



Community Bankers Association of Kansas

Kansas Legislative and Policy Report

2025 Pre-Session Memo

January 13, 2025

Overview

The 2025 Session began today (Monday). Our December report included leadership elections and committee assignments, and we want to provide a brief memo to serve as a quick guide for what to expect as lawmakers return to Topeka next week. A few key points to keep in mind:

- The Session calendar is notably shorter than usual, with legislative leadership committed to adhering to a true 90-day Session, with the following key dates:
 - Turnaround, or the official midpoint of the Session, when all bills that are not exempt must pass their chamber of origin: February 20th.
 - First Adjournment/End of the Regular Session: March 28th.
 - Veto Session: April 10th through 12th.
- The Legislature convenes at 2:00 PM on Monday. The Governor presents her State of the State address Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM. The Governor's budget recommendation will be presented Thursday morning to a meeting of the House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means Committees.
- There are 34 new lawmakers in the Kansas Legislature, meaning committees will likely spend some time educating new members on processes, current statutes, etc.
- Property tax relief remains the top priority for Republicans, as well as for some Democrats, though the Governor has hinted she is hesitant at further tax relief of any kind following last year's comprehensive sales and income tax relief bill passed during the Special Session. It is unclear exactly what proposals may advance, but a hearing on a constitutional amendment to cap valuations is already scheduled in Senate Tax the first week.
- The looming 2026 Gubernatorial race will impact policy debates for the next two years. So far, a handful of Republicans have announced interest, including Secretary of State Scott Schwab and former Lieutenant Governor Jeff Colyer. No one on the Democratic side has formally announced yet, but many are wondering if Lieutenant Governor Toland will forego opportunities in the private sector to run for Governor.
- As we have previously reported, the budget process this year will be notably different, and expedited. The Legislature, as is the case in a handful of other states, opted to assemble a legislature-initiated budget, rather than take direction

from a Governor's budget, which has almost always been the precedent and process in Kansas. We expect budget subcommittees to solicit public testimony much sooner than usual.

Helpful Tools to Follow the Session

- We will begin our customary weekly updates next week, to continue throughout the Session. We often include links to bills, pertinent hearings, committees, etc., in our reports, but we list them here for your convenience as well:
 - The Legislature's website, which has been updated for the 2025-2026 biennium: <https://kslegislature.gov/li/>
 - Legislative committee assignments: https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/committees/
 - The Legislature's YouTube channel, for viewing committee hearings and floor action: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_0NO-Pb96CFABvxDwXAq8A
 - Legislative calendars for both chambers, which are published daily and include agendas for all committees: https://kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/chamber/calendars/
 - Find your legislators by address: https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/members/?first_name=&last_name=&chamber=both&party_affiliation=all
- Lastly, a link to the Legislative Briefing Book, published by the Kansas Legislative Research Department. The 2025 Briefing Book is a concise guide to timely topics likely to surface during the 2025 Session, organized in alphabetical order from agriculture to utilities. It is not comprehensive, but it is especially useful.
 - <https://klrd.gov/2024/12/18/briefing-book-2025/>
- Again, please do not hesitate to contact us during the session if you have questions or need assistance. The Session months are very demanding, and we may occasionally be a bit delayed in responding, but we will get back to you. We also welcome your input on issues you may learn through your professional associations and organizations.

Upcoming Activities

The legislative schedule of hearings is updated regularly throughout the week can be found in the House and Senate calendars on the Legislature's website at:

https://kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/chamber/calendars/

Additionally, all hearings are available online live and archived by the end of each day.

You can find those hearings on the Legislative YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_0NO-Pb96CFABvxDwXAq8A

Monday, January 13th

*No committee meetings. Mostly a ceremonial day, with lawmakers sworn in on Monday afternoon.

Tuesday, January 14th

Senate FI&I. 9:30 AM.

- Overview and update from OSBC.

Senate Tax. 9:30 AM.

- Overview of Kansas Taxes.

Joint House & Senate Commerce. 1:30 PM.

- Overview of Interim Committee Reports, including the 2024 Special Committee on Available and Affordable Housing.

Wednesday, January 15th

Senate Tax. 9:30 AM.

- Overview of Kansas Constitutional Requirements Related to Property Tax.
- Overview of Property Tax Valuation.

Thursday, January 16th

Senate FI&I. 9:30 AM.

- Banking Industry Updates from CBA and KBA.

Senate Tax. 9:30 AM.

- Pending introduction and referral, hearing on property tax constitutional amendment.

Joint Appropriations and Senate Ways & Means. 10:00 AM.

- Briefing on Governor's Budget Recommendation.

Wrap Up

Let us know if you have any questions.

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