



KHA's Capitol Comments
January 6, 2025

2025 Legislative Preview

The [2025 Legislative Preview](#) is now available. This document is intended to provide an overview of some of the issues that may be before policymakers when they return to Topeka for the beginning of the 2025 legislative session on Jan. 13.

2025 Legislative Committees Set

As the Kansas Legislature approaches a Jan. 13 start, Republican and Democratic leadership in the House and Senate have been busy making committee appointments.

The following is the make-up of the House Committees. There were no new committees in the House.

Appropriations: Chair: Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill); Vice-Chair: Kristey Williams (R-Augusta); Ranking Minority Barbara Ballard (D-Lawrence), Avery Anderson (R-Newton); David Buehler (R-Lansing); Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado); Susan Estes (R-Wichita); Shannon Francis (R-Liberal); Jason Goetz (R-Dodge City); Kyle Hoffman (R-Coldwater); Steven Howe (R-Salina); Lisa Moser (R-Wheaton); Ken Rahjes (R-Agra); Bill Sutton (R-Gardner); Sean Tarwater (R-Stillwell); Adam Turk (R-Shawnee); Barb Wasinger (R-Hays), John Alcala (D-Topeka), Mike Amyx (D-Lawrence), Pam Curtis (D-Kansas City), Henry Helgerson (D-Eastborough), Jo Ella Hoyer (D-Lenexa), Jarrod Ousley (D-Merriam)

Health and Human Services: Chair: Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado); Vice-Chair: Ron Bryce (R-Coffeyville); Ranking Minority Susan Ruiz (D-Shawnee); Emil Bergquist (R-Park City); Doug Blex (R-Independence); Dave Buehler (R-Lansing); Ron Ellis (R-Meriden); Fred Gardner (R-Garnett); Carl Turner (R-Leawood); Leah Howell (R-Derby); Duane Droge (R-Eureka); Angela Steins (R-Shawnee); Allen Reavis (R-Atchison); Nikki McDonald (D-Olathe), Heather Meyer (D-Overland Park), Melissa Oropeza (D-Kansas City), Suzanne Wickle (D-Lawrence)

Insurance: Chair: Bill Sutton (R-Gardner); Vice-Chair: Brian Bergkamp (R-Wichita); Ranking Minority Cindy Neighbor (D-Shawnee); Emil Bergquist (R-Park City); Ken Collins (R-Mulberry); Pat Proctor (R-Leavenworth); Sean Tarwater (R-Stillwell); Shawn Chauncey (R-Junction City); Rick James (R-La Cygne); Patrick Penn (R-Wichita); Paul Waggoner (R-Hutchinson); Kristey Williams (R-Augusta); Kirk Haskins (D-Topeka), Heather Meyer (D-Overland Park), Silas Miller (D-Wichita)

Judiciary: Chair Susan Humphries (R-Wichita); Vice-Chair: Laura Williams (R-Lenexa); Ranking Minority Dan Osman (D-Overland Park); Jesse Borjon (R-Topeka); Dan Goddard (R-Parsons); Bob Lewis (R-Garden City); Carrie Barth (R-Baldwin City); Brad Barrett (R-Osage City); Charlotte Esau (R-Olathe); Lauren Bohi (R-Olathe); Mark Schreiber (R-Emporia); Kyler Sweely (R-Hutchinson); Jill Ward (R-Wichita), John Carmichael (D-Wichita), Pam Curtis (D-Kansas City), Angela Martinez (D-Wichita), Lindsay Vaughn (D-Overland Park)

Taxation: Chair: Adam Smith (R-Weskan); Vice-Chair: Carl Turner (R-Leawood); Ranking Minority Tom Sawyer (D-Wichita), Francis Averkamp (R-St. Mary's); Ron Bryce (R-Coffeyville); Nate Butler (R-Junction City); Ken Corbet (R-Topeka); Shannon Francis (R-Liberal); Nick Hoheisel (R-Wichita); Cyndi Howerton (R-Wichita); Tom Kessler (R-Wichita); Clarke Sanders (R-Salina); Chuck Smith (R-Pittsburg); Mike Thompson (R-Bonner Springs); Robyn Essex (R-Olathe); Marty Long (R-Ulysses); Dawn Wolf (R-Bennington), John Alcala (D-Topeka), Sydney Carlin (D-Manhattan), Henry Helgerson (D-Eastborough), Stephanie Sawyer Clayton (D-Overland Park), Jerry Stogsdill (D-Prairie Village), Rui Xu (D-Westwood)

Social Services Budget: Chair: David Buehler (R-Lansing); Vice-Chair: Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado); Ranking Minority Melissa Oropeza (D-Kansas City); Mike King (R-Hesston); Allen Reavis (R-Atchison); Angela Stiens (R-Shawnee); Sean Wilcott (R-Holton), Barbara Ballard (D-Lawrence), Susan Ruiz (D-Shawnee)

Federal and State Affairs: Chair: Tom Kessler (R-Wichita); Vice-Chair: Rebecca Schmoe (R-Ottawa); Ranking Minority Silas Miller (D-Wichita); Brian Bergkamp (R-Wichita); Ron Bryce (R-Coffeyville); Ken Corbet (R-Topeka); Leah Howell (R-Derby); Steve Huebert (R-Valley Center); Rick James (R-La Cyne); Bob Lewis (R-Garden City); Kyle McNorton (R-Topeka); John Resman (R-Olathe); Clarke Sanders (R-Salina); Kevin Schwertfeger (R-Turon); Paul Waggoner (R-Hutchinson); Jill Ward (R-Wichita); Sean Wilcott (R-Holton), Kirk Haskins (D-Topeka), Heather Meyer (D-Overland Park), Brooklyn Mosley (D-Lawrence), Dan Osman (D-Overland Park), Louis Ruiz (D-Kansas City), Stephanie Sawyer Clayton (D-Overland Park)

Local Government: Chair: Emil Bergquist (R-Park City); Vice-Chair: Doug Blex (R-Independence); Ranking Minority Linda Featherson (D-Overland Park), Carrie Barth (R-Baldwin City); Ken Collins (R-Mulberry); Robyn Essex (R-Olathe); Fred Gardner (R-Garnett); Lon Pishny (R-Garden City), Chip VanHouden (R-Spring Hill) ; Dawn Wolf (R-Bennington); Lynn Melton (D-Kansas City), Wanda Brownlee Paige (D-Kansas City), Tobias Schlingensiepen (D-Topeka)

Legislative Modernization: Chair: Patrick Penn (R-Wichita); Vice-Chair: Jesse Borjon (R-Topeka); Ranking Minority Ford Carr (D-Wichita); Cyndi Howerton (R-Wichita); Bill Rhiley (R-Wellington); Mark Schreiber (R-Emporia); Carl Turner (R-Leawood); Adam Smith (R-Weskan); Duane Droge (R-Eureka); Brad Barrett (R-Osage City), Sherri Brantley (R-Great Bend); Charlotte Esau (R-Olathe); Dale Helwig (R-Columbus), Melissa Oropeza (D-Kansas City), Alexis Simmons (D-Topeka), Suzanne Wikle (D-Lawrence)

Financial Institutions and Pensions: Chair: Nick Hoheisel (R-Wichita); Vice-Chair: Angela Steins (R-Olathe); Ranking Minority Rui Xu (D-Westwood); Lance Neelly (R-Tonganoxie); Chuck Smith (R-Pittsburg); Mike Thompson (R-Bonner Springs); Gary White (R-Ashland); Laura Williams (R-Lenexa); Lauren Bohi (R-Olathe); Mike King (R-Hesston); Allen Reavis (R-Atchison); Angel Roeser (R-Manhattan); Kyler Sweely (R-Hutchinson), Nikki McDonald (D-Olathe), Mari-Lynn Poskin (D-Leawood), Virgil Weigel (D-Topeka), Valdenia Winn (D-Kansas City)

Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications: Chair: Leo Delperdang (R-Wichita); Vice-Chair: Rick Wilborn (R-McPherson); Ranking Minority KC Ohaebosim (D-Wichita); Francis Awerkamp (R-St. Mary's); Emil Bergquist (R-Park City); Jesse Borjon (R-Topeka); Patrick Penn (R-Wichita); Nick Hoheisel (R-Wichita); Webster Roth (R-Wellington); Mark Schreiber (R-Emporia); Chuck Smith (R-Pittsburg); Lauren Bohi (R-Olathe); Chip VanHouden (R-Spring Hill), John Carmichael (D-Wichita), Lynn Melton (D-Kansas City), Cindy Neighbor (D-Shawnee), Tobias Schlingensiepen (D-Topeka)

Water: Chair: Jim Minnix; Vice-Chair: Gary White; Doug Blex; Robyn Essex; Brett Fairchild; Fred Gardner; Sandy Pickert; Adam Smith; Joe Seiwert; Duane Droge; Dale Helwig; Lon Pishny

Veterans and Military: Chair: Mike Thompson (R-Bonner Springs); Vice-Chair: Nate Butler (R-Junction City); Ranking Minority Mari-Lynn Poskins (D-Leawood); Ken Collins (R-Mulberry); Dan Goddard (R-Parsons); Scott Hill (R-Abilene); Tim Johnson (R-Basehor); Bill Bloom (R-Clay Center); Shawn Chauncey (R-Junction City); Megan Steele (R-Manhattan), Syndey Carlin (D-Manhattan), Susan Ruiz (D-Shawnee), Virgil Weigel (D-Topeka)

Corrections and Juvenile Justice: Chair: Bob Lewis (R-Garden City); Vice-Chair: John Resman (R-Olathe); Ranking Minority Tobias Schlingensiepen (D-Topeka); Nate Butler (R-Junction City); Lance Neelly (R-Tonganoxie); Chuck Smith (R-Pittsburg); Joe Seiwert (R-Pretty Prairie); Brad Barrett (R-Osage City); Rick James (R-La Cyne); Kevin Schwertfeger (R-Turon), John Carmichael (D-Wichita), Angela Martinez (D-Wichita), Brooklynne Mosley (D-Lawrence)

Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development: Chair: Sean Tarwater (R-Stilwell); Vice-Chair: Adam Turk (R-Shawnee); Ranking Minority Stephanie Sawyer Clayton (D-Overland Park); Ken Corbet (R-Topeka); Tom Kessler (R-Wichita); Patrick Penn (R-Wichita); Bill Sutton (R-Gardner); Kristey Williams (R-Augusta); Barb Wasinger (R-Hays); Laura Williams (R-Lenexa); Jill Ward (R-Wichita); Sean Willcott (R-Holton); Mike King (R-Hesston), Lynn Melton (D-Kansas City), Dan Osman (D-Overland Park), Mari-Lynn Poskin (D-Leawood), Rui Xu (D-Westwood)

Education: Chair: Susan Estes (R-Wichita); Vice-Chair: Kyle McNorton (R-Topeka); Ranking Minority Jerry Stogsdill (D-Prairie Village); Jason Goetz (R-Dodge City); Scott Hill (R-Abilene); Rebecca Schmoe (R-Ottawa); Mark Schreiber (R-Emporia); Sherri Brantley (R-Great Bend); Shawn Chauncey (R-Junction City); Dawn Wolf (R-Bennington); Steve Huebert (R-Valley Center); Lon Pishny (R-Garden City); Megan Steele (R-Manhattan), Linda Featherston (D-Overland Park), Silas Miller (D-Wichita), Louis Ruiz (D-Kansas City), Valdenia Winn (D-Kansas City)

Transportation: Chair: Shannon Francis (R-Liberal); Vice-Chair: Robyn Essex (R-Olathe); Ranking Minority Henry Helgerson (D-Wichita), Avery Anderson (R-Newton); Ken Collins (R-Mulberry); Leo Delperdang (R-Wichita); Dan Goddard (R-Parsons); Nick Hoheisel (R-Wichita); Jim Minnix (R-Scott City); Pat Proctor (R-Leavenworth); Rick Wilborn (R-McPherson); Lauren Bohi (R-Olathe); Chip VanHouden (R-Spring Hill), Jo Ella Hoyer (D-Lenexa), KC Ohaebosim (D-Wichita), Lindsay Vaughn (D-Overland Park), Virgil Weigel (D-Topeka)

Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget: Chair: Lisa Moser (R-Wheaton); Vice-Chair: Marty Long (R-Ulysses); Ranking Minority Sydney Carlin (D-Manhattan); Bill Bloom (R-Clay Center); Ken Rahjes (R-Agra); Webster Roth (R-Winfield); Gary White (R-Ashland), John Alcala (D-Topeka), Pam Curtis (D-Kansas City)

Higher Education Budget: Chair: Steven Howe (R-Salina); Vice-Chair: Clarke Sanders (R-Salina); Ranking Minority Mike Amyx (D-Lawrence); Brett Fairchild (R-St. John); Samantha Poetter-Parshall (R-Paola); Kyler Sweely (R-Hutchinson); Paul Waggoner (R-Hutchinson), Kirk Haskins (D-Topeka), Tom Sawyer (D-Wichita)

Child Welfare and Foster Care: Chair: Cyndi Howerton (R-Wichita); Vice-Chair: Tim Johnson (R-Tonganoxie); Ranking Minority Jarrod Ousley (D-Merriam), Susan Humphries (R-Wichita); Sandy Pickert (R-Wichita); Carrie Barth; Brian Bergkamp (R-Wichita); Charlotte Esau (R-Olathe); Bill Rhiley (R-Wellington); Angel Roeser (R-Manhattan), Ford Carr (D-Wichita), Cindy Neighbor (D-Shawnee), Wanda Brownlee Paige (D-Kansas City)

Welfare Reform: Chair: Francis Awerkamp (R-St. Mary's); Vice-Chair: Bill Rhiley (R-Wellington); Ranking Minority Ford Carr (D-Wichita); Susan Humphries (R-Wichita); Sandy Pickert (R-Wichita); Carrie Barth (R-Baldwin City); Brian Bergkamp (R-Wichita); Charlotte Esau (R-Olathe); Dale Helwig (R-Columbus); Angel Roeser (R-Manhattan), Jarrod Ousley (D-Merriam), Alexis Simmons (D-Topeka), Wanda Brownlee Paige (D-Kansas City)

General Government Budget: Chair: Barb Wasinger (R-Hays); Vice-Chair: Sandy Pickert (R-Wichita), Ranking Minority Lynn Melton (D-Kansas City); Steve Huebert (R-Valley Center); Bill Rhiley (R-Wellington); Adam Turk (R-Shawnee); Chip VanHouden (R-Spring Hill), Mike Amyx (D-Lawrence), KC Ohaebosim (D-Wichita)

Agriculture and Natural Resources: Chair: Ken Rahjes (R-Agra); Vice-Chair: Lance Neelly (R-Tonganoxie); Ranking Minority Linda Featherston (D-Overland Park), Doug Blex (R-Independence); Brett Fairchild (R-St. John); Fred Gardner (R-Garnett); Jim Minnix (R-Scott City); Webster Roth (R-Winfield); Joe Seiwert (R-Pretty Prairie); Gary White (R-Ashland); Duane Droge (R-Eureka); Lisa Moser (R-Wheaton); Angel Roeser (R-Manhattan), Brooklynne Mosley (D-Lawrence), Wanda Brownlee Paige (D-Kansas City), Tobias Schlingensiepen (D-Topeka), Suzanne Wikle (D-Lawrence)

Transportation and Public Safety Budget: Chair: Avery Anderson (R-Newton); Vice-Chair: Leah Howell (R-Derby); Ranking Minority: Lynn Melton (D-Kansas City), Bill Bloom (R-Clay Center); Leo Delperdang (R-Wichita); Ron Ellis (R-Meridan); John Resman (R-Olathe), Ford Carr (D-Wichita), Virgil Weigel (D-Topeka)

K-12 Education Budget: Chair: Jason Goetz (R-Dodge City); Vice-Chair: Scott Hill (R-Abilene), Ranking Minority Valdenia Winn (D-Kansas City); Susan Estes (R-Wichita), Tim Johnson (R-Basehor); Rebecca Schmoe (R-Ottawa); Sherri Brantley (R-Great Bend); Kyle McNorton (R-Topeka); Kevin Schwertfeger (R-Turon); Megan Steele (R-Manhattan), Nikki McDonald (D-Olathe), Jarrod Ousley (D-Merriam), Mari-Lynn Poskin (D-Leawood)

Elections: Chair: Pat Proctor (R-Leavenworth); Vice-Chair: Paul Waggoner (R-Hutchinson), Ranking Minority Kirk Haskins (D-Topeka); Emil Bergquist (R-Park City); Brian Bergkamp (R-Wichita); Patrick Penn (R-Wichita); Shawn Chauncey (R-Junction City); Dale Helwig (R-Columbus); Rick James (R-La Cygne); Bill Sutton (R-Gardner); Sean Tarwater (R-Stillwell); Kristey Williams (R-Augusta), Heather Meyer (D-Overland Park), Silas Miller (D-Wichita), Alexis Simmons (D-Topeka)

The following is the make-up of the Senate committees as they are known today. The Senate created a new committee on government efficiency.

Ways and Means: Chair: Rick Billinger (R-Goodland), Vice-Chair: JR Claeys (R-Salina). Ranking Minority Pat Pettey (D-Kansas City), Larry Alley (R-Winfield), Renee Erickson (R-Wichita), Michael Fagg (R-El Dorado), Rick Kloos (R-Berryton), Stephen Owens (R-Hesston), Virgil Peck (R-Havana), Michael Petersen (R-Wichita), Cindy Holscher (D-Overland Park)

Public Health and Welfare: Chair: Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), Vice-Chair: Bill Clifford (R-Garden City), Ranking Minority Cindy Holscher (Overland Park), Chase Blasi (R-Wichita), Renee Erickson (R-Wichita), Michael Murphy (R-Sylvia), Stephen Owens (R-Hesston), TJ Rose (R-Olathe), Adam Thomas (R-Olathe), Mike Thompson (R-Shawnee), Pat Pettey (D-Kansas City)

Financial Institutions and Insurance: Chair: Brenda Dietrich (R-Topeka), Vice-Chair: Michael Fagg (R-El Dorado), Ranking Minority Marci Francisco (D-Lawrence, Mike Argabright (R-Olpe), Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), Rick Kloos (R-Berryton), TJ Rose (R-Olathe), Kellie Warren (R-Shawnee), David Haley (D-Kansas City)

Judiciary: Chair: Kellie Warren (R-Shawnee), Vice-Chair: Kenny Titus (R-Manhattan), Ranking Minority Ethan Corson (R-Fairway), Mike Argabright (R-Olpe), Elaine Bowers (R-Concordia), Craig Bowser (R-Holton), Joseph Claeys (R-Wichita), Jeff Klemp (R-Lansing), TJ Rose (R-Olathe), Ron Ryckman, Sr. (R-Meade), Doug Shane (R-Louisburg), Patrick Schmidt (D-Topeka)

Assessment and Taxation: Chair: Caryn Tyson (R-Parker), Vice-Chair: Virgil Peck (R-Havana), Ranking Minority Ethan Corson (D-Fairway), Jeff Klemp (R-Lansing), Stephen Owens (R-Hesston), Michael Petersen (R-Wichita), Tim Shallenburger (R-Baxter Springs), Brad Starnes (R-Riley), Mary Ware (D-Wichita)

Agriculture and Natural Resources: Chair: Virgil Peck (R-Havana), Vice-Chair: Larry Alley (R-Winfield), Ranking Minority: Mary Ware (D-Wichita), Tory Marie Blew (R-Great Bend), Craig Bowser (R-Holton), Michael Fagg (R-El Dorado), Ron Ryckman, Sr. (R-Meade), Doug Shane (R-Louisburg), Brad Starnes (R-Riley), Kenny Titus (R-Manhattan), Marci Francisco (D-Lawrence)

Transportation: Chair: Michael Petersen (R-Wichita), Vice-Chair: Rick Kloos (R-Berryton), Ranking Minority Ethan Corson (D-Fairway), Mike Argabright (R-Olpe), Elaine Bowers (R-Concordia), Joseph Claeys (R-Wichita), Brenda Dietrich (R-Topeka), Jeff Klemp (R-Lansing), Caryn Tyson (R-Parker), Kellie Warren (R-Shawnee), Patrick Schmidt (D-Topeka)

Local Government, Transparency and Ethics: Chair: Elaine Bowers, Vice-Chair: Ron Ryckman, Sr., Tory Marie Blew, Craig Bowser, Joseph Claeys, Bill Clifford, Kenny Titus

Government Efficiency: Chair: Renee Erickson (R-Wichita), Vice-Chair: Michael Murphy (R-Sylvia), Ranking Minority Cindy Holscher (D-Overland Park), Larry Alley (R-Winfield), Rick Billinger (R-Goodland), Doug Shane (R-Louisburg), Adam Thomas (R-Olathe), Mike Thompson (R-Shawnee), Patrick Schmidt (D-Topeka)

Federal and State Affairs: Chair: Mike Thompson (R-Shawnee), Vice-Chair: Tory Marie Blew (R-Great Bend), Ranking Minority Oletha Faust-Goudeau (D-Wichita), Bill Clifford (R-Garden City), Brenda Dietrich (R-Topeka), Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), Michael Murphy (R-Sylvia), Brad Starnes (R-Riley), Adam Thomas (R-Olathe), Caryn Tyson (R-Parker), Marci Francisco (D-Lawrence)

Commerce: Chair: Larry Alley (R-Winfield), Vice-Chair: Stephen Owens (R-Hesston), Ranking Minority Mary Ware (D-Wichita), Tory Marie Blew (R-Great Bend), Brenda Dietrich (R-Topeka), Jeff Klemp (R-Lansing), Rick Kloos (R-Berryton), Ron Ryckman, Sr. (R-Meade), Kenny Titus (R-Manhattan), Caryn Tyson (R-Parker), Ethan Corson (D-Fairway)

Utilities: Chair: Michael Fagg (R-El Dorado), Vice-Chair: Michael Petersen (R-Wichita), Ranking Minority Marci Francisco (D-Lawrence), Elaine Bowers (R-Concordia), Craig Bowser (R-Holton), Joseph Claeys (R-Wichita), Bill Clifford (R-Garden City), Virgil Peck (R-Havana), Mike Thompson (R-Shawnee), Kellie Warren (R-Leawood), Cindy Holscher (D-Overland Park)

Education: Chair: Renee Erickson (R-Wichita), Vice-Chair: Adam Thomas (R-Olathe), Ranking Minority: Dinah Sykes (D-Lenexa), Mike Argabright (R-Olpe), Chase Blasi (R-Wichita), Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), Michael Murphy (R-Sylvia), TJ Rose (R-Olathe), Doug Shane (R-Louisburg), Brad Starnes (R-Riley), Pat Pettey (D-Kansas City)

KHA 2025 Legislative Brochure Is Now Available

The [Kansas Hospital Association 2025 Legislative Brochure](#) is now available. The brochure highlights the issues we will focus on with our state lawmakers during the 2025 legislative session. These handouts include important statistics and information about key issues facing hospitals that we want our policymakers to hear about from you. Please feel free to utilize the brochure in your conversations or share directly with our state policymakers as they head into the legislative session.