



# The Record

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## Good News for 2024

By Dr. Jim Haas

Let's start the new year on a positive note. People seem to like lists, and while many media ended 2023 by listing the world's ten worst climate disasters, the most horrifying mass shootings in the U.S., or the most dangerous lies told by an indicted former president, I propose five of 2023's most promising developments for 2024:

1. Renewable energy, mostly wind and solar, became cheaper in much of the world than that from burning fossil-fuels and will become even less expensive as economies of scale increase. Renewables are projected to overtake coal as the world's largest source of electricity by 2025; in the U.S., renewables will provide nearly 25 percent of electricity by the end of this year. China, the largest producer of clean energy, hopes to double clean electricity by the end of 2025. The International Energy Agency expects governments and private sources to invest at least \$1.7 trillion in renewable energy this year, nearly double that of fossil fuels and the most invested in clean energy by far.
2. Transportation accounts for about a third of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, so it's good news that domestic electric car (EV) sales will likely pass a million this year and manufacturers are planning to stop making gas and diesel vehicles in the foreseeable future. GM will sell only zero-emission vehicles by 2035. Companies like Amazon are converting to EVs, and the Postal Service will replace 66,000 small delivery trucks with EVs by 2026. The immediate need is to install at least half a million high-speed chargers nationwide, and the government has allotted \$7.5 billion to states to construct them as part of the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure and Jobs Law. New York and Ohio are installing chargers now while most others have contracted or are taking bids. Power to the people!
3. The threat of a major post-pandemic recession

is almost certainly over. Far-sighted government and Federal Reserve policies have nearly reached the goal of an economic "soft-landing." The economy is booming with GDP steadily increasing, inflation steadily decreasing, very low unemployment, rising wages, and a record high stock market. The year ended with robust holiday retail and travel spending, both at near-record levels.


4. Against the odds, the Ukrainian people and President Zelenskyy have stubbornly resisted, for nearly two years, President Putin's unprovoked aggression. Ukrainian heroism rivals that of the British against Hitler's air attacks during the 1940 Battle of Britain. Both are/were for the same purpose: saving democracy from demagogues who rule through lies and fear. Ukraine depends on U.S and EU aid to hold the line against a more powerful foe; Britain, likewise, needed U.S. aid. After the Pearl Harbor attack, Allied leaders agreed to devote 85% of their war resources to defeating Hitler because he was a threat to civilized values; 15% was devoted to beating Japan. Make no mistake: Ukrainians are protecting our values as much as their own. They don't quit and neither should we. It's been encouraging to learn in the past few weeks of Ukrainian successes in destroying five Russian warplanes and at least one important Russian warship in the Black Sea.
5. Last year was good for those who believe women's health is a matter for them, their families, and their doctors—not for politicians or courts. Pro-choice candidates or ballot measures won elections in Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, most by large margins and continuing a string of wins that began in Kansas in 2022. More pro-choice people and issues will be on 2024 ballots. There's good news for pro-life people, too. If you believe abortion is wrong, don't have one. Enjoy your freedom to choose.





By Sharon Hoover

I hope your holidays were joyous and your New Year celebration a happy one. I'm looking forward to a better 2024 and glad to leave 2023 behind. I saw on TV in New York City, people celebrate Good Riddance Day between Christmas and New Years by holding a ceremony and writing all the bad things that happened to them on large posters. This year there was a magician who was setting fire to pieces of paper that went up in flame. I guess that is



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# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

one way to make your troubles disappear. As for resolutions, I decided not to make any for 2024 because I always break them.

The WYCO Historical Museum is exhibiting "Hitting the Road: 100 years on the Victory Highway" until the end of January. The Victory Highway was one of the first U.S. National Highways and is now US 24/40 (State Ave.) The exhibit tells the story of one stretch of the early paved road and the history of road development that preceded it. It highlights the road's origin as a war memorial, its state of the art paving

and shares stories of the road's impact on lives of the communities it passed through. The Museum is in WYCO County Park, 631 N. 126<sup>th</sup> Bonner Springs. The hours are Monday thru Saturday 9am-4pm.

KCKFD is holding an Open House for its brand new fire station (No. 16) on January 13 from 11am-1pm. Located at 1900 S.55<sup>th</sup> St just South of the entrance to Pierson Park. Enjoy hot dogs while you receive an exclusive tour of the station and perhaps discuss how you can launch a career in fire prevention.

The UG and their agencies are

hiring for a variety of positions. Check out the UG Career Portal, they may be able to match up your qualifications with job openings. One highlighted job is that of 911 Call Dispatchers. Part-time & full time positions and must be available to work on weekends and holidays. The operators receive complaints from the community, requests for services and operate dispatch services. Starting pay is \$21.27 per hour. UG Career Portal.

Lead to Read is looking for reading mentors. Help a student to learn to read during your lunch hour. Volunteer for 30 minutes once a week. Placed in high-need elementary schools. Contact leadtoread.org for more information. Several years ago, I participated in Youth Friends and mentored students in both the USD500 and Turner Schools district. It was a rewarding experience.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you.

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## UG Seeking Applicants for Ethics Commission Deadline is February 2, 2024

Kansas City, KS – Wyandotte County residents who have an interest in serving on the Ethics Commission for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/ Kansas City, Kansas should submit a written application to the Office of the Legislative Auditor by 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 2, 2024.

Applications Online- <http://tinyurl.com/2s46kmxu>

Applications By Mail- Interested parties should send their written application to: Reed Partridge | Legislative Auditor

Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas  
710 N. 7th Street, Suite 140  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

# Governor Kelly Announces Grocery Shoppers Can Expect an Additional \$150M in Tax Relief in 2024

## Kansans to See State Sales Tax Go Down on Food for Second Straight Year

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly announced that in 2024, consumers in the Sunflower State are projected to see an additional \$150 million in savings because of the “Axe the Food Tax” legislation she signed in 2022. According to projections from the Kansas Department of Revenue, the reduction of the state sales tax on groceries from 4% to 2% will save shoppers \$12.5 million per month in 2024.

“By taking a middle-of-the-road approach, we have been able to continue putting money back in the pockets of every Kansan,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “This reduction is a step toward eliminating the state sales tax on groceries completely, which will happen in 2025.”

After working tirelessly to put the state on solid financial footing, in 2021 Governor Kelly called on the Kansas Legislature to eliminate the state sales tax on groceries as soon as possible. The legislature ultimately passed legislation that gradually reduced the state sales tax on groceries over three years.

In 2023, the state sales tax rate on groceries went down from 6.5% to 4%, saving consumers \$187.7 million per year. By the end of 2024, it is projected that shoppers will have saved more than half a billion dollars in sales tax on groceries over the two years the reduction has been in place.

The state sales tax reduction applies to food, food ingredients, and certain prepared foods. When looking at a receipt, shoppers will



see two tax rates, one for qualifying purchases and one for all other items.

The reduction to the 2% state sales tax on qualifying items goes into effect on January 1, 2024.

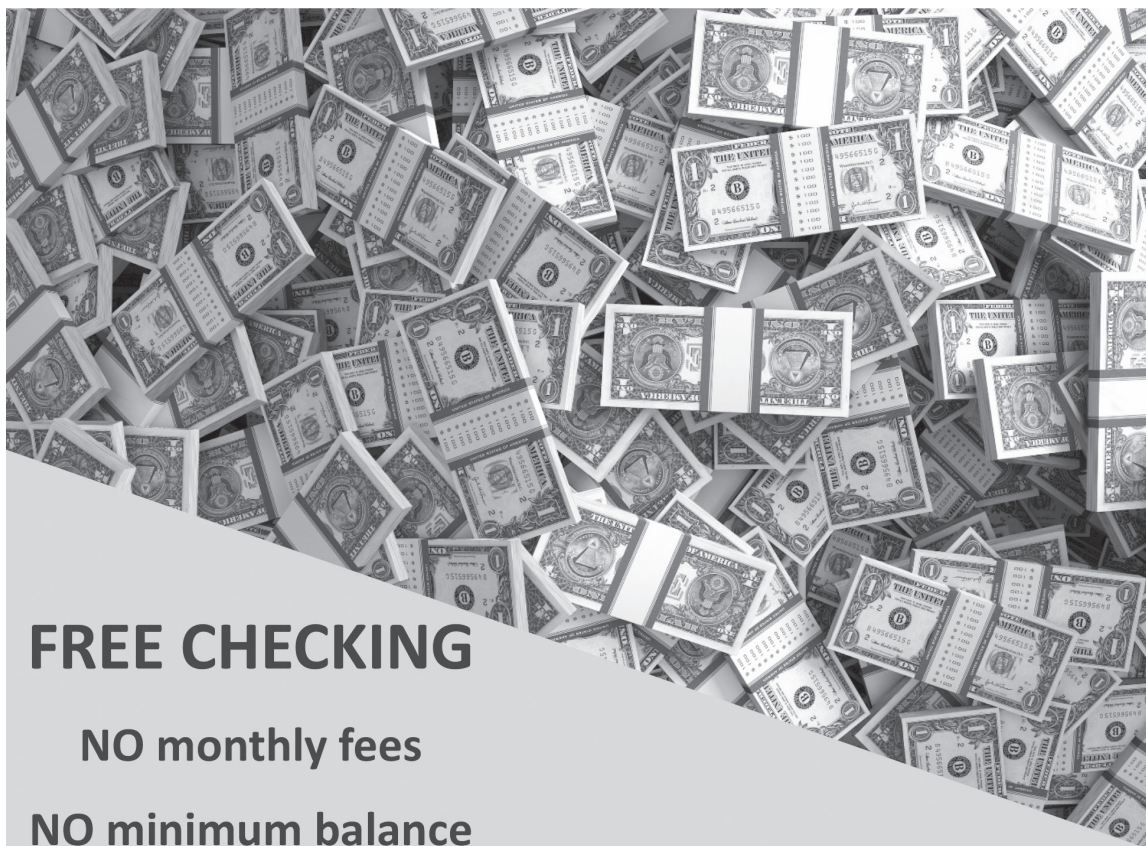
### Ethics Commission... ...from page 2

The Ethics Commission is composed of five members residing in Wyandotte County that are appointed by the Ad Hoc Ethics Commission Appointment Panel comprised of Robert P. Burns, Chief Judge of Wyandotte County District Court; Mark A. Dupree Sr., District Attorney of Wyandotte County; and Reed Partridge, Legislative Auditor of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

Members of the Ethics Commission are unpaid and must be a Wyandotte County resident and be of good moral standing and reputation. Ethics Commission members would serve one, 4-year term.

The purpose of the Ethics Commission shall be to recommend ways to improve the Unified Government’s Ethics Code, to review and report on any and all violations of the Code of Ethics, to render advisory opinions on questions of ethics, conflicts of interest, and the applicability of the Code of Ethics. The Ethics Commission currently meets monthly.

All applicants are required to include a brief written statement as to why he/she desires to serve on the Ethics Commission and a brief written resume accompanied by a listing of public service work. The contents of all applications shall be held in strict confidence by the Ad Hoc Panel.



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# Guest Editorial

## Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

Maine's decision to keep the former president's name off the ballot is nothing but election interference.

Statement by the Trump election campaign

There was ample due process in this proceeding, and they just lost by a straight, honest reading of the Fourteenth Amendment. Trump is in trouble.

John Dean, Former White House lawyer under Richard Nixon

The former president used a false narrative of election fraud to inflame his supporters and was aware of the likelihood of violence. At least, initially he, (Trump) supported its use given he both encouraged it with incendiary rhetoric and took no timely action to stop it.

Sheena Bellows, Maine Secretary of State

Last week, both States of Colorado and Maine took action to remove the former president's name off their state's ballots in 2024. They justified their decision to do so by referring to the Fourteenth Amendment, section 3 that bars those persons who previously took oaths to support the US Constitution and "Have engaged in insurrection" from holding office. Both states found that Trump's conduct on January 6 fell under this definition.

On January 6, Trump was told, before his speech, that snipers were seen up in trees along the park going up to the Capitol. He told his security detail to "leave them alone, they aren't here to hurt me, they're my supporters." It's obvious that he knew of their intention of violence.

Days prior to January 6, at a "strategizing" meeting for January 6, officers from the DC Park police made an instructional presentation. Trump, his staff, and Rally organizers were then advised by the

DC Park police that, "the permit for the Rally on January 6 does not authorize a march on January 6."

There's insufficient number of Park police to provide for adequate security on January 6. Any march on that day is strictly illegal. Ignoring the Park police warning of insufficient numbers of officers to protect the crowd, White House staff then take the Rally organizers out of doors and show them where they were to stand when it was time to start the illegal march to the US Capitol.

From the report made by the January 6 committee, President Trump had authority and responsibility to direct deployment of the National Guard in the District of Columbia, but never gave any orders to deploy the National Guard on January 6 or on any other day. Nor did he instruct any Federal law enforcement agency to take control of the chaos at the Capitol, reported by The Hill.

The January 6 committee also determined that there had been "genuine" concern that Trump might try to use the military for a coup attempt since he used the military to respond to racial justice protests in summer 2020.

Maj. General William Walker, head of the Washington DC National Guard was eventually given the permission to send in his troops after multiple calls made by House Speaker Pelosi and Senate leader, Chuck Schumer to the Pentagon.

According to the report of the January 6 committee, Trump was never involved in any of these calls. A clear case of dereliction of Duty.

The report also states that Trump also never gave the Pentagon orders to prepare the troops before January 6. Trump knew of the lack of security at the Rally, the DC Park police had told him so, just days before the events of January 6.

The former president really has no one to blame but, himself for his lack of prompt action. He didn't care that the crowd was chanting, "Hang Mike Pence!" And "where's

Nancy Pelosi?" The mob set up a gallows on the grounds of the Capitol.

With their decision to remove Trump's name from the election ballots, the former president is being held to account for his attempt to steal the election win from Joe Biden. More States are sure to follow and also clear his name from their State's election ballots. Trump is expected to appeal to the Supreme Court.

But, as noted by John Dean, the Supreme Court only has to take a "straight, honest reading of the Fourteenth Amendment" in order to reach the same decision.

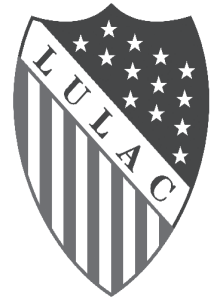
Over the weekend, Special

Counsel Jack Smith filed his opening brief in front of the United States Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. In his brief, Smith argues that the former president's claim of having presidential immunity pose a grave danger to the US Constitution and the rule of law in America. Smith clearly notes that this prosecution of the former president is historic in nature and the US Constitution with long standing precedent weigh against Trump's claims of absolute immunity.

Justice for Trump is slow in coming but, he is losing ground as former supporters learn of his actions and corruption while he was president.

## YOU are invited

Anyone who believes in the mission of The League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC is eligible to join us. Being part of the conversation will bring us together with all of society.



The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the largest and oldest Hispanic and Latino civil rights organization in the United States.[2]

It was established on February 17, 1929, in Corpus Christi, Texas, largely by Hispanics returning from World War I who sought to end ethnic discrimination against Latinos in the United States. The goal of LULAC is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health, and civil rights of Hispanic people in the United States. LULAC uses nationwide councils and group community organizations to achieve all these goals. LULAC has about 132,000 members in the United States.

Council 11085 has LULAC members in the counties of Douglas, Johnson and Wyandotte (Kansas) – Clay and Jackson (Missouri).

Join us at the monthly Zoom meetings – the second Saturday of each month at 2 p.m.

Rudy Padilla Email [opkansas@swbell.net](mailto:opkansas@swbell.net)

Maria Cristina Herrera [MariCriszap@gmail.com](mailto:MariCriszap@gmail.com)



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