



The Record

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Number 11

Immigration



Naturalization ceremony for new citizens

By Dr. Jim Haas

We need workers. Immigrants want jobs. We have jobs. It's a match.

As in nearly all developed countries, the U.S. birthrate is too low to produce enough new workers to replace retirees. We need electricians, plumbers, physicians, nurses, teachers, auto mechanics, food service workers, school bus drivers, carpenters, and on and on.

Fortunately, immigrants are the answer. Unfortunately, America has an ugly history of bigoted immigration policies. In 1884, the Chinese Exclusion Act prohibited Chinese immigration less than 20 years after Chinese were recruited and shipped here to help build the transcontinental railroad, including the most difficult part over the Sierras, where they were found to be reliable and hard workers who didn't drink. Other Asian immigrants were severely restricted during the early 20th century.

In 1921, a quota system was introduced to deny entry to most southern and eastern Europeans—Italians, Poles, Jews, and others—who wanted to escape conflict and poverty at

home. It was a time when a popular belief in eugenics claimed these “separate and inferior races” would lower the quality and dilute the blood of an America populated mostly by those of supposedly “superior” western European ancestry. Hitler used America's policies as models and made eugenics part of Nazi ideology. Here, white supremacists used eugenics-based immigration policies to largely freeze America's racial and ethnic makeup until Congress and President Johnson ended the bigoted quota system with the Nationality Act of 1965.

The Vietnam War led to a wave of Southeast Asians emigrating to the U.S., and the 1980 Refugee Act created a legal process for accepting refugees. The Immigration Act of 1990 allowed for 675,000 migrants annually and, along with the Nationality Act, form the basis of today's system.

Currently, our immigration system works slowly, overwhelmed by the number of refugees, many from South and Central America, fleeing violence and/or poverty in their home countries. Courts that rule on asylum status

are understaffed and years behind. Still, we're having some success: Legal immigration is now higher than eight years ago, and more refugees will be resettled this year than any year in the last thirty.

A bipartisan immigration reform bill passed the Senate in 2013 but failed in the Republican-led House. Last month, another bipartisan reform bill with largely Republican policies clearly had enough votes to pass both Houses and have the President sign it, but the GOP presidential candidate in Florida ordered Republicans to block it so he can run on immigration as a campaign issue. Meanwhile, many migrants and their families remain in limbo, their future uncertain and their present anxious.

Our immigration system needs fixing with a clear path to citizenship including for Dreamers—young people who came here as children, attended our schools, and are, in effect, Americans. We also need a support system so that immigrants can get the education and training to enable them to become the workers we need. (Immigration is not border security, an associated issue which attempts to prevent undesirable people and materials—criminals, drugs, non-native plants, etc.—from entering the country. The bipartisan reform bill currently blocked by Republicans would add thousands of personnel and other measures to improve border security.)

A commission summarized the 1990 Immigration Act's purposes: “A well-regulated system sets priorities for admission; facilitates nuclear family reunification; gives employers access to a global labor market while protecting U.S. workers; helps to generate jobs and economic growth; and fulfills our commitment to resettle refugees as one of several elements of humanitarian protection of the persecuted.” The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that over the next decade, immigrants will add \$7 trillion to our economy and pay \$1 trillion in taxes because of increased productivity and higher demand. Let's welcome them to our communities.



By Sharon Hoover

This is the time for wearing of the Green. TRC's Elderbears St. Patrick's Day Potluck is March 20, 2024, at 12:00 pm in the Bears Den. Bring your favorite dish and a friend for we will be playing BINGO. 831 S. 55th St. KCK.

Turner Community Connections. Getty Grove and South Turner Neighborhood Associations are hosting a program entitled "Fentanyl Awareness" on March 21 at 7:00 pm at Bristol Hill Methodist

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

Church. Captain Shawn McGee of the KCKPD will present this educational program. 4826 County Line Road

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live. This year's training will be at City Hall's Emergency Operations Center on March 22 (6:00pm-10:00pm); March 23 (8:00am-5:00pm) and March 24 (1:00pm-5:00pm). The training covers topics such as fire safety, light search and rescue,

team organization, disaster medical operations, disaster psychology and disaster preparation. The class is free and provides a lot of great skills that can be helpful in both pre-and post-disasters. To register go to wycokck.org, then type in Search - Community Emergency Response Team Training.

On March 25 attend a Homeowners Resource Fair at City Hall from 5:00pm-8:00pm. Multiple resources will be available to homeowners that can help with the cost of home ownership. Learn about code enforcement, home-based

business, landlord and tenants' rights, home repair programs, garage sale permits, services for caregivers and seniors, tax rebate programs, short-term rentals, and much more. Representatives from the Appraiser's office will also hold an informational session from 6:00pm-7:30pm including the appeal process.

Walk Kansas is taking registration for this year's program. The date for the walk is March 31-May 25. Gather some friends together to form a team and register. <https://www.walkkansasonline.org/>. For more information locally contact Lori Wuellner at the K-State extension office: 913 299 9300 or lwuellne@ksu.edu.

I am currently reading "Life After Power" Seven Presidents and Their Search for Purpose Beyond the White House" by Jared Cohen. This is the second historical non-fiction book I've read in the last month, and I find I am really enjoying reading about our real past. The Presidents are Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, Grover Cleveland, William Howard Taft, Herbert Hoover, Jimmy Carter, and George W. Bush. Each went in his own way- from founding a university, serving on the Supreme Court, advancing humanitarian rights, to walking completely away from politics.

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

County Offers New Walk-In Hours and Services

The Wyandotte County Public Health Department (WYCO PHD) announced new walk-in hours and new clinical service offerings.

New Walk-In Hours on Fridays, 8:30am to 3:30pm

Starting March 8, WYCO PHD will offer walk-ins for select health services every Friday from 8:30am to 3:30pm, at 619 Ann Ave, Kansas City, KS 66101. Walk-in services include:

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**Carla Schubert, Section 504 Coordinator
Young Management Corporation 22602 State Line Road
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SENATE NEWS



By Sen. Pat Pettey

It's Turnaround Time!

This Week at the Capitol: Halfway Through

We are halfway through the regular legislative session. The Senate spent four days on the floor this past week working almost 50 pieces of legislation. These bills now move on to the House for consideration.

Moving forward, the Senate can only consider legislation that has either been passed by the House, or has already been introduced in—or re-referred to—an exempt Senate committee. These committees are Assessment & Taxation, Federal & State Affairs, and Ways & Means. Legislators will take a short break and return to work on Wednesday, February 28, when we will begin working on House bills in committees.

With little time left in the session, I encourage you to contact me with any concerns or questions you have about bills or committee meetings. You can reach me at 785-296-7375 or pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov

I was pleased to welcome pages from Argentine Middle School in Kansas City Kansas Public Schools on February 21. Pictured with me are Nataly Mencia, Jessenia Carreon, Jasmine Rodriguez, Pierre Mitchell, Adan Rodriguez, and Bryan Contreras, all 8th graders at AMS.

General Orders

The majority of the legislation we passed this week was non-controversial and good public policy. That said, there were two especially dangerous bills that I opposed which endanger public health.

Two of the bills that I was proud to support include:

SB430: This bill would reform our worker's compensation system, which is currently the least generous in the country to injured

workers. Notable, it would increase the lifetime cap on benefits from \$110,000 to \$400,000 and index that amount to inflation. The law also streamlines the system so workers can progress through the system quicker, changes the way the law interacts with Social Security so injured workers don't see their benefits drop as significantly if they earn a Social Security check, and increases the death benefit from \$300,000 to \$500,000.

SB172: Increasing the KPERS lump sum death benefit from \$4,000 to \$6,000.

There were, however, two troubling public health related bills that passed the Senate.

SB391: This bill greatly weakens a core function of public health,

which is to prevent the spread of diseases. It would eliminate the ability of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and county health officers to issue quarantine and isolation orders, so that state and local health officials would not be able to respond as quickly or as effectively to disease outbreaks.

SB352: This bill endangers the health and safety of patients in Kansas hospitals by prohibiting hospitals from limiting visitor access even during an infectious disease outbreak. This creates obvious dangers in trying to maintain safety standards and puts the health of other patients and hospital staff at risk.

Turnaround Update: The Good

and the Bad

We hit a key legislative deadline this week. While this is not a comprehensive list, here are a few of the best--and worst--bills advancing at the State Capitol.

More Work to Be Done Flat Tax Failure

This entire legislative session, Republican leadership has been holding tax relief for Kansas families hostage to their unpopular flat tax plan. The Senate Tax chair has repeatedly stated that she will not work any tax relief bills until a veto override is attempted.

Last week, the Republican-led Kansas House failed to override Governor Kelly's veto of the flat

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Guest Editorial

Quotes To Ponder

By Tom Valverde

Well, of course, Donald Trump alleges that everything was an official act. The Special Counsel, Jack Smith is at the other end. If the Supreme Court had any interest in satisfying the public need to get this trial going and to have a verdict before the election, they would have asked a narrower question. Or, simply ask whether a president criminally seeking to extend his stay in office beyond the end of his term -- has absolute immunity from prosecution for crimes committed in that vein. That would have been

the right question to ask.

And it could only have one answer "...

Essentially, everyone knows where the story has to end. When a president is in office and tries to remain in office after losing an election and commits crimes that are involved in that. That he is forever immune from prosecution, that is what would have to happen to give this president immunity. "Basically, the American people are confronted with a Supreme Court that is suppressing evidence that they need in order to decide, intelligently, whether the person

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County Services...

...from page 2

- Birth control, including long-acting birth control options
- Well-woman exams
- Sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment
- Immunizations for children and adults

Services are also available by appointment, Monday through Thursday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. Call the WYCO PHD main number to make an appointment: (913) 573-8855.

Additionally, WYCO PHD offers free health-related supplies every day between 8:30am and 5:00pm, no appointment needed. Free supplies available include condoms, Narcan (naloxone), fentanyl test strips, and COVID at-home test kits.

Expanded Services Available by Appointment

WYCO PHD now offers treatment for common symptoms and health conditions. These services

are provided at a flat fee, with no insurance needed. To make an appointment for WYCO PHD's new services, call (913) 573-5131. Same day appointments are offered as availability allows.

New services for adults ages 18 and older include:

- Skin symptoms, including rash, small wounds, bug bites, and common skin conditions
- Ear, nose, and throat, such as ear infections and mild upper respiratory symptoms
- Other common conditions, such as conjunctivitis (pink eye) and urinary tract infections
- Pre-employment physicals

New services for people ages 12 and older include sports and camp physicals.

People who live anywhere in Wyandotte County are eligible for a free ride to and from their appointment for clinical services. Ask about free transportation when calling to make an appointment. Please note: transportation must be set up 24 hours in advance.

Petty

...from page 3

tax proposal. Now that the flat tax has failed for the second year in a row, it's time to have honest conversations about providing tax relief for all Kansans.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass responsible tax cuts that support working families!

A Better Path Forward for Kansas

Since the legislative session began last month, it feels like we've spent a majority of the time focusing on the most controversial bills -- like the flat tax proposal.

This week I wanted to re-highlight the good bills that I support, some of which are now considered dead after Republican leadership failed to advance them before the turnaround deadline. The following list isn't comprehensive, but gives a good sense of the positive change that is possible for our state.

* Making childcare more affordable: SB 264 would increase the existing income tax credit amount for household and dependent care expenses. SB 436 creates a state child tax credit. Under this bill, families making \$25,000 or less annually would receive a \$600 refundable credit per qualifying child, and the credit amount would decrease as adjusted gross income increases. Kansas thrives when our families thrive. These two bills help to ensure that all Kansas children have their basic needs met.

* Stopping book bans: Books help young people understand themselves and make sense of their world. That's why I'm proud to support SB 358, which would curb book challenges in school and public libraries. The bill prohibits books from being removed based on partisan or doctrinal beliefs.

* Food Sales Tax: SB 429 would reduce the state sales tax on groceries. This bill will save Kansans money and support our economy.

* Tampon Tax: SB 435, provides a sales tax exemption for period

products, diapers and incontinence products. These products are essential and should be recognized as material basic needs rather than luxury goods.

* Expand Newborn Screening Services: Every parent and every newborn Kansan deserves high-quality care and a healthy start to life. SB 139 expands newborn screening services, allowing parents the opportunity to protect their babies from the preventable complications of undiagnosed disorders.

* Supporting our minority, disadvantaged, disabled veterans: SB 464, creates the Kansas minority, woman, disadvantaged and service-disabled veteran small business enterprise development act. These veterans sacrificed to protect our country and our values. Supporting them is the right thing to do.

Blessed Bills

Any Senate Bills introduced in committee that have not passed out of the Senate at this point are considered dead. The exception is bills introduced in or referred to the Assessment & Taxation, Federal & State Affairs, and Ways & Means committees. On the final day of session this week, leadership "blessed" -- referred from their original committees to one of those exempt committees -- 20 bills, including the following:

* Kobach Targets Food Assistance: SB 488 would give Attorney General Kris Kobach more power in auditing food and health assistance programs. I oppose this bill, because increasing bureaucracy within Kansas's food assistance programs for families in need is wrong.

* Private School Vouchers: Once again, a private school voucher proposal is moving through the legislature. Senate Bill 469 would divert state funding from public schools and the vast majority of Kansas students who attend them. Pouring taxpayer dollars into private schools will not help Kansas kids, but it will hurt our public schools and communities.

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Guest Editorialfrom page 6

they are voting for is guilty of the extreme felony of trying to steal an election to remain in office.

That is an unconscious able way of proceeding, yet, that is what the Supreme Court has "arranged" by the way it has managed this case. This is a formula for indefinite delay... this is a way of making it a much more complicated case... where the bottom line, at the end of all this back and forth is clearly evident.

The president can't have the absolute immunity to steal an election, by obstructing the proceedings of Congress. Up to and including fomenting violence. That can't be immune from prosecution.

Laurence Tribe
Harvard Law School
Professor

I think that this is part of a frivolous argument. This is a case, if you thought there might be some circumstance where a president, could be immune with respect to certain actions that he has taken within his or her official capacity -- This is certainly not the case.

When you are dealing with the crimes that are alleged here, which is illegally staying in office." (after losing an election). That is an absolute violation of the Constitution! And so, I think this is really improvident.

And by granting this stay, the Supreme Court is saying that he is de facto** immune. I don't think that they should have taken the case.

Andrew Weisman former Federal
Prosecutor and MSNBC
Legal Analyst

This is not a hard case. Donald Trump's arguments here are in a technical, legal word, "absurd" and the Supreme Court shouldn't take much time to decide.

Neal Katyal
Former Solicitor General, Professor of
Law at Georgetown
University
MSNBC Legal analyst

The former president stacked many courts with people who would be loyal to him. This also includes the Supreme Court and it is very evident that they are trying to assist him by causing delay in this important case.

Ultimately, Trump has proven himself to be a loyal friend to Vladimir Putin. So much of his words and actions are meant to divide the US.

And he's been an asset to Putin in carrying out the "taking" of America without any kind of invasion. If not checked all of the current chaos in the government could lead the US to its destruc-

tion from within as Khrushchev warned almost 70 years ago.

This is why President Biden has, from day one, tried to govern in a bi-partisan way. President Biden tells Americans that there is nothing beyond our capacity, nothing that can't be accomplished, if, "We all work together." There's no greater message than this, at this time.

Baseless investigations by the Republican-led Congress are a distraction from the work they should be doing. And during an election year, these investigations are clearly just a tactic to smear President Biden.

They've brought their own experts in to testify for impeaching the president. And all of their "experts" have agreed that there's no case for impeachment.

President Biden is not guilty of committing "High crimes and misdemeanors." The Republicans have shown themselves to be totally Inept to govern and to provide for the common good. Their blind allegiance to the corrupt ex-president will be written about for decades by historians.

We don't know the half of their malfeasance!

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BUFFET: Fried & Oven Roasted Chicken, Shredded BBQ Brisket, 4 sides, roll, dessert & beverages (iced tea, coffee & water). **(ABSOLUTELY No Food or Beverages can be brought into the Reunion Event!)**

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