



KHA's Capitol Comments
November 8, 2024

Legislative Budget Committee Meets

Today, the Special Committee on Legislative Budget, chaired by Rep. Troy Waymaster, met for the first time. The chair indicated that the legislative base budget bill will not include any previously passed one-time provisos. The committee has been approved for five days of meetings. The committee reviewed what has been submitted to Gov. Laura Kelly.

The committee reviewed the following:

- Board of Accountancy
- Board of Tax Appeals
- Pooled Money Investment Board
- Board of Veterinary Examiners
- Office of the State Bank Commissioner
- Kansas Department of Credit Unions
- Government Ethics Commission
- Board of Technical Professions
- Kansas Dental Board
- Office of Administrative Hearings
- State Historical Society
- State Library
- KHDE-Environment
- Kansas Water Office
- Kansas Board of Nursing
- Kansas Board of Pharmacy
- Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
- Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts
- Health Care Stabilization Fund Board of Government
- Board of Examiners in Optometry
- Judicial Council
- Kansas Department of Labor
- Kansas Neurological Institute
- Larned State Hospital
- Osawatomie State Hospital
- Parsons State Hospital and Training Center

- Kansas Bureau of Investigations
- Kansas Commission on Peace Officer's Standards and Training

The committee made the following recommendations:

- All discussions on state employee pay will be set aside.
- Delete contract nursing from state hospitals' base budget so they can evaluate the topic further. Speaker Dan Hawkins (R-Wichita) suggested that a special committee be needed to discuss that issue further.

No other adjustments were recommended for any health-related agencies discussed with the committee today.

The committee also requested more information about:

- Ending balances for all fee-funded agencies.
- Updates on ARPA funds that are still out there, how they are allocated, and when they are likely to be spent.

Elections Bring Larger Supermajorities in Both the State House and Senate

While the statehouse races have a few elections within a couple of hundred votes, and counties around the state will begin canvassing before finalizing results and sending them to the Secretary of State, it appears that at the state level, the Republicans in both the House and the Senate have added to the existing supermajority. Both chambers are seeing a pick-up overall.

The supermajority has been closely watched as the chambers look to continue the governor's veto overrides, which take 84 votes in the House and 27 in the Senate. Should there be no changes from election night, the Senate breakdown will be 31 Republicans (up two from 29) and nine Democrats. In the House, the breakdown is likely to be 88 Republicans (up three from 85) and 37 Democrats.

The House and Senate will see many new faces, with 32.5 percent of the Senate's membership new to that chamber. In the House, the turnover rate is just over 18 percent. So, there will be lots of opportunities to work with newly-elected legislators.

As a reminder, legislative dinners are a great way to connect with new and returning faces. Dinners this year are slated for the following:

- **Nov. 14 – 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Hays**
Hilton Garden Inn, 221 W. 43rd Street
- **Dec. 2 – 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Kansas City Area**
Silo Modern Farmhouse, 17501 W 87th St. Lenexa

- **Dec. 3 – 5:30-7:30 p.m. – Garden City**
Southwind Golf & Dining, 77 Grandview Dr.
- **Dec. 5 – 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Salina**
Salina Country Club, 2101 E. Country Club Rd.
- **Dec. 9 – 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Wichita**
Distillery 244, 244 N. Mosley St.
- **Dec. 10 – 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Topeka**
Topeka Country Club, 2700 SW Buchanan St.
- **Dec. 12 – 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Pittsburg**
Crestwood Country Club, 304 W. Crestview Ave.

You can register for a dinner in your area by visiting <https://registration.kha-net.org/>. The legislature will again enter election mode as the Senate and House consider leadership elections slated for early December. Legislators will receive committee assignments, including committee leadership, following legislative leadership elections.

KHA will keep you updated as we proceed toward the 2025 session.