



Friday, May 10, 2019

Welcome to the KDP Weekly Rundown – the Kansas Democratic Party’s update of the biggest things going on in the Kansas Legislature and the state party. What are we focused on this week? Medicaid expansion, the state budget, and more!

MEDICAID EXPANSION

• What’s happening?

Medicaid expansion and the budget bill were closely intertwined in the state house for the last few days of the session. The state house repeatedly voted against passing a budget in an attempt to force Senate leadership to reconsider their blockage of debate on the Medicaid expansion bill. Republican leadership responded by proposing punitive budget bills. The coalition of moderate Republicans and Democrats fell apart late Saturday night as the moderates grew concerned about possible retaliation from GOP leadership.

• Where can I learn more?

- [Medicaid expansion won’t come to Kansas this year after last-ditch effort fails](#). *Kansas City Star*, May 4, 2019.
- [Medicaid expansion supporters hold memorial service at Kansas Statehouse](#). *Topeka Capital-Journal*, May 8, 2019.
- [How did Kansas Medicaid expansion die? Here’s the view from inside the House \(Opinion, Rep. Brett Parker\)](#). *Kansas City Star*, May 9, 2019.

BUDGET

• What’s happening?

After the Medicaid expansion coalition fell apart, the state house passed [SB 25](#) with a vote of [79-45](#). The state senate then approved it [26-14](#). The passed budget includes Gov. Laura Kelly’s last minute amendment to boost corrections spending by \$25 million but moved command of the corrections budget to the state’s Financial Council. The budget also eliminates a provision creating a child welfare oversight committee.

• Where can I learn more?

- [Kansas Legislature adopts tax, budget bills in late-night session](#). *Topeka Capital-Journal*, May 5, 2019.
- [‘A bitter pill to swallow’: Kansas lawmakers drop child welfare oversight plan](#). *Wichita Eagle*, May 8, 2019.

K-12 SCHOOL FUNDING

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

The Kansas Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the state's new K-12 education funding law. The law increases education funding by about \$90 million a year. The state argued that the bipartisan funding plan meets the constitutional standard required by the 2018 ruling in *Gannon v. Kansas* while the plaintiffs argued the plan falls about \$270 million short of complying with the constitutional requirement. A ruling is expected by June 30.

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

- [Kansas faces questions about school funding law before court.](#) *Associated Press*, May 9, 2019.
- [Can we end the school litigation now? That and more questions from the Kansas Supreme Court.](#) *KCUR*, May 9, 2019.
- [After nine years, could Kansas school funding lawsuit be over? Justices will decide.](#) *Wichita Eagle*, May 9, 2019.

SINE DIE

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

The legislature will return on May 29 for Sine Die, the last day of the session. This is the last day that the legislature can take action.

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

- [Session recap: Kansas Democrats wield new power, but GOP leaders thwart Medicaid expansion.](#) *KCUR*, May 5, 2019.

Onward,

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