

# SHANNON FRANCIS

Kansas House District 125



Newsletter - March 18, 2017

## Clark County Fire



### Contact Shannon

#### At the Legislature

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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

Department On Aging  
800-432-3535

Child/Adult Abuse Hotline  
800-922-5330



Pictures don't do justice to the devastation in Kansas caused by the fires earlier this month. Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, I toured Clark County with State Senator Estes, Lieutenant Governor Colyer and Senator Moran. Over 3,000 cattle are estimated to have died in Clark County alone. Over 1000 square miles of land burned in Kansas. No matter who I talked to they were optimistic and strong. They said they would be ok but they were worried about their neighbors. The Kansas Livestock Association is coordinating donations of hay and fencing material. To make in-kind donations call (785) 273-5115. To volunteer or make other donations go to [KLA.ORG](http://KLA.ORG). Thanks to the many first responders that risked their lives during the recent fires. You are what makes America Great. People from across the state and across the nation showed up to help fight the fires and now the same is happening to help them rebuild.

**Child & Family Services**

**888-369-4777**

**Consumer Protection**

**800-432-2310**

**Crime Tip Hotline**

**1-800-KSCRIME**

**(1-800-572-7463)**

**Crime Victims'**

**Information Referral**

**800-828-9745**

**Disability / Social**

**Security Fraud Hotline**

**800-269-0271**

**Edler Abuse Hotline**

**800-842-0078**

**Governor Brownback  
Constituent Services**

**800-748-4408**

**Highway Road Conditions**

**1-866-511-5638**

**In-State Dial 511**

**Housing Hotline**

**800-752-4422**

**KanCare Clearinghouse**

**800-792-4884**

**Kansas Lottery**

**800-544-9467**

**Legislative Hotline**

**800-432-3924**

**Mental Health Services**

**888-582-3759**

## Chamber Banquet



Carol and I had a great time at the Liberal Chamber of Commerce Banquet. I was especially happy to see my friend, Jerry Harding, win the Merit Award. Jerry is a great booster of Liberal and a great entrepreneur in our community. Congrats Jerry!



Senator Estes and I had the pleasure to visit with Rafael Figueroa, the owner of HECO. HECO provides Plumbing, Heat & Air Conditioning Service and new construction for the Liberal area. He received the emerging business for SW Kansas award at the Small Business Awards Ceremony. Teresa Troutner and Mike O'Kane staff our local Small Business Development Center in conjunction with SCCC.

**National Suicide  
Prevention Lifeline**  
800-273-8255

**School Safety Hotline**  
877-626-8203

**Taxpayer Assistance**  
785-368-8222

**Tax Refund Status**  
800-894-0318

**Unclaimed Property**  
800-432-0386

**Unemployment Insurance**  
800-292-6333

**Voter Registration**  
800-262-8683

**Welfare Fraud Hotline**  
800-432-3913

**Workmans Compensation**  
800-332-0353



It was great visiting with my classmate Donna Walker at the Capitol. She was taking part in the K-State Extension Masters program.



Senator Estes and I had a great forum, hosted by the Liberal Chamber of Commerce, Saturday. Thanks to everyone who came out. It's great to hear your concerns.

## **Topeka**

A lot has been happening in Topeka since I last wrote. The Supreme Court ruled the current Block Grant System that essentially gives each school district the same amount of money they got last year "is not reasonably calculated to have all Kansas K-12 public students meet or exceed the

Rose standards.” Approximately 25% of Kansas students fail to meet the Rose Standards. A summary, prepared for the legislature regarding the ruling, can be found at the Kansas Legislative Research Website here: [Gannon KLRD Summary](#).

The House and Senate have both passed a recession bill that will soon be worked in conference committee. I wish we had other options; but it will fill the current estimated deficit of around \$288 million primarily by using our PMIB investment fund, delaying payments to KPERS and delaying payments to schools. The budget hole created by the tax cuts of 2012 is estimated to be over \$500 million next year, without addressing the Supreme Court Ruling. House Tax is in a holding pattern; we are waiting on the Senate. The Senate has not yet coalesced around a tax plan. It was 3 votes short of overriding the Governor's Veto on the earlier plan passed this session with majorities in both houses.

In Tax Committee I amended a bill to add Seward County to the Rural Opportunity Zone program. In Water and Environment I have been working with other legislators and stakeholders on getting funding for \$2million in water conservation and research projects. The state has not made its statutorily required transfers of \$8 million to the water fund for years and I hope we can restore a portion of that this year.

***“No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time” Winston Churchill***

### **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. This insures that I get the information correctly to the agency we are working with. 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**