



KHA's Capitol Comments

May 14, 2025

Senate Government Efficiency Committee Meets

This week, the Senate Government Efficiency Committee, chaired by Senator Renee Erickson (R-Wichita), reviewed a list of hundreds of items submitted to the public portal. The committee reviewed the first 40 pages of the 349-page submissions. The topics highlighted during the committee discussion included:

- Medicaid: prior authorization denial rates transparency, pharmacy benefit managers reform, school services reimbursed by Medicaid but the managed care organizations are to pay for those services.
- Procurement and auditing processes
- Concerns around interstate compacts and possible overreach of the Mid-America Regional Council
- Workers' Compensation and unemployment
- Public website enhancements
- DEI in state agencies
- 501(c)(3) expenditures in political advocacy
- School spending

There was further discussion by the committee on how to strengthen the work of the Legislative Post Audit Division. The committee will meet again in June to dig deeper into the topics.

State Finance Council Meets

This week, the State Finance Council, chaired by Governor Laura Kelly, approved the release of \$10 million to cover the increased cost of caseloads for the Kansas Department for Children and Families. The committee further recommended releasing \$1.8 million for the summer EBT program that depended on waiver submission.

The committee also took up the Attorney General Kris Kobach's request for approval of Tort Claim settlements and approved one, Shayne Watson v. DCF, and denied Link v. State of Kansas.

Candidates Filing for Office

While 2025 is a municipal election year, candidates looking to start fundraising efforts have been busy filing with the Kansas Secretary of State to run for the 2026 offices. With statewide offices on the ballot, U.S. House Districts, one U S Senate District and all State House of Representatives seats up for election on Nov. 3, 2026, all eyes are on who is running for what seats.

House Speaker Dan Hawkins (R-Wichita) announced this week his intentions to run for Kansas Insurance Commissioner. Additionally, House of Representatives member Pat Proctor (R-Leavenworth) has filed to run for Kansas Secretary of State. As a reminder, official filings do not include those individuals who have announced their intention to seek a seat but have not yet submitted the official paperwork. [Click here](#) to view the most current list of those who have filed the official documents with the Secretary of State.

Look for more [WeCareWeVote](#) materials from the Kansas Hospital Association as we get closer to the 2026 election season. And remember to vote in your municipal elections. The deadlines to register are Tuesday, July 15, for the primary elections on Aug. 5. In addition, the deadline to register is Oct. 14 for the general elections on Nov. 4.