



## The Week Ahead

### December 3

Leadership Elections

### December 11,12,13

Inaugural Celebrations Likely date for House & Senate Leadership Elections

### January 14

First Day of the 2019 Legislative Session

## Issues at a Glance

- Kansas Governor's seat shifts to Democratic control
- Two new members of Congress, both political newcomers
- House composition stayed largely the same, but the character shifted right

## Did Someone Really Say the 2020 Election Cycle Began Today?

Voter turnout was high in the 2018 Midterm election. For example, in Shawnee County, more than 65% of registered voters cast a ballot. The higher than normal voter turnout was driven by hotly contested races in most of the statewide seats and two of the four congressional seats as well as some state House seats. However, the results came in quickly and the outcome for a majority of races was early on Tuesday evening just as many were switching over from the KU game or watching the Shocker game. Several political commentators however remarked that the day after the election began the start of the 2020 election cycle. Really? Can we not give it one day at least? Well, no because in Kansas, the results are setting up the 2020 campaign cycle in which the full House and Senate are up for election, plus all four Congressional seats and a US Senate seat. But for right now, let's focus on 2018!

### STATEWIDE RACES

Democrat State Senator Laura Kelly defeated President Trump-backed Republican Secretary of State moving the Governor's seat from red to blue for the first time in eight years. Interestingly, within 18 hours of the polls closing in Kansas, US Attorney General Jeff Sessions tendered his resignation at the President's request. President Trump commented on many occasions during the campaign that if Secretary Kobach was unsuccessful in his bid for Kansas Governor, that the President would bring the Secretary to Washington DC. Could the ball already be in motion?

## 2020 ELECTION CYCLE (Continued)

The administrative transition process began with a meeting between Governor Jeff Coyler and Governor-Elect Laura Kelly. Friday, November 9, the Consensus Revenue Estimates (CRE) will be released. The CRE report will serve as a baseline for creation of Governor-Elect Kelly's first budget. The Governor-Elect has been the ranking minority member on the Senate budget writing committee, so she will be very versed in the budget creation process. She will also have the former and long-time budget director, Duane Goossen, working closely by her side. Goossen was in the first transition budget meeting today in fact. Kansas revenues are up about \$100 million over projections for the current fiscal year which began on July 1. Funding K-12 education was the top priority of the incoming Administration so the CRE projections holding will be key to crafting a budget that presumably would work towards complying with the Supreme Court's recent K-12 ruling ordering additional funding for schools. The Governor-elect will use the next two months to remake state government to reflect her campaign priorities which will include a new cabinet and agency personnel plus likely new directives and missions. The Governor-Elect will also have the chance to remake the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) over the course of the next two years as all three commissioners' appointments come up in March of the next two years (2019, 2020 and 2021).

There were four other statewide campaigns. Attorney General Schmidt won his re-election campaign. Long-time State Representative Scott Schwab won his election bid for the Secretary of State position over Google Earth founder Brian McClendon. Appointed State Treasurer Jacob LaTurner won his election bid for his current position. Senator and Pharmacist Vicki Schmidt won her election bid for Insurance Commissioner.

An always interesting question is who was the top vote getter? The last two election cycles, it was Secretary Kris Kobach, but this year, State Insurance Commissioner-elect Sen. Vicki Schmidt, R-Topeka, won the No. 1 spot, with 628,635 votes. No. 2? Two-term Attorney General Derek Schmidt received 599,773 votes. No. 3 was State Treasurer Jake LaTurner, with 584,039 votes to Democrat Sen. Marci Francisco, D-Lawrence's total of 421,425. No. 4 is the 536,472 votes for Secretary of State-elect Rep. Scott Schwab, R-Olathe, to Democrat opponent Brian McClendon's 441,444. Coming in at No. 5 is Gov.-elect Sen. Laura Kelly, D-Topeka, with 489,337 votes to beat Republican Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who got 443,346 votes.

## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Congressman Roger Marshall won his primary election handily in the "Big First" district. The 2nd Congressional district was a tight race between, Steve Watkins, a military veteran and an outdoor adventurer, and former House Minority Leader Paul Davis. Watkins, a political novice, won the very expensive and acrimonious race. Four-term congressman Kevin Yoder lost his re-election bid to another political newcomer, Sharice Davids, an attorney. Davids would have been the first Native American elected to Congress except there was a Congressional race in New Mexico which was called about an hour earlier for a Native American making her the first Native American elected to Congress and technically Davids the second. Timing is everything in politics. Congressman Ron Estes remained in the Fourth Congressional District seat.

## STATE HOUSE

The dynamic will be shifting again in the state House of Representatives. It has ebbed and flowed in recent years between moderate coalitions and conservative control. For now, and much of this will change as Governor-Elect Kelly appoints her cabinet and other key positions, the House Republican caucus stands at 86 members. The House Democratic caucus is down one after the election at 39 members. The House Republican caucus was defending 47 contested House seats. They lost 5 seats. The House Democratic caucus was defending 15 contested seats and they lost 6. The Democratic pick ups were in the most urban areas and the Republican pick ups were in the rural areas. There was a write-in race in the Hutchinson area which was a primary election re-match. Rep. Steven Becker was defeated in the Primary, but mounted a robust write in campaign which did fall short to now Representative-Elect Waggnor.

## 2020 ELECTION CYCLE (Continued)

The Legislature will continue to change some as Governor-elect Kelly develops her Administration. The Senate, which was not up for election, will need to fill at least three Senate seats: Laura Kelly's, Lynn Rogers', and Vicki Schmidt's as they all three won their statewide races. However, more Senate seats will likely change with the Administration change which would impact the balance of power in the Senate. Further changes in the House won't have a tremendous impact on how the House functions, but will impact committee make-up.

### SUMMARIES OF HOUSE RACES

- House District 1 – Michael Houser (R-Columbus) – no change
- House District 2 – Kenneth Collins (R-Mulberry) defeated incumbent Democrat Adam Lusker
- House District 3 – Monica Murnan (D-Pittsburg) – no change
- House District 4 – Trevor Jacobs (R-Fort Scott) – no change
- House District 5 was previously held by Rep. Kevin Jones who ran for the 2nd Congressional District. Mark Samsel, (R-Wellsville) won the General Election.
- House District 6 - Jene Vickrey (R-Louisburg) – no change.
- House District 7 – Richard Proehl (R-Parsons) – no change
- House District 8 - Patty Markley (R-Overland Park) was defeated by Chris Croft (R-Overland Park) in the Primary. Croft won the General Election.
- House District 9 – Kent Thompson (R- La Harpe) – no change
- House District 10 – Eileen Horn (D-Lawrence) – no change
- House District 11 - Jim Kelly (R-Independence) – no change
- House District 12 - Doug Blex (R-Independence) – no change
- House District 13 - Larry Hibbard (R-Toronto) – no change
- House District 14 - Charlotte Esau (R-Olathe) won the seat vacated by her husband.
- House District 15 – John Toplikar (R-Olathe) was elected in the open seat
- House District 16 – Cindy Holscher (D- Overland Park) – no change
- House District 17 - Tom Cox (R-Shawnee) – no change
- House District 18 - Cindy Neighbor (D-Shawnee) – no change
- House District 19 – Stephanie Clayton (R-Overland Park) – no change
- House District 20 – Jan Kessinger (R-Overland Park) – no change
- House District 21 – Jerry Stogsdill (D-Prairie Village) – no change
- House District 22 - Nancy Lusk (D-Overland Park) – no change
- House District 23 – Susan Ruiz (D-Shawnee) defeated incumbent Republican Linda Gallagher
- House District 24 – Jarrod Ousley – no change
- House District 25 – Rui Xu (D-Westwood) defeated incumbent Republican Melissa Rooker
- House District 26 – Adam Thomas (R-Overland Park) won the open seat
- House District 27 - Sean Tarwater (R-Stilwell) – no change
- House District 28 - Representative Joy Koesten (R-Leawood) was defeated in the Republican primary. Kellie Warren (R-Overland Park) won the General Election.
- House District 29 Brett Parker (D-Overland Park) – no change
- House District 30 – Brandon Woodard (D-Lenexa) won the open seat
- House District 31 – Louis Ruiz (D-Kansas City) – no change
- House District 32 – Tom Burroughs (D-Kansas City) – no change
- House District 33 – Pam Curtis (D-Kansas City) – no change
- House District 34 – Valdenia Winn (D-Kansas City) – no change
- House District 35 – Broderick Henderson (D-Kansas City) – no change
- House District 36 – Kathy Wolfe Moore (D-Kansas City) – no change
- House District 37 – Stan Frownfelter (D-Kansas City) – no change
- House District 38 - Willie Dove (R-Bonner Springs) – no change
- House District 39 - Owen Donohoe (R-Shawnee) won the open seat

## 2020 ELECTION CYCLE (Continued)

- House District 40 – David French (R-Lansing) defeated incumbent Debbie Deere (D-Lansing)
- House District 41 – Jeff Pitman (D-Leavenworth) – no change
- House District 42 – Jim Karleskint (R-Tonganoxie) – no change
- House District 43 – Bill Sutton (R-Gardner) – no change
- House District 44 – Barbara Ballard (D-Lawrence) – no change
- House District 45 – Mike Amyx (D-Lawrence) won the open seat
- House District 46 – Boog Highberger (D-Lawrence) – no change
- House District 47 – Ron Ellis (R-Meridan) – no change
- House District 48 – David Benson (D-Overland Park) defeated incumbent Republican Abe Rafie
- House District 49 – Megan Lynn (R-Olathe) won the open seat
- House District 50 – Fred Patton (R-Topeka) – no change
- House District 51 – Ron Highland (R-Wamego) – no change
- House District 52 – Brenda Dietrich (R-Topeka) – no change
- House District 53 – Jim Gartner (D-Topeka) – no change
- House District 54 – Ken Corbet (R-Topeka) – no change
- House District 55 – Annie Kuether (D-Topeka) – no change
- House District 56 – Virgil Weigel (D-Topeka) – no change
- House District 57 – John Alcala (D-Topeka) – no change
- House District 58 – Vic Miller (D-Topeka) – no change
- House District 59 – Blain Finch (R-Ottawa) – no change
- House District 60 – Mark Schreiber (R-Emporia) – no change
- House District 61 – Francie Awerkamp (R- St. Marys) – no change
- House District 62 – Randy Garber (R-Sabetha) – no change
- House District 63 – John Eplee (R-Atchison) – no change
- House District 64 – Suzi Carlson (R-Clay Center) won the open seat
- House District 65 – Lonnie Clark (R-Junction City) – no change
- House District 66 – Sydney Carlin (D-Manhattan) – no change
- House District 67 – Tom Phillips (R-Manhattan) – no change
- House District 68 – Dave Baker (R-Council Grove) – no change
- House District 69 – JR Claeys (R-Salina) – no change
- House District 70- John Barker (R-Abilene) – no change
- House District 71 – Diana Dierks (R-Salina) – no change
- House District 72 – Steven Kelly (R-Newton) defeated incumbent Democrat Tim Hodge
- House District 73 – Les Mason (R-McPherson) – no change
- House District 74 – Stephen Owens (R-Hesston) defeated incumbent Don Schroeder (R-Inman)
- House District 75 – Will Carpenter (R-El Dorado) defeated incumbent Mary Good (R-El Dorado)
- House District 76 – Eric Smith (R-Burlington) – no change
- House District 77 – Kristey Williams (R-Augusta) – no change
- House District 78 – Ron Ryckman (R-Olathe) – no change
- House District 79 – Cheryl Helmer (R-Winfield) defeated incumbent Ed Trimmer (D-Winfield).
- House District 80 – Bill Rhiley (R-Wellington) defeated incumbent Anita Judd Jenkins (R-Ark City)
- House District 81 – Blake Carpenter (R-Derby) – no change
- House District 82 – Jesse Burris (R-Mulvane) – no change
- House District 83 – Henry Helgerson (D-Wichita) – no change
- House District 84 – Gail Finney (D-Wichita) – no change
- House District 85 – Michael Capps (R-Wichita) – no change
- House District 86 – Jim Ward (D-Wichita) – no change
- House District 87 – Renee Erickson (R-Wichita) – won open seat
- House District 88 – Elizabeth Bishop (D-Wichita) – no change
- House District 89 – KC Ohaebosim (D-Wichita) – no change
- House District 90 – Steve Huebert (R-Valley Center) – no change

## 2020 ELECTION CYCLE (Continued)

- House District 91 – Emil Bergquist (R-Park City) – no change
- House District 92 – John Carmichael (D-Wichita) – no change
- House District 93 – JC Moore (R-Clearwater) defeated incumbent John Whitmer (R-Wichita)
- House District 94 – Leo Delperdang (R-Wichita) – no change
- House District 95 – Tom Sawyer (D-Wichita) – no change
- House District 96 – Brandon Whipple (D-Wichita) – no change
- House District 97 – Nick Hoheisel (R-Wichita) – won open seat
- House District 98 – Steven Crum (D-Haysville) – lost to Ron Howard (R-Wichita)
- House District 99 – Susan Humphries (R-Wichita) – no change
- House District 100 – Dan Hawkins (R-Wichita) – no change
- House District 101 – Joe Seiwert (R-Pretty Prairie) – no change
- House District 102 – Jason Probst (D-Hutchinson) – no change
- House District 103 – Ponka-We Victors (D-Wichita) – no change
- House District 104 – Paul Waggnor (R-Hutchinson) defeated incumbent Steven Becker (R-Buhler)
- House District 105 – Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita) – no change
- House District 106 – Bill Pannabacker (R-Washington) – won open seat
- House District 107 – Susan Concannon (R-Beloit) – no change
- House District 108 – Steven Johnson (R-Assaria) – no change
- House District 109 – Troy Waymaster (R-Bunker Hill) – no change
- House District 110 – Ken Rahjes (R-Agra) – no change
- House District 111 – Barbara Wasinger (R-Hays) defeated incumbent Eber Phelps (D-Hays)
- House District 112 – Tory Arnberger (R-Great Bend) – no change
- House District 113 – Greg Lewis (R-St. John) – no change
- House District 114 – Jack Thimesch (R-Spivey) – no change
- House District 115 – Boyd Orr (R-Fowler) – no change
- House District 116 – Kyle Hoffman (R-Coldwater) – no change
- House District 117 – Leonard Mastroni (R-LaCrosse) – no change
- House District 118 – Don Hineman (R-Dighton) – no change
- House District 119 – Bradley Ralph (R-Dodge City) – no change
- House District 120 – Adam Smith (R-Weskan) – no change
- House District 121 – John Resman (R-Olathe) – no change
- House District 122 – Russ Jennings (R-Lakin) – no change
- House District 123 – John Wheeler (R-Garden City) – no change
- House District 124 – Marty Long (R-Ulysses) – won open seat
- House District 125 – Shannon Francis (R-Liberal) – no change

There was one Senate election on the ballot in 2018 – Senate District 18 where incumbent Senator Hildabrand (R- Galena) retained his Senate seat. The Senator had to stand for election as he was appointed early in the Senate term following the appointment of then State Senator Jake LaTurner to the State Treasurer position. The Treasurer position became open when then Treasurer Ron Estes won the 4th District Congressional seat following the resignation of Congressman Mike Pompeo who became CIA Director upon President Trump’s presidency. Among other things, politics is a game of dominos.



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