

During the 2020-2021 legislative session Governor Kelly vetoed 9 bills. Below are key talking points.

- HB 2007 (Budget)
- SB 50 (Tax)
- SB 55 (Trans Athletes)
- HB 2183 (elections)
- HB 2332 (elections)
- HB 2166 (license plates)
- HB 2058 (concealed carry)
- HB 2039 (Civics Bill)
- HB 2089 (Eddie the Eagle)

HB 2007 (Budget), Signed with Certain Provisions Removed

- Today Governor Kelly signed HB 2007, the budget, that includes funding for transportation, modernization, mental health services, and resources for the Kansas businesses.
- This budget includes many enhancements to the work we began before the pandemic, by restoring funding through fiscally responsible tax policy.
- There is still more work to be done – however - this budget includes significant funding to support some of the most vulnerable Kansas including those in long-term care, those with intellectual disabilities and increased access to preventative mental health services and crisis prevention.
- This is the largest increase to social services spending like nursing homes, I/DD, senior care act, etc. **in at least a DECADE.**
- Governor Kelly approved the vast majority of the budget.
- Governor Kelly looks forward to working with the Legislature to address the critical funding measures that must be passed during Omnibus. These include our constitutional obligation to adequately and equitably fund our K-12 public schools, salary increases for state employees, and restored funding for state agencies whose budgets were reduced as a precautionary measure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For full Press release recapping items removed: <https://governor.kansas.gov/governor-laura-kelly-signs-budget-removes-certain-provisos/>

SB 50 (Tax), Vetoed

- This fiscally irresponsible proposal blows a \$307.7 million hole in our state general fund that will undo much of the progress we have made to accelerate out of the pandemic through record economic development and protecting education investments for our children.
- Kansas families and communities can't afford another round of devastating cuts to our roads and bridges, and our schools, especially as they are trying to recover from COVID-19.

- Kansans know the devastation of poor fiscal policy choices because we've been down this road before. We know the pain caused by cutting public schools, transportation funding, and health services to pay for failed corporate tax plans and unbalanced budgets.
- The pandemic has presented new challenges as well as new opportunities for our state to take advantage of. The Legislature should not cause a self-inflicted wound with headlines that suggest we have not learned the lessons of the past.
- Returning to the failed policies that undermined our state's foundation will make our communities less attractive to business, encourage more of our talented young people to leave, and hurt funding for our most vulnerable Kansans.
- Last year, despite COVID-19, Kansas recorded over \$2.5 billion in new investment from businesses like Urban Outfitters, Amazon, and Great Plains Manufacturing. These companies chose to make Kansas home in large part due to the state's recent investments in rebuilding the Kansas Department of Commerce, its prioritization of funding for infrastructure improvements, restoring education funding and repealing the Brownback Tax Experiment.
- Companies want to invest in strong, vibrant communities. They want to know that the places they choose to locate will have good schools, a sound physical and digital infrastructure, and quality healthcare programs for their employees and their families to have access to.
- While providing generous benefits to companies that hide their revenue overseas to avoid paying US taxes, most Kansans would only gain a maximum of \$28.50 as a result of SB 50.

SB 55 (Trans Athlete), Vetoed

- This legislation sends a devastating message that Kansas is not welcoming to all children and their families, including those who are transgender -- who are already at a higher risk of bullying, discrimination and suicide.
- As Kansans, we should be focused on how to include all students in extracurricular activities rather than how to exclude those who may be different than us. Kansas is an inclusive state and our laws should reflect our values. This law does not do that.
- This bill would also undoubtedly harm our ability to attract and retain businesses. It would send a signal to prospective companies that Kansas is more focused on unnecessary and divisive legislation, than strategic, pro-growth lawmaking.

Background Information on business, economic, bullying, and mental health impact and list of other states who have vetoed similar legislation available upon request.

HB 2183 and HB 2332 (elections)

- Kansas has always had safe and secure elections; this bill is a solution in search of a problem.
- This is designed to disenfranchise Kansans, making it difficult for them to participate in the democratic process, not to stop voter fraud.
- We should be finding ways to make voting more accessible – not putting undue burdens on Kansans that will make it harder, or criminal, for them to cast their ballots.

- Divisive legislation is bad for business. As we've seen in Georgia and other states implementing similar legislation, bills that restrict voting kill jobs and antagonize businesses.

Background information on economic impact of these bills and data on voter fraud in Kansas are available upon request.

HB 2166 (license plate)

- Discrimination has no place in Kansas. Over time, the Gadsden flag has become a symbol of racism.
- Legislation that alienates Kansans and makes our state less welcoming will hurt our ability to attract and retain a talented workforce and employers.
- Should the original bill be passed and sent back to the Governor without the Gadsden flag option, she will sign it.

Background information on why the Gadsen flag is historically racist is available upon request.

HB 2058 (Concealed Carry)

- We can respect and defend the rights of Kansas gun owners while also taking effective steps to keep our children and families safe.
- This bill will significantly increase the number of college and university students who are eligible to carry concealed firearms on campus, creating a threatening environment on college and university campuses.
- This bill would allow previous offenders and felons to obtain firearms, including those who have been convicted for crimes like domestic battery.
- Kansas cannot risk pushing young people, jobs, or businesses away through divisive legislation that would jeopardize public safety.

Background information on this topic including military regulations and domestic violence are available upon request.

HB 2039 (Civics Bill) and HB 2089 (Eddie the Eagle)

The following message is from Governor Kelly regarding her vetoes of House Bill 2089 and House Bill 2039:

“The Kansas Constitution endows our state Board of Education with the authority to set the curriculum for our public schools. We should let the state Board of Education do that job, not the Legislature. This is legislative overreach. I encourage the Legislature to work with the State Board of Education to modify curriculum. Therefore, under Article 2, Section 14(a) of the Constitution, I hereby veto House Bill 2089 and House Bill 2039.”