



# Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau's 2018 Legislative Update: Wrap-Up Edition News & Information for the people of the 29th District

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## Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The 2018 Legislative Session officially adjourned on May 4 after 90 days. Bipartisan collaboration once again led to positive steps taken to continue our state on the path to recovery.

We passed a school finance fix that is a step in the right direction. There is still more work that needs to be done to ensure all Kansas children have access to a good education. The Kansas Supreme Court has heard oral arguments in the case and are going to be announcing their decision regarding whether the law the Legislature passed is constitutional.

Monthly revenue continues to come in above estimates. As a result, legislators were able to restore some fiscal responsibility for the state by passing a budget that includes investing in shared priorities of Kansans. This is further proof that overturning the reckless policies of the Brownback/Colyer administration was the right thing to do. There is still much more work to be done, but I am proud to be part of it.

With the session officially adjourned, I have returned home and look forward to spending some quality time out in our community. Please feel free to contact me by phone at home at 316-652-9067 or by e-mail at oletha29th@aol.com.

As always, it is truly an honor and a privilege to serve you.

Sincerely,

*Oletha Faust-Goudeau*

Oletha Faust-Goudeau, District 29 State Senator

## Bills Signed into Law

The 2018 Legislature passed a number of good bills this year. Here are a few that may be of interest to you:

- **Elections** – HB 2539 amends the qualifications for candidacy for several statewide elected offices, creates law requiring manual audits of elections, amends law related to the timing of the election canvasses and to electronic voting machines, and if the voter has a disability that prevents the individual from signing allows another person to sign. The language pertaining to disabilities came from a bill I introduced.
- **Worker's Comp** – S Sub for HB 2184 amends workers compensation death benefits by increasing the initial payment from \$40,000 to \$60,000. It also increases the maximum benefit from \$18,500 to \$100,000.
- **Transportation Task Force** – H Sub for SB 391 establishes the Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force, responsible for studying Kansas' transportation system and making recommendations for improving Kansas roads and highways.
- **Lobbyist Transparency** – SB 394 increases transparency in state government by requiring individuals lobbying the executive and judicial branches to register as lobbyists and follow reporting requirements as outlined by law.
- **Industrial Hemp** – SB 263 enacts the Alternative Crop Research Act, which allows the Kansas Department of Agriculture and a state institution of higher education to grow and cultivate industrial hemp and promote the research and development of it.
- **Gun Prohibition** – HB 2145 prohibits possession of a firearm by individuals who are fugitives from justice; illegally or unlawfully in the United States; convicted of a misdemeanor for a domestic violence offense within the past five years; or are subject to court orders restraining them from harassing, stalking, or threatening an intimate partner, child, or child of an intimate partner.
- **Compensation for Wrongfully Convicted** – HB 2579 establishes that a claimant entitled to damages would receive \$65,000 for each year of imprisonment, as well as not less than \$25,000 for each additional year served on parole or post-release supervision or each additional year the claimant was required to register as an offender under the Kansas Offender Registration Act, whichever is greater.
- **Police Body Cameras** – H Sub for SB 336 adds an attorney for an heir to the list of persons who may request to view a law enforcement recording. It also allows an heir to include an administrator; the spouse, a living adult child; or, if there is no living spouse or adult child, a living parent of a decedent. The bill passed unanimously.
- **Protection from Abuse** – HB 2524 allows a court to issue an order directing a wireless services provider to transfer the billing responsibility for and rights to the wireless telephone number or numbers to the petitioner, if the petitioner is not the account holder to ensure the petitioner may maintain their existing wireless telephone numbers.
- **Dyslexia Task Force** – HB 2602 establishes the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia, which will advise and make recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Kansas State Board of Education regarding matters concerning the use of evidence-based practices for students with dyslexia.
- **'SWATTING'** – HB 2581 is in response to the tragic 'SWATTING' incident in Wichita; it updates definitions of a false alarm and increases the penalty to a level 1 felony if death results from the response by emergency services.
- **Hot Car Rescues** – HB 2516 creates law providing immunity from civil liability for damage to a motor vehicle for a person who enters the vehicle, by force or otherwise, to remove a vulnerable person or domestic animal.
- **Civil Asset Forfeiture** – HB 2459 creates and amends law related to civil asset forfeiture by establishing the Kansas Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Repository, which creates reporting requirements and other related regulations.
- **Missing Children Open Records** – H Sub for SB 336 requires the release of the detailed information when child abuse or neglect results in a child fatality and a request is made under KORA. The bill passed unanimously.
- **Amusement Rides** – H Sub SB 307 and SB 310 define terms related to amusement park rides and sets out new provisions. All amusement rides, including temporary, limited-use rides, must have a permit in order to operate. The bill sets prices for the permits and information required by the permit application.

## Important Dates

- July 17, 2018** – Last day to register to vote for Primary
- July 18, 2018** – Advance ballots begin mailing
- July 23, 2018** – Early voting in Election Office begins at 8a.m.
- August 7, 2018** – Primary Election Day
- October 16, 2018** – Last day to register to vote in General Election
- October 17, 2018** – Advance ballots begin mailing
- October 22, 2018** – Early voting in the Election Office begins at 8 a.m.
- November 6, 2018** – General Election Day

## Brown v. Board of Education Mural

A mural commemorating the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that put an end to legal segregation, *Brown v. Board of Education*, was unveiled to the public at the Statehouse on May 17 -- the 64th anniversary of the landmark ruling.

This mural is the result of many years of work led by Democratic Senators Anthony Hensley (Topeka), and David Haley (Kansas City), and myself. Together, we co-sponsored legislation in 2009 authorizing the Statehouse mural.



Funds were privately raised to commission the painting. The artist, Michael Young, a Kansas native, and his concept for the mural was selected in 2016 by the Capitol Preservation Committee. The mural is on the third floor of the Statehouse just outside of the old Kansas Supreme Court room.

LEFT: Sen. Faust-Goudeau with other members of the Legislature at the private reception on May 16 for the unveiling of the *Brown v. Board of Education* mural on the third floor of the Statehouse.

## Ban the Box

On Wednesday, May 2, the governor signed an Executive Order "banning the box" on employment applications for the Executive Branch. This comes after years of hard work and determination from me and many other legislators. As a result, individuals who submit an employment application will no longer have to indicate whether they have had a felony conviction in the past, with the exception of positions that require a clean record by law such as the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Employers will still be allowed to ask applicants in an interview whether they've been convicted, but it gives applicants an opportunity to be evaluated by their qualifications first as well as an opportunity to explain their past in person. The Unified Government of Kansas City Kansas has adopted a similar policy and many private employers across the state have as well.

This is a great first step into ensuring those with criminal convictions can get back to work and make a life for themselves.



## Budget Highlights

The last item of business for the 2018 Legislative Session was passing a budget. With the increase in revenue from overturning the reckless tax policy, legislators were able to restore some fiscal responsibility for the state by passing a budget that restores some investments in Kansans' shared priorities, including:

- Restoring a portion of the cuts to higher education, including \$1.4 million to Wichita State;
- Investing in early childhood education programs by adding funding to the Children's Initiatives Fund, including the pre-K pilot and Parents as Teachers;
- Providing pay increases for nearly 13,000 state employees, including judicial and corrections employees;
- Making an \$82 million payment to KPERS and includes language to transfer up to \$56 million, or the amount that revenue receipts during the current fiscal year exceed estimates, to KPERS;
- Increasing nursing facility reimbursement rates; and,
- Adding funds from the Problem Gambling and Addictions Grant Fund for additional substance abuse treatment services.

### Important Numbers

#### State Resources:

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

#### Local Resources:

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

## Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau

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