



2024 Kansas Economic Policy Conference



Karen Willey
3rd District County Commissioner,
Douglas County

Karen is the chair of the County Commission in Douglas County, Kansas. Her first two years in office have included robust community conversations about the future of energy. Within that time, Karen was named 2023-2024 fellow-in-residence at the Dole Institute of Politics where she led a conversation series on Sustainability in Kansas.

Karen moved to Lawrence in 1993 to be the third generation of her family to attend KU where she earned a BA in Environmental Studies and a PhD in Geography. As an entrepreneur, Karen has created and led a variety of successful businesses including an engineering and manufacturing business, Bluestem Machine Works, Inc., with her husband and business partner, Scott Eudaly.

During the past 31 years, Karen has served as a volunteer on more than a dozen community boards including the Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission. She currently serves on the Legal Redress Committee of the Lawrence NAACP, as vice-president of BRAC, a housing nonprofit, and for 12 years as a volunteer firefighter.

