

Bright and Carpenter Consulting, Inc.



825 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 502C Topeka, KS 66612, www.brightcarpenter.com

2022 Kansas General Election Update

With only one month remaining until the General Election, things are starting to heat up in Kansas politics. Statewide candidates are increasing their ad buys, while mailers pile up for House district races. Influential organizations are announcing their endorsements, while national party groups work to flip seats. Whether you believe the polls or not, whichever way Kansas' political pendulum swings this November will be close.

In one of the nation's top gubernatorial races, it's looking tight for Governor Laura Kelly and Attorney General Derek Schmidt. Several polls currently have Kelly in a narrow lead, which Republicans feared would happen when Senator Pyle entered the race in June.

Kelly has received endorsements from former U.S. Senator Nancy Kassebaum, and former Kansas Governors Mike Hayden and Bill Graves – all Republicans. Schmidt is being backed by former President Donald Trump, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and former U.S. Senator Pat Roberts.

Both campaigns are battling over issues such as transgender sports and parents bill of rights, while tying their opponent to the controversial policies of President Joe Biden and former Kansas Governor Sam Brownback.

Another statewide race that Kansans are watching closely is between Republican Kris Kobach and Democrat Chris Mann. Through July, Mann reported raising \$309k compared to Kobach's \$218k. However, the national GOP announced they are spending over \$100k in broadcast ad buys for Kobach in the coming weeks.

One recent endorsement that caught attention is the Kansas Livestock Association's (KLA) support of Mann. This is only the third time in 12 years that the traditionally right-leaning organization has endorsed a Democrat in a statewide race. Kobach's immigration policies while serving as former Kansas Secretary of State and beyond were strongly opposed by the KLA and other agricultural groups.

Out of the 125 House districts, only 60 have a general election – 46 Republican and 19 Democrat. Republicans currently have the super majority in the House and are doing all they can to ensure they don't lose it in November. National Democrat groups are

targeting five races in hopes of flipping those seats from red to blue and several more races to help defend the current Democrat incumbent.

Two constitutional amendment questions will also be on the ballot, albeit neither having gotten much media attention thus far. The Rules and Regulations Amendment would allow the Legislature to have oversight of the promulgation of rules and regulations. Kansas is only one of 16 states that does not require legislative approval before agency regulations are adopted. The second Sheriff Election Amendment would make it a requirement that Kansas counties hold elections for their sheriffs and change the procedure to remove a sheriff from office.

The voter registration deadline is October 18, advanced voting begins on October 19, and the general election is on November 8. For information on how to register or find your polling place, visit the Kansas Secretary of State's website, <https://myvoteinfo.voteks.org/voterview/>.