

# SHANNON FRANCIS

Kansas House District 125



## March 20, 2016 Newsletter

### Visitors



Sara Davis of Liberal High School served the legislature as a page. It is great working at the capitol with our youth as they participate in our State Government.



### Contact Shannon

#### At the Legislature

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

#### At Home:

1501 Tucker Court  
Liberal, Kansas 67901  
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### Useful Resources

[State of Kansas Website](#)

[The Kansas Legislature](#)

[Legislative Bill Reports](#)

[Listen Live to Proceedings](#)

[Find a State Agency](#)

[Kansas unclaimed Property](#)

[Current Road Conditions](#)

[National Do Not Call List](#)

[Kansas Charity Check](#)

### Useful Phone Numbers

Medicaid Fraud

1-866-551-6328

Welfare Fraud Hotline

800-432-3913

Department On Aging

800-432-3535

Carol & I really enjoyed the Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner. What a great opportunity to honor those that make a difference in our Community. Special Congratulations to this year's Merit Award Winner Don Witzke. Don has spent his life serving the community including, his Church, the School Board, as Mayor and City Commissioner, and on Economic Development among others.

## **Higher Education Cuts Affect County Extension**

As the state continues to cut spending, due to the 2012 tax cuts and revenue shortfalls, it often affects rural Kansas in ways you don't expect. Earlier this month the Governor cut \$17 million from the state's universities for the remainder of the budget year. This action resulted in a 3.5% cash callback by K-State extension for all local extension units, including our local Seward County Extension office. Our local extension folks work hard to support our ag economy, our 4-H program and our county fair among other services. I voted against House leadership's budget earlier this session because that budget bill granted the power to the Governor to make cuts such as these without legislative approval. I don't believe the Legislature should pass the buck and allow for cuts to be made in areas that impact our families and our youth.

## **March 25 Drop Dead Day**

It's been busy in Topeka as the legislature prepares for first adjournment. This week the House of Representatives focused on getting Senate bills out of committee and passed on the House Floor. Next week the focus will be on resolving differences between the House and Senate versions of bills in conference committees and passing those compromises in each body. After March 25, the Legislature will be on recess until April 27. I would love to speak to any local organizations about what is happening in Topeka during this recess. Just call or email me. On April 27, the Legislature will reconvene for the Veto Session. During this time, annual Consensus Revenue Estimates will be released, which will identify any changes in the state's financial picture. I also expect we will debate and decide upon a plan to address school funding equalization during Veto.

### **Child/Adult Abuse Hotline**

**800-922-5330**

### **Child & Family Services**

**888-369-4777**

### **Consumer Protection**

**800-423-2310**

### **Crime Tip Hotline**

**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**

**800-894-0318**

## SB 367

Amendments to the juvenile justice system sound innocuous but is a major overhaul of our juvenile system. The good or bad of it will probably depend on how it comes out of conference committee to resolve differences between the Senate and House versions. Kansas currently has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest rate of juvenile incarceration in the nation. Our current system is costly and incarcerates kids that have exercised poor judgment for the same sentences and in the same institutions as juveniles with more severe records. This bill will take a more evidenced-based, common sense approach that includes rehabilitating low-risk juveniles separately from high-risk juveniles so that those who have simply exercised poor judgment are not influenced in the wrong direction by those around them.

## K-12 School Local Option Budget and Capitol Outlay Equalization

The Supreme Court earlier this year ruled that the Block Grants passed last year were unconstitutional because they caused unequal funding between school districts when property valuations changed. Our local school districts have been a victim of this as the value of oil and gas reserves drop in our district. The data I have seen on the Senate Bill proposed would result in a decrease in funding of \$157,756 for the Liberal School District and an increase of \$76,382 for Southwestern Heights. I will be working to ensure the Liberal School District does not have a reduction in funding for fiscal year 2016-2017.

“If you’re hanging around with nothing to do and the zoo is closed, come over to the Senate. You’ll get the same kind of feeling and you won’t have to pay.” **(Bob Dole)**

“Things are going to get better. Be optimistic.” **(Bob Dole)**

## Constituent Services

Please reach out to me regarding issues with our state government that I can help with. I do ask that you send

### Unclaimed Property

800-432-0386

### Unemployment Insurance

800-292-6333

### Vital Statistics

785-296-1400

### Voter Registration

800-262-8683

### Worker's Comp

800-332-0353

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**