

NEWSLETTERS



KANSAS LEGISLATIVE INSIGHTS NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 6, 2020

August 6, 2020

SECRETARY OF STATE UPDATE

On Friday, July 31, Secretary of State Scott Schwab released his pre-primary election update noting changing voting patterns. The impact of the pandemic, combined with competitive Congressional and legislative races, generated historic advance voting in Kansas. The number of advance mail ballots requested was 314,788, compared with 51,211 advance ballots for the same period prior to the 2018 primary election and 53,387 ballots before the 2016 primary. As of last Friday, 159,012 advance mail ballots had been returned to local election offices. Schwab also noted that advance in-person voting declined from 40,606 in the 2018 to 30,700 through last Friday. He predicted 27% voter turnout. Schwab noted that 30% of Kansas voters are unaffiliated with a political party and unable to participate in the primary election. Advance mail ballots postmarked on or before August 4 and received by August 7 mean results will not be available until next week in close races.

AUGUST PRIMARY

Congressman Dr. Roger Marshall emerged from an 11-candidate field to win the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate. State Senator Dr. Barbara Bollier won the Democratic primary. The primary results mean the next U.S. Senator from Kansas will be a physician. The Congressional Republican primaries were won by former Lt. Governor Tracey Mann in the 1st District; State Treasurer Jake LaTurner in the 2nd District; former Republican Party Chairwoman Amanda Adkins in the 3rd District, and incumbent Congressman Ron Estes in the 4th District.

The Kansas Senate will have a 25% turnover with at least 10 new faces in January. Six incumbent Republican Senators were defeated in the primary. All six incumbents were completing their first term and were elected to reverse the Brownback tax experiment. In addition, Sen. Dan Goddard (R-Parsons) is currently trailing in his race by 42 votes and is awaiting the count of the final advance ballots. The results signal a conservative shift in the Kansas Senate. Four other Senate seats were open due to retirement or incumbents seeking other elective offices.

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There were five Republican incumbents defeated in the House of Representatives. There are some close primaries that will require waiting until the advance ballots postmarked on or before August 4 and received by Friday, August 7 are counted. With no general election opposition, the August primary results in five Senate races and 13 House races are settled barring a write-in campaign.

2021 KANSAS REVENUE

July provided our first look at the 2021 Fiscal Year revenue collections. The July tax-only collections for the first month of the fiscal year were \$980.8 million, or 0.5% below the estimate. The numbers surpassed the total tax-only collection by \$484.6 million when compared to last July. The delayed tax filing deadline probably contributed to that result. Individual income tax and corporate taxes were below the estimates. Retail sales tax and compensating use tax collections performed better than the monthly estimate. Revenue numbers will be closely monitored in advance of the 2021 Legislature for budget and policy discussions.

Kansas Legislative Insights is a publication developed by the Governmental Relations & Public Policy Law practice group of Foulston Siefkin LLP. It is designed to inform business executives, human resources and governmental relations professionals, and general counsel about current developments occurring in current Kansas legislation. Published regularly during the Kansas legislative session, it focuses on issues involving health care, insurance, public finance, taxation, financial institutions, business & economic development, energy, real estate & construction, environmental, agribusiness, employment, and workers compensation. Bill summaries are by necessity brief, however, for additional information on any issue before the Kansas Legislature, contact Foulston Siefkin's Governmental Relations & Public Policy Law practice group leader, James P. Rankin at 785.233.3600 or jrankin@foulston.com.

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