

NEWSLETTERS



KANSAS LEGISLATIVE INSIGHTS NEWSLETTER | MARCH 17, 2025

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FINAL SPRINT TO ADJOURNMENT

The Kansas Legislature enters its final weeks with major policy decisions pending and a condensed timeline driving urgency.

KEY LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES

- Friday, March 21: The final deadline for all non-exempt House and Senate committees to advance bills.
- Friday, March 21: Day 68 of the 90-day session and the last opportunity for non-exempt bills to receive chamber consideration.
- March 24-28: Conference committees will reconcile bills that passed in different forms.
- Friday, March 28 (Day 75): Scheduled first adjournment.

For a full list of current bills in conference, visit: [Kansas Legislature Conference Committees](#).

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Lawmakers continue debating critical policies. So far, the Legislature has sent one House bill and four Senate bills to Gov. Laura Kelly, with one vetoed.

Several high-profile issues remain unresolved:

State Budget

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Legislators are working to finalize the fiscal year 2026 budget. The Senate will debate House Bill 2007 on Tuesday, following its advancement by the Ways and Means Committee. House Speaker Dan Hawkins (R-Wichita) emphasized the urgency of completing budget negotiations quickly so the conference committee can begin work as soon as the Senate acts.

Tax Relief

Several proposals addressing property tax and income tax relief remain under active consideration in both the House and Senate.

Judicial Elections

The House Judiciary Committee is expected to advance Senate Concurrent Resolution 1611, which would allow voters to decide whether to elect Kansas Supreme Court justices instead of relying on nomination committee and gubernatorial appointments.

The Senate passed SCR 1611 with a 27-13 vote, securing the necessary two-thirds majority.

The House must reach 84 votes to place the measure on the Aug. 4, 2026, primary ballot when it takes up the constitutional amendment next week.

Some legislators had previously preferred a federal-style appointment process, but the necessary support did not exist. Therefore, certain lawmakers have now shifted their focus to securing the votes for direct elections.

Election Laws & Vacancy Appointments

Legislators continue debating election reforms and a proposal to change how statewide elected officials and congressional vacancies are filled.

Wildlife Secretary Confirmation

The Senate will consider Gov. Kelly's nomination of Chris Kennedy as secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Parks. Kennedy has served as interim secretary for a year but faces confirmation hurdles, including past concerns over his support of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies.

Other Potential Legislative Items

Lawmakers continue to consider several high-priority bills aimed at restricting the influence of "countries of concern" in key areas. Proposals under review seek to curtail or prohibit foreign influence in drone technology, land ownership, and campaign contributions. These measures reflect growing concerns over national security and economic control.

Additionally, legislators and the governor are working toward comprehensive childcare reform at the state level. Lawmakers share a broad consensus on the need to improve oversight and coordination to enhance childcare accessibility and quality. Many remain optimistic that this effort will result in significant policy changes.

With two weeks remaining, legislators acknowledge the challenges of working within a condensed 90-day session. House Majority Leader Chris Croft (R-Overland Park), expressed confidence that the Legislature will complete key

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policy work before adjournment.

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

SENATE BILLS

Employment

SB 297: Employment/Construction. This bill, requested for introduction by the AFL-CIO and sponsored by the Committee on Federal and State Affairs chaired by Sen. Mike Thompson (R-Shawnee), would provide for local government control over wages, compensation, and benefits for construction projects. This bill has been referred to the Committee on Commerce chaired by Sen. Larry Alley (R-Winfield).

Taxation

SB 296: Department of Revenue/Eliminating Certain Tax Credits, Exemptions, Incentives, Refunds and Limitations. This bill, sponsored by the Committee on Assessment and Taxation chaired by Sen. Caryn Tyson (R-Parker), would eliminate certain tax credits, exemptions, incentives, refunds and limitations, a transitional adjustment, a checkoff, and a restoration program administered by the secretary of the Department of Revenue that have expired or are no longer applicable; and would provide certain technical changes to remove or modify statutory cross-references. This bill has been referred to the Committee on Assessment and Taxation.

HOUSE BILLS

Taxation

HB 2406: Property Taxation/Exemptions. This bill, sponsored by the Committee on Taxation chaired by Rep. Adam Smith (R-Weskan), would provide tax exemption eligibility for commercial and industrial machinery and equipment that is currently ineligible for tax exemption due to such property being acquired or transported into this state on or before June 30, 2006. This bill has been referred to the Committee on Taxation.

BILL TRACKING HISTORY

A history of the bills we are tracking as of March 15, 2025, can be found here.

Kansas Legislative Insights is a publication developed by the government affairs & public policy law practice group of Foulston Siefkin LLP. It is designed to inform business executives, human resources and government relations professionals, and general counsel about current developments occurring in current Kansas legislation. Published regularly during the Kansas legislative session and periodically when the legislature is not in session, it focuses on issues involving healthcare, insurance, public finance, taxation, financial institutions, business & economic development, energy, real estate & construction, environmental, agribusiness, and employment. Bill summaries are by necessity brief, however, for additional information on any issue before the Kansas Legislature, contact Foulston Siefkin's government affairs & public policy law practice group leader, C. Edward Watson, II, at 316.291.9589 or cewatson@foulston.com. Learn more about the authors below:

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