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NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

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Transparency in Kansas Government

The *Kansas City Star* released a series of stories highlighting a disturbing lack of transparency across state agencies and within the administration.

Kansas House Democrats stand poised to hold state agencies accountable and restore transparency to the Kansas government. It is imperative that the citizens of our state are informed and included in the decisions and issues that affect them. We are committed to full transparency and will be introducing multiple pieces of legislation this session to ensure accountability and honesty in the democratic process.

You can view the “Secret Kansas” stories here:

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article184179651.html>

<http://www.kansascity.com/opinion/editorials/article183995001.html>

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article184177786.html>

<http://www.kansascity.com/opinion/editorials/article185321248.html>

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article184176596.html>

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article184174741.html>

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article184172776.html>

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 15th, we celebrated the life and works of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Rep. Barbara Ballard, Lawrence, delivered a heartfelt and powerful speech on the floor celebrating both King’s life and his legacy. Rep. Ballard also spoke about what our collective legacy will be for generations to come.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”
– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This year Kansas State University celebrated the 50-year anniversary of King’s 1968 speech. K-State held an “I Was There” panel on January 19th. Panelists will be those who were present for King’s 1968 speech and will share their reflections. The university has also invited Martin Luther King III to present a lecture on January 25th at 12:30 p.m. in the Banquet Room at the K-State Alumni Center followed by a candlelit vigil.

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”
-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

State of the Judiciary

On Wednesday, the members of both the Kansas Court of Appeals and the Kansas Supreme Court visited the Statehouse for the annual State of the Judiciary. Delivered by Supreme Court Chief Justice Lawton Nuss, the address advocated higher pay for those who work within the judicial system. The Supreme Court is requesting \$22 million in new money for raising judicial salaries.

"Nearly one-third of our employees need to work (second) jobs outside the judicial branch to make ends meet. (This is five times higher than the Kansas average), I am well aware you are still facing many challenges during this legislative session, maybe some of the biggest one's ever. If things continue on this financial path in the judicial branch, there are serious concerns about our ability to administer the quality of justice that Kansans have come to expect and deserve," said Nuss.

Delay in Lansing Corrections Vote

The Kansas Department of Corrections has contracted a lease-to-purchase contract with CoreCivic, a for-profit prison company. Two former Brownback top aides have taken jobs for CoreCivic in Kansas. The State Finance Council must approve the contract in order that the project can move forward.

On Thursday, the State Finance Council (which includes the Governor and Republican and Democratic Legislative Leadership) was scheduled to meet for a final vote on the Lansing Correctional Facility project.

The meeting was abruptly cancelled ten minutes prior to its start time via a press release sent from Brownback's office. At the last State Finance Council meeting, the vote was tabled until more information was available.

It is uncertain at this time if the vote will occur at the next meeting of the State Finance Council.

Special Events



Jordan Hildebrand was introduced on the House Floor on Thursday, January 18 by Rep. Clark. Ms. Hildebrand was part of a group from the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program Class XIV (KARL). The program enhances rural and agricultural representation, improved professionalism, increases community involvement, sharpens promotional skills boosts urban support and understanding, reduces isolationism, and enriches the quality of life in the state of Kansas.

KARL conducts nine in-state seminars and three study/travel seminars (national and international) during the program's two years. These seminars develop individual leadership skills and focus on issues and problems facing leaders on the local, state, national and international levels.

KARL participants are identified by key agricultural and rural leaders. KARL selects each class of 30 state and local leaders through profile forms, screening and interviews. (quoted from the *Kansas House Journal, Eighth Day, 2018*)



On Thursday, January 18, 2018, the following people from the Flint Hills Leadership Project, shadowed me around the Capitol Building.

(Left to Right) - **James Johnson, Melissa Kirkwood, Crystal Bryant-Kearns, Rep. Sydney Carlin, Willie the Wildcat, Leza Chrysosovergis and Brett Louk.** (Willie the Wildcat was in the Capitol for Higher Education Day activities).



On Thursday, January 18, 2018, I met with **Jack Ayres**, Student Body President, Kansas State University. Mr. Ayres is on the Kansas Board of Regents Advisory Committee.

Keep in touch

It is a special honor to serve as your state representative. I both 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, or www.sydneycarlinforkansas.com. You can also follow the legislative session online at www.kslegislature.org

Proudly representing you in the Capitol
Sydney Carlin, 66th District

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