



Friday, April 19, 2019

*Welcome to the KDP Weekly Rundown – the Kansas Democratic Party’s update of the biggest things going on in the Kansas Legislature. What are we focused on this week? School finance, voting rights, and more!*

## **K-12 SCHOOL FUNDING**

### **• *What's happening?***

After the successful passage of the Governor’s school funding bill, all eyes turn once again to the Kansas Supreme Court. Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt filed a brief on Monday arguing that the bipartisan funding plan meets the constitutional standard required by the 2018 ruling in *Gannon v. Kansas*. Attorneys for the four school districts who filed the case say that the new law does not provide enough funding after the 2019-20 school year. Oral arguments in the case are scheduled for May 9, and a decision is expected by June 30.

### **• *Where can I learn more?***

- [Kansas tells court broad support is reason to OK schools law.](#) *Associated Press*, April 15, 2019.
- [Kansas asks court to avoid giving ‘heckler’s veto’ to schools in funding fight.](#) *Topeka Capital-Journal*, April 15, 2019.
- [State Board of Education to support funding bill.](#) *KSNT-TV*, April 16, 2019.

## **MEDICAID EXPANSION**

### **• *What's happening?***

Calls for the Kansas Senate to vote on Medicaid expansion have continued even though the state legislature is on recess. Lt. Gov. Lynn Rogers urged the state senate to consider expansion at a forum this week, stating it “was one of our major campaign promises ... and I think that’s one of the reasons we won, people wanted us to deal with

Medicaid expansion. We see how important this is to get done now ... We really have an economic imperative for doing this, but we also have a moral imperative for doing this as well.” Rogers is on a tour of more than a dozen rural hospitals throughout the state.

- ***What can I do to help?***

At the event, Lt. Gov. Rogers urged constituents to contact their state senator. Remember to personalize every email, CC committee chairs, and attend town halls in your community. You can look up your state senator [here](#).

- ***Where can I learn more?***

- [Lt. governor, locals talk Medicaid expansion.](#) *Garden City Telegraph*, April 16, 2019.
- [Stop delay; vote on Medicaid expansion \(Editorial\).](#) *Leavenworth Times*, April 16, 2019.

## VOTING RIGHTS

- ***What's happening?***

Gov. Laura Kelly signed [SB 130](#) into law on Monday, stating that “over the past decade, we have seen countless efforts aimed at making voting more difficult in this state. I hope this will be the first of many laws that help ensure that every voice is heard in our democratic process and that every vote is counted.” This law is an effort to expand and improve voting opportunities in the state. County election officials can now allow voters to cast their ballots at any polling location in their county. It also requires election offices to notify those with signature issues on their ballots and extends the timeline to correct any outstanding issues.

- ***Where can I learn more?***

- [How a change in Kansas law and a new app may help you beat the crowds on Election Day.](#) *Wichita Eagle*, April 14, 2019.
- [Ballots tossed over signatures mostly from same Kansas homes.](#) *Associated Press*, April 16, 2019.

## COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROGRAM

- ***What's happening?***

Gov. Kelly signed [HB 2167](#), establishing the Commercial Industrial Hemp Program. The Kansas Department of Agriculture is required to submit a plan outlining how the state will regulate hemp farming to the United States Department of Agriculture. In a statement, Kelly said “in recent years, Kansas farmers have faced significant challenges - including weather and trade tensions. I’m committed to doing all I can to support them and provide opportunities for diversification. This program provides another tool in the toolbox for Kansas farmers.”

• ***Where can I learn more?***

- [Governor signs bill to move Kansas toward hemp production](#). *Associated Press*, April 15, 2019.

Onward,  
KDP Team

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Paid for by the Kansas Democratic Party, Gina Long, Treasurer

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