



Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau's 2019 Legislative Update: First Adjournment Edition News & Information for the people of the 29th District

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Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The 2019 Legislative Session reached first adjournment on Friday, April 5. After a short, unpaid break, legislators return May 1 for Veto Session. During Veto Session, the Legislature must pass a budget. Exempt bills, conference committee reports, and any vetoes by the Governor can be considered as well.

Also, on May 1, the Senate will take up a motion to bring Medicaid expansion to the floor for debate. I look forward to supporting this motion.

This year, I am honored to have been elected to serve as the Assistant Minority Leader, filling a vacancy created with the election of Laura Kelly as Governor. I am the first African American woman to hold this position.

It is truly an honor to serve you. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact me by phone at home at 316-652-9067 or by e-mail at oletha29th@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Oletha Faust-Goudeau, District 29 State Senator

Meet My Staff

My new administrative assistant, Trudy Kelly, was a paralegal in the Topeka area for 30 years. She retired four years ago. She and her husband, Kirk, have two children and three grandchildren. My Legislative interns, Mayela Campa and Wesley Collins (not pictured), are both students at Washburn University.



Election Bills Signed Into Law



Governor Kelly signed into law two bills I introduced that make positive changes to elections. They are: Senate Bill 130, which requires county election officers to make an attempt to contact each voter who submitted an advance ballot without a signature or a with a signature that does not match the signature on file and **allow the voter to correct their signature** before the final county canvass; and, Senate Bill 129 allows all voters in a county to **vote at any polling place** on election day, at the discretion of the county election official.

Pictured here with Tabitha Lehman, Sedgwick County Elections Commissioner

Housing protections for victims of domestic violence heads to Governor Kelly

The statistics surrounding domestic violence are staggering. 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some sort of physical violence by an intimate partner. According to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over half of the homicides of American women are related to domestic violence; almost all of the victims die at the hands of their romantic partner.

We often hear people question why a victim of domestic violence doesn't just leave their abuser. The reality is, it's not that easy. For many victims, they have nowhere else to go or they fear repercussions from their landlords, if they break their rental agreements.

I co-sponsored legislation that provides housing protections to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking. Specifically, Senate Bill 150 prohibits applicants from being denied on the basis of the fact that the applicant is or has been in imminent danger of becoming a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking or stalking so long as the applicant otherwise qualifies for occupancy.

The bill passed the Senate unanimously in March. The House held a hearing on it, but took no additional action. During a Conference Committee, the bill was added to the Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 78. It passed the Senate 36-1 and the House 100 to 23. The bill now heads to the Governor for final approval. This is a bill that will save lives.

School Funding Update

Governor Kelly signed into law Saturday the school finance plan that passed both chambers Thursday with great support. After days of tense negotiations, the House agreed to run the Senate's position on school finance – Governor Kelly's plan to increase funding by \$90 million to adjust for inflation as instructed by the Kansas Supreme Court's ruling last year. It is also what the Kansas State Board of Education proposed last summer.

BASE AID FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE (SY 2019-2020 through SY 2022-2023)			
School Year	Current Law	House Sub. for SB 16	
2019-2020	\$ 4,302	\$ 4,436	
2020-2021	4,439	4,569	
2021-2022	4,576	4,706	
2022-2023	4,713	4,846	

The new law outlines the base state aid per pupil for the next four years (see chart on the right) and allocates funding to adjust for inflation for the next two years. It also establishes that future spending increases will be set by a rolling average of the consumer price index (CPI). Specifically, for USD 259 Wichita Public Schools, it will result in more than \$19 million in additional funding for next school year.

Briefs were due to the Kansas Supreme Court by April 15 Responses briefs were due April 25. Oral arguments are May 9. A decision is expected sometime in June.

Motion to Debate Medicaid Expansion

Senate Democratic Leader Anthony Hensley made a motion just before first adjournment to withdraw House Bill 2066, which establishes the KanCare Bridge to a Health Kansas program, from the Committee on Public Health and Welfare and place it on the calendar to be debated when we return. The House passed HB 2066 back in March on a vote of 69-54.

Senate Republican leaders, President Susan Wagle and Majority Leader Jim Denning, control the debate calendar in the Senate. However, Senate rules allow for overriding leadership if 24 of 40 members agree to withdraw a bill from committee. Such action will allow for debate and vote on Medicaid expansion in the Kansas Senate this legislative session.

36 states and the District of Columbia have expanded Medicaid. Kansas has forgone more than \$3 billion in taxpayer dollars that would have come to our state had we expanded Medicaid in 2014. Instead, it has gone to other states.

The Republican leadership wants to study the issue over the 2019 interim. Further study is not needed. There have been numerous legislative hearings and local and regional stakeholder meetings to explore the benefits and risks of expanding Medicaid over the past five years.

It takes 24 votes for the motion to pass. The vote on the motion is scheduled for 10 a.m. on May 1. I look forward to supporting the motion.

Sponsored Legislation

In addition to the elections bills that were signed into law as discussed on the previous page, I introduced the following pieces of legislation this year:

Kansas Reinvestment Act: SB 5 provides financial assistance to small businesses and community organizations in impoverished communities.

Performance-based contracts: SB 6 requires DCF to institute a number of prevention and early intervention services for families that are at risk of out-of-home placement.

Unemployment for school bus drivers: SB 38 authorizes privately contracted school bus drivers to apply for unemployment during the summer. A hearing was held in March, but no additional action was taken.

Domestic violence: SB 215 increases penalties for domestic battery and amending child endangerment to include domestic battery in the presence of a child.

State Resources:

Governor's Office	800-748-4408	Insurance Hotline	800-432-2484
Attorney General	888-428-8436	Legislative Hotline	800-432-3924
Department on Aging	800-432-3535	Mental Health Services	888-582-3759
Child Abuse Hotline	800-922-5330	Department of Revenue	877-526-7738
Child & Family Svcs.	785-296-4653	School Safety Hotline	877-626-8203
Consumer Protection	800-432-2310	Unclaimed Property	800-432-0386
Crime Victim Assist.	800-828-9745	Unemployment	785-296-5074
Driver License Bureau	785-296-3963	Vital Statistics	785-296-1400
Kansas Health Wave	800-792-4884	Voter Registration	785-296-4561
Hwy Road Conditions	800-585-7623	Welfare Fraud Hotline	800-432-3913
Housing Hotline	800-752-4422	Workers' Comp	800-332-0353

Local Resources:

Aging Office	316-660-7298	District Court	316-660-5900
County Appraiser	316-660-9261	Emergency Mgmt.	316-660-5959
County Clerk	316-660-9222	Health Department	316-660-7300
County Commission	316-660-9300	County Manager	316-660-9393
County Personnel	316-660-7050	County Park	316-943-0192
County Register of Deeds	316-660-9400	Public Works	316-383-7901
County Sheriff	316-383-7264	Recycling Services	316-660-7200
County Treasurer	316-660-9110	Election Commissioner	316-660-7100
District Attorney	316-660-3600	Zoning & Codes	316-660-1840