



# The Record

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## Governor Kelly Administration Kicks Off Unemployment Insurance System Modernization

TOPEKA—The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) formally kicked off a \$48 million, 26-month-long effort to modernize the state's unemployment insurance (UI) system. Governor Laura Kelly also built on her previous support for the project by sending a letter to U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh urging him to provide additional funding previously allocated by the U.S. Congress for modernization.

"My administration is working quickly to update our antiquated computer systems so Kansans who need unemployment benefits don't experience the same problems they faced during the pandemic," Governor Kelly said. "Congress promised to help states modernize their unemployment insurance systems and allocated the resources to get them started. Kansas upheld its end of the deal by investing millions of dollars in a new system. It's now time for

the U.S. Department of Labor to release these modernization funds to the states as Congress directed. It's the only way to ensure we are prepared for the next economic downturn."

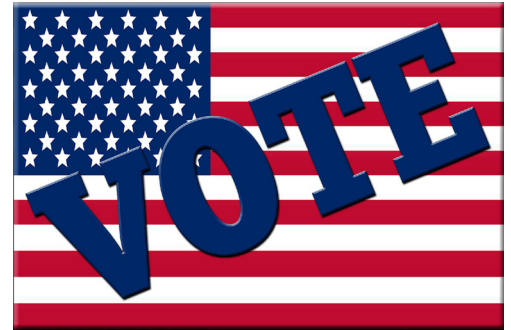
Kansas' current mainframe system used to process UI benefits was created in the 1970s. The last major push to modernize began under Governor Sebelius in 2005 but was subsequently abandoned in 2011 by the Brownback administration. That shortsighted decision directly led to the systemic inefficiencies and vulnerabilities that occurred within the state's unemployment system during the pandemic. The effort to bring Kansas' UI system into the 21st century will be led by information technology experts Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

"We have been looking forward to this day

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## Extended Election Filing Deadlines

The Wyandotte County Election Office will be extending several filing deadlines this month for offices that have been impacted by the recent changes in the election maps. Depending on the office, candidates will want to file with either the Kansas Secretary of State or the Wyandotte County Election Office.

The new deadlines are as follows:

June 1, 2022 at 12:00 Noon  
 US Senate, Statewide Offices, and Elected Judicial Positions  
 Candidates file with KS Secretary of State Township Clerks  
 Candidates file with Wyandotte County Election Office

Friday, June 10, 2022 at 12:00 Noon  
 US House, Kansas Legislature, and Kansas Board of Education  
 Candidates file with KS Secretary of State Precinct Committeepersons  
 Candidates file with Wyandotte County Election Office

The deadline to change your political affiliation prior to the August 2, 2022 primary election is now Friday, June 10, 2022. Voters with changes to their precinct and district assignments as a result of redistricting will be notified by mail. You can learn more about upcoming elections, voter registration, and other information at the [wycovotes.org](http://wycovotes.org) website.

## Various topics discussed at West Patrol meeting

By Murrel Bland

Capt. Steve Smith talked about a wide range of subjects when the West Patrol Advisory Committee met in a conference room Thursday, May 26 at the West Patrol office.

The office recently underwent a significant remodeling. The new look for the office includes historic photos of the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department.

Apartment complexes in the West Patrol Area continue to be crime hotspots and draw special attention from patrol officers, Capt. Smith said.

The area near Legends Outlet at 110th Street and Parallel Parkway attracts the homeless.

Special traffic consideration will be afforded the new What-a-Burger restaurant, scheduled to open Monday, May 30 in Village West, he said.

Maps show where gunshots have been heard; very few end up in buildings. Most of this gunfire is east of I-635, Capt. Smith said.

Two women robbed the convenience store at 6001 Parallel Pkwy.

Homicides have increased in Kansas City, Kansas, this year with 18 compared to 10 this time last year. Last year, the Police Department had an 86 percent solve rate, Capt. Smith said.

Drug use continues to increase including the use of deadly Fentanyl. This makes it very dangerous for investigating officers. Emergency service personnel carry a Fentanyl antidote, Narcan, Capt. Smith said.

Murrel Bland is the former editor of The Wyandotte West and The Piper Press. He is a member of Business West.

## Sue's Sudsy Soapbox



By Sue Reich

**Y**ears ago, when I was still a little gal, Argentine used to have parades in the evening. We would start at 26th street then go West. Mom, Dad, the twins, Carolyn and Marilyn, Gayle, Gale Bushnell and me. We even had our picture in the newspaper one time. One time when the twins were smaller, mom pushed them in a big baby Buggy. My folks and Gayle entertained everywhere. Dad made their instruments and Gayle sang. They were the "Tuckertown Rascals." They won a contest and so did the Hanlon girls, they had a wild trampoline act. They all got to go to New York and was on the Ted Mack show on television (black and white) then. They played at the old Parish House, Brush Creek Follies, at the schools, just everywhere. Way before they were the Tuckertown Rascals, they had a band with Bob and Maybelle Kroner and called themselves the "Arkansas Travelers". Bob played the guitar with a harmonica attachment. I miss those days. We sang together, dad was a great "hooper". Otherwise known as tapdancing. As it is said, "all good things come to an end." Mom's hands could play Any musical instrument with black and white keys. They were I so talented. Hope you remember the Tuckertown Rascals. They were well worth remembering.

We, guess I will close. Lvyia all, miss you too. Your little gal from Argentine.

Sue



Tuckertown Rascals in an evening parade in Argentine.

## People can protect themselves from tax-related identity theft with an Identity Protection PIN

Identity Protection PINs stop identity thieves from filing fraudulent tax returns. When a taxpayer chooses to participate in this program, the IRS assigns them a six-digit number which the taxpayer uses to prove their identity when they file their tax return. This extra layer of protection provides peace of mind, especially for people who have already been a victim of identity theft.

How to get an IP PIN

The GetAn IPPIN tool lets people with an SSN or ITIN request an IP PIN online after they verify their identity. Taxpayers should review the Secure Access requirements before they try to use the Get An IP PIN tool.

Tax pros can help clients affected by identity theft by urging them to get an IP PIN quickly. Even if a thief has already filed a fraudulent tax return, an IP PIN would prevent the taxpayer from being a repeat victim of tax-related identity theft in the future.

Important information about IP PINs

\* For security reasons, enrolled participants get a new IP PIN each year. That IP PIN is valid for one year.

\* Enrolled taxpayers can log back into the Get An IP PIN tool to see their current IP PIN.

\* People with an IP PIN must use it when filing any federal tax returns during the year, including prior year tax returns.

\* IP PIN users should only share their number with the IRS and their trusted tax preparation provider. The IRS will never call, email or text a request for the IP PIN.

\* Currently, taxpayers can get an IP PIN for 2022. The IRS will issue new IP PINs starting in January 2023.

Taxpayers who can't validate their identity online can still get an IP PIN

Taxpayers who can't validate their identity online, and whose income is below a certain threshold, can file Form 15227, Application for an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number. The 2022

threshold is \$73,000 for individu-

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By Sharon Hoover

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

all the Blue Salvia and Irises on Wednesday and transplanted the Blue Salvia and some of the Irises in more desirable locations. The rest of the Irises will be planted elsewhere in the garden. They also added Marigolds along the sidewalk. This group of teens showed real interest in gardening and plan to come back later in the month.

The recent rains allowed me to get a little reading done. It was just a coincidence that both books I read took place in 1953. The first "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles followed 10 days seen through the eyes of four boys and those they encountered. A little trivia: The Lincoln Highway was the first transcontinental highway

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**W**e've had a few visitors to the garden lately. The Early Learning Group and Parents as Teachers held their second annual "Gathering in the Garden" in May. This past week the Job Corps (10 teenagers) Volunteers worked in refurbishing the sedum berm. They removed



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# SENATE NEWS



By Sen. Pat Pettey

## LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS SINE DIE

The Legislature convened for its final day of session for the year on Monday, May 23rd. We are now adjourned until January 9, 2023.

While the Legislature as a whole won't meet again until next year, I will continue to serve on my committees during the interim, and of course I remain available to you for constituent services. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out at [pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov](mailto:pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov).

## ACTION ON THE FLOOR

The Senate met briefly to consider three lingering conference committee reports and one resolution.

The resolution was sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Larry Alley, Senator Mark Steffen, and Senator Mike Thompson. The resolution disapproves of a Biden administration decision to make amendments to the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organization in order to better prepare for future highly contagious diseases and pandemics. These three senators peddle in conspiracy theories often, and it's no surprise that their highly misinformed views prompted this non-binding resolution. You can find a fact check on their claims here.

The first conference committee report, for HB 2136, was for a generally non-controversial tax bill that primarily changed the implementation date of a sales tax delivery charge exclusion, and enacted the COVID-19 Retail Storefront Property Tax Relief Act. I voted YES.

The second, for SB 19, implements the 988 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline in Kansas, which puts our state in compliance with federal law. I voted YES.

The final conference committee report was pulled out of conference by Senator Caryn Tyson after the House had already adjourned sine die – meaning there was no possibility for this legislation to become law at the time she initiated debate. This is a gigantic tax bill that warrants careful consideration, not a last-minute debate designed to bolster a senator's campaign for higher office. I voted PASS.

## TWO OVERRIDES OF GUBERNATORIAL VETOES

The Legislature attempted to override a number of the vetoes issued by Governor Kelly. When the governor vetoes a bill, it returns to its chamber of origin for consideration for override. In the Senate, 27 YES votes are required to override the governor's veto. In the House, that number is 84.

The Senate did not attempt to override the governor's veto of SB 34, which would have stripped the Secretary of Health and Environment – and all local health officers – of their authority to prevent the spread of contagious diseases, including by requiring the use of face masks. It also would have prohibited the Secretary from requiring vaccines for novel contagious diseases for school attendance.

Both chambers successfully overrode two of the governor's vetoes:

\* HB 2387 prohibits requests for bids for contracts for our state Medicare program until January 2023. The goal of this legislation is to prevent Governor Kelly from picking an MCO vendor. Republicans are hedging their bets that she will lose re-election in November and are enshrining in law their desire

that Derek Schmidt choose the new vendor. The House overrode this veto 84-38. The Senate overrode it 27-10. I voted to sustain the governor's veto.

\* HB 2252 prohibits the state from entering into agreements on the enforcement of election laws, which will lead to significantly more costly litigation, given the legislature's insistence on passing unconstitutional bills that disenfranchise Kansans. The House overrode this veto 84-37. The Senate overrode it 27-10. I voted to sustain the governor's veto.

## REDISTRICTING UPDATE

Last week, the Kansas Supreme Court ruled that plaintiffs opposing the maps adopted by the Kansas Legislature during this decade's redistricting process were unsuccessful in their claim that the maps are unconstitutional.

On the congressional level, this decision will have a major impact on how our community is represented in Congress. My senate district and my constituents, by and large, will continue to be represented by Congresswoman Sharice Davids. Residents of the KC metropolitan area in that congressional district will be the drivers in deciding who represents that district in Congress.

At the same time, the place I've called home my whole life – Wyandotte County – has been surgically split to dilute our strong, unified voice. Communities south of I-70 will be part of KS-3, currently represented by Congresswoman Sharice Davids, while those north of the interstate will be in Congressman Jake LaTurner's KS-2. Let's not let them achieve their goal of dividing us. Below are our congressional representatives' contact information:

\* Congresswoman Davids Kansas City Office: 753 State Ave, Ste 460, Kansas City, KS 66101, 913-766-3993

\* Congressman LaTurner Topeka Office (closest to Wyandotte County): 3550 SW 5th St, Ste B, Topeka, KS 66606, 785-205-5253

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# Petty...

...from page 4

state legislative and state board of education maps here.

## ELECTION SEASON IS COMING

With the legislative session behind us, election season will soon be upon us. Below are some important dates ahead of the August 2, 2022 election.

You can learn more about the upcoming elections on the Wyandotte County and Johnson County election office websites.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON ABORTION

This year, voters of every party affiliation – or non-affiliation! – will have the opportunity to vote on a constitutional amendment on abortion. It reads:

The Value Them Both Amendment would affirm there is no Kansas constitutional right to abortion or to require the government funding of abortion, and would reserve to the people of Kansas, through their elected state legislators, the right to pass laws to regulate abortion, including, but not limited to, in circumstances of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest, or when necessary to save the life of the mother.

While the language of the amendment is confusing and mentions numerous topics, the simple fact is that a vote YES on the amendment lets politicians in Topeka make decisions about your healthcare, including abortion. A vote NO preserves your right to make personal healthcare decisions for yourself - free from government interference.

We all agree that abortion should be regulated like all other medical procedures. And abortion is already heavily regulated in Kansas. The Kansas City Star did an excellent breakdown of current regulations, which you can read here. Anti-abortion special interests and extreme politicians supporting this amendment are intentionally trying to deceive and mislead voters.

This amendment is unnecessary and goes way beyond reasonable regulation. It lets politicians in Topeka ban abortion completely.

They also forced this constitutional amendment to be on the ballot for the 2022 Primary Election. They know that fewer Kansans are aware of and vote in partisan primaries. It is important that all Kansans vote in this election to protect our constitutional rights, including Independent and unaffiliated voters.

## IMPORTANT STATE PHONE NUMBERS

Here is a list of numbers I often receive requests for during the Legislative Session. I hope you will find this information helpful.

Attorney General  
(888) 428-8436

Child Abuse Hotline  
(800) 922-5330

Consumer Protection  
(800) 432-2310

Crime Tip Hotline  
(800) 572-7463

Crime Victim Referral  
(800) 828-9745

Department on Aging  
(800) 432-3535

Driver's License Bureau  
(785) 296-3963

Fraud Hotline  
(800) 432-3919

KPERS  
(888) 275-5737

Governor's Office  
(877) 579-6757

Highway Conditions  
(800) 585-7623

Housing Hotline  
(800) 752-4422

KanCare Consumer Assistance  
(866) 305-5147

Kansas Jobs  
(785) 235-5627

# Governor Laura Kelly Signs Bill Providing \$50 Million of Financial Relief to Kansas Small Businesses

TOPEKA—Surrounded by small business leaders in downtown Topeka, Governor Laura Kelly signed bipartisan House Bill 2136, which will invest \$50 million to help small businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Providing \$50 million of financial assistance for small businesses is just one more way my Administration is working to make Kansas the most pro-business state in the country,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “The financial assistance legislation I signed today will support our entrepreneurs by ensuring they can make the investments they need to hire workers, strengthen their product lines, and better serve their communities.”

“Small businesses are what power our economy, and this legislation builds on years of work to ensure they have the resources they need to continue to serve customers and create jobs,” said Senator Tom Holland. “Through bipartisan collaboration, we will be able to continue to make sure that our economy continues to grow a strong base of businesses here in Kansas.”

Governor Kelly was joined at the bill signing by small business owners, the Greater Topeka Partnership, and the Kansas Chamber of Commerce.

“House Bill 2136 is a product of the many people who have shown unwavering commitment to Kansas small businesses,” Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, said. “On behalf of the Kansas business community, thank you to Governor Kelly and the legislature for supporting this legislation. It will provide relief for the small businesses that make up the backbone of our state.”

## Guest Editorial

### Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

“Kids my age who are communists, do and will staff our elections. We must have Republicans sign up to become “paid full-time election workers. The system is rigged, and who best to steal it but our clerks?!”

**Judy Eubanks, taped remarks taken at a RNC, “Election Integrity” summit in Detroit. She is a Trump endorsed State House candidate for Michigan.**

“A Republican-led Committee in the state of Michigan probed the 2020 election and it reported that, “The committee has found no evidence of widespread fraud. The committee also made a recommendation to the State Attorney General: To investigate those who made false claims to raise money for their own ends.”

**Politico, source.**

“This is completely unprecedented in the history of American elections that a political party would be working at the granular level to put a (country-wide) network together. It looks like now the Trump forces are going directly after the legal system itself, and that should concern everybody.”

**Nick Penniman, founder and CEO of Issue One, an election watchdog group.**

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## Unemployment... ...from page 1

and to bringing everyone together to begin the formal process of developing a new, modernized unemployment system,” said Kansas Labor Secretary Amber Shultz. “TCS is a capable partner for KDOL to set a path for technology and process transformation that will enable the delivery of software that will be responsive to the future needs of the state.”

Upon completion, the KDOL’s new system will improve the experiences of unemployed Kansans and businesses that interact with the UI systems by:

- \* Modernizing technology: Replace the agency’s antiquated IT legacy system that supports unemployment insurance taxes, payment of unemployment insurance benefits, and delivery of employment services.

- \* Enhancing customer experience: Deliver improved services such as online self-service, automation, access to data, and integration with partners.

- \* Transforming business processes: Provide improved efficiencies in business processes, offer new tools for KDOL employees, and support more effective service delivery to Kansans.

- \* Improving data security: Better anticipate and respond to security threats and prevent unemployment insurance fraud.

- \* Providing expandable technology: Deliver a system capable of supporting new programs and functionality, as well as connections to other systems like workforce tools.

A page has been created on the KDOL website to keep the public updated on the modernization project’s progress. For the most recent information, visit [www.dol.ks.gov/ui-modernization](http://www.dol.ks.gov/ui-modernization).

## Identity Theft... ...from page 2

als or \$146,000 for married filing jointly.

Once an IRS receives the form, a representative will call the phone number the taxpayer provided to validate the taxpayer’s identity.

However, for security reasons, the IRS will assign an IP PIN for the next filing season, and the taxpayer can’t use the IP PIN for the current filing season.

Taxpayers who can’t validate their identity online or by phone, and who are ineligible to file a Form 15227 can make an appointment at a Taxpayer Assistance Center.

## Turner... ...from page 3

in the U.S. (1912) and existed until the Interstate Highway System was created. It began in Times Square in New York and ended in Lincoln Park in San Francisco while going through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada. You can still travel on parts of it and see the cobblestones. I can’t imagine it was very comfortable riding in those old cars on that road. I am not sure, but I think I-80 travels a similar route only further south. I highly recommend this book; it is longer than I usually read but has very interesting characters.

The second book I read was “Dream Town “ by David Baldacci that took place in Hollywood.

Shades of Sam Spade! The only difference was that women weren’t called dames and P.I.’s weren’t called gumshoes. Dead bodies, dope, human trafficking, blackmail, you name it. Our hero got kidnapped, beaten up and shot at. Another piece of trivia: Women were not allowed to take out a mortgage to buy a home. They needed to have a man sign with them and then had to pay an extra fee in addition to the mortgage. How times have changed for the better but it still not enough. Will we ever see the day when “all men (and women) are created equal”? With that I bid adieu!

Until next time stay safe and be kind to those around you. Please pray for those who have lost loved ones and continue to pray for the brave Ukrainians fighting for the right to be free.

## Do You Qualify For Social Security Spouse’s Benefits?

By Cecilia Fields  
Social Security District  
Manager in Kansas City, KS

Social Security benefits are a crucial part of millions of Americans’ retirement income. If you don’t have enough Social Security credits to qualify for benefits on your own record, you may be able to receive benefits on your spouse’s record.

To qualify for spouse’s benefits, you must be one of the following:

- 62 years of age or older.
- Any age and have in your care a child younger than age 16, or who has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse’s record.

Your full spouse’s benefit could be up to one-half the amount your spouse is entitled to receive at their full retirement age. If you choose to receive your spouse’s benefits before you reach full retirement age, you will get a permanently reduced benefit.

If you wait until you reach full retirement age to receive benefits, you’ll receive your full spouse’s benefit amount, which is up to one-half the amount your spouse can receive. You’ll also get your full spouse’s benefit if you are under full retirement age, but care for a child and one of the following applies:

- The child is younger than age 16.
- The child has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse’s record.

If you’re eligible to receive retirement benefits on your own

record, we will pay that amount first. If your benefits as a spouse are higher than your own retirement benefits, you will get a combination of benefits that equal the higher spouse benefit.

For example, Sandy qualifies for a retirement benefit of \$1,000 and a spouse’s benefit of \$1,250. At her full retirement age, she will receive her own \$1,000 retirement benefit. We will add \$250 from her spouse’s benefit, for a total of \$1,250.

Want to apply for either your or your spouse’s benefits? Are you at least 61 years and nine months old? If you answered yes to both, visit [www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement) to get started today.

Are you divorced from a marriage that lasted at least 10 years? You may be able to get benefits on your former spouse’s record. You can find out more by visiting [www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html) for more information.



## Passings...

By Sue Reich

Robert De Moss, age 89, passed away on May 16, 2022. He was a 1932 graduate of Argentine High School and member of the US Marine Corps.

Kimberly Renee Keith, age 53, passed away on May 1, 2022. She was a 1987 graduate of Turner High School.

Betty Greenwood, age 90, passed away in her sleep on May 21, 2022. She was a 1950 graduate of Ward High School.

Award winning actor Ray Liotta died in his sleep on May 26, 2022. He was 67. Known for the movies Goodfellas and Field of Dreams.

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