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Media Release

Kansas Hospitals Launch We Care We Vote Campaign

(June 15, 2026) – As the road to the 2026 election narrows, many voters are thinking about which leaders will work to protect Kansas hospitals and the communities they serve. Among them, of course, are thousands of Kansas hospital employees.

Kansas hospitals employ more than 100,000 people. That represents a significant number of potential votes from people with both professional and personal interests in building a healthier Kansas. The Kansas Hospital Association has launched We CARE We VOTE, a campaign to engage hospital employees in connecting the issues to the candidates and casting informed votes in 2026.

2026 will be a critical election year, because the individuals elected make important decisions concerning the future of health care – and, ultimately, the future of Kansas hospitals. Leading up to the Kansas Primary Election on Aug. 4 and the General Election on Nov. 3, hospitals will be encouraging hospital employees, physicians, trustees, vendors and volunteers to join together to make the voice of the industry heard through the We CARE We VOTE campaign.

“Health care is more than patient-provider interaction – it is also a major economic driver in Kansas, and the financial health of Kansas hospitals has an impact on everyone,” said Chad Austin, president and CEO of the Kansas Hospital Association. Kansas hospitals have an annual direct labor income of almost \$7 billion and generate almost \$305 million in sales tax. Although hospitals generate a lot of revenue for the state, many are still vulnerable to closure as they struggle with financial insecurity caused by rising costs of care coupled with declining reimbursements.

The campaign’s message is one of learning and advocacy, inspiring hospital employees to use their votes and voices to protect health care access, invest in Kansas communities and hospitals, and strengthen state and local economies.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 246 member facilities, of which 124 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA’s vision is: *Optimal Health for Kansans and Kansas Hospitals.*

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That’s the power of more than 100,000 hospital employees across the state who believe in building a healthier Kansas.

The Kansas Hospital Association is proud to support the WE CARE WE VOTE campaign.



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION