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Sydney Carlin - State Representative

1 message

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[View this email in your browser](#)**Sydney Carlin - 66th District - State Representative**

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January 14-18, 2019 - Week #1 Newsletter**In This Issue**

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Page Information

If you have a student that would like to be a page for the Legislature, please contact my office at 785.296.7657, or by email at sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov. Dates are available in February and March. To become a page you must be 12 years of age or older.

Inauguration of Governor Laura Kelly

Former State Senator Laura Kelly was sworn in as the 48th Governor of Kansas on Monday, January 14th, 2019. The freezing temperatures did not diminish the enthusiasm of the crowd on the south steps, witnessing only the third woman to take the oath under banners of "Equality" "Education" and "Opportunity." Prior to Governor Kelly, oaths of office were administered to Lieutenant Governor Lynn Rogers, Attorney General Derek Schmidt, Secretary of State Scott Schwab, Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt, and State Treasurer Jake LaTurner.

First Day of the 2019 Session

On Monday afternoon, the Kansas legislature kicked off the 2019 session at 2:00pm. I was honored to be sworn in during this session for my 9th term as your Representative. The Kansas House has 125 Representatives. The 41 Democrats and 84 Republicans are ready to get to work this session to help resolve issues facing Kansans. This state works better when we work together.

State of the State Speech

On her second day in office Governor Kelly fulfilled her campaign promise to the LGBT+ community, signing Executive Order 19-02 banning state agencies and departments from discrimination on the basis of sexual and gender orientation and expression.

This was followed by the 158th State of the State address on January 16th. In her speech, Governor Kelly presented a strong message stressing the need for bipartisan cooperation to deliver prosperity for all Kansans. She urged legislators of both parties to end the cycle of education funding litigation, self-inflicted budget catastrophes, and economic uncertainty Kansas has suffered over the past decade. Noting the best achievements for our state have been done on middle ground, she asked legislators to work with her to find consensus and focus on the children of Kansas, rural development, and economic stability.

Despite the challenges, Governor Kelly did proclaim that the situation was improving. And issued calls for immediate in action in a few key areas:

- **Education Funding:** The Governor asked legislators to join her in halting the decay in public education and loss of teachers across the state. "We're going to properly fund our schools this year. And next year. And the year after that. Every year, every month, every day that I am governor."
- **Rural Opportunity/Development:** Noting that a majority of the 105 Kansas counties are facing population declines, Governor Kelly announced a focus on these counties in the form of road infrastructure, broadband expansion, affordable housing, and agribusiness support. This effort will be spearheaded by the new Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers (former State Senator, School Board President, and agricultural banker) and Secretary of Commerce David Toland. Together they hope to present an interconnected, strategic plan for rural economic development and growth.
- **Medicare/Medicaid Expansion:** Noting that \$3 billion in Kansas taxpayer funds are never returned to the state, Governor Kelly called on the legislature to expand these programs so that money could flow back into our state. This is especially important for low-income and disabled Kansans; and to the many rural hospitals fighting to keep their doors open and provide services to Kansans in need.
- **Foster Care:** After decrying that "our foster care system is at a crisis point," the Governor called for an end of the callous disregard agency leaders have shown to vulnerable children and their families. She called for funding the Families First Prevention Services Act and continued work by the Child Welfare Task Force. Governor Kelly also stated her hope that the attitude and ideology in the Department for Children and Families would be greatly improved under the new leadership of Secretary Laura Howard.

While the list of needs is large, I am excited to get to things done for the people of the 66th District. I will work with the Governor, her administration, and my colleagues in the legislature to push for a budget that works for the people and not the interest groups.

2019 Budget

On Thursday, Larry Campbell (Governor Kelly's budget director, retained from former Governor Colyer's staff and a former state representative) submitted the Executive 2019 Budget request, three weeks ahead of schedule, to the legislature. Highlights from the new request are:

- Restoring school funding as recommended by the Kansas State Board of Education to our public primary schools.
- Undoing the previous cuts of \$3.9 million to our higher education public universities and vocational schools.
- Funding an additional 55 child welfare positions to help reduce extremely high caseloads, and protect our state's most vulnerable children.

- Investments in infrastructure and phasing out the practice of raiding "The Bank of KDOT."
- Increased funding to help keep our communities safe, including \$3 million for Kansas corrections officers.
- Rebuilding the state's saving, early debt retirement, and KPERS funding adjustments for long-term stability.

Office Visits



Susan Adamchak, Linda Uthoff, Jennifer Edwards, Rep Carlin, Christy Crenshaw, Elizabeth Seaton following the inaugural ceremony for Governor Laura Kelly and statewide elected officials.



Members of the Flint Hills Leadership Group who shadowed me on January 24th. It was a pleasure meeting you all!

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 our community and the state government. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and questions. My office address is Room 451-S, [300 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612](#). You can reach me at (785) 296-7657 or call the legislative hotline at 1-800-432-3924 and leave a message for me. You can also contact me via e-mail at sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov. You may visit my webpage at www.sydneycarlinforkansas.com and the Legislative session at www.kslegislature.org

Thank you for your support!

Sydney Carlin



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