

Changing Building Codes in Lawrence, KS

A brief guide to initiating an amendment to the Lawrence Land Development Code or the City Code, or applying for a rezoning of land.

Changing the Land Development Code:

Section 20-1302 of the Land Development Code provides the process for initiation of a text amendment to the Land Development Code. A text amendment to the Land Development Code addresses changes that may be needed to update the code. The City Commission and Planning Commission may initiate an amendment, or a private party can submit a request in writing to the Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS). That request is then taken to the City Commission for their consideration.

“20-1302 TEXT AMENDMENTS

(a) Initiation

An amendment to the text of the Development Code may be initiated by the City Commission, the Planning Commission, or, as to provisions affecting Urban Conservation Districts, by the Historic Resources Commission; and adopted in accordance with the rules of that body. Applications for text amendments may also be initiated by private parties and shall be filed with the Planning Director. The application shall be in writing and shall include the proposed text and the reasons for proposing the amendment. The Planning Director shall forward the application to the City Commission for review and consideration of initiating the amendment taking into consideration the need for the amendment. Any proposed amendment shall follow the process set forth in this section after initiation.”

[From the Lawrence City Code](#) (city web site)

[Chapter 20; “Land Development”, Article 13, Section 1302, page 385](#), (pdf):

Changing other chapters of the City Code:

Text amendments can be initiated directly by the City Commission or a person could make a written request to the City Manager's office. As in section 20-1302, that request would then be taken to the City Commission for consideration of initiation.

Requesting a rezoning of land:

That process begins with a [rezoning application](#) submitted to [Planning and Development Services](#). That application is taken to the Planning Commission for a public hearing and a recommendation. The item then goes to the City Commission for a motion.

Questions regarding any city planning process may be made by calling the City of Lawrence at 785-832-3000 and asking for the "planner of the day".