

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



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2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



The 2017 Legislative Session was very contentious and resulted in a large tax increase to help stabilize the state's budget and provide additional funding for education. The tax increase bill passed on a Veto Override and is projected to increase the state's general fund by more than \$600 million in fiscal year 2018 and 2019. Education funding was increased by more than \$400 million over the two-year period as well.

In October, the Kansas Supreme Court reviewed the new funding formula and increased spending passed during the session, and ruled it was both inequitable and inadequate. The court decision gave legislators until April 30, 2018 to pass a new school finance formula that they believe allocates dollars more equitably between wealthy and poorer districts.

Response to the Kansas Supreme Court Decision has been mixed. The Kansas Department of Education estimates a \$893 million additional increase is needed for schools. However, Republican legislative leaders issued a statement saying that they will not raise taxes again to meet the court's "unrealistic demand." Recently, legislative leadership has stated an 18% cut to all other state programs would be needed to fund the Supreme Court's request.

Education funding and the debate over increased dollars will dominate the 2018 Legislative Session. In addition, 2018 is an election year for statewide offices as well as Kansas House of Representative members. Also complicating the political landscape, Governor Sam Brownback's nomination for a federal post has been

(Continued on page 2)

Gov. Sam Brownback will deliver his eighth State of the State address to the Kansas Legislature at 5 p.m. Jan. 9 in the House chamber. He has said that Lt. Gov. Colyer will be meeting with constituent and advocacy groups on the budget, which will be released the following day. It will be aired on Kansas Public Television Station.



2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

pulled back and President Trump will now need to re-nominate him. Governor Brownback has committed to staying in office until his appointment is confirmed, while Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer must continue to wait to be appointed Governor.



Other issues such as transportation funding, prison funding, Medicaid expansion, the disabled waiting list, workforce training and economic development programs need to be addressed during the 2018 Session. However, these issues have once again taken a back seat to the education debate despite the growing need for attention and an increase in funding.

The 2018 Session is scheduled to be shorter than 2017 and leadership has only allocated three days for Veto Session in late April, which means that most work will need to be done by the end of March. Work on education will also need to be complete before the legislature adjourns for First Adjournment, which is scheduled prior to Easter. Bright & Carpenter Consulting will be at the statehouse each day actively engaged in these debates and working on behalf of our clients. Look for our weekly updates on legislative developments and policies beginning January 12th.

The Kansas State Library will open its legislative information hotline again this year, providing toll-free information on legislation, bill status, legislative procedures and contact information from the reference/research librarians.

The hotline is active weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 1-800-432-3924. Callers may also text questions to 785-256-0733 or instant message questions to kslib.info/ask.

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2018 Legislative Session begins Monday, January 8, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. Governor Brownback will deliver the annual State of the State address to a joint session of the legislature at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

KANSAS SENATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP



Susan Wagle
President of the
Senate



Jeff Longbine
Vice President of
the Senate



Jim Denning
Senate Majority
Leader



Vicki Schmidt
Senate Assistant
Majority Leader



Elaine Bowers
Senate Majority
Whip



Anthony Hensley
Senate Minority
Leader



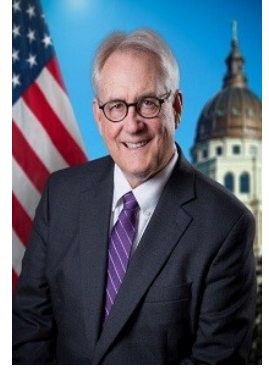
Laura Kelly
Senate Assistant
Minority Leader



**Oletha Faust-
Goudeau**
Senate Minority



Marci Francisco
Senate Minority
Agenda Chair



Tom Hawk
Senate Minority
Caucus Chair

LEGISLATIVE LIVE AUDIO



The Kansas House and Senate have been broadcasting live over the internet for the past several years' sessions, and all committees will now broadcast audio as well. Video streaming has been deemed too costly according to state officials.

The live audio streams for committees may be accessed by going to the Legislature's website at <http://www.kslegislature.org/li/> and clicking on the "Committees" tab. From there, the particular committee of interest may be chosen. To listen to the live proceedings of the House, click [here](#); and to listen to the live proceedings of the Senate, click [here](#).

2017 TAX REFORM

By David Knudtson



There are a lot of articles written that give the detailed figures of the tax brackets and other changes from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Instead of re-writing what is al-

ready out there, here is a quick summary of what to expect.

Generally, lower income taxpayers won't see much of a change but most should see a small tax decrease. If you're a family with kids under age 17 and make between \$125,000 and \$350,000 range, you will see fairly significant tax decreases. The higher income taxpayers are going to also see some good tax decreases as well. Following are a few of the highlights that impact most everyone:

- Standard deduction raised to \$24,000 married and \$12,000 single
- No more deduction for personal exemptions
- Increased child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000
- No more unreimbursed employee expense deductions
- Business owners will get to deduct 20% of their business earnings
- Businesses can write off virtually all of their equipment purchases the first year
- No more business deduction for entertainment
- 529 plans can be used to pay for private school
- No more individual mandate to buy health insurance.

At least 1,000,000 Americans (and counting)
will receive tax reform bonuses.

2018 KS Senate Standing Legislative Committees & Chairs

Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

Sen. Dan Kerschen (R-Garden Plain)

Assessment and Taxation Committee

Sen. Caryn Tyson (R-Parker)

Commerce Committee

Sen. Julia Lynn (R-Olathe)

Confirmation Oversight

Sen. Jim Denning (R-Overland Park)

Education Committee

Sen. Molly Baumgardner (R-Louisburg)

Ethics, Elections & Local Govt. Committee

Sen. Elaine Bowers (R-Concordia)

Federal & State Affairs Committee

Sen. Bud Estes (R-Dodge City)

Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee

Sen. Jeff Longbine (R-Emporia)

Interstate Cooperation Committee

Sen. Susan Wagle (R-Wichita)

Judiciary Committee

Sen. Rick Wilborn (R-McPherson)

Public Health and Welfare Committee

Sen. Vicki Schmidt (R-Topeka)

Transportation Committee

Sen. Mike Petersen (R-Wichita)

Utilities Committee

Sen. Rob Olson (R-Olathe)

Ways and Means Committee

Sen. Carolyn McGinn (R-Sedgwick)

For a full listing of all Kansas Senate committee members, go to www.kslegislature.com.

KANSAS HOUSE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP



Ron Ryckman
Speaker of the
House

Scott Schwab
Speaker Pro Tem

Don Hineman
House Majority
Leader

Tom Phillips
House Assistant
Majority Leader

Kent Thompson
House Majority
Whip

Susan Concannon
House Majority
Caucus Chair



Jim Ward
House Minority
Leader

Stan Frownfelter
House Assistant
Minority Leader

Ed Trimmer
House Minority
Whip

Brandon Whipple
House Minority
Agenda Chair

Barbara Ballard
House Minority
Caucus Chair

Adam Lusk
House Minority
Policy Chair

BROWNBACK ADMINISTRATION CHANGES

From the [*Salina Journal*](#)

Gov. Sam Brownback has added a staffer and retained an agency head after the U.S. Senate's failure to confirm him for a federal job sent his nomination back to square one, possibly leaving him in Kansas a while longer.

Brownback's office announced Thursday the governor had hired Andrew Wiens to serve as his policy director more than two months after his former policy director, Brandon Smith, stepped down. Interim Commerce Secretary Nick Jordan also pledged to remain in office until Brownback is confirmed, according to a release from his department. Jordan had planned to step down effective Jan. 5.

"I have been asked by Gov. Brownback to continue serving in my role as interim secretary of Commerce," Jordan said. "With the amount of economic development projects in the pipeline, I am happy to continue in this role to provide consistent leadership until the U.S. Senate votes on his confirmation."

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KANSAS LEGISLATURE 101



The Kansas Legislature convenes on the second Monday of each year and typically remains in session until May. Legislators will be asked to consider a number of bills impacting Kansas and their own communities. Because of this localized impact, legislators are most influenced by the opinions of their constituents back home.

The most effective legislative communications come from local residents whom the legislator knows personally and to whom legislators are locally accountable. While the final votes are cast in the capitol building, some of the most effective lobbying is done at or from back home.

Following are some tips to help you prepare your legislators on issues pertinent to you as they head back to Topeka for the 2018 Legislative Session:

Get Personally Acquainted

As a Kansas constituent, you should become personally acquainted with your region's state senators and representatives who represent you at home as well as at work. Take a sincere interest in them and get to know their political philosophies. If you contact legislators only when you want their support on a legislative matter, it may be too late. It is better to be in touch with them throughout their term of office, thereby creating an ongoing, working relationship.

Touch Base with Them

Surprisingly, few people ever contact their legislators. This reluctance usually results from the belief that legislators have no time or inclination to answer their phones or read their mail, as well as the belief that a single contact will not make an impact. Yet, in

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2018 KS House Standing Legislative Committees & Chairs

Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
Rep. Don Schroeder (R-Hesston)

Agriculture Committee
Rep. Kyle Hoffman (R-Coldwater)

Appropriations Committee
Rep. Troy Waymaster (R-Luray)

Calendar and Printing
Rep. Don Hineman (R-Dighton)

Children and Seniors Committee
Rep. Stephen Alford (R-Ulysses)

Commerce, Labor & Economic Dev. Cmte.
Rep. Les Mason (R-McPherson)

Corrections & Juvenile Justice Committee
Rep. Russ Jennings (R-Lakin)

Education Committee
Rep. Clay Aurand (R-Belleville)

Elections Committee
Rep. Keith Esau (R-Olathe)

Energy, Utilities & Telecom Committee
Rep. Joe Seiwert (R-Pretty Prairie)

Federal and State Affairs Committee
Rep. John Barker (R-Abilene)

Financial Institutions & Pensions Committee
Rep. Jim Kelly (R-Independence)

General Government Budget Committee
Rep. Bill Sutton (R-Gardner)

Government, Technology & Security Cmte.
Rep. Tom Sloan (R-Lawrence)

Health & Human Services Committee
Rep. Dan Hawkins (R-Wichita)

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KANSAS LEGISLATURE 101 (CONT.)

(Continued from page 6)

most cases, these views are wrong. Thoughtful and persuasive contacts often change a legislator's mind and bring about a review of his or her positions.

Talking to your legislators when they are home will make them more likely to listen and respond positively in a local environment. Legislators need to be directly exposed to the people they represent and that includes you, a local businessperson. Furthermore, they need to know what you think about the issues facing your community and the state, and how pending legislation will affect your operation.

Evaluate the Issues

Just because a bill is introduced in the legislature is no guarantee that it will become law. The majority will not. A bad bill will usually die of its own inertia, and it may be unwise to attract too much attention to it. Give priority in your lobbying efforts to those issues that are most important to you and your business. Limit the number of bills you contact a legislator about, but do not be afraid to reach out when the business community's viewpoint needs to be expressed.

Recognize Legislators' Problems

Your legislators represent all of the constituents in your area—rural and urban, rich and poor, liberal and conservative, business and labor. Their duty is to represent all of the people to the best of their ability. Legislators are often caught in crossfire between conflicting interests and opinions. Sometimes, their votes may be contrary to your opinion as a businessperson. Present your position logically and base it on facts. Emotional appeals do not influence a vote. There may be times when you think your legislators are on the wrong track, but they may have facts that are not available to you. Try to understand their obstacles, outlook and objectives.

Show Your Appreciation

When your legislators do a good job on a piece of legislation, tell them about it or consider writing an editorial to praise their efforts. Do not take their actions for granted and let them know you are appreciative of their efforts.

2018 KS House Standing Legislative Committees & Chairs (cont.)

Higher Education Budget Committee

Rep. Kevin Jones (R-Wellsville)

Insurance Committee

Rep. Jene Vickrey (R-Louisburg)

Interstate Cooperation

Rep. Ron Ryckman (R-Olathe)

Judiciary Committee

Rep. Blaine Finch (R-Ottawa)

K-12 Education Budget Committee

Rep. Larry Campbell (R-Olathe)

Legislative Budget (House)

Rep. Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill)

Local Government Committee

Rep. Kristey Williams (R-Augusta)

Rules and Journal

Rep. Blaine Finch (R-Ottawa)

Social Services Budget Committee

Rep. Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita)

Taxation Committee

Rep. Steven Johnson (R-Assaria)

Transportation Committee

Rep. Richard Proehl (R-Parsons)

Transportation & Public Safety Budget Cmte.

Rep. J.R. Claeys (R-Salina)

Veterans and Military Committee

Rep. Les Osterman (R-Wichita)

Water and Environment Committee

Rep. Tom Sloan (R-Lawrence)

For a full listing of all Kansas House committee members, go to www.kslegislature.com.

BROWNBACK ADMINISTRATION CHANGES (CONT.)

(Continued from page 5)



Andrew Wiens

The staffing announcements came after Brownback's nomination to become President Donald Trump's ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom failed to gain approval by the U.S. Senate last year and could signal that he will remain governor longer than expected. Brownback faced fierce questioning about his record on LGBTQ issues at his committee hearing, and senators on the committee narrowly advanced his confirmation on a 11-10 vote. He hasn't been able to get a vote by the full Senate.

Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer's communications director, Kendall Marr, said key members of Brownback's staff had left, and with the legislative session fast approaching, the positions had to be filled. "I would say that this is just a signal that session is coming up, and we've got to make sure that we're prepared to handle the situation, and that means being appropriately staffed," Marr said.

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, a Kansas Republican, said during a recent stop in Topeka the delay came in part because of general slowness of Senate Democrats to consider nominations. He said Brownback's narrow committee vote also suggested there would be fierce debate over his confirmation on the Senate floor. Moran said he was anxious for Brownback to be confirmed, and he and U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, a Kansas Republican, had both pushed for his confirmation, but more difficult nominees were delayed until after Jan. 1.

Brownback previously has pledged he will not resign his position until he is confirmed by the Senate, but he had ceded some major responsibilities to Colyer, including developing the governor's budget and choosing and announcing agency heads. He has said, however, he is still in charge and calling the shots.

Marr, the lieutenant governor's communications director, said the two were working together on the governor's budget. "The ultimate decisions lie with Gov. Brownback," Marr said.

Brownback has been criticized by Democratic legislators for absenteeism as he awaits his confirmation vote, but Marr said he thought it was clear Brownback was in charge. "The only thing that was a question was timing," Marr said. "So I think Kansans know, and I think our legislators know that the governor is the one that makes these decisions and is able to delegate if he chooses, but ultimately, he is the top dog."

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, a Topeka Democrat, said he thought Brownback would remain governor for a while.

Colyer is also seeking the Republican nomination to run for governor in 2018 and could benefit from running as an incumbent with some gubernatorial experience. Marr said he did not think it changed Colyer's campaign strategy to have to wait a while longer to prove himself as governor.

Wiens previously served in Colyer's office as policy director. Both Brownback and Colyer praised him in a release announcing his hire.

Darian Dernovish will become interim head of the agency on Jan. 8, replacing Susan Mosier, who held the job since December 2014.

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ELECTIONS 2018

The 2018 Elections are already gearing up to be contentious despite the primary elections being eight months away. From the Governor's race to several Congressional races we are seeing multiple candidates already throwing their name into the race. The 2018 primary election will be held on August 7th and the general election on November 6th. A critical campaign finance report is due on January 10th which will give an initial glimpse of possible front-runners.

Below is a list of candidates. Please note some candidates listed have officially filed with the Kansas Secretary of State while others have indicated they are running, but have not yet officially filed.

Gubernatorial Race

Republican

- Jim Barnett (Former Senator)
- Jeff Colyer (Lt. Gov.)
- Wink Hartman (Wichita Businessman)
- Mark Hutton (Former House Member)
- Kris Kobach (Secretary of State)
- Patrick Kucera
- Ed O'Malley (Former House Member)
- Ethan Randleas
- Tyler Ruzich
- Dominic Scavuzzo
- Ken Selzer (Insurance Commissioner)
- Kevin Stitt
- Joseph Tuter, Jr.

Democrat

- Arden Andersen
- Jack Bergeson
- Carl Brewer (Former Wichita Mayor)
- Laura Kelly (Senator)
- Robert Klingenberg
- Jim Ward (House Minority Leader)
- Josh Svaty (Former House Member & Ag Secretary)

Independent

- Greg Orman (Johnson County Business Owner)

Insurance Commissioner

- Clark Schultz (Former House Member) (R)

State Treasurer

- Jake LaTurner-Incumbent (R)

Attorney General

- A.G. Derek Schmidt-Incumbent (R)

Secretary of State

Republican

- Kelly Arnold (KS Republican Party Chairman)
- Keith Esau (KS House Member)
- Scott Schwab (KS House Member)

Democrat

- Lucy Steyer
- Marci Francisco (State Senator)

Congressional Races

U.S. House of Representatives District 1

- Tim Huelskamp (R)
- Roger Marshall-Incumbent (R)

U.S. House of Representatives District 2

- Matt Bevins (R)
- Vernon J. Fields (R)
- Steve Fitzgerald (State Senator) (R)
- Kevin Jones (Former House Member) (R)
- Caryn Tyson (State Senator) (R)
- Steve Watkins (R)
- Paul Davis (Former State Minority Leader) (D)
- Kelly Standley (D)

U.S. House of Representatives District 3

- Kevin Yoder-Incumbent (R)
- Chris Haulmark (D)
- Reggie Marselus (D)
- Tom Niermann (D)
- Jay Sidie (D)
- Brent Welder (D)

ELECTIONS 2018 (CONT.)

(Continued from page 9)

U.S. House of Representatives District 4

- Ron Estes-Incumbent (R)
- Laura Lombard (D)
- James Thompson (D)

Kansas House of Representatives Districts

All House Members are up for election with several primaries already underway.

To see a confirmed list of candidates [click here](#) to visit the Kansas Secretary of State primary election candidate filings.

2018 Legislative Deadlines

January 8—2018 Kansas Legislative Session begins

January 9, 5pm—Gov. Sam Brownback State of the State Address
Livestream: governor.ks.gov

January 29—Kansas Day

February 9—Last day for individuals to introduce bills in originating chamber

February 22—Turnaround Day: Last day to consider bills in House of origin, except for exempt committees

March 24—Last day to consider bills not in House of origin, except for exempt committees

April 6—Drop Dead Day & First Adjournment: No bills considered after this date except bills vetoed by Governor, omnibus appropriations act and omnibus reconciliations spending limit bill

April 26—Veto Session begins

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BROWNBACK ADMIN. CHANGES (CONT.)

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Darian Dernovish

Dernovish has been a KDHE attorney since 2015, serving as the agency's chief litigator in federal and state court. Dernovish was the chief municipal court judge in the small northeast Kansas community of Silver Lake before joining KDHE.

Brownback said Dernovish's leadership and experience equipped him to head the agency that oversees KanCare, the state's privatized Medicaid program.

In addition, Rep. Greg Lakin has been appointed as KDHE's chief medical officer. Lakin, a doctor who guides treatment at a substance abuse rehabilitation center in Wichita, led the effort to pass legislation in the 2017 session allowing emergency-responders to administer without prescription a drug proven effective in reversing opioid overdoses.

Lakin also helped lead the opposition to Medicaid expansion, rejecting arguments advanced by proponents that expansion would provide coverage to tens of thousands of low-income, uninsured adults while helping struggling rural hospitals. It is being reported that Dr. Lakin will resign his legislative position on Monday.



Dr. Greg Lakin