

John Bailey

John Bailey grew up in a small south-central Kansas town and graduated from Leon High School. He attended Wichita State University majoring in chemistry and transferred to Kansas State University, obtaining a B.S. in Civil Engineering and earned an M.S. in Civil Engineering from K-State in 1973. In 1983 he received his Ph.D. from Kansas University in Environmental Engineering.

Dr. Bailey joined the U.S. Army as an Environmental Engineer and upon discharge worked for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for 10 years as Chief of Water Pollution Control. He then joined Professional Engineering Consultants, P.A. (PEC) in Wichita, where he worked for 34 years. As an officer of PEC and Vice President on their Board of Directors, he was in charge of design and construction for many water and wastewater treatment plants throughout Kansas. Under his guidance, a significant amount of new technology was incorporated into these plants, including reverse osmosis water treatment, advanced wastewater treatment, and cast-in-place composite water towers. During his tenure, PEC grew from about 30 professional staff to about 270 individuals, becoming one of the largest consulting engineering firms in Kansas.

Upon his retirement, he realized he needed more challenges and joined the City of Pittsburg, Kansas, creating a Public Utilities Department and oversaw the construction of a utility service center. During this time, he set up many policies and procedures directed towards upgrading city infrastructure. Dr. Bailey continues to serve the City of Pittsburg in various ways focusing on environmental issues within the community and community growth.

"I have been involved in water issues my entire career and have a consuming interest in management of this resource in a positive way," Bailey said. "I'm honored to serve the Kansas Water Authority and represent southeast and central Kansas as I understand their problems through the numerous projects I've been involved in and by serving on the Walnut Basin Advisory Committee for several years."

Bailey married his high school sweetheart, Vicki, and they have been married for fifty-one years. Vicki has a B.S. in elementary education and taught special needs students. They have one daughter, Callie, who is a licensed architect in Portland, Oregon, and a 17-year-old grandson, Oscar.