

## Kansas

Voters in Kansas will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and state legislators in the 2018 election cycle. All 125 seats are up in the House. Republicans have a trifecta in the state and should maintain control of the legislature.

### Governor

#### Democratic Nominee

#### [State Senator Laura Kelly](#)

State Senator Laura Kelly secured the Democratic nomination for governor which sets up a stark contrast between her Republican challenger, Secretary of State Kris Kobach. Thus far, more than a dozen high profile Kansas Republicans have showed support for Senator Kelly.

She is a vocal opponent of former Governor Sam Brownback's (R) tax cuts and eliminations citing that it drained the budget and hurt public schools. She has stated that public education would be her top priority of governor. Senator Kelly wants to invest more in technical and trade schools, and job training programs.

Senator Kelly has released a Vision for Rural Prosperity Plan. She pledges to expand 4-lane highways and broadband in rural areas of the state. She wants to provide incentives for capital investments and tax credits for new residential construction in current commercial corridors. Senator Kelly supports reforming KanCare, expanding Medicaid believing it can expand rural healthcare coverage. She also favors reasonable regulations on corporate farming and pledges to eliminate the red tape for local producers.

She favors a broad ethics reform package that includes agreements for former executive branch staff not to become registered lobbyists for at least two years after employment in Topeka and a two-year ban on former legislators registering as lobbyists.

She is highlighting some of her more progressive values on her campaign. Senator Kelly has pledged to protect women's reproductive healthcare. She has also pledged to reverse the state's faith-based adoption law, signed this session, which she believes to be discriminatory towards LGBTQ families. While she states that she has always been a strong supporter of 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights, she now believes a ban on bump stocks and limiting access to assault weapons should be law.

***Trivia:** Senator Kelly recently secured the endorsement of former Kansas Governor Bill Graves (R).*