

Kansas

State Capitol, Topeka 66612
Central State Government Information (785) 296-0111

I. Legislative Organization and Process

A. General Information

Best Initial Contact. Division of Legislative Administrative Services, Room 551-N, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-2391, fax (785) 296-1153.

Basic Legislative Organization. Both houses together are called the Legislature. Larger house is called the House of Representatives and has 125 members elected for two-year terms. Smaller house is called the Senate and has 40 members elected to four-year terms.

Length of Session. Annual session starts second Monday in January and normally lasts until mid-May. The state constitution limits sessions in even-numbered years to 90 calendar days, but that provision is regularly overridden as provided for in the constitution. However, the main working part of the session only lasts the first 90 calendar days in any year.

Official Legislative Websites. The Kansas Legislature maintains a comprehensive legislative information website at the address listed below. The site includes complete bill text, bill status information, floor calendars and journals, standing committee rosters and schedules, legislative rules, interim committee rosters, interim committee schedules and agendas, and legislative staff agency descriptions, as well as legislators' photographs, biographies, addresses and telephone numbers.

www.kslegislature.org

B. How a Bill Becomes a Law

"Legislative Procedure in Kansas". Contains a detailed description of Kansas legislative procedure, as well as a description of the legislative staff agencies and the services they offer. Twelfth edition, 2006. Free. Legislative Research Department, Room 010-West, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-3181, fax (785) 296-3824. This guide is also available at the website listed below under "Education."

*kslegres@klrd.state.ks.us
www.kslegislature.org*

"How a Bill Becomes a Law". One page graphic of the process a bill goes through to become law. Available at the website listed below under "Education."

www.kslegislature.org

“Kansas Legislative Handbook”. Describes in detail the procedure a bill goes through to become law. Also includes description of legislative organization, information resources, and detailed legislator profiles. Annual. \$110.00. Government Research Service, P.O. Box 2067, Topeka, Kansas, 66601, (785) 232-7720, fax (785) 232-1615.

info@grsbooks.com

C. Organization, Procedure and Politics

“Legislative Procedure in Kansas”. Contains a detailed description of Kansas legislative procedure. Also includes a description of the legislative staff agencies. Twelfth edition, 2006. Free. Legislative Research Department, Room 010-West, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-3181, fax (785) 296-3824. This guide is also available at the website listed below under “Education.”

kslegres@klrd.state.ks.us
www.kslegislature.org

“Kansas Legislative Handbook”. Contains a complete description of Kansas legislative organization, procedure, staff agencies, and information sources, as well as individual legislator profiles. Annual. \$110.00. Government Research Service, P.O. Box 2067, Topeka, Kansas 66601, (785) 232-7720, fax (785) 232-1615.

info@grsbooks.com

“The Kansas Legislature: Structure and Process”. Description of Kansas legislative procedure with examples of actual documents used in the legislative process. Written by Marshall P. Reece. Revised edition, 2000. \$20.00. Public Management Center, University of Kansas, 715 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-2353, fax (785) 296-2580.

bvogel@ku.edu
www.kuce.org/pmc

“Time, Politics, and Policies: A Legislative Year”. Analyzes effects of time and timing on the legislative policy-making process – trends, cycles and deadlines. Focus is on the Kansas Legislature. Written by Burdett A. Loomis. 1993. \$16.95. University Press of Kansas, 2502 Westbrooke Circle, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, (785) 864-4155, fax (785) 864-4586.

upress@ku.edu
www.kansaspress.ku.edu

“Legislative District Profiles”. Contains detailed maps of each legislative district in the state, along with approximately 75 population, economic and other demographic statistics for each district taken from the 2000 U.S. census. Legislative Research Department, Room 010-West, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-3181, fax (785) 296-3824. Also available under “Legislative Districts” at the website listed below.

kslegres@klrd.state.ks.us
www.kslegislature.org/klrd

D. Leadership, Committee Rosters and Rules

Leadership. A list of legislative leaders is available at no cost in several different publications from the Division of Legislative Administrative Services, Room 551-N, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-2391, fax (785) 296-1153. Also available at the website listed below.

www.kslegislature.org

Committee Rosters. House of Representatives and Senate committee lists are available free from the Division of Legislative Administrative Services, Room 551-N, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-2391, fax (785) 296-1153. Also available at the website listed below.

www.kslegislature.org

House and Senate Rules. House of Representatives, Senate and joint rules are available free from the Division of Legislative Administrative Services, Room 551-N, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-2391, fax (785) 296-1153. Also available at the website listed below, under "House" and "Senate."

www.kslegislature.org

II. Individual Legislator Information

A. Legislative Directories

"Legislative Directory". Includes home and district office addresses and telephone numbers for members of the Kansas House of Representatives and Senate. Also includes party, district number, occupation, and spouse's name. Annual. Free. Elections Division, Secretary of State, 1st Floor, 120 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-4561, fax (785) 291-3051. Also available at the website listed below under "Publications." Then click on "Directories."

election@kssos.org
www.kssos.org

"Legislative Directory". Lists each legislator's office and telephone number in the State Capitol, as well as office and telephone numbers for employees of the House of Representatives, the Senate and legislative staff agencies. In addition, includes contact information for key executive branch state agencies. Annual. Free. Division of Legislative Administrative Services, Room 551-N, State Capitol, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-2391, fax (785) 296-1153.

"The Kansas Legislature: A Guide for Local Government Officials". Includes legislators' State Capitol room and telephone numbers, official e-mail addresses and party affiliations. Also lists committees and their members, along with meeting times and places. Annual. Free. League of Kansas Municipalities, 300 S.W. Eighth Avenue, Topeka,

Kansas 66603, (785) 354-9565, fax (785) 354-4186. Also available under “Legislative” at the website listed below.

www.lkm.org

“Kansas Legislative Directory”. This directory includes legislators’ pictures, state capitol and home addresses, telephone numbers, party affiliations and district numbers, as well as committee assignment. Biennial. Single copies are free. Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 835 S.W. Topeka Boulevard, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 357-6321, fax (785) 357-4732.

info@kansaschamber.org
www.kansaschamber.org

B. Photographs and Biographical Profiles

“Kansas Legislative Handbook”. Contains each legislator’s picture, district addresses and telephone numbers, State Capitol addresses and telephone numbers, birth date, marital status, education, organizational memberships, business and financial data, political experience, committee assignments, group ratings, election results, district maps, district demographic data, etc. Annual. \$110.00. Government Research Service, P.O. Box 2067, Topeka, Kansas 66601, (785) 232-7720, fax (785) 232-1615.

info@grsbooks.com

“Kansas Legislative Directory”. This directory includes legislators’ pictures, home and State Capitol addresses, telephone numbers, party affiliations and district numbers, as well as committee assignments. Biennial. Single copies are free. Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 835 S.W. Topeka Boulevard, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 357-6321, fax (785) 357-4732.

info@kansaschamber.org
www.kansaschamber.org

C. Financial Information

Personal Financial Holdings. Each legislator annually files a “Statement of Substantial Interest” which lists income sources and financial holdings required by law to be disclosed. Filed with and available from the Elections Division, Secretary of State, 1st Floor, 120 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-4561, fax (785) 291-3051. Also available online at the website listed below under “Elections and Legislative.” Then click on “Substantial Interests,” and finally on “View SSI.”

election@kssos.org
www.kssos.org

Campaign Contributions and Expenditures. Reports disclosing each legislator’s campaign contributions and expenditures are filed with and available from the Elections Division, Secretary of State, 1st Floor, 120 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785)

296-4561, fax (785) 291-3051. Campaign finance reports filed by legislators are also available on the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission's website listed below.

ethics@ethics.ks.gov
www.kansas.gov/ethics

III. Legislative Session Information

A. Online Audio or Video Coverage

Session Audio. The Kansas Senate and House of Representatives provide live online audio access to floor activity on the Legislature's website at the address listed below.

www.kslegislature.org

B. Official Legislative Documents

Individual Bills and Other Documents. Bills, amendments, resolutions, calendars (includes committee hearing schedule), journals, and the weekly "Senate and House Actions Report and Subject Index Report" (contains bill status information) are available. Single copies are free. A pick-up subscription for all daily bills and other documents is \$200.00. Document Room, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Room 145-N, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-4096. Open only during session. Between sessions contact the Division of Legislative Administrative Services, Room 551-N, State Capitol, Topeka 66612, (785) 296-2391, fax (785) 296-1153. Copies of all bills and other documents are also available online at the website listed below.

www.kslegislature.org

Document Mailing Service. Provides daily mailing of all bills, amended bills, resolutions, journals, and calendars (which include committee hearing schedules), as well as the weekly "Senate and House Actions Report and Subject Index Report" (this report provides bill status information and a subject index). Prices are \$460.00 for First Class and \$425.00 for Third Class. Partial service is available. Division of Legislative Administrative Services, Room 551-N, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-2391, fax (785) 296-1153.

Enactments/Slip Laws. In Kansas, once a bill is passed and signed by the governor or allowed to become law without the governor's signature, it is called an "enrolled bill." Elections Division, Secretary of State, 1st Floor, 120 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-4561, fax (785) 291-3051. Single copies are free. Copies are also available at the website listed below under "Bills."

www.kslegislature.org

C. Bill Status and Tracking Information

Bill Status Telephone Number. In-state, call (800) 432-3924 or out-of-state, call (785) 296-2149. In either case callers reach Legislative Reference Services, State Library of Kansas, Third Floor, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612.

Official Internet Access. The Kansas Legislature makes legislative bill status information, full bill text, calendars, journals and other legislative information available at the website listed below. The system also includes Kansas administrative rules and regulations, as well as Kansas statutes.

www.kslegislature.org

“VoteTracker”. Provides complete online Kansas legislative bill tracking and monitoring service. The system includes bill tracking, complete bill text, journals, calendars, committee hearing schedule, and a searchable statutory database. The system also provides for the extensive analysis of legislators’ voting patterns, including each legislator’s complete voting record and the ability to compare legislators’ records. Inquire as to price. VoteTracker, Midwest Database, Inc., P.O. Box 12734, Overland Park, Kansas 66282, (913) 381-7467, (866) 348-8683.

info@votetracker.com
www.votetracker.com

D. Session Summary Information

“Summary of Legislation”. Summarizes most bills passed during a session. Annual. Free. Legislative Research Department, Room 010-West, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-3181, fax (785) 296-3824. Also available at the website listed below.

www.kslegislature.org/klrd

E. Session Laws and Bound Journals

“Session Laws”. Available each July. Indexed. Price varies. Elections Division, Secretary of State, 1st Floor, 120 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-4561. Also available at the website listed below. Click on “Statutes,” then click on “Session Laws” in the right hand column.

www.kslegislature.org

Compiled Journals. Each year the official journals are bound and are available near the end of the year. The journals include the history of each bill. Annual. Price varies. Elections Division, Secretary of State, 1st Floor, 120 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-4561, fax (785) 291-3051.

F. Bill Histories

Journals. The bound House and Senate journals each contain the complete history of the bills of their respective houses. Annual. Price varies. Elections Division, Secretary of

State, 1st Floor, 120 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-4561, fax (785) 291-3051.

“Senate and House Actions Report and Subject Index Report”. Final copy available at end of session. Includes complete history of all bills, as well as subject matter index. Free. Division of Legislative Administrative Services, Room 551-N, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-2391, fax (785) 296-1153.

IV. Interim Legislative Study Period

Length of Interim Period. Interim study period normally runs from June to December 1st when all committee reports are due.

Interim Committees and Study Proposals. Lists of all interim committees, members and study proposals are available from the Legislative Research Department, Room 010-West, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-3181, fax (785) 296-3824. Also available at the website listed below under “Interim Committees.”

www.kslegislature.org

Interim Meeting Schedules and Agendas. Weekly mailing of all interim meetings scheduled during the upcoming two weeks with a list of the items on each committee’s agenda. Available by regular U.S. mail or e-mail. Free. Division of Legislative Administrative Services, Room 551-N, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-2391, fax (785) 296-1153. Also available at the website listed below under “Hot Items.”

www.kslegislature.org

Interim Reports and Recommendations. The “Report on Kansas Legislative Interim Studies” includes reports and recommendations on most interim committees. Some reports are published separately. Available each January. Free. Legislative Research Department, Room 010-West, State Capitol, 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-3181, fax (785) 296-3824. Interim reports are also available at the website listed below under “Committees.” Minutes are also available at this location.

www.kslegislature.org/klrd

Interim Reporting Services. None, but see “Hawver’s Capitol Report” under “Newspapers, Newsletters, News Websites and Blogs” heading below.

V. Lobbying Information

Where to Register. Register annually with the Elections Division, Secretary of State, First Floor, 120 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-4561, fax (785) 291-3051.

election@kssos.org
www.kssos.org

Best Information Source. For information regarding the state's lobbying laws contact the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, Room 504, 109 West Ninth, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-4219, fax (785) 296-2548. This agency is charged with providing information, developing forms, conducting investigations and processing complaints.

ethics@ethics.ks.gov
www.kansas.gov/ethics

"Kansas Legislative Lobbyist Directory". Lists names, addresses and employers of registered lobbyists. Published periodically. Free. Elections Division, Secretary of State, First Floor, 120 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-4561, fax (785) 291-3051. This directory is also available on the website listed below under "Elections and Legislative." Then click on "Lobbyist Center."

election@kssos.org
www.kssos.org

VI. General State Government Information

A. Official State Sources

State Website. The official comprehensive Kansas state government website is located at the address listed below.

www.kansas.gov

State Register. The "Kansas Register" is the official source of state government information. Includes list of bills introduced during legislative session, interim committee schedules, proposed administrative rules and regulations, appellate court dockets, municipal bond levy notices, various meeting and hearing notices, etc. Published weekly. Annual subscription, \$80.00. Publications, Secretary of State, First Floor, 120 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-3489, fax (785) 368-8024. Also available at the website listed below under "Publications." Then click on "Legal Publications."

kansasregister@kssos.org
www.kssos.org

State Government Telephone Directory. The "Kansas Online Communication Directory," a searchable agency and employee database, is only available online at the website listed below.

www.da.ks.gov/phonebook

B. Blue Books and Other Reference Sources

"Kansas Directory". Includes names and addresses of all elected and appointed officials of state government and basic facts about the state. Elections Division, Secretary of State, 1st Floor, 120 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-4561, fax (785) 291-

3051. Only available at the website listed below under "Publications." Then click on "Directories."

election@kssos.org
www.kssos.org

"Directory of Kansas Public Officials". Contains contact information for elected and appointed state officials, as well as for cities, counties, townships and school districts in Kansas. Annual. \$75.00, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. League of Kansas Municipalities, 300 S.W. Eighth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66603, (785) 354-9565, fax (785) 354-4186. A searchable version is located at the website listed below under "Publications."

www.lkm.org

"Kansas Statistical Abstract". Includes data on population, vital statistics and health, housing, elections, education, climate, employment, etc. Annual. Institute for Policy & Social Research, 607 Blake Hall, 1541 Lilac Lane, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044, (785) 864-3701, fax (785) 864-3683. Only available at the website listed below.

ipsr@ku.edu
www.ku.edu/pri/ksdata/ksah

C. Books on State Government and Politics

"The Government of Kansas". The only basic text available on Kansas government. Written by James W. Drury, with Marvin G. Stottlemire. Sixth edition, 2001. \$20.00. Public Management Center, University of Kansas, 715 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-2353, fax (785) 296-2580.

bvogel@ku.edu
www.kuce.org/pmc

"Politics and Government in Kansas: Selected Essays". Contains a number of studies, previously published elsewhere, on topics such as the role of the governor, the role of the legislator, the capitol press corps, the budget process, the appropriation process, interest groups, lobbying, revenue estimating, etc. Edited by Marvin A. Harder. 1989. Out of print. Public Management Center, University of Kansas, 715 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-2353, fax (785) 296-2580.

bvogel@ku.edu
www.kuce.org/pmc

"Public Policy and the Two States of Kansas". Contains eight original essays analyzing public policy issues in Kansas. Edited by H. George Frederickson. 1994. Out of print. University Press of Kansas, 2502 Westbrooke Circle, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, (785) 864-4154, fax (785) 864-4586.

upress@ku.edu
www.kansaspress.ku.edu

D. Newspapers, Newsletters, News Websites and Blogs

“Topeka Capital-Journal”. Daily newspaper. Provides daily coverage of legislative and other political and governmental news. Mail Subscriptions, Topeka Capital Journal, 616 S.E. Jefferson Street, Topeka, Kansas 66607, (785) 295-1133.

www.cjonline.com

“Hawver’s Capitol Report”. E-mail newsletter published forty times a year. Covers Kansas government and politics. Subscribers also receive “e-mail flash service” which alerts them to breaking news. Also includes an annual Legislative Guide. Annual subscription, \$200.00. Hawver News Company, 3823 S.W. Wood Valley Drive, Topeka, Kansas 66610, (785) 267-5500, fax (785) 267-1099.

*politics@hawvernews.com
www.hawvernews.com*

“Prime Buzz”. Daily political blog by reporters of the “Kansas City Star.” Covers Kansas state politics and personalities. Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri 64108, (816) 234-4636. Available at the website listed below.

*primebuzz@kcstar.com
<http://primebuzz.kcstar.com>*

“WE Blog”. Daily political blog by reporters of the “Wichita Eagle.” Covers Kansas state politics and personalities. The Wichita Eagle, 825 East Douglas, P.O. Box 820, Wichita, Kansas 67201, (316) 268-6000.

*weblog@wichitaeagle.com
<http://blogs.kansas.com/weblog>*