



KHA's Capitol Comments
November 9, 2022

Kansas Elections Conclude – Counting and Finalizing Results Continue

Yesterday concluded the mid-term elections cycle. In Kansas, all incumbents representing Kansas in Washington, DC, will remain including U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Tracey Mann serving in Congressional District 1, Jake LaTurner representing Congressional District 2, Sharice Davids continuing to serve in Congressional District 3 and Ron Estes representing Congressional District 4.

The Kansas elections saw mixed results, with Governor Laura Kelly and Lt. Governor David Toland leading in their bid for re-election. The state treasurer will now be former state Representative Steven Johnson (R-Assaria). It appears the incoming attorney general will be former Secretary of State Kris Kobach (R-Lecompton). Also returning to statewide office will be Secretary of State Scott Schwab (R-Overland Park) and State Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt (R-Topeka).

On the state level, the Democrats in the House picked up one seat, making the legislative body's new make-up 85 Republicans and 40 Democrats. These margins are closely watched in legislative make-up as it takes a two-thirds vote of the House, or 84 votes, for both constitutional measures and veto overrides.

Kansans voted to retain all six State Supreme Court Justices up for retention. It appears to have split the outcomes of the two constitutional amendments before them. The first regards giving the Kansas Legislature additional oversight of the administrative rules and regulations process. That ballot initiative appears to have failed by just over 6,000 votes. The second question, which passed by a wide margin, added constitutional protections around the elections and a recall process for county sheriffs in Kansas.

Final votes from mail-in and provisional ballots will continue to be added to the counts into next week. The final results will continue to be certified by each county's elections boards throughout Kansas before the State Board of Canvassers meets to certify the Kansas election results.

The Kansas Hospital Association will continue to keep you informed as we head into the 2023 state and federal sessions.

Upcoming Interim Committees

The following are upcoming interim committee scheduled dates:

- Nov. 10 – Special Committee on Education
- Nov. 10 – Joint Committee on State Building Construction
- Nov. 15 – Health Care Stabilization Fund Oversight Committee
- Nov. 15 – Special Committee on Workforce Development
- Nov. 16 – Special Committee on Medical Marijuana
- Nov. 16 – Special Committee on Information Technology
- Nov. 16-17 – Joint Committee on Child Welfare Oversight
- Nov. 18 – Special Committee on Taxation

Leadership Elections Ahead

Following the mid-term elections, parties at the statehouse will elect new leadership in the Kansas House of Representatives. The Legislature is slated to make leadership elections on Dec. 5, with leaders serving two-year terms. With both the House speaker and the speaker pro tem not seeking re-election this year, there will be a new leadership slate in that chamber. Following leadership elections, the committee make-up of each House committee will be assembled and announced based on the proportional make-up of the chamber. This year in the House, the Democrats picked up one seat, making the split 85 Republicans and 40 Democrats. The Senate also will have the opportunity to make committee changes prior to the Jan. 9, 2023, start of the Kansas legislative session.