



# Sydney Carlin

## State Representative 66th District

Room 451-S, State Capitol  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
785-296-7657

1650 Sunny Slope Lane  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502  
785-539-6612

### NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

---

#### In This Issue

Start of the Session  
State of the State  
Budget Recommendations  
Efficiency Report  
Martin Luther King Events

Pages  
Library Information  
Keep in Touch  
Useful State Numbers and Resources

#### **Start of the 2016 Legislative Session**

The 2016 Session of the Kansas Legislature began on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. This year, I will represent you, and our local community on the Appropriations, Agriculture & Natural Resources, and the Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget (Ranking Minority Member) committees. The calendar will remain full over the next few weeks as bills are introduced and committees begin their work. Complete daily calendars are available at [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org). I am working to keep constituents more informed via Facebook and Twitter and on my website [www.SydneyCarlin.com](http://www.SydneyCarlin.com).

#### **State of the State**

On Tuesday, Governor Brownback gave his sixth State of the State address to a joint session of the House and Senate.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, the governor largely focused on national issues such as President Obama, refugees, foreign policy, and national security, rather than focusing on the issues most affecting our state and citizens. For instance the state faces a budget shortfall of \$14 million in the current fiscal year and a projected shortfall of at least \$170 million in the next fiscal year and the Governor didn't even address this in his speech. I was extremely disappointed the governor chose to focus his speech on partisan issues rather than providing leadership on the issues affecting all Kansans.

Our own Minority Leader in the House, Representative Tom Burroughs, delivered the Democratic response to the Governor's State of the State and provided a clear alternative to the Governor's agenda.<sup>2</sup> Rep. Burroughs laid out a vision for Democrats for the upcoming session. A vision of economic growth, strong education, a balanced budget, and a government that is transparent for the people of Kansas. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Legislature during the upcoming session and working towards a vision of a new Kansas legacy.

[Watch Rep. Burroughs Democratic Response Here](#)

#### **Governor's Budget Recommendations**

On Wednesday morning the Governor's Budget Director, Shawn Sullivan, presented the Governor's Budget Recommendations to a joint meeting of the House and Senate budget committees.<sup>3</sup> Given the current budget shortfalls the governor had to provide answers to how he wanted to fill those holes. Since the passage of the tax bills in 2012, Kansas has been experiencing an economic free-fall with many months presenting budget deficits.<sup>4</sup> Historically, the governor proposed filling the budget hole with transfers from the Dept. of Transportation's Highway Fund and other fund transfers. He presented more of the same this time around. The governor recommended the following:

- Transferring over \$27 million from the Highway Fund
- Transferring \$50.6 million from the Children's Initiative Fund
- Transferring \$2.9 million from the K-12 Extraordinary Needs Fund

What we ultimately received in the Governor's Budget was more failed leadership. Rather than addressing the true causes of the budget shortfall the governor proposed raiding the Highway Fund that

---

<sup>1</sup> Full text of Governor's Speech: <http://www.governor.ks.gov/media-room/media-releases/2016/01/13/2016-state-of-the-state---january-12-2016>

<sup>2</sup> Full text of Minority Leader Burroughs's response: <http://www.kshousedems.com/press-releases/house-democratic-leader-burroughs-delivers-2016-response-to-kansas-state-of-the-state>

<sup>3</sup> [http://budget.ks.gov/publications/FY2017/FY%202017\\_Budget\\_Overview--01-13-2016.pdf](http://budget.ks.gov/publications/FY2017/FY%202017_Budget_Overview--01-13-2016.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.kansasbudget.com/2015/12/its-income-tax.html>

keeps our roads and bridges from falling into disrepair and more fund transfers including funds that help the children of Kansas. I am extremely concerned about the transferring of funds out of the Children's Initiative Fund, money from the Tobacco Settlement. This fund supports programs aimed at the health and wellbeing of the children of Kansas and it must be used for that purpose. You can read the governor's full budget proposal here: <http://budget.ks.gov/gbr.htm>.

I want to support policies that address the root cause of the state's budget crisis-- the governor's failed economic experiment—or the continued raid of the Highway and other special revenue funds.

### **Efficiency Report**

During the 2015 Legislative Session the GOP controlled Legislature decided to hire, at the price of over \$2.6 million, an outside firm to audit state government in search of "efficiencies." A preliminary report from that group was presented to the Legislature on Tuesday. The preliminary report is over 260 pages in length and it proposes making many changes to state government and services. For example, the report recommends consolidating many Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) area service facilities; closing Department of Corrections facilities; selling state owned buildings and land; closing several Community Development and Disability Organization's (CDDO); and delaying state agencies from making timely payments to contractors.

There are literally hundreds of recommendations and I am still going through them all. You can see the full report [here](#). I will be watching action on this report closely as many of the proposed changes will drastically change the ability of state government to provide services and help to the people of Kansas.

I do believe it is important to seek ways to improve the efficiency of state government; however, many of these recommendations move beyond efficiencies. If you find something of interest or concern to you as you look at the report, please let me know at [Sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov](mailto:Sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov) or call 785-296-7657.

### **Martin Luther King Events**

I attended several events this weekend in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. The breakfast featured State Commissioner of Human Rights and former Speaker of the House Melvin Neufeld. He spoke about human trafficking issues in Kansas and the U.S. This work is very important considering the surprising amount of human trafficking that occurs in Kansas. He stated that recruiters pick out young boys and girls who show symptoms of unhappiness at home and lure them into drugs and eventually sex slavery. His office works with the U.S. Attorney General to bring perpetrators to justice.



The Martin Luther King Week Committee has for years given a community recognition award for an individual who has been an outstanding contributor of bringing people of diversity together in our everyday community life. **The 2016 Spirit of Martin Luther King Community Service Award** was given to two individuals this year. In the photograph above, left to right, are recipient **Lynda Bachelor**, Beverly Olson committee member and presenter, and recipient **Linda Morse**. The award was presented during activities at Manhattan Town Center on Monday.

### **Page Information**

If you know of someone who would like to page for me, I have one open date. Please either call my office at 785-296-7657 or email my assistant, Dixie Sypher at [dixie.sypher@house.ks.gov](mailto:dixie.sypher@house.ks.gov) for more information.

**Library Information**

Have you ever finished a great book and wanted to find more just like it? Or wanted to help your child find just the right book to read? The State Library of Kansas offers NoveList Plus, a helpful resource to help readers match up with the books that are right for them.

[www.tinyurl.com/Novelist123](http://www.tinyurl.com/Novelist123)

Simply search NoveList to find books that match your reading style.

You can access this link from any Kansas IP address but if you're outside of Kansas or on a mobile devices, you'll need to sign up for an eCard. At no charge, Kansas residents can obtain a Kansas Library eCard, provided by the State Library of Kansas, by visiting their local library.

Access trouble? Call 785.296.3296 or email [kslc@library.ks.gov](mailto:kslc@library.ks.gov).

*Sydney Carlin, 66<sup>th</sup> District*