

## Research Update:

# Maize, KS Series 2026A GO Temporary Notes Assigned 'AA-' Rating; Outlook Stable

December 22, 2025

## Overview

- S&P Global Ratings assigned its 'AA-' long-term rating to [Maize](#), Kan.'s \$11.9 million series 2026A general obligation temporary notes.
- The outlook is stable.

### Primary Contact

**Alex Louie**  
Englewood  
1-303-721-4559  
alex.louie  
@spglobal.com

### Secondary Contact

**Lora Abeyta**  
Englewood  
3033289083  
lora.abeyta  
@spglobal.com

## Rationale

### Security

The temporary notes are payable from special assessments levied against properties that benefit from improvements financed with bond proceeds and, if not so paid, from ad valorem taxes that may be levied without limitation as to rate or amount on all the taxable property within the territorial limits of the issuer. We rate the city's special-assessment-supported debt based on the underlying GO pledge.

Bond proceeds will be used for water and sewer improvements as well as road work in the city.

### Credit highlights

In our view, the city's rapidly growing tax base and stable finances support its general creditworthiness, and are offset by an elevated debt burden, particularly on a per capita basis. The rating also incorporates our view of the city's location just outside of Wichita, Kan. The city continues to see healthy building permit activity, with approximately 2,400 plotted lots planned in the near term.

Financial performance has been generally positive in the past five years, aside from one-time drawdowns in fiscal 2022 for capital projects. For fiscal 2025, officials expect to end the year with a similar surplus to what was reported in 2024, which was \$1.2 million, or 17 percent of 2025's general fund expenditures. Driving this significant increase is primarily growth in revenues from a rapidly growing property tax base; officials state that preliminary values for fiscal 2025 show an increase of around 17%. In an effort to diversify revenue streams, the city plans on asking voters

to approve a sales tax and is also studying utility rates, possibly increasing them to ensure the enterprise operations of the city are self-sufficient.

Given what we expect to be continued growth, as the city is approximately 50% built out, we anticipate limited downside rating pressure through the two-year outlook horizon, barring any significant changes to the city's finances. As Maize's local economic ratios remain aligned with those of 'AA-' peer medians, and the city likely will have to continue to leverage capital markets to issue debt to support population growth, any future rating movement is dependent on material improvements to economic metrics and a stabilizing of the city's debt burden.

The city's creditworthiness also reflects:

- Per capita gross county product for Sedgwick County is 92.8% of the U.S. level, and per capita personal income is 88.2%, both of which are similar to those of 'AA-' peer medians. Maize has seen rapid population growth in recent years, and although it is located near Wichita, a growing metro area, metrics still lag higher-rated national peers'.
- Operating results are typically positive, with deficits generally attributable to one-time capital expenditures. Management expects surplus results in 2025, similar to the \$1.2 million surplus in 2024 (17% of expenditures). We expect the city will continue balanced results given management's actions to diversify revenue, either by increasing utility rates or asking voters to approve a sales tax.
- Reserves are supported by a formal 25% percent reserve target and, although they are reported on a cash basis, we still consider them strong. Reserves are currently \$2.7 million, or 37.7% of general fund revenues, and the city has \$1.5 million in other reserves that are available with council approval in its capital projects and equipment reserve funds. Including these, reserves are at 58% of general fund revenues.
- The city has an elevated debt burden, with plans to issue additional debt to support utility systems. Officials expect these bonds to be primarily repaid with enterprise revenues.
- Budgeting practices are conservative, in our view, with policies including monthly budget-to-actual comparison reports submitted to the city council, a debt management policy, a reserve policy that requires 25% of general fund expenditures, and a five-year capital improvement plan.
- For more information on our institutional framework assessment for Kansas municipalities, see "[Institutional Framework Assessment: Kansas Local Governments](#)," Sept. 9, 2024 on RatingsDirect.

## **Environmental, social, and governance**

We have assessed environmental, social, and governance factors relative to Maize's economy, management, financial measures, and debt profile; we view them all as neutral in our analysis.

## **Outlook**

The stable outlook on the long-term rating reflects our expectation that Maize will maintain at least balanced budgetary performance and very strong reserves during the next two fiscal years, supported by a growing tax base and good financial management practices and policies.

## **Downside scenario**

We could lower the rating if budgetary performance weakens on a sustained basis, leading to an unplanned material cash-based reserve reduction below what we consider very strong levels.

## **Upside scenario**

If reserves grow nominally and economic metrics continue to improve, assuming all other credit factors remain stable or improve, we could take a positive rating action.

### **Ratings List**

---

#### **New Issue Ratings**

---

US\$11.94 mil GO temp nts ser 2026A dtd 02/03/2026 due 08/01/2029

---

Long Term Rating	AA-/Stable
------------------	------------

---

Certain terms used in this report, particularly certain adjectives used to express our view on rating relevant factors, have specific meanings ascribed to them in our criteria, and should therefore be read in conjunction with such criteria. Please see Ratings Criteria at <https://disclosure.spglobal.com/ratings/en/regulatory/ratings-criteria> for further information. A description of each of S&P Global Ratings' rating categories is contained in "S&P Global Ratings Definitions" at <https://disclosure.spglobal.com/ratings/en/regulatory/article/-/view/sourceld/504352>. Complete ratings information is available to RatingsDirect subscribers at [www.capitaliq.com](http://www.capitaliq.com). All ratings referenced herein can be found on S&P Global Ratings' public website at [www.spglobal.com/ratings](http://www.spglobal.com/ratings).

Copyright © 2025 by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. All rights reserved.

No content (including ratings, credit-related analyses and data, valuations, model, software or other application or output therefrom) or any part thereof (Content) may be modified, reverse engineered, reproduced or distributed in any form by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC or its affiliates (collectively, S&P). The Content shall not be used for any unlawful or unauthorized purposes. S&P and any third-party providers, as well as their directors, officers, shareholders, employees or agents (collectively S&P Parties) do not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness or availability of the Content. S&P Parties are not responsible for any errors or omissions (negligent or otherwise), regardless of the cause, for the results obtained from the use of the Content, or for the security or maintenance of any data input by the user. The Content is provided on an "as is" basis. S&P PARTIES DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE, FREEDOM FROM BUGS, SOFTWARE ERRORS OR DEFECTS, THAT THE CONTENT'S FUNCTIONING WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED OR THAT THE CONTENT WILL OPERATE WITH ANY SOFTWARE OR HARDWARE CONFIGURATION. In no event shall S&P Parties be liable to any party for any direct, indirect, incidental, exemplary, compensatory, punitive, special or consequential damages, costs, expenses, legal fees, or losses (including, without limitation, lost income or lost profits and opportunity costs or losses caused by negligence) in connection with any use of the Content even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

Some of the Content may have been created with the assistance of an artificial intelligence (AI) tool. Published Content created or processed using AI is composed, reviewed, edited, and approved by S&P personnel.

Credit-related and other analyses, including ratings, and statements in the Content are statements of opinion as of the date they are expressed and not statements of fact. S&P's opinions, analyses and rating acknowledgment decisions (described below) are not recommendations to purchase, hold, or sell any securities or to make any investment decisions, and do not address the suitability of any security. S&P assumes no obligation to update the Content following publication in any form or format. The Content should not be relied on and is not a substitute for the skill, judgment and experience of the user, its management, employees, advisors and/or clients when making investment and other business decisions. S&P does not act as a fiduciary or an investment advisor except where registered as such. While S&P has obtained information from sources it believes to be reliable, S&P does not perform an audit and undertakes no duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information it receives. Rating-related publications may be published for a variety of reasons that are not necessarily dependent on action by rating committees, including, but not limited to, the publication of a periodic update on a credit rating and related analyses.

To the extent that regulatory authorities allow a rating agency to acknowledge in one jurisdiction a rating issued in another jurisdiction for certain regulatory purposes, S&P reserves the right to assign, withdraw or suspend such acknowledgment at any time and in its sole discretion. S&P Parties disclaim any duty whatsoever arising out of the assignment, withdrawal or suspension of an acknowledgment as well as any liability for any damage alleged to have been suffered on account thereof.

S&P keeps certain activities of its business units separate from each other in order to preserve the independence and objectivity of their respective activities. As a result, certain business units of S&P may have information that is not available to other S&P business units. S&P has established policies and procedures to maintain the confidentiality of certain non-public information received in connection with each analytical process.

S&P may receive compensation for its ratings and certain analyses, normally from issuers or underwriters of securities or from obligors. S&P reserves the right to disseminate its opinions and analyses. S&P's public ratings and analyses are made available on its Web sites, [www.spglobal.com/ratings](http://www.spglobal.com/ratings) (free of charge), and [www.ratingsdirect.com](http://www.ratingsdirect.com) (subscription), and may be distributed through other means, including via S&P publications and third-party redistributors. Additional information about our ratings fees is available at [www.spglobal.com/usratingfees](http://www.spglobal.com/usratingfees).

STANDARD & POOR'S, S&P and RATINGSDIRECT are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC.