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NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

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MY 2 BILLS PASSED THE HOUSE

Fair Credit Reporting Act

In the Fair Credit Reporting Act to authorize security freezes on consumer credit reports for protected consumers, defined as a person under the age of 16 at the time a request for a security freeze is made or an individual whom a guardian or conservator has been appointed. A security freeze prevents anyone from using this Social Security # to gain credit (prevents identity theft). A freeze for a protected consumer would remain in effect until the protected consumer or the protected consumer's representative requests the consumer reporting agency to remove the security freeze.

Revenge Porn

HB2062 would expand the crimes of breach of privacy and blackmail by making it a level 5 felony (previously level 8) to disseminate or permit "the dissemination of any videotape, film, photograph or image of another identifiable person who is nude or in a state of undress, with the intent to invade the privacy of that other person, without the consent of that other person to such dissemination."

Revenge porn plays a role in intimate partner violence as abusers use the threat of disclosure as a way to keep their partners from leaving, reporting the abuse, filing divorce or custody of their children. Carlin says she hopes the fear of prosecution would deter individuals from maliciously and intentionally violating a person's sexual privacy.



Party Caucuses

Kansas uses a Caucus not a Primary because of two reasons: Cost and Party Building.

Democrat:

The Kansas Caucuses are organizational gatherings of neighbors, run by the Kansas Democratic Party, where Democrats meet to conduct party business and declare their Presidential preference. There will be 49 caucuses across Kansas, one for each Senate District (18, 20, 22) and a few extras for Senate Districts that overlap Congressional Districts. Any registered Kansas citizen that will be 18 years or older by November 8, 2016 can participate. Also you must be a resident in the Senate District in which you are participating and must be a registered Democrat – you can register on site.

Caucus/registration(1-3), starts at 1pm at Anthony Middle School located at 2501 Browning Ave, Manhattan. You must be in line by 3pm to vote. Parking will be available in front of the middle school for those with special needs only. Others may park at Farm Bureau and be shuttled over.

Republican:

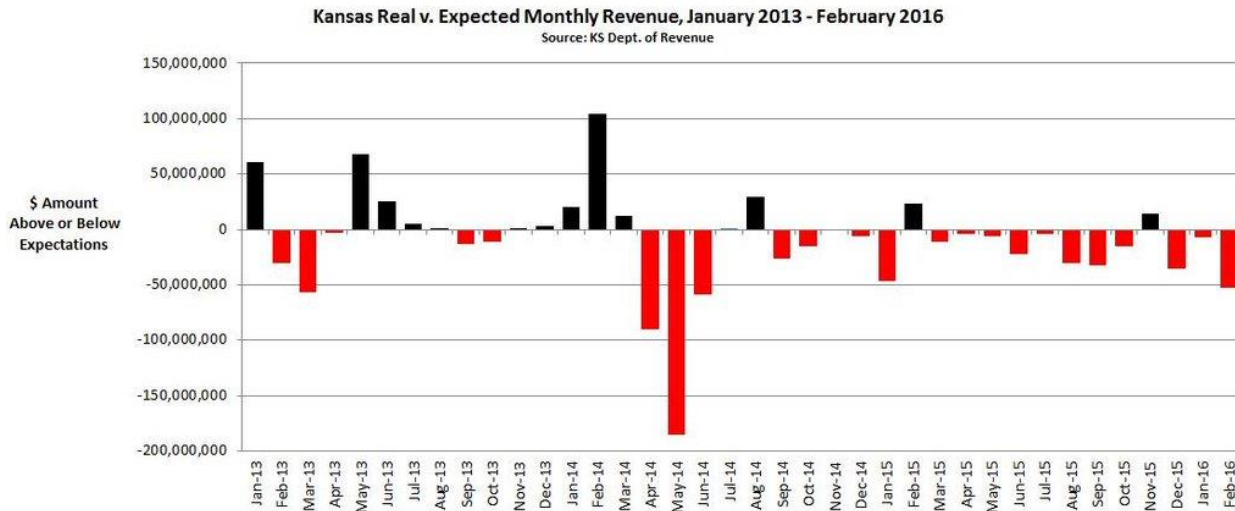
The Kansas Republican Caucuses will also be held March 5. Caucus rules and regulations can be found at www.ksgop.org. Locations are as follows:

Riley County
Manhattan High School
2100 Poyntz
Manhattan, KS 66502

If you live in a different county check the website for the correct address.

Revenue Down \$53 Million

Kansas is officially broke – again. The February revenue numbers were released this week and the news is not good. The state brought in \$53 million LESS than expected.¹ This unfortunately has become the trend and not the exception. Month after month revenue has come in under expectations. As you can see from the chart below we have only met expectations twice since January of 2015.



What this means is the budget that was passed by the House and Senate a couple of weeks ago that had an ending balance of \$6 million is now \$47 million in the hole. The fiscal mismanagement of our state is the cause of this downturn and the governor and his Republican allies in the Legislature continue to dig their heads in the sand and refuse to acknowledge the dire circumstances of our state.

For months, Democrats have called on the Governor and his allies in the Legislature to end the economic experiment. The numbers released on Tuesday reveal the true damage of their fiscal mismanagement. “The State of Kansas is in crisis. Our school, our infrastructure, our safety, the very future of our state is at stake. It is time for Kansans to stand up and demand the Republican majority change course and fix the mess they’ve created,” quoted from Representative Tom Burroughs, House Minority Leader.

Governor Cuts Higher Education

In response to the February revenue numbers being \$53 million below expectations the Governor decided to immediately cut all regent universities by 3% for a total of \$17 million from all schools.² This cut affects all regent universities including Kansas State.³ The thing to keep in mind is, with us being so far into the current fiscal year (which ends June 30th) a 3% cut translates to about a 9% cut between now and June 30. The universities are still evaluating how they will address these cuts but I fear schools will be required to raise tuition and make cuts to student services. As a result, the state universities will take a big hit!! (Kansas and Kansas State taking the biggest).

Overview of Votes Last Week

As I mentioned above, the House worked 29 bills on the floor this week. The majority were uncontroversial, but a few generated debate and are worth noting:

- Revenge porn: Created a crime for when a person who posts nude images or videos of an ex-lover online without his or her permission. My Bill, I voted Yes, it passed.
- Speed limit increased: The speed limit on highways was raised by 5 mph. There was attempt to raise the speed limit to 80 mph on interstate highways but the attempt failed. I voted No, motion failed.

¹ <http://cjonline.com/news/2016-03-01/kansas-53-million-revenue-crash-triggers-higher-education-cuts>

² <http://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article63340222.html>

³ <http://kcur.org/post/gov-brownback-cuts-17-million-kansas-higher-education-after-poor-revenue-report#stream/0>

- Head injuries: Permitting Chiropractors to sign off on whether a student athlete can return to the playing field after a head injury. I voted No, it passed.
- KPERS death & disability: \$40 million was withheld for KPERS death and disability. I voted No, it passed.
- Convention of States: A resolution calling on Congress to convene a Constitutional Convention to draft amendments to the U.S. Constitution to protect us from the “tyranny” of the federal government failed. I voted No, the issue failed.
- Hunt, fish, and trap: A resolution to add the rights of Kansans to hunt, fish, and trap to the State Constitution passed the House. I voted No, it passed.
- Ethnic studies: A bill that would have added ethnic studies to our school’s curriculum didn’t pass the House. I voted Yes, it did not pass.

Session Highlights to Date

As we have reached the half-way point in the session, I think it is worth noting what the legislature has done and maybe more importantly, what we haven’t.

- Both the House and Senate passed a budget. It is currently on the governor’s desk awaiting his signature. The \$16 billion budget only leaves a \$6 million ending balance, far less than the 7.5% required by law.⁴
- Attempts to vote on Medicaid expansion have been blocked by procedural moves in both the House and the Senate.⁵
- Both the House and the Senate passed a bill ensuring Kansas Courts will remain open after funding was threatened.⁶ A bill to change the way Supreme Court justices are selected was defeated in the House.⁷
- A resolution for a constitutional amendment, supporting calling a constitutional conference, failed – needed 2/3 vote.

The Legislature is officially on break until next Wednesday but once we come back there are still a lot of issues for us to address (like the school funding case) so I anticipate the second half of the session being a busy one.

Democrats Call on Republican Leadership to Address School Finance

On Tuesday, Democrats from both the House and Senate criticized Gov. Sam Brownback and his Republican allies in the legislature for failing to give priority to school funding. The Kansas Supreme Court ruling declared the current school funding as unconstitutional two weeks ago and there has been zero movement by the Republican legislature to address it. Republicans and Democrats need to meet to develop a solution so our schools are not closed this summer and fall. The issue needs to be addressed and it needs to be addressed now because:

- Class sizes are increasing
- Teachers are fleeing the state
- And test scores are dropping
- Opportunities for students are disappearing

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB State Youth of the Year Banquet

I attended the Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Banquet on Tuesday evening this week. I am so proud of our youth who participated. We heard from nine finalists who spoke about what the Boys & Girls Club means in their lives. They were all quite eloquent and had fascinating stories to tell. Peyton Peterson (picture below), a Manhattan High School senior was the first runner up for the State award and received a financial scholarship award for college. He plans to attend K-State in the fall and major in Microbiology. His goal is to be a genetic engineer. The Military youth state winner was Essence Carter (picture below), Fort Riley CYS Services. She is a sophomore at Junction City High School and won a \$5000 scholarship. She plans to attend Washburn University and eventually apply to law school. Congratulations to these and the other outstanding Boys & Girls Club Winners. (Pictures on next page)

⁴ <http://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article60857972.html>

⁵ <http://www.kansascity.com/news/state/kansas/article59735706.html>

⁶ <http://cjonline.com/news/2016-01-28/kansas-lawmakers-send-judicial-funding-fix-governor>

⁷ <http://cjonline.com/news/2016-02-04/kansas-house-rejects-constitutional-amendment-supreme-court-selection>



Peyton Peterson



Essence Carter

Kansas Bridges ‘Structurally Deficient’

A report by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association released this week, indicates Kansas has more than 2,300 bridges that are considered “structurally deficient”. Kansas is ranked the sixth highest state in the country for the number of structurally deficient bridges.⁸

Being labeled as “structurally deficient” means a bridge is rated as being in a poor or worse condition and needs to be repaired.

This report is troubling. Gov. Brownback has swept more than \$1 billion from the Kansas Department of Transportation to the State General Fund to balance the state budget. Now that we know the safety of Kansans is being threatened. Legislators need to take action.

Library Information

1. Consumer Health Complete

Consumer Health Complete covers all areas of health and wellness. Did your doctor prescribe a new medication? Recently diagnosed with diabetes? Interested in knowing more about the Zika virus? Look it up here. Designed for the everyday consumer, this online database provides popular reference books, medical encyclopedias, fact sheets, and magazine articles.

<http://kslib.info/ConHealth>

2. The **Auto Repair Reference Center** is a comprehensive online collection of auto repair resources, with illustrated procedures, technical service bulletins, and diagnostic help for most major domestic and imported vehicles. The content is created by ASE certified technicians and includes drawings, photos, videos, and step-by-step guides.

Auto Repair Reference Center - <http://kslib.info/aarc>

If the page above asks for a Kansas Library eCard number, you may get one at any library in Kansas. Most people will be automatically recognized as inside Kansas and will not need this step. Questions: kslc@library.ks.gov or 785-296-3296. To see all of the State Library’s online resources, visit <http://kslib.info/eor>

Keep in touch

It is a special honor to serve as your state representative. I value and need your input on the various issues facing state government. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and questions. My office address is Room 451-S, 300 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612. You can reach me at (785) 296-7657 or call the legislative hotline at 1-800-432-3924 to leave a message for me. Additionally, you can e-mail me at sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov. You can also follow the legislative session online at www.kslegislature.org. I’m working on my website, www.sydneycarlin.com. You can connect to my Twitter & Facebook pages through Icons on the site. Even if I haven’t posted, there are plenty of interesting news items there.

Proudly Representing you in the Capitol

Sydney Carlin, 66th District

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article60720236.html>

<http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2016/feb/17/kansas-house-preparing-vote-budget-balancing-plan/>

<http://www.kansas.com/news/local/education/article61033637.html>

<http://www.wibwnewsnow.com/democrats-solidly-behind-ethnic-studies-bill/>

⁸ <http://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article62152087.html>