution of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors.

An Assigned Fund Balance is an amount that is constrained by the government’s intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. The Assigned Fund Balance may be assigned by the Finance Administrator.

An Unassigned Fund Balance is the residual classification for the General Fund. The General Fund should be the only Fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance amount.

In circumstances where an expenditure is to be made for a purpose for which amounts are available in multiple fund balance classifications within the same fund, the order in which resources will be expended is as follows: restricted fund balance, followed by committed fund balance, assigned fund balance, and lastly, unassigned fund balance.

GASB Statement #54 – Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions

Fund Balance Classification:

Nonspendable – Amounts legally/contractually required to be maintained intact. Amounts not in spendable form i.e. inventories, prepaids, long-term amounts of loans/notes receivable, and property acquired for re-sale. If the use of the proceeds from collection of receivables or the sale of land held for re-sale is restricted, committed, or assigned then the receivable/land held for re-sale should be reported as such.

Restricted – Use is restricted due to external imposition by creditors (debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws/regulations of other governments. Can also be imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation (must be legally enforceable).

Enabling legislation authorizes the government to assess, levy, charge, or otherwise mandate payment of resources (from external providers) and includes a legally enforceable requirement that those resources be used only for the specific purposes stipulated in the legislation.

Committed – Amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the government's highest level of decision making authority. Committed funds should also incorporate contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

This differs from enabling legislation discussed in restricted above in that constraints imposed on the use of committed amounts are imposed by the government, separate from the authorization to raise the underlying revenue.

The formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority should occur prior to the end of the reporting period, but the amount which will be subject to the constraint, may be determined in the subsequent period.

Assigned – Amounts that are constrained by the government's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. Intent should be expressed by the governing body itself or a body (a budget or finance committee, for example) or official to which the governing body has delegated the authority to assign amounts to be used for specific purposes.

Assigned fund balance includes all remaining amounts (except for negative balances) that are reported in governmental funds, other than the general fund, that are not classified as nonspendable and are neither restricted nor committed and amounts in the general fund that are intended to be used for a specific purpose. However, governments should not report an assignment for an amount to a specific purpose if the assignment would result in a deficit in unassigned fund balance.

Unassigned – Is the residual classification for the general fund. The general fund should be the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance amount.

Fund Type Definitions:

1. General Fund – Should be used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.
2. Special Revenue Funds – Should be used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects.
3. Capital Projects Funds – Used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.
4. Debt Service Funds – Used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. Debt service fund should be used to report resources if legally mandated. Financial resources that are being accumulated for principal and interest maturing in future years also should be reported in debt service funds.
5. Permanent Funds – Used to account for and report resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the reporting government's programs.