

# COUNCIL ACTION FORM

Meeting Date: November 13, 2025

Staff Contact: Leslie Herring, City Administrator

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**Agenda Item:** Consider Ordinance Nos. 1053- 1062 adopting updated building codes for the City of Westwood

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## Background/Description of Item

New codes are published and adopted primarily to address the constant introduction of new and better materials and methods in construction. The International Code Council, who publishes code books upon which nearly all jurisdiction codes are based, does so every three years. These codes provide for a uniform set of model building codes developed through a consensus process at the national level. Johnson County jurisdictions amend and adopt new codes every six years for the most part. Adopting the code updates on a six-year cycle, in coordination with neighboring jurisdictions allows for some inter-jurisdictional consistency for area builders and also allows cities to space out the frequency of adopting all new codes, especially since not every code cycle results in significant changes from the previous cycle.

Most Johnson County and Kansas City metro jurisdictions are in the process of adopting the 2024 ICC codes. Although each jurisdiction adopts the code sections relevant to its distinct operations and community, extensive coordination is taking place between Johnson County building officials with the objective of reaching consistent standards throughout the jurisdictions. Joe Kmetz, the City's Interim/Contract Building Official has extensively reviewed the 2024 ICC code sections, has coordinated with Johnson County building official colleagues, has led a work group of City staff, Planning Commissioners, and City Councilmembers, and recommends adoption of a set of ordinances amending Westwood City Code, Chapter 4 ([linked here](#)).

This item was reviewed in depth by the City Council during an informational item on the October 9, 2025 regular business agenda, which [meeting materials can be reviewed via this link to the posted meeting packet](#).

## Staff Comments/Recommendation

After extensive evaluation and collaboration with key stakeholders, staff recommends adoption of the draft ordinances included in the meeting packet. Joe Kmetz will present an overview of the building codes, the process for adoption, the significant changes, and will be available to respond to any questions. Councilmembers Buckman and Hannaman participated in the work group guiding this priority and are also available for questions.

Staff recommends adoption of the 2024 ICC building code set with amendments as presented in Ordinance Nos. 1053 - 1062.

## Budget Impact

N/A

## *Suggested Motion*

*I move to adopt Ordinance Nos. 1053 - 1062 adopting updated building codes for the City of Westwood.*