

# SHANNON FRANCIS

Kansas House District 125



## April 25, 2016 Newsletter



Jack Taylor (left)  
Secretary of Transportation Mike King (right)

Since my last newsletter there has been **good news** and bad news. Let's start with the good news. On April 19, it was my pleasure to attend the groundbreaking for the "First Phase" of the Highway 54 expansion in Seward County. This will be approximately 3.5 miles of four-lane expressway in the area around Hayne and the Conestoga Ethanol plant. It will include acceleration and deceleration lanes for trucks. Secretary of Transportation, Mike King, and his staff were in town. So many local residents have worked decades to improve Highway 54. It was great to see Jack Taylor, emceeding the event and Marilyn Thompson in the audience. There are too many others to mention but I kept thinking about the work of Max Zimmerman and Ray Hettic over the years on Highway 54.

Now the **bad news**, less than 48 hours after the groundbreaking Phases 2 and 3 of the Highway 54 project were indefinitely postponed due to revenue shortages. On April 20<sup>th</sup> the consensus revenue estimating group, of which the Governor's Director of Budget and the

### Contact Shannon

#### At the Legislature

Room: 167-W  
State Capitol Building  
300 SW 10th Street  
Topeka, KS 66612  
Phone: 785-296-7655  
[shannon.francis@house.ks.gov](mailto:shannon.francis@house.ks.gov)

#### At Home:

1501 Tucker Court  
Liberal, Kansas 67901  
Phone: 620-624-9571  
[sfran83384@aol.com](mailto:sfran83384@aol.com)

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#### Medicaid Fraud

1-866-551-6328

#### Welfare Fraud Hotline

800-432-3913

#### Department On Aging

800-432-3535

Legislature's Research Director have the only votes, lowered revenue estimates for the remainder of this fiscal year ending June 30, by \$140.1 million. Because the state has no projected reserves, a minimum of \$140.1 million must be cut from spending this year. If revenues are short from now until June 30 then additional spending will have to be cut. Our revenues have come in short 13 of the last 14 months so history tells me we will be short. All of the proposals assume we will find efficiencies or the economy will grow enough that everything will be ok by 2018.

For fiscal year 2017, beginning July 1, 2016, the state is currently projected to be \$151.3 million short. Together these numbers are the inspiration for the recent headlines of \$290 Million in revenue shortfalls.

The Governor has offered **three proposals** to the legislature for spending cuts. All of the cuts are allegedly only for the next two years. **All three proposals include cutting \$70 million from KDOT (Kansas Department of Transportation) this year and \$115 million next year.** Since the 2012 tax plan was instituted, we have continued to cut spending on highways. With these cuts, KDOT is being cut around **\$515 Million a year**, and the money is being spent in the general fund. All expansion and modernization projects for 2017 and 2018 have been postponed. None of the projects cut are in the urban counties. For the next two years KDOT will focus on maintenance projects that were put off the last two years. All three proposals **cut 3% (\$17.7 million) from our universities** in FY 2017. Under all three proposals there will be some need to use the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2016 KPERS Contribution of \$92 million to float spending into 2017.

**Proposal 1** The Governor's preferred proposal would give up around \$16 million each year of our Tobacco Settlement Money for the next 20 or 30 years to investors and in return we would receive around \$158 million, one time, this year, to plug the budget hole. This money is currently being used for early childhood intervention programs. This and all proposals include the previously mentioned KDOT and University **spending cuts totaling \$202.7 Million.**

**Proposal 2** Under this proposal Kansas will **delay** the

**Child/Adult Abuse Hotline**

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**Child & Family Services**

**888-369-4777**

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**800-252-8477**

**Crime Victim Assistance**

**800-828-9745**

**Gov- Brownback**

**800-748-4408**

**Highway Road Conditions**

**511 (in Kansas)**

**Housing Hotline**

**800-752-4422**

**KanCare Assistance**

**866-305-5147**

**Kansas Lottery**

**800-544-9467**

**Legislative Hotline**

**800-432-3924**

**Mental Health Services**

**888-582-3759**

**School Safety Hotline**

**877-626-8203**

**Social Security**

**800-772-1213**

**Taxpayer Assistance**

**785-368-8222**

**Tax Refund Status**

KPERS FY 2016 fourth quarter payment of **\$92 Million until FY 2018**. In 2018 the assumption is we will have enough money to pay the “loan” back with interest. The Governor will cut another \$25.0 million at his discretion. Again this and all proposals include the aforementioned KDOT and university spending cuts.

**Proposal 3** This is the Governor’s least preferred option. It cuts most Executive Branch Agencies in FY 2017 3% and KDHE and our major universities are cut 5% or more. This proposal includes the KDOT Cuts of (\$185 Million). Below are a few of the cuts by department.

Agency	Spending Cuts
K-12 Dept of Education	\$57,262,285
Dept of Health & Environment	\$35,636,050
KU & KU MED	\$10,179,987
K-State and its Entities	\$6,998,175
Board of Regents (more Higher Ed hits including probably SCCC)	\$5,930,603
Dept for Children & Families	\$4,225,999
Wichita State University	\$3,728,210
Emporia, Fort Hays and Pittsburg State Universities	\$3,050,952
Governor's Office	\$201,225

On Wednesday the legislature will return to grapple with this issue. To quote Yogi Berra, “This feels like Déjà vu all over again”. None of these proposals are long-term solutions. They just kick the can down the road. Without a real revenue component these proposals are just bailing wire and duct tape. The cancellation of over \$550 million in road construction projects affects more than just the companies that win the contracts. The spending on these projects increases sales to gas stations, truck dealerships, restaurants, motels and a host of other businesses in Kansas. The cuts to our universities will cause increased tuition, delayed maintenance, lost capitol improvements, and other unintended consequences. On the other hand the Kansas Missouri border war of state economic incentives encourages businesses to relocate across the state line within a few miles of their existing location and costs the state revenue through Star Bonds, the HIPP and Peak programs without any real economic growth in the Kansas City Metro Area. No wonder we continue to fail to

**800-894-0318**

**Unclaimed Property**

**800-432-0386**

**Unemployment Insurance**

**800-292-6333**

**Vital Statistics**

**785-296-1400**

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**800-262-8683**

**Worker's Comp**

**800-332-0353**

meet estimates. I am convinced our economies in rural Kansas suffer more from a lack of demand than a lack of capital. I believe the states current economic policies fail to address this issue. I will be working with others in the legislature to develop a true long-term solution. It won't be easy, but if it were we would have already done it.

The quote that spoke me the most this week was ***Ephesians 29-32***: Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Best advice I received this week: Listen first.

### **Constituent Services**

Please reach out to me regarding issues with our state government that I can help with. I do ask that you send the request to me by email. My email address is: [Shannon.francis@house.ks.gov](mailto:Shannon.francis@house.ks.gov). This insures that I get the information correctly to the agency we are working with.

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Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Please contact me anytime. My email is: [Shannon.francis@house.ks.gov](mailto:Shannon.francis@house.ks.gov).



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**Paid for by Shannon Francis for State Representative, Lisa Hatcher Treasurer**