

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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## 2019 SESSION PREVIEW

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After eight years of a Republican-led administration, former Democrat state senator Laura Kelly was elected in November and sworn in today as Kansas' 48th Governor. As the 2019 Legislative Session begins, everyone is eager to see how Governor Kelly and her administration lead during their first few months in office.

With new leadership comes new cabinet appointments and a new way of doing business. Governor Kelly has indicated a bi-partisan approach to politics, appointing both Republicans and Democrats to her transition team and administration. During her campaign, she promised to reach across the aisle to fight for more money to schools, expand Medicaid, increase access to affordable mental health services, and focus on transportation infrastructure funding.

Lawmakers are once again returning to a mandate by the Kansas Supreme Court to adequately and equitably finance K-12 education. Even after funding increases of over \$800 million in the last two years, that mandate is likely to be expensive, as the Court has ordered inflationary increases in spending that could be \$80-\$120 million annually. This will put pressure on the state budget as lawmakers work to comply with this order.

The Kansas House and Senate leadership have indicated that there will be a focus on issues that did not get passed during the 2018 Session. Passage of a tax bill will be a top priority. The bill debated last year that did not pass would have allowed Kansans to take advantage of the higher federal standard deduction, passed last year as part of federal tax reform, to itemize their Kansas returns and accelerate the restoration of the current Kansas deductions to 100%. The bill also included expensing provisions for small businesses and other federal decoupling items such as repatriation, the global intangible low-taxed income (GILTI) and an FDIC provision. Other tax issues that may be considered include an expansion of nexus provision for sales tax collections, in response to a United States Supreme Court case, as well as discussion of the property tax assessed on large box retailers.

With a more conservative legislature, there is much speculation on what Governor Kelly's priorities will be. Time will tell whether she looks for areas of compromise or turns to Democrat priorities that may go largely ignored by the Legislature.

## KANSAS SENATE LEADERSHIP



**Susan Wagle**  
President



**Jeff Longbine**  
Vice President



**Jim Denning**  
Majority Leader



**Elaine Bowers**  
Majority Whip



**Anthony Hensley**  
Minority Leader



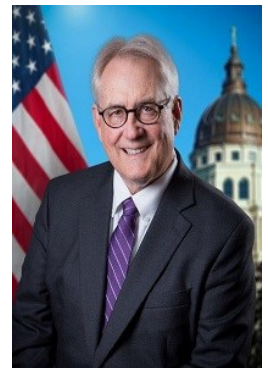
**Oletha Faust-  
Goudeau**  
Asst. Minority Leader



**Pat Pettey**  
Minority Whip



**Marci Francisco**  
Minority Agenda Chair



**Tom Hawk**  
Minority Caucus Chair

## LIVE STREAMING: AUDIO & VIDEO

While the Kansas House and Senate chambers have provided live broadcasts of their proceedings for many sessions, over the last few years, committee rooms in the Statehouse have also begun implementing audio and video streaming of their meetings. This allows the public to listen to lawmakers introduce legislation, debate bills, and follow issues important to them.

*To access live audio streams for both committees and chambers, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org) and click on "Audio/Video" in the upper right hand corner.*



## 2018 ELECTIONS: KANSAS' NEW POLITICS

Before the November 2018 mid-term elections, pundits were predicting a “blue wave” to sweep across the country, bringing in more Democrats to elected office. This “blue wave” played out on a small scale in the Johnson County area. Democrat Sharice Davids was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and Democrats picked up additional Kansas House seats in Johnson County.

In Kansas, the urban-rural divide became very apparent in election demographics. The breakdown of the governor’s race shows that rural counties voted for Republican Kris Kobach while urban counties voted for Democrat Laura Kelly. The majority of Johnson, Shawnee, Douglas, Sedgwick, Riley and Crawford counties voted for Kelly. All other 99 counties supported Kobach. In urban Johnson County, challenger Democrats won House seats against moderate Republicans and in rural counties, Republican challengers won Kansas House seats. After the election, the Republican/Democrat split remains the same in the Kansas House, but more Democrats will come from urban counties than in previous years.

The 2019 Session will see a more conservative Kansas House than in previous years. Moderate Republicans lost 5 seats during the primary election and lost another five during the general. Leadership elections also indicate a more conservative House with the election of Speaker Ron Ryckman, from Olathe and Majority Leader, Dan Hawkins from Wichita. This is Ron Ryckman’s second term as House Speaker. Majority Leader-Elect Dan Hawkins beat out moderate Don Hineman, Dighton, who served as Majority Leader in 2017-2018. We expect most House committee’s will be led by conservative Republicans, where they had been split between moderate and conservatives in recent years.

The Kansas Senate is also expected to be more conservative, even though its members did not face election. Senator Vicki Schmidt, Topeka, was elected Kansas Insurance Commissioner. Schmidt, a moderate Republican, will be replaced by more conservative Eric Rucker. In addition, Senator Barbara Bollier, Mission Hills, and Senator Dinah Sykes, Lenexa, switched parties from

Republican to Democrat, leaving less moderate Republicans in the Senate. Committees also saw a shake-up with several new conservative chairmen appointed to several key committees.

The December party changes were not only limited to the Senate. Representative Stephanie Clayton, Overland Park, also switched from Republican to Democrat. The party changes in the Senate resulted in two additional women joining the Democrat caucus, resulting in a majority of women in the Senate Democrat caucus. There have been rumors of additional legislators switching parties, but no announcements anticipated before session begins.

### Seat Party Changes in KS House from 2018 Elections:

- Rep. Linda Gallagher (R-Lenexa) lost to Susan Ruiz (D-Shawnee).
- Rep. Melissa Rooker (R-Fairway) lost to Rui Xu (D-Westwood).
- Rep. Abraham Rafie (R-Overland Park) lost to David Benson (D-Overland Park).
- Wendy Bingesser (R-Olathe) lost to Brandon Woodard (D-Lenexa) for Rep. Randy Powell’s open seat.
- Cynthia Smith (R-Lawrence) lost to Mike Amyx (D-Lawrence) for Rep. Tom Sloan’s open seat.
- Rep. Adam Lusker (D-Frontenac) lost to Kenneth Collins (R-Mulberry).
- Rep. Debbie Deere (D-Lansing) lost to David French (R-Lansing).
- Rep. Tim Hodge (D-Newton) lost to Steven Kelly (R-Newton).
- Rep. Steven Crum (D-Haysville) lost to Ron Howard (R-Wichita).
- Rep. Eber Phelps (D-Hays) lost to Barbara Wasinger (R-Hays).
- Rep. Ed Trimmer (D-Winfield) lost to Cheryl Helmer (R-Mulvane).

## KANSAS HOUSE LEADERSHIP



**Ron Ryckman**  
Speaker of the House



**Blaine Finch**  
Speaker Pro Tem



**Daniel Hawkins**  
Majority Leader



**Les Mason**  
Assistant Majority  
Leader



**Blake Carpenter**  
Majority Whip



**Susan Humphries**  
Majority Caucus Chair



**Tom Sawyer**  
Minority Leader



**Valdenia Winn**  
Assistant Minority  
Leader



**Jim Gartner**  
Minority Whip



**Brett Parker**  
Minority Agenda Chair



**Barbara Ballard**  
Minority Caucus Chair



**Eileen Horn**  
Minority Policy Chair

## STATE LIBRARY



### Online Resources

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. All questions regarding Kansas government are welcome.

*The Ask a Librarian 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](http://kslib.info/ask).*

# LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY 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 2019 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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## 2019 Senate Standing Legislative Committees & Chairs

### Agriculture & Natural Resources

Sen. Dan Kerschen (R-Garden Plain)

### Assessment and Taxation

Sen. Caryn Tyson (R-Parker)

### Commerce

Sen. Julia Lynn (R-Olathe)

### Confirmation Oversight

Sen. Jim Denning (R-Overland Park)

### Education

Sen. Molly Baumgardner (R-Louisburg)

### Ethics, Elections & Local Government

Sen. Elaine Bowers (R-Concordia)

### Federal & State Affairs

Sen. Bud Estes (R-Dodge City)

### Financial Institutions & Insurance

Sen. Rob Olson (R-Olathe)

### Judiciary

Sen. Rick Wilborn (R-McPherson)

### Public Health and Welfare

Sen. Gene Sullentrop (R-Wichita)

### Transportation

Sen. Mike Petersen (R-Wichita)

### Utilities

Sen. Ty Masterson (R-Andover)

### Ways and Means

Sen. Carolyn McGinn (R-Sedgwick)

For a full listing of all Kansas Senate committee members, go to [www.kslegislature.com](http://www.kslegislature.com).

# LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY 101 (CONT.)

(Continued from page 5)

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.

## 2019 House Standing Legislative Committees & Chairs

### Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget

Rep. Willie Dove (R-Bonner Springs)

### Agriculture

Rep. Ron Highland (R-Wamego)

### Appropriations

Rep. Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill)

### Children and Seniors

Rep. Susan Concannon (R-Beloit)

### Commerce, Labor & Economic Development

Rep. Sean Tarwater (R-Stillwell)

### Corrections & Juvenile Justice

Rep. Russ Jennings (R-Lakin)

### Education

Rep. Steve Huebert (R-Valley Center)

### Elections

Rep. Bill Sutton (R-Gardner)

### Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications

Rep. Joe Seiwert (R-Pretty Prairie)

### Federal and State Affairs

Rep. John Barker (R-Abilene)

### Financial Institutions & Pensions

Rep. Jim Kelly (R-Independence)

### General Government Budget

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

### Health & Human Services

Rep. Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita)

### Higher Education Budget

Rep. Ken Rahjes (R-Agra)

# GOVERNOR KELLY'S NEW CABINET



**Duane Goossen**

Interim Secretary of Administration



**Laura Howard**

Interim Secretary of Kansas Department of  
Aging and Disability  
Interim Secretary of Kansas Department of  
Children and Families



**Mike Beam**

Secretary of Agriculture



**Roger Werholtz**

Interim Secretary of Kansas Department of  
Corrections



**Dr. Lee Norman**

Interim Secretary of Health and Environment

*"This week, my team will officially begin our work to rebuild our state on behalf of Kansans. I'm pleased to have such a strong group of leaders by my side as my term begins." - Governor Laura Kelly*

## 2019 House Standing Legislative Committees & Chairs (cont.)

### Insurance

Rep. Jene Vickrey (R-Louisburg)

### Interstate Cooperation

Rep. Ron Ryckman (R-Olathe)

### Judiciary

Rep. Fred Patton (R-Topeka)

### K-12 Education Budget

Rep. Kristey Williams (R-Augusta)

### Legislative Budget (House)

Rep. Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill)

### Local Government

Rep. Kent Thompson (R-Iola)

### Rules and Journal

Rep. Blaine Finch (R-Ottawa)

### Rural Revitalization

Rep. Don Hineman (R-Dighton)

### Social Services Budget

Rep. Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado)

### Taxation

Rep. Steven Johnson (R-Assaria)

### Transportation

Rep. Richard Proehl (R-Parsons)

### Transportation & Public Safety Budget

Rep. Shannon Francis (R-Liberal)

### Veterans and Military

Rep. Lonnie Clark (R-Junction City)

For a full listing of all Kansas House committee members, go to [www.kslegislature.com](http://www.kslegislature.com).

# GOVERNOR KELLY'S NEW CABINET (CONT.)



**Delia Garcia**  
Secretary of Labor



**Brad Loveless**  
Secretary of Kansas Wildlife, Parks  
and Tourism



**Mark Beshears**  
Secretary of Revenue



**Julie Lorenz**  
Interim Secretary of Transportation



**David Toland**  
Secretary of Commerce

## 2019 Legislative Deadlines

January 14	2018 Kansas Legislative Session Begins
January 16	State of the State Address
January 29	Kansas Day
February 15	Last Day for Bill Introductions
February 25	Last Day Committees Meet
February 28	Turnaround Day (last day to consider bills in house of origin, except for exempt committees)
March 27	Last Day to Consider Bills (except for exempt committees)
April 5	Drop Dead Day & First Adjournment
May 1	Veto Session begins

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*The 2019 Legislative Session begins Monday, January 14 at 2:00 p.m. Governor Kelly will deliver the annual State of the State address to the Legislature promptly at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 16. The event is expected to be widely televised.*