



Friday, May 24, 2019

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR

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

We welcomed Brenna Duffy as our new finance director this week. Prior to joining the KDP, Duffy worked in Sen. Claire McCaskill’s district office and at several non-profits. Josh Wasinger, who has served as finance director since 2018, will transition to operations director. Dan Coviello, our operations director since 2017, will continue to work with the KDP on special projects on a part-time basis.

LET'S GO LOCAL TRAININGS

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

We headed to Dodge City last weekend for a KDP fundraiser and our fifth Let’s Go Local training session. We made some tremendous gains in 2018, but there’s still work to do. That’s why the KDP is committed to training candidates and activists all over the state this year. We have two more training sessions planned around the state. We’ll be in [Great Bend](#) on June 1 and [Hays](#) on June 2. [Click here to sign up for a session.](#)

2020 PARTY-RUN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

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

June 1 is the last day to submit public feedback on our draft Delegate Selection Plan for the 2020 Democratic National Convention! We’ve made some big changes to our presidential nominating process, like letting folks vote via mail. You can review the plan at kansasdems.org/2020primary.

STATE BUDGET

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

Gov. Laura Kelly signed her first state budget this week. The \$18 billion state budget includes increased funding for the state’s higher education system and the Department of Corrections. In a [statement](#), Kelly said “there is a lot to celebrate in this state budget. We can accomplish so much good for the people of Kansas when reckless tax policy does not

leave our state embroiled in a perpetual budget crisis. I appreciate the bipartisan work of lawmakers to pass a budget that takes meaningful strides to rebuild Kansas – including investments in public education, public safety, infrastructure, and the foster care system – all without raising taxes.” The Governor did veto portions of the budget, including an unscheduled payment to the state pension system. These line-item vetoes could be considered by the state house and senate on the final scheduled day of the annual session, May 29. A veto override requires a two-thirds majority in both chambers.

• ***Where can I learn more?***

- [Gov. Laura Kelly signs \\$18 billion budget, vetoes unscheduled pension contribution.](#) *Topeka Capital-Journal*, May 20, 2019.
- [Kansas Governor signs budget but vetoes pension payment.](#) *Associated Press*, May 20, 2019.

TAX REFORM

• ***What's happening?***

Gov. Kelly vetoed [HB 2033](#), her second veto of a GOP-proposed tax relief plan in two months. The proposed plan would have revised the state’s income tax coded, collected more taxes from internet sales, and decreased the state’s grocery sales tax. The plan was expected to create a \$1 billion deficit within three years. “Kansans deserve a plan. Successful tax reform must be shaped by a thoughtful, big-picture vision – not by a rushed attempt to achieve an immediate political victory,” the governor said in a [statement](#), “To that end, my administration recently began outlining a plan to help build this vision, which I look forward to sharing in the weeks to come.” The state house and senate could attempt a veto override on the final scheduled day of the annual session, May 29. An override requires a two-thirds majority in both chambers.

• ***Where can I learn more?***

- [Gov. Laura Kelly vetoes downsized GOP-crafted tax relief bill.](#) *Topeka Capital-Journal*, May 17, 2019.
- [Gov. Kelly vetoes Republican tax bill, says it would bring ‘senseless fiscal crisis’.](#) *Wichita Eagle*, May 17, 2019.
- [Gov. Kelly vetoes 2nd GOP tax relief plan.](#) *Associated Press*, May 14, 2019.

Onward,

KDP Team

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

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