



# The Record

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## House Republicans, Do Your Job

By Dr. Jim Haas

A century ago, humorist Will Rogers said, “I’m not a member of any organized political party. I’m a Democrat.” He had a point back then, but now the shoe is on the other foot and House Republicans are so disorganized that in the past ten years, one experienced G.O.P. Speaker quit, one was largely ineffectual for four years, and another has been forced out by his own party after only eight months. The once Grand Old Party of Lincoln is now the Chaos Party held hostage in the House by a handful of right-wing extremists.

How did the people’s House become so dysfunctional. Who—or what—is responsible for turning half of Congress into both an embarrassment and a danger to the country? The immediate cause is that wannabe Speaker Jim Jordan of Ohio and a small group of extremist allies created the crisis by backing the disgraced former president’s demand to shut down the government (and who likely believed that doing so would delay his prosecution for a long list of felonies and other alleged crimes).

When Speaker Kevin McCarthy worked with Democrats to pass bipartisan legislation to keep our government working and to avoid defaulting on our debt, the extremists in his party fired him for collaborating with Democrats. He had no choice, of course, because Republicans have a bare majority and without the extremists, he didn’t have enough votes. Democrats had a slim majority in the last Congress with a far more ideologically diverse membership than Republicans have now but managed to pass numerous major bills because they were organized and committed to definite policies. Republicans have no visionary policies. In the last two elections, the Party had no policy platform.

The search for a speaker has gotten ugly. Last week, Republicans reported colleagues



“screaming” at others in a meeting, and several wives of representatives released recordings of threats, one a “credible death threat,” from extremist supporters. Under these circumstances, why would anyone want the speaker’s job?

A major cause of the Party’s problem is that many Republican representatives are from gerrymandered “safe districts” where even the most outrageous extremists can win election. One Senator said that it’s no secret that too often, “We’re not sending our best and brightest to Washington.” Representative Don Bacon (R, Nebraska) thinks the extremists don’t want the responsibility of governing, saying, “Extremists want to be in the minority. I think they would prefer that, so they can just vote “No” and just yell and scream all the time.” Bacon’s family has been threatened.

Another problem is that many moderate Republicans are afraid to openly oppose extremists because they don’t want to anger their own most rabid voters. Case in point:

25 Republicans opposed Jordan for speaker in a public vote, but in a secret ballot shortly after, 112 were opposed. That’s 87 representatives lacking the courage to be honest with voters. After Jordan finally withdrew, ten other Republicans expressed interest in running, eight of them election deniers. One who isn’t was immediately criticized by the indicted former president. The House situation is fluid, and those we hired to do the nation’s business can’t do it until right-wing Republicans put country before their lust for power.

The Senate, with Democratic leadership, is working, but the rot interferes there, too. One Republican senator is holding up hundreds of senior military officer promotions while another is refusing to allow votes on critical diplomatic appointments including ambassadors to Israel and Egypt. In the House and Senate, to paraphrase Winston Churchill, never has so much harm been done to so many by so few.



By Sharon Hoover

**H**ave you scheduled your flu and Covid shots yet? Every year, Calvin. I have gone to CVS. I tried to schedule appointments today (October 20, 2023) online only to find out that no dates were available at either the location on Shawnee Drive or Neiman. I ended up calling their pharmacy, was told everything is on hold for the time being (staffing issues) and recommended I try Sun Fresh or Hy-Vee. I called Sun Fresh

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

Market, was referred to ballsfood-spharmacy.com and scheduled appointments for October 23.

It's a bit early to report but Parks and Rec is sponsoring Thanksgiving Family Fun Day at the Kensington Park Gym on November 4 from 11am to 2pm. Enjoy a family meal, fun, and fellowship. Applebee's and Hy-Vee are providing the food. Registration is required. There was a QR code to scan which I can't duplicate. Their office number is 913-573-8327.

Our leaves have not started to fall, however the KCK Fire depart-



ment is now accepting residential open burn permits. The burning


period started October 16 and runs through November 15, 2023. Apply for a permit using the permit portal on the Fire Department's webpage. [www.kckfd.org](http://www.kckfd.org) or the city's webpage ([www.wycokck.org](http://www.wycokck.org)) with a link that directs you to the application portal under the Fire Department tab. You must apply 24 hours in advance (up to midnight the day before). Check the weather before applying, the system will allow you to apply for a permit for up to 3 days in advance (sustained winds over 15 mph and/or wind gusts over 25 mph will suspend any open burning).

The KCKPD is instituting a Camera Security program. Share your security camera location with the KCKPD in working together to make KCK safe. Sharing does not mean the KCKPD will have access to your camera. They will not share your information with anyone else and will only contact you if a crime occurs in your neighborhood. There is no charge involved. This also had a QR code to be scanned which I cannot duplicate. You might call 913 596-3000 for more info.

The Wyandotte County Recycling & Yard Waste Center at 3241 Park Drive remains open every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday until November 26, 2023 and every Saturday from December 2 to March 30, 2024. Hours are 10am-3pm weather permitting. Closed November 10, 23, & 24 and December 25, 2023, in observance of the holidays. Provide your Driver's license to prove residency of Wyandotte County. For acceptable yard waste and recycling items go to [wycokck.org](http://wycokck.org) then click on public works. The office number is 913 573-5311.

Be sure to VOTE on November 7, there are a lot of choices to be made. Remember all political signs need to be removed two days after the election on November 9.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you. Troubles abound in every shape and form when you least expect them.



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# IRS announces 2024 Tax Counseling for the Elderly and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Grants

WASHINGTON – The Internal Revenue Service recently awarded \$51 million in Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grants to organizations that provide free federal tax return preparation.

This year, the IRS awarded grants to 45 TCE and 300 VITA applicants. The IRS received 429 applications requesting over \$170 million in funding.

“As a part of the transformation of IRS, connecting providing resources through partnerships is part of our effort to ensure fair and equitable administration of taxes and provide valuable credits to those in need,” said Ken Corbin, the IRS Wage and Investment commissioner. “Grants ensure that these partners have access and are available.”

The TCE program, established in 1978, provides free tax counseling and federal return preparation to individuals who are age 60 or older. Volunteers receive training and technical assistance to provide assistance at community locations across the nation.

The VITA program, created in 1969, assists underserved communities, such as low- and moderate-income individuals and limited English proficient taxpayers. VITA grant recipients provide free federal tax return preparation and electronic filing. The grant program helps to expand VITA services to underserved populations.

The IRS forms partnerships with a wide variety of organizations across the country to develop VITA and TCE programs. Community



partners include non-profit agencies, faith-based organizations, community centers and large employers. The IRS provides tax law training, certification and oversight to these organizations assisting their efforts to prepare accurate returns.

“VITA and TCE grant recipients work hard to improve the taxpayer experience in their own

backyards,” said Maryann Enciso, acting national director for Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication. “We are pleased to award these grants to our dedicated partners who provide quality tax preparation and financial education and asset building in their local communities. VITA/TCE is a ‘cause not a program’ to help American taxpayers.”



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**Request for Proposal Advertisement**

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for Foodservice Equipment at various schools in Turner USD 202. Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor free of charge by email request sent to [crockettc@turnerusd202.org](mailto:crockettc@turnerusd202.org)

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening, October 31, 2023 at 10:00 am. The location of the bid opening will be the Facility and Grounds Building located at 5800 Metropolitan, Kansas City, KS 66106. Turner USD 202 will announce the vendor that is awarded the bid Wednesday November 8, 2023.

(First published 10-19-23)  
2t-The Record-10-26-23

**Request for Proposal Advertisement**

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for Installation of Promethean Displays at Oak Grove Elementary. Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor free of charge by email request sent to [crockettc@turnerusd202.org](mailto:crockettc@turnerusd202.org)

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening, October 31, 2023 at 10:30 am. The location of the bid opening will be the Facility and Grounds Building located at 5800 Metropolitan, Kansas City, KS 66106. Turner USD 202 will announce the vendor that is awarded the bid Wednesday November 8, 2023.

(First published 10-19-23)  
2t-The Record-10-26-23

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**PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING ENROLLMENT OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS' POLICY**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to K.S.A. 72-3126, of a public hearing to be held on the 14th day of November 2023, at 5:00 p.m., at Kansas City Kansas Public Schools Central Office, 2010 N 59th Street, Kansas City, KS 66104 regarding the Unified School District No.500, (Wyandotte County, Kansas) proposed policy to determine the number of nonresident students that the school district has the capacity to accept in each grade level for each school of the school district pursuant to K.S.A. 72-3123, and amendments thereto, including clearly specifying the reasons that the board may use to deny continued enrollment of a nonresident student who is not in good standing.

A representative of the board shall present the board's proposal for the policy, and the board shall hear testimony regarding the proposed policy.

Dated this 23rd day of October 2023.

Dawn Downing  
Deputy Board Clerk  
(First published 10-26-23)  
2t-The Record-11-2-23

# Governor Kelly Announces Kansas to Receive More than \$5.4M to Improve 9-8-8 Capacity

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly announced that the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) is receiving more than \$5.4 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Over three years, this funding will build local capacity for the 9-8-8 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and related crisis services.

“These funds are critical to ensure we have the staff and resources to address the mental health crisis in Kansas,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “Another funding avenue would be expanding Medicaid, which is already the primary payer of behavioral health services in the United States. By expanding

Medicaid, we could leverage that tool to support mental health care services further.”

The States and Territories to Improve Local 9-8-8 Capacity program will provide nearly \$1.9 million in the first year and nearly \$1.8 million in the following two years to improve response to 9-8-8 contacts—calls, chats, and texts—originating in Kansas. This funding will support the program’s goals of increasing workforce support for the growing 9-8-8 demand through hiring, recruiting, and training; improving the public communication of 9-8-8 services, including those for high-risk populations; and continuing to expand post-contact support connections with services such as mobile crisis outreach and crisis stabilization services to en-

sure adults and youth experiencing mental health crisis receive faster access to trained mental health professionals.

“Crisis support and access to mental health care and ensuring more people in crisis get the help and support they need is increasingly critical for Kansans,” KDADS Secretary Laura Howard said. “Applying for and being selected to receive this new additional 9-8-8 funding reflects our state’s commitment to build on the crisis care framework we have been and continue to develop and strengthen it to provide increased access across our communities.”

Among other benefits, funding provided through this program will afford Kansas the ability to recruit, hire, and train additional staff to ensure state contact centers can collect and report monthly data on contacts that result in emergency rescue, suicide attempts in progress, and

mobile crisis outreach referrals.

KDADS currently partners with three National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) contact centers for 24/7 coverage of 9-8-8 calls, chats, and texts. The NSPL contact centers are Johnson County Community Mental Health (JCCMH), Sedgwick County (Comcare responds to NSPL calls), and Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ (KSPHQ). Additionally, Wyandotte Behavioral Health Network Inc. is in the process of gaining certification as a contact center, and HealthSource Integrated Services (HIS) serves as a statewide backup contact center.

KDADS will partner with Comcare, JCCMH, KSPHQ, Wyandotte Behavioral Health Network, and HealthSource for this program.

In July 2022, 9-8-8 became the national three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, replacing the current phone number of 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

## Guest Editorial

### Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

Jim Jordan was involved in Trump’s conspiracy to steal the election and seize power; he urged that Pence refuse to count the lawful Electoral votes.

If Republicans nominate Jordan to be Speaker they will be abandoning the Constitution. They’ll lose the House majority, and they’ll deserve to.

Liz Cheney

Truer words were never spoken. They’ve all lost any sense of being elected officials sent to Washington to do the people’s work. Why do they want to hold on to power when they don’t do anything to govern? They all spent years complaining about Obamacare and when they had the opportunity to offer a “New and improved” health care plan, to the American people, they failed to produce anything of the kind.

The Republicans gave hundreds of billions annually to big corporations and financial institutions creating the high inflation that President Biden is constantly being blamed for.

President Biden has been able to bring down inflation with the US having the lowest level among other Western countries.

There’s a real lack of leadership in the former GOP and they are willing to just look the other way whenever any of them are involved in crime or illegality. Unable to agree about the way to go forward has led to a divided House. Gone is the concept of being persons of ethics and morals. Nothing is too low for them to sink down to. It’s a scandal a minute!

This is a disgraceful era and one that will usher in a much better Congress in 2024. This dysfunction can’t go on indefinitely; Americans have had enough of the circus produced in Congress. They represent the biggest threat to the Republic.

## First-Ever Neighborhood Summit to Continue Comprehensive Plan Engagement

*Neighborhood Leaders will convene on shaping the future of community prosperity.*

Kansas City, KS – On Saturday, October 28, 2023, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (UG) will host its first Neighborhood Summit community event at Gloria Willis Middle School (1735 N 64th Terrace, KCK, KS) from 9 AM to 3 PM.

This convening will include a presentation and discussions focusing on strategies for the future with PlanKCK, networking with community leaders and neighborhoods organizations, and a resource fair to support thriving neighborhoods. Summit attendees will have the opportunity to provide input on their community priorities, as well as discover new and existing community services, programs, and best practices in neighborhood empowerment.

Summit guests can also expect to hear a deep dive into the PlanKCK comprehensive plan, a UG 101 session, and a planned panel discussion with Mayor Tyrone Garner and local school officials on Wyandotte County schools and community vision. The resource fair will help neighborhood leaders connect with UG staff and other resources to help support problem-solving at the local level.



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