

Kansas Water Plan Implementation

Agricultural Industry Webinar
August 2024



An uncertain, safe water supply impacts all



The goal of this effort is to provide more certainty

- More certainty in our water supply can mean...
 - **No Kansas community is in a water crisis**
 - **All Kansans have access to safe, clean drinking water**
 - Communities are **retaining businesses and competitively recruiting new ones**
 - Today's **grandkids** will be able to live in the same community (if they choose to) and enjoy the same/better economic prosperity as their grandparents
 - **Water users** are less worried about abrupt changes in state regulatory actions

How we create more certainty...

- Apply the **same long-range inclusive, nimble, and well-financed approach to our water issues** that the state has **to transportation**.
- Craft a **long-term framework** around the 5 guiding principles
- **Recommendations** should include:
 - Policy changes
 - Ways to improve state capacity and water management
 - Braiding federal, state and local funding
 - Measurable goals and timelines
 - Input from state and local stakeholders



Kansas Water Plan Vision: 5 Guiding Principles



1. Conserve and Extend the High Plains **Aquifer**



2. Secure, Protect and Restore Our Kansas **Reservoirs**



3. Improve the State's **Water Quality**



4. Reduce Our Vulnerability to Extreme Events

5. Increased Awareness of Kansas Water Resources

Embedded within these 3.

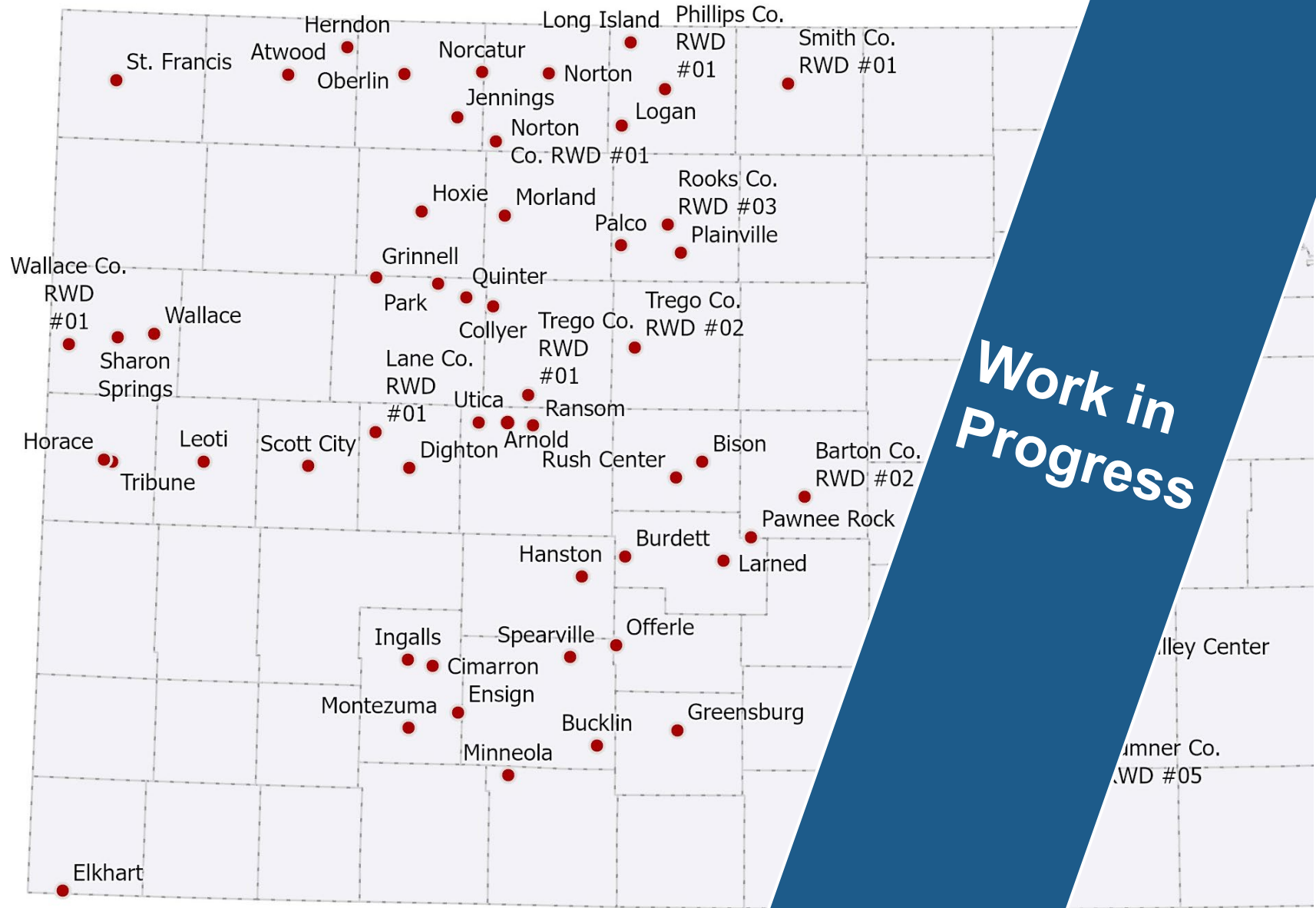
We are organizing around the big 3



Aquifer Challenge

2024 Estimates
Communities at risk of losing their economic base and water supply in 25 years or less*

Impacts 90,000 Kansans



Work in Progress

*Methodology described on slide 33.
Slide updated following webinar broadcast for clarification purposes.

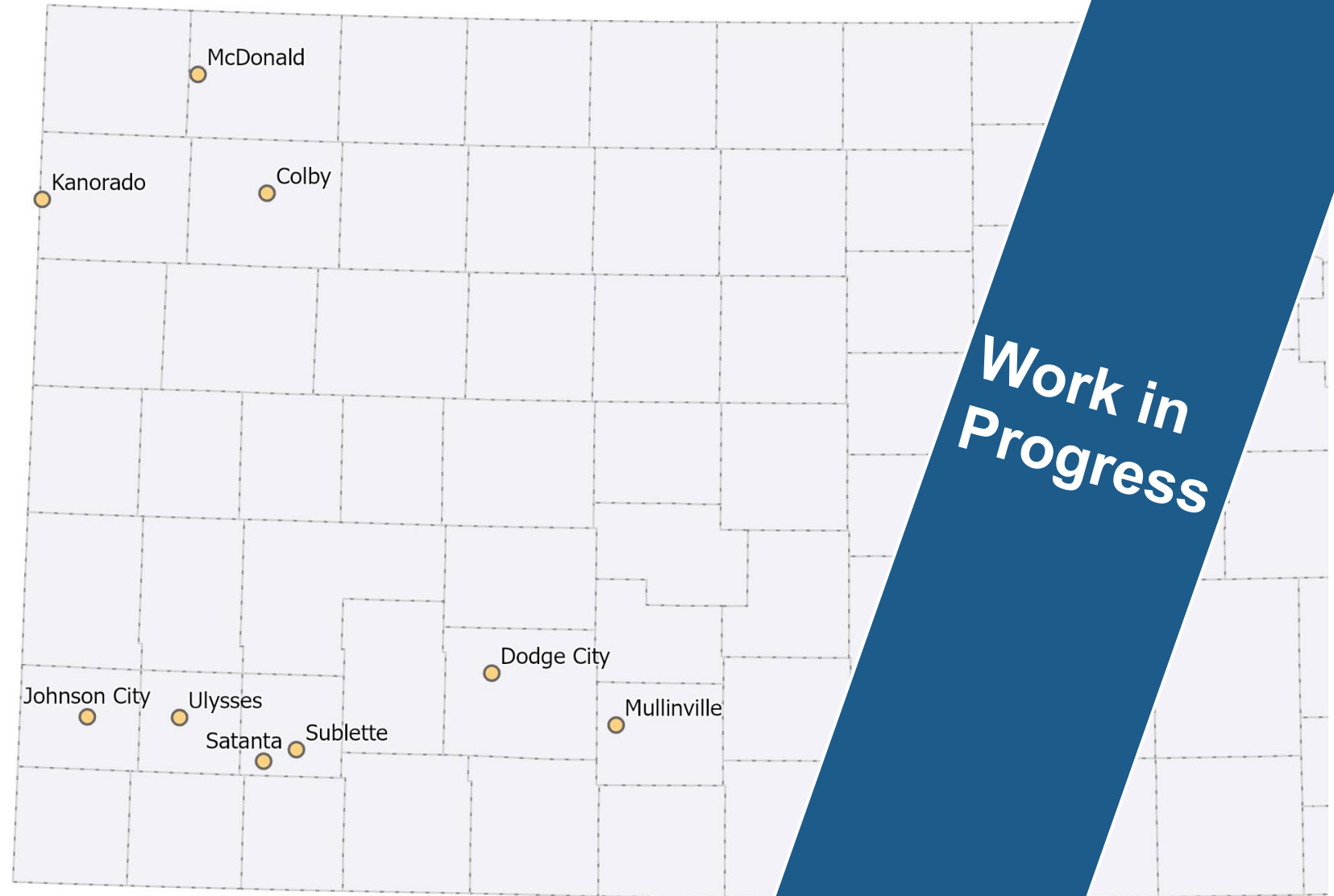


Aquifer Challenge

2024 Estimates

Communities at risk of losing their economic base and water supply in 50 years or less*

Impacts 58,000 Kansans



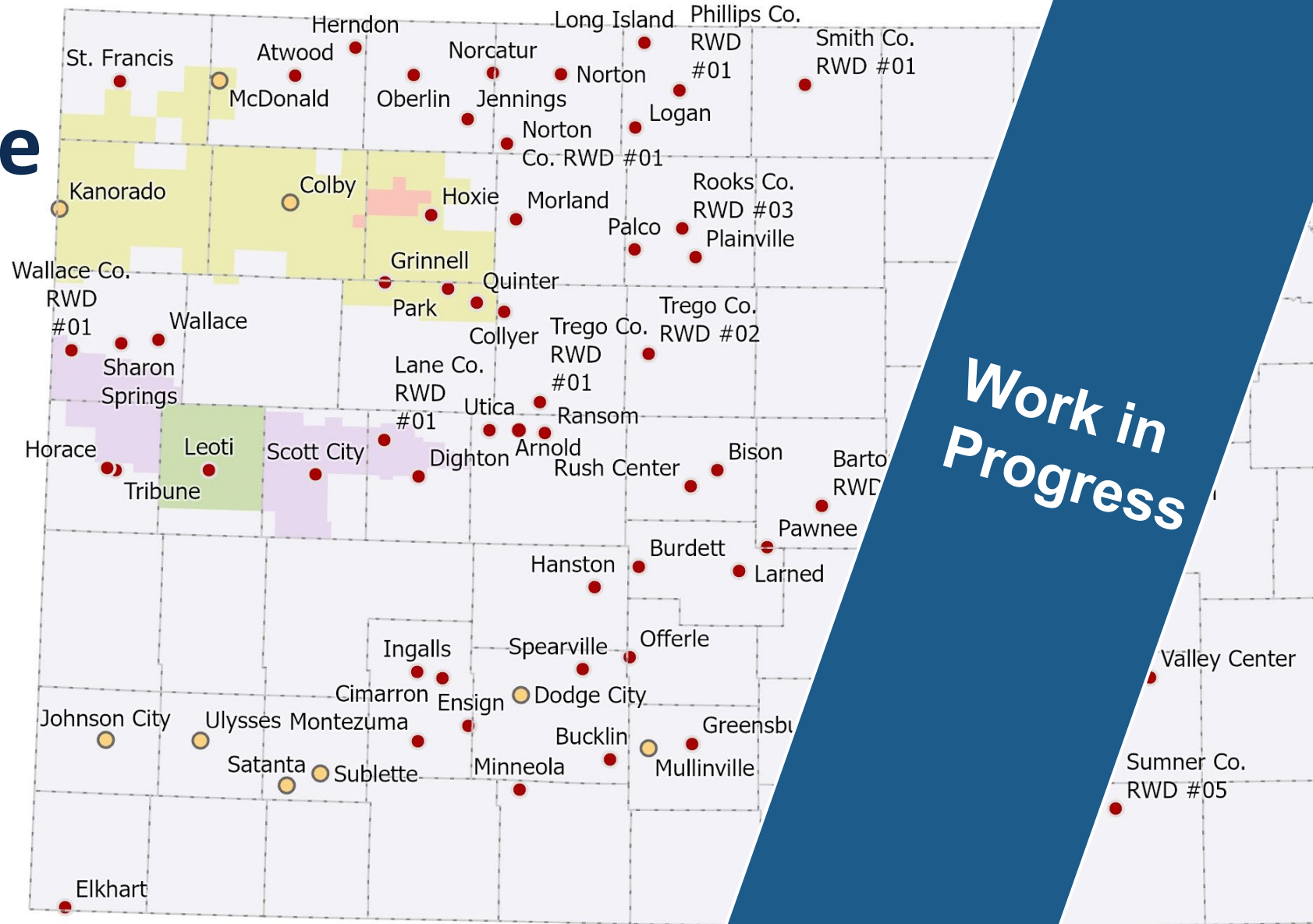
Communities taking collective action through LEMAs*

GMD4

Sheridan 6

GMD1 Four County

Wichita County



Work in Progress

*Methodology described on slide 33.
Slide updated following webinar broadcast for clarification purposes.

Poll Question About Certainty



Reservoir Challenge

66% of Kansans rely on Reservoirs for:

- Drinking water
- Water storage for droughts
- Flood protection

Newest Reservoir
Hillsdale

Lake
42
Years

Tuttle
Creek Lake
62
Years

Oldest Reservoir
Kanopolis
Lake
76
Years

-Projected sedimentation lifespan-

1

Year

50

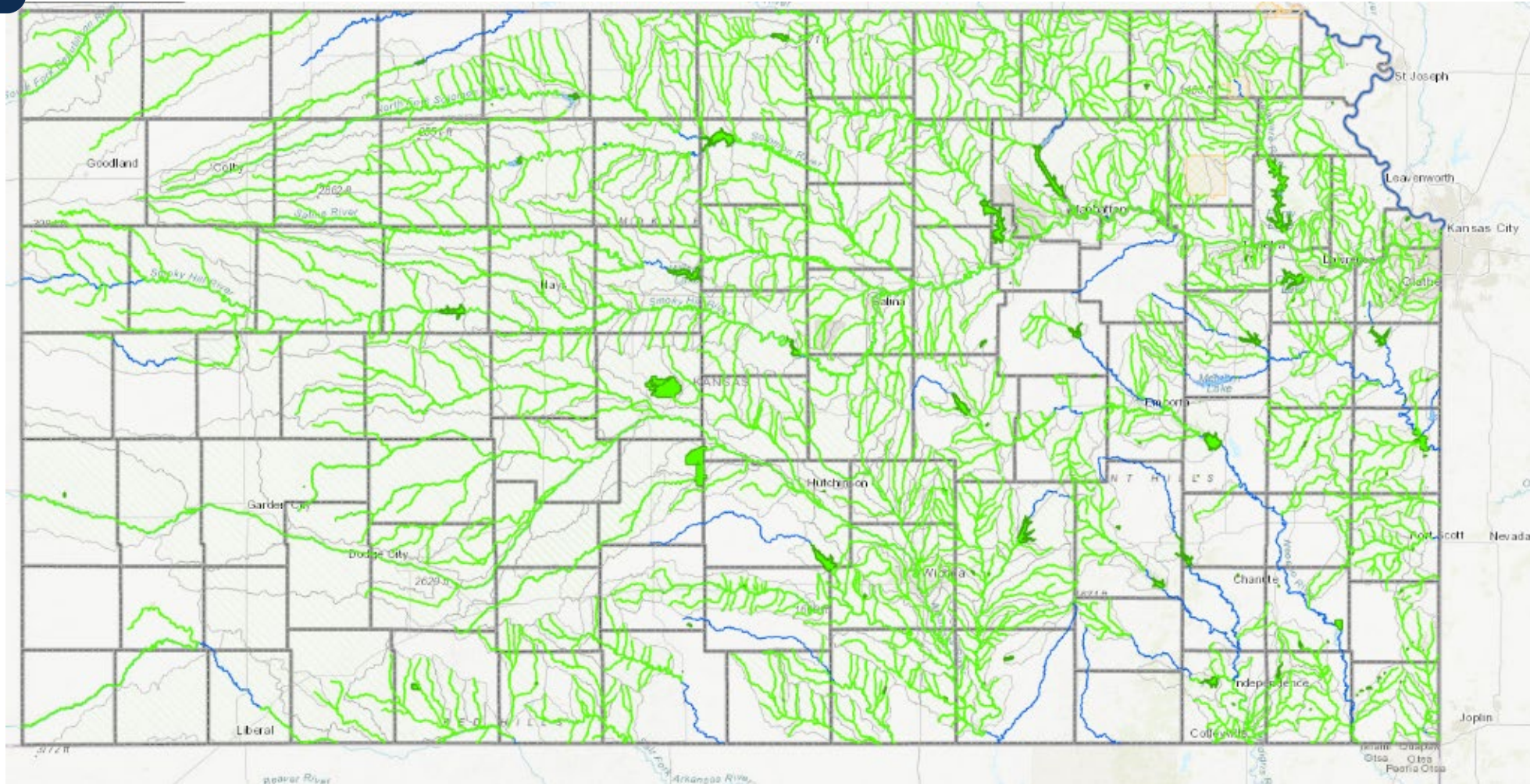
Years

100

Years

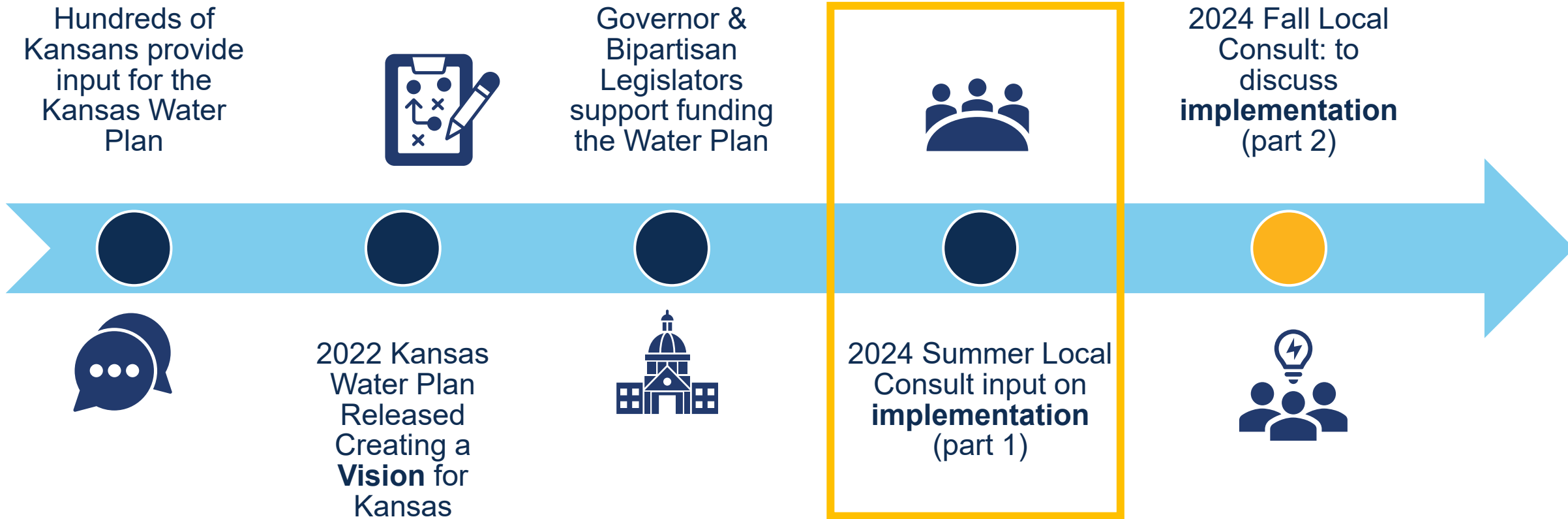


Water Quality Challenge: Green are impaired streams

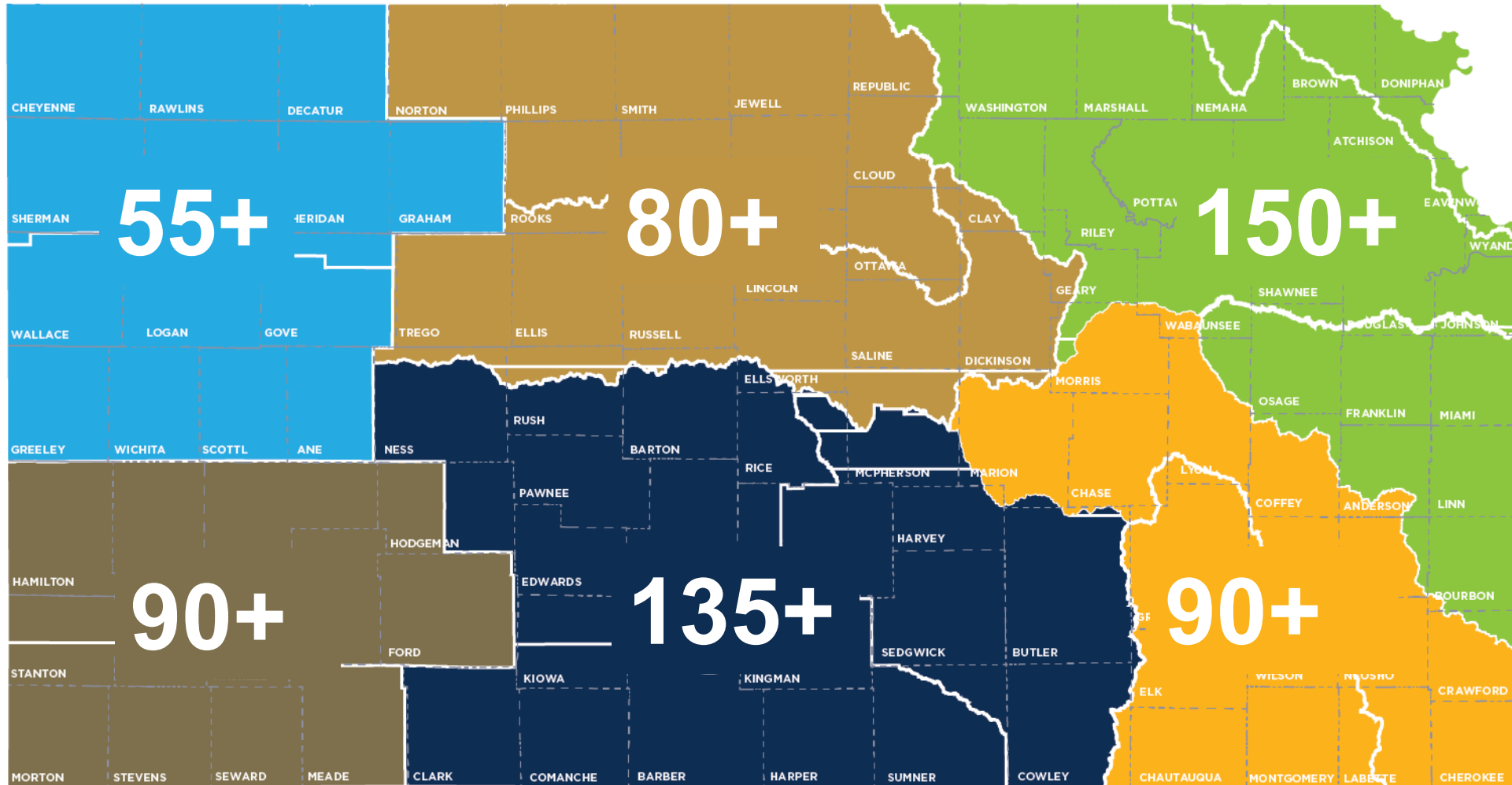


Poll Question about Contaminants

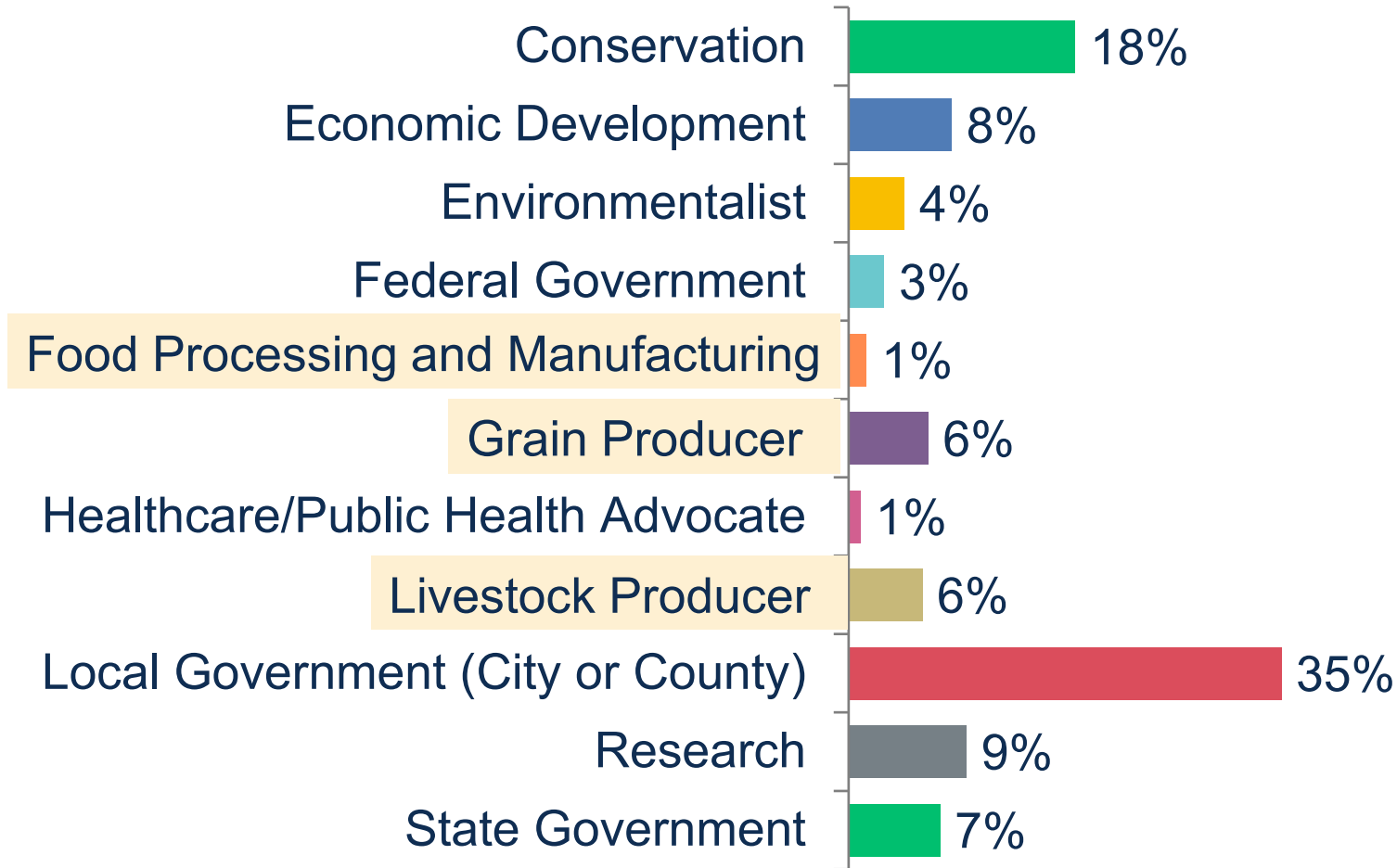
Shifting from Vision to Implementation



600+ People Participated Across 6 Regional Meetings



Summer Local Consult Participants Profile



Input Sought in These 3 Areas at the Meetings

1

Regional Goals

- Where is there alignment within your region and across the state?

Finding Summary:
Strong agreement on the goals

2

Investment Prioritization

- Why do you value investments in one Guiding Principle over another if forced to choose?




Will share highlights of these today

3

Performance

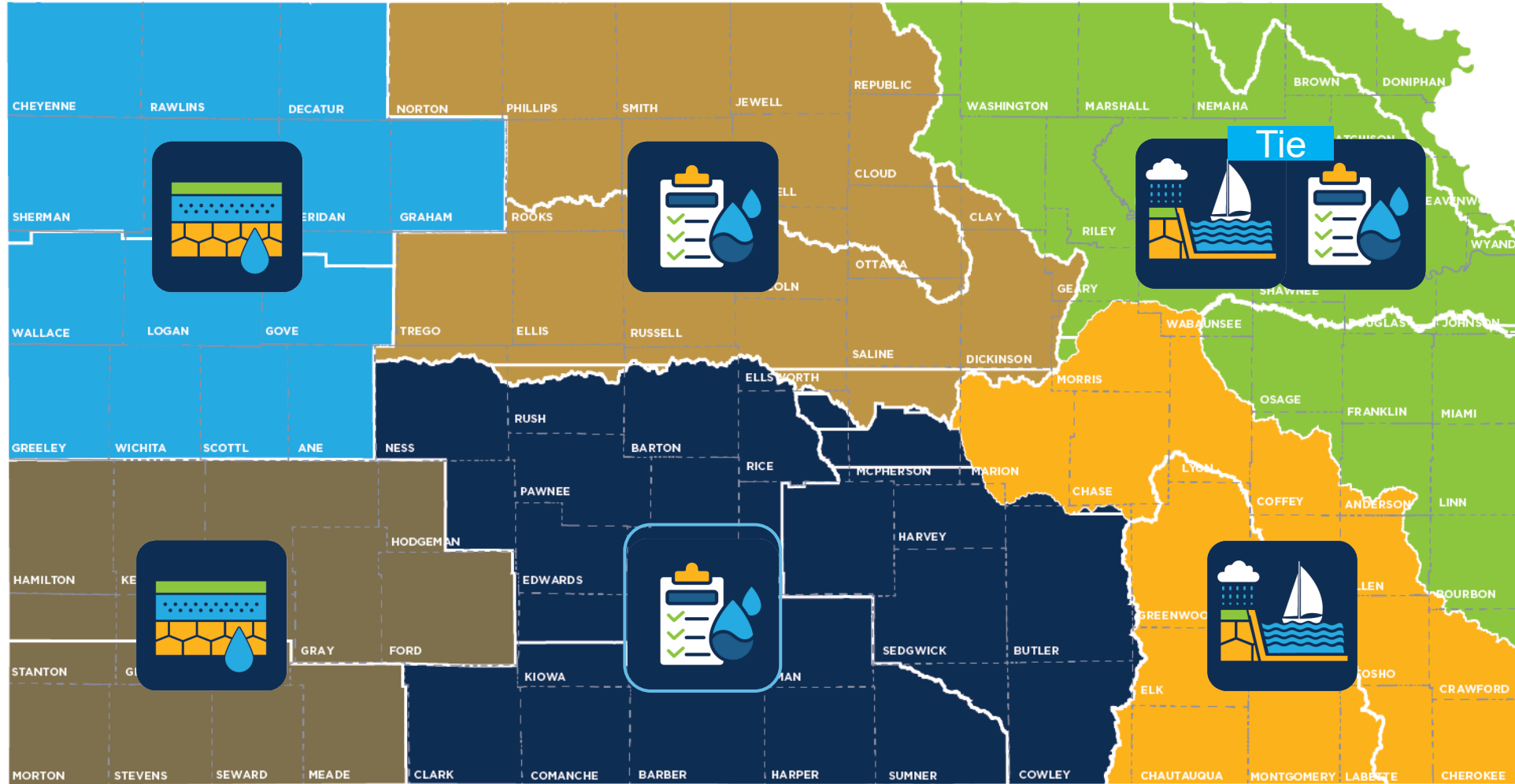
- How are we managing water in the state? Where could we improve our programs?

Investment Scenario Menu & Feedback

 Aquifer	 Reservoir	 Water Quality
<p>Make major water usages (irrigation, feedlots, municipal systems) more efficient through technology upgrades/reuse systems</p>	<p>Sediment reduction increasing storage capacity at reservoirs</p>	<p>Infrastructure grants to communities to improve water and sewer systems to save water and meet health compliance standards</p>
<p>Enhanced monitoring of water conditions lets us track usage better and make effective decisions</p>	<p>Protecting watersheds prevents sediment from reaching the reservoirs</p>	<p>Protecting watersheds from pollution and stormwater runoff</p>
		<p>Addressing nitrates in drinking water and groundwater</p> <p>Regional interconnection projects connect communities to multiple water sources</p>

Local Consult Participants **Rejected:**
 Limiting water usage by the **State purchasing (large-scale) water rights.**

Investment Scenario with Strongest Support



Aquifer



Reservoir



Water Quality

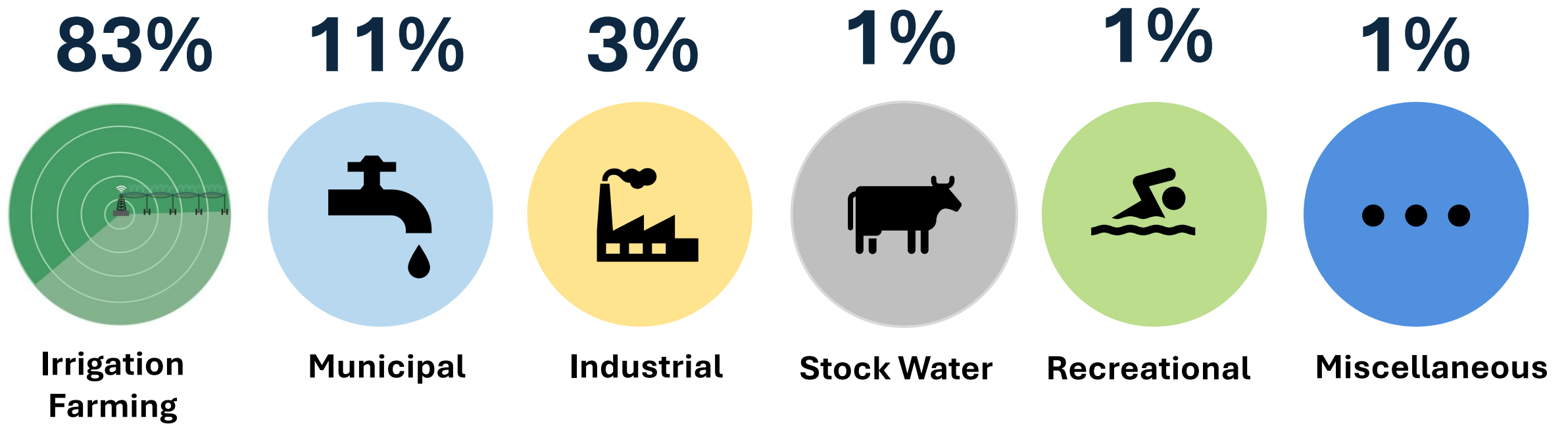
Consensus Overarching Takeaways from Kansans

- We have serious water challenges and **the time to act is now.**
 - We have a vision, now is time for implementation.
- We are **all connected by our water issues**, what happens in the western portion of the state impacts the east and vice versa.
- Clean, secure, accessible water is an **economic necessity.**
- **Local input** to inform decisions is critical.

Ag related input from Kansans...

- Need to fund **innovative technology** for producers(irrigators) to **manage water usage**.
- Emphasize that water conservation is an "**everybody**" **problem** and not a "you" problem (i.e. **don't single out irrigators**).
- **Modernize land designs** to restore streamflow statewide.
- Need **peer-to-peer education**. **Utilize producers** in education efforts.
- Highlight **local success stories** (ex. **Sheridan 6**) where we have conserved water without hurting our economy

Average Annual Water Usage in Kansas by Category



Open Ended Poll About Productive Conversations

Kansans' suggestions for how we can improve...

- **Streamline** state agency water **programs** to make them easier to use and more efficient
- Implement a more **proactive approach** to water infrastructure projects
- **Increase awareness** of the immediate need to conserve water in portions of the state
- Addressing **shortages of staff and building additional expertise** at state agencies
- Need a **sustainable investment strategy** that will last several generations

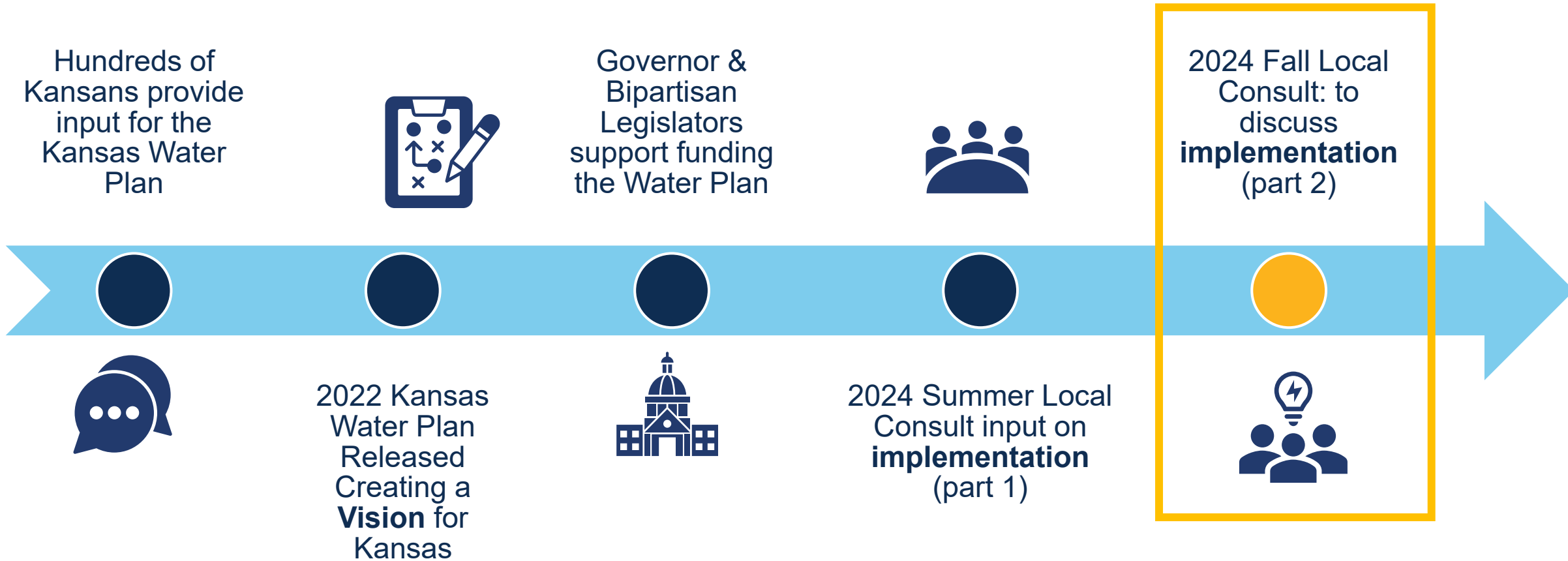
Poll Question About Partnership Programs

Poll Question About Participation

Open Ended Poll About Performance

Question & Answer Period

Next Steps



Please join us for Fall Local Consult – Dates TBD

- Will provide updated investment strategies based on round 1 feedback
- Seeking feedback on....
 - **Policy and program improvements** needed to drive outcomes and maximize investments
 - **Prioritization criteria** for investments



“Water is for everyone.”

**A shared resource
AND a shared
responsibility**



**Stay engaged in our process by visiting
the Kansas Water Office website:
kwo.ks.gov**

(Strategic Implementation Planning Tab)

Thank you



Methodology for 'Communities at Risk' maps

The maps on slides 6, 7 and 8 show communities that have a groundwater public supply well in the High Plains Aquifer or connected alluvium in areas that have either 25 or 50 years or less of estimated useable life according to the most recent Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) map (shown here).

Estimated usable life is defined as the point in which a well is no longer capable of producing at least 200 gallons per minute from that portion of the aquifer.

The impact can be a change in the economic drivers in the local community, lack of water supply for additional economic or population growth, or in the most critical circumstances, loss of basic water supply for the public water supplier.

Estimated Usable Lifetime for the Kansas High Plains Aquifer (based on groundwater trends from 2012-2014 to 2022-2024 and the minimum aquifer thickness required to support 200 gpm well yields under 90 day of pumping scenario with 200 gpm wells on 1/4 sections)

