



The Record

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Old Age Can Have Advantages

By Dr. Jim Haas

Like wines, some people improve with age, and some don't. The longest-lived president is Jimmy Carter, 99 (pictured at 96). Until a few years ago, he was still building houses for Habitat for Humanity. President Biden recently turned 81 while his likely opponent will soon turn 78. Will either of them be able to work long hours and manage the pressure while mastering the facts to make wise decisions that serve the common good?

As it happens, I'm exactly two months younger than President Biden and can write with authority about aging. I'm energetic but not as strong as I used to be, don't run as fast, and wear bifocals. I have a stent in my heart. I've adjusted: a healthier diet, regular gym workouts, not risking tall ladders or blasting 60 mph downhill on my racing bike. Mentally, I seem about as good as ever, though some might question how good that ever was. Likewise, I'm sure.

The President walks more slowly but also works out regularly and bicycles. He makes occasional speaking mistakes as when he recently referred to French President Macron as the late President Mitterrand. His unscripted comments are generally smooth, so any flaw gets instant attention.

Biden's likely opponent recently gave a speech where he repeatedly confused his primary opponent Nikki Haley with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and is often incoherent as when he claimed Democrats want to change the name of Pennsylvania, a notion with no evidence whatsoever and that had no relation to what he had been talking about. He's obese, but with no reports of him working out. He plays golf but usually rides a cart rather than walk.

From the medical community, Dr. Dhruv Khullar, a prominent health disparities expert, writes in the February 24 *New Yorker* that "In general, fluid intelligence—our ability to think creatively, reason abstractly, and learn new skills—declines with age, whereas crystallized intelligence, by which we integrate accumulated knowledge to solve problems and make decisions, tends to increase."

Crystallized intelligence grows from experience, and, for aging presidents, problem-solving and decision-making tends to be improved by *relevant experience*. The most relevant comes from long government service. Dr. Khullar also notes that aging can be very different. Some people "suffer a swift decline; some people stay sharp until the day they die."

Perhaps most important is a person's record of recent accomplishments. Both likely candidates' parties had control of Congress during their first two years as president. Under Trump, the economy continued to improve at roughly the same rate as it had under Obama, and the major legislative achievement was a huge tax cut nearly all of which went to the very rich. One newly-confirmed Supreme Court justice voted to take from women the right to make their own reproductive choices.

Biden's legislation included the first gun



violence bill in decades, the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act with COVID relief and improved Obamacare coverage, the Inflation Reduction Act, which included record investments in clean energy to combat climate change, the Bipartisan Infrastructure and Jobs Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act to boost research and manufacturing. The economy is booming with low inflation, the lowest unemployment in 50 years, and a record high stock market. The first Black woman Supreme Court justice was confirmed.

By nearly any measure, Biden's has been the most successful presidency in modern history. His long Congressional experience has helped as has his reliance on respected experts in science, economics, healthcare, and other crucial fields.

A solid track record, experience, and honesty matter more than age. Let's vote accordingly.



By Sharon Hoover

We all suffered through two years of covid restrictions and knew everybody was in the same boat. Now the Turner community will be hampered again. The removal of both Turner Diagonal bridges have cut us off to the west. Detours have us waiting for trains to pass so we can get back on it. Have you ever waited on a train to clear the road and then have your teeth shook out of your head when crossing the tracks? Metropolitan Ave Bridge is

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

being demolished this weekend to the east to Argentine District. I-635 is open, but when you are a senior citizen, Swartz entrance ramp to it is too short to enter safely. I don't drive on highways anyway. Now I understand the 18th St Expressway is also coming down from over the tracks to Ruby Ave. So, I will just stay home, shop in Turner or head over to Argentine by way of Swartz to 47th street to do business. I have more to say but I'll stop for now.

The Main Library is holding a gardening class on March 7 from 3-4 pm sponsored by The Farm School at Gibbs Road in conjunction with Let's

Grow Wyandotte. Edith Blakeney will teach community members how to grow vegetables in backyards and front yards. Recently NDSU had a Zoom presentation on incorporating vegetables in your flowerbeds entitled "How to Create Beautiful Flowerbeds and Landscapes Good Enough to Eat". It was recorded and is now available on the 2024 Field to Fork webpage.


Rosedale Development Association is looking for volunteers to join Green Team Workdays on the second Saturday of each month starting March 9 at Fisher Park. Arrive at 9:00 am to help clean litter, care for

fruit trees, remove invasive species, and restore Rosedale's green spaces. Contact Nancy@rosedale.org.

U. G.'s Liveable Neighborhoods is sponsoring Civic Connect, a four session series to connect community members with U. G. employees to learn about their departments, programs, and initiatives. Beginning March 12 and occurring on the second Tuesday of each month through June 11. Time from 5:30 -70pm. Other dates are April 9 & May 14. Food will be provided. Location: UG Neighborhood Resource Center, 4953 State Ave. KCK. For more info call 913-573-8737. To register: <https://forms.office.com/g/Qhrdqhnc6Z>.

Beginning March 1, Wyandotte County property owners will get their property valuation notices in the mail. The County Appraiser's office will hold informational sessions at Eisenhower Community Center March 4 at 6pm; in Argentine at the Joe Amayo Community Center on March 11 at 6pm and the Turner Recreation Center on March 13 at 6pm. Also, on Zoom at 10am on March 16, register at wycokck.org.

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



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**Carla Schubert, Section 504 Coordinator
Young Management Corporation 22602 State Line Road
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913-947-3131 - TTY: 711**

**What You Can
Do To Help Protect
Native Bees**

Over 80% of our native plants (and many crops!) are pollinated by bees that are native to North America. In this talk, Kristen Manion will explain the difference between native bees and honeybees, go over the many different families of North American bees, how native bees help native plants, and what you can do to help protect native bees.

Date: Thursday, March 7th, 2024, 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by: the Wyandotte County Extension Master Gardeners. Location: Wyandotte County Extension office, 1208 N. 79th Street, Kansas City KS.

Pre-registration is not needed. Fee: \$10 payable at the door (cash or check). Questions? Call 913-

SENATE NEWS



By Sen. Pat Pettey

Chiefs Celebration Ends in Devastation

Less than a week after Moms Demand Action volunteers visited the Capitol to advocate for gun safety, at least 22 people were shot and one person killed at the Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl celebration rally, marking the 48th mass shooting in the nation since January 1, 2024. My heart goes out to the family of Lisa Lopez-Galvan, a devoted wife, mother, avid Chiefs fan, DJ, and radio show host who lost her life in the shooting. Although I did not know Lisa personally, I have close friends who knew her and her family.

What should have been a day of celebration turned into a day of devastation. Kansas families should be able to celebrate in public without the threat of being shot. We can't continue to accept routine, preventable gun violence as normal. I believe in the right to bear arms, but I cannot support a constitutional amendment that expands what an arm is, which is exactly what SCR1618 wants to do. As a member of Grandparents for Gun Safety, I am more concerned about the safe storage of firearms. Making our state a safer place should not be political or divisive. I will continue to advocate for common-sense gun laws. Kansans are tired of words followed by inaction.

Thank you to the brave first responders who moved quickly to secure the scene. My thoughts go out to the families and loved ones of the victims.

This Week at the Capitol

Next week is turnaround – the midway marker for session and the deadline for most bills to clear their house of origin. With a few exceptions, bills that do not make it out of their first chamber will remain in committee and are considered “dead” for the session.

General Orders

The Senate met three days this week to consider twelve bills and one resolution. We also unanimously approved a resolution recognizing the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

I voted NO on SR 1737 for playing politics with the border crisis, and NO on SB 347 because it threatens to politicize a well-functioning process.

* Playing Politics with the Border crisis: On Tuesday, we took up Republican leadership's resolution asking Governor Laura Kelly to send the Kansas National Guard and law enforcement agencies to the southern border. Senate Democratic Leader Dinah Sykes offered an amendment urging our federal leaders to come together

and swiftly pass the bipartisan national security deal reached by the U.S. Senate. I supported Senator Sykes' amendment and the federal government's bipartisan efforts to offer solutions rather than playing politics with the border.

* Politicizing the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission: SB 347 requires the appointments to the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission to be subject to Senate confirmation. This bill would politicize a well-functioning process. If it passes, we could easily be in situations where commission appointments are subject to unnecessary partisan fights or are simply held up for unrelated reasons. I voted no on this bill, because I believe the Commission should stay apolitical and focused on providing

thoughtful feedback and expert, community-driven advice.

One bipartisan highlight from debate: excitement for the Heartland Flyer Passenger Rail Expansion!

* Expanding passenger rail service: SB 349 establishes the passenger rail service program to connect the Heartland Flyer Passenger Rail from Newton to Oklahoma City, unlocking business, educational, and cultural opportunities to Kansans and enabling our neighbors to the south to add to the Kansas economy. One of Kansas' greatest assets is that we are in the center of the country, which is why I'm proud to support rail projects like this to build on that strength!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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Petty

...from page 3

Committee Updates

Here is some committee work to keep an eye on as we wrap up meetings on Monday and Tuesday:

* **Kobach Targets Food Assistance:** Senate Health will hold a hearing on Monday on SB 488, a bill to give Attorney General Kris Kobach more power in auditing food and health assistance pro-

grams. This bill grows government by adding 20 positions to the AG's office and an annual budget of over \$2 million. These programs already have lengthy applications and oversight through KDHE and DCF. I oppose this bill, because increasing bureaucracy within Kansas's food assistance programs for families in need is wrong.

* **Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform:** Senate Judiciary held a hearing on SB 458, a bill to reform the system law enforcement agencies use to

seize millions of dollars annually in cash and property from people suspected, but not convicted, of crimes. My colleague Oletha Faust-Goudeau spoke in support of this bill, and efforts to make our state's civil asset forfeiture law more fair.

* **Anti-Vaccine Legislation:** Senate Health held hearings on two anti-vaccine bills this week: SB 390 and SB 391. These bills allow people to broadly opt out of immunizations, which defeats the strategy they rely on (herd immunity) and puts the lives of those who cannot receive such immunizations for medical reasons at serious risk of illness and death. Neither of these bills consider the health and safety of all Kansans. It is unfortunate that some people are still looking back to the pandemic instead of forward.

New Bills Introduced

Here are some bills of interest that have been introduced and referred to their respective committees.

* **Improving Teacher Retirement Plans:** My colleague Senator Cindy Holscher introduced SB 502, a bill to transfer Kansas teachers from KPERS III to KPERS II. By offering a more robust retirement plan, this bill would help to recruit and retain high quality teachers to work with students and families in Kansas. I'm proud to support it.

* **Fake Pregnancy Centers:** Republican Senator Renee Erickson introduced a bill to expand taxpayer funding for anti-abortion pregnancy centers. These centers don't provide a full range of health care, and their goal is to spread misinformation and propaganda. Kansas women and Kansas taxpayers deserve investment in real health care instead of these fake clinics.

* **More Government Overreach:** SB 512 prohibits insurance companies from using environmental, social and governance criteria in various processes. This is another culture war bill to address a non-existent problem. I oppose this bill, because I believe private companies should be left to make their own decisions on what they believe is best.

An Update on the Flat Tax

The flat tax veto override vote was once again delayed after Republican leadership failed to secure

the necessary votes. Support for the bill in both the Senate and the House remains uncertain. Republican Senator Caryn Tyson, the chair of the Senate Tax committee, announced she is holding tax relief for Kansas families hostage until a veto override is attempted.

Kansas families deserve better than these political games. I remain committed to passing tax relief for ALL Kansans – not just the super wealthy.

Add Your Name: Support Gun Safety Reform

This week, Senate Republicans introduced a constitutional amendment to be more protective of firearm ownership, and codify that any infringement on firearm rights would be subject to a "strict scrutiny" standard in the court.

A strict scrutiny standard would threaten to eliminate Kansas's most crucial public safety laws, including prohibitions on gun possession by convicted felons and domestic abusers. This poses a direct threat to Kansas public safety laws that protect our communities by keeping guns out of dangerous hands.

I oppose this bill, and I stand with the Kansas families, parents, and students calling for common sense gun reform. Instead of enshrining gun rights in the state constitution, we should pass Senate Bill 137, which would require that a firearm must be securely stored when not under the owner's immediate access and control.

You can help. If you agree that we need to pass common sense gun reform instead of expanding access to guns, add your name to my petition.

Governor Kelly Announces Budget Amendment to Increase Funding for Intellectual/Developmental Disability and Physical Disability Waivers

Last week, Governor Kelly announced an amendment to her budget to invest over \$23 million to reduce wait times for essential disability services. The investment will create 250 new slots for both the Intellectual/Developmental (I/DD) and Physical Disability (PD) waivers – over 500 slots total. This is an important win for Kansans with disabilities.

LEGAL PUBLICATION

LEGAL PUBLICATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: RFP 24-006 – Fiber Optic Cable (JC Harmon HS) E-Rate. Sealed bids should be addressed to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66109 - "RFP 24-006 – Fiber Optic Cable - JC Harmon HS". Proposals will be opened 03/21/24 @ 2 PM in the Purchasing Office. Bid Documents are available at the Purchasing Department Office, at the above-address between 8 AM and 4 PM, M-F. Bid Documents are posted on the District's Purchasing Site: <https://vrapp.vendorregistry.com/Bids/View/BidsList?BuyerId=c00af89d-f6af-4f0e-b823-f145c898cc06>

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1t-The Record-2-29-24

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: RFP 24-007 – Fiber Optic Cable (Wyandotte HS & Washington HS) E-Rate. Sealed bids should be addressed to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66109 - "RFP 24-007 – Fiber Optic Cable - WYHS & WAHS". Proposals will be opened 03/21/24 @ 2 PM in the Purchasing Office. Bid Documents are available at the Purchasing Department Office, at the above-address between 8 AM and 4 PM, M-F. Bid Documents are posted on the District's Purchasing Site: <https://vrapp.vendorregistry.com/Bids/View/BidsList?BuyerId=c00af89d-f6af-4f0e-b823-f145c898cc06>

(First published 2-29-24)
1t-The Record-2-29-24

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:

The Board of Education, Unified School District No. 500, Kansas City, KS will accept sealed bids for: RFP 24-008 – LAN Switches E-Rate. Sealed bids should be addressed to: Purchasing Department, Board of Education, 2010 N. 59th Street, Room 370, Kansas City, KS 66109 - "RFP 24-008 – LAN Switches". Proposals will be opened 03/21/24 @ 2 PM in the Purchasing Office. Bid Documents are available at the Purchasing Department Office, at the above-address between 8 AM and 4 PM, M-F. Bid Documents are posted on the District's Purchasing Site: <https://vrapp.vendorregistry.com/Bids/View/BidsList?BuyerId=c00af89d-f6af-4f0e-b823-f145c898cc06>

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Guest Editorial

Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

I want my Republican colleagues to show the American people that you are serious. Vote to add these names to the Contempt order and show the American people that we apply the law equally - not just when it's the Democrats, right? It's a crime when it's Democrats but, when it's Trump and the Republicans, it's just fine.

No, show that you're serious and that no one is above the law. I'll vote for the Hunter contempt today. There's an amendment coming to add these names into the Contempt order:

Here is a Subpoena to Scott Perry, who did not comply. I'd like to enter this into the record. Here is a Subpoena to Mark Meadows, who did not comply. I'd like to enter this into the record. Here is the Subpoena to Jim Jordan, who did not comply with a lawful Subpoena and I'd like to enter that into the record. Here is the Subpoena to Mo Brooks, who did not comply. I'd like to enter that into the record. Here is the Subpoena to Andrew Biggs, who did not comply. I'd like to enter that into the record. And here is the Subpoena to Kevin McCarthy, who did not comply. I'd like to enter this into the record.

Rep. Jared Moskowitz (D- FL)

Newsweek, February 2024

All are of course, Republican House members. Some are House committee chairs, and one was even House Speaker. All are in contempt of Congress for failing to testify before the House. They learned to ignore lawful Subpoenas by the example set by the former president. When White House lawyers were sent a Subpoena during the Special Counsel's investigation into Trump's ties to Russia,

Trump instructed them to ignore the Subpoenas. Likewise, when the January 6 committee sent Subpoenas to former White House staff, Trump called them all and told them to just ignore the Subpoena!

MIKE JOHNSON, SPEAKER OF

THE HOUSE GASLIGHTS THE PUBLIC

Last week on MSNBC, Andrew Weisman is a guest to fact check the Republican Speaker 's recent false comments.

Speaker Mike Johnson: President Biden handled classified materials in a way that presented a "serious risk" to national security. He broke the law, but he's not going to be charged. Why is that?

From this comment it would be easy to imagine that President Biden

had committed a felony. He did not, and Andrew Weisman, former general counsel for the FBI and MSNBC legal analyst explains:

"Speaker Johnson's remarks are simply plain, not true. The report says on page one, "We conclude that the evidence does Not establish Mr. Biden is guilty beyond a shadow of a doubt."

That is the legal standard for a criminal case. There is simply no case. The report says that there are "innocent " explanations for the conduct that Special Counsel Robert Hur says he "cannot refute.

Mr. Weisman goes on: "But wait, because there's more.

The report says that there are innocent explanations for which he has affirmative evidence to support."

Mr. Weisman continues:

So people need to stop saying that the report concluded that the president committed a felony. There may be many things about the report, one way or another, that people want to point to, but they should start by actually reading the report and dealing with the actual facts as to what was found and what was not found.

The Congress is in chaos and it's very much due to the lies that Republicans tell the US public. This is no way to serve the people and it is so very harmful to our national unity.

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