



2022 Kansas Legislative Session State of the State Speech

State of the State Speech & Republican Response

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly delivered her fourth State of the State speech this evening. Last year's speech was delivered remotely when the State was experiencing roughly 1,700 cases of COVID-19 daily. Currently, Kansas is seeing more than 5,700 new COVID cases a day in the current surge. In her speech, the Governor made her case for why the state of the state is strong. House Speaker Ron Ryckman, the longest serving Speaker of the House who is starting his sixth term as Speaker, delivered the Republican response.

Below is an overview of Governor Laura Kelly's speech. Her speech can be found here: [State of the State Address 01/11/2022 - YouTube](#) if you would like to watch the speech. The Governor's speech clocked in around 48 minutes including applause lines. The Speaker's response which is pre-recorded without an audience came just under four minutes. Speaker Ryckman's brief response can be found here. [2022 Kansas State of the State Address and GOP Response \(AUDIO\) | Kansas Public Radio](#)

Perhaps the line of the night was the Governor discussing the eliminating the sales tax on food:

"We hereby eliminate the state sales tax on food effective immediately." - Just 13 words. Clean bi-partisan bill. Do it by Kansas Day. I will sign it the moment it hits my desk.

Overview

- Governor Kelly notes this is the final year of my first term
- Acknowledge executive cabinet, Lt. Governor Toland, Lyn Rogers
- Shout out to all medical professionals
 - Standing ovation for the charge nurse - frontline worker
 - Kansas spirit of neighbor helping neighbor has never been stronger
 - Which is why the Legislature needs to quickly extend Executive Orders through March regarding nursing homes, APRNs and PAs via legislation immediately
- Largest budget surplus in the past 40 years - managed budget, saw some economic growth - balancing the budget and fully funding our schools
 - Paid down state debt - adding \$600M to state's rainy day fund - most ever infused.
 - Because we managed the budget so responsibly - every tax filer will get \$250/\$500 for joint filers

- Food in KS cost families - higher taxes on groceries than any other nations - STATE sales tax
 - Finally responsible budget - “finally eliminate the grocery sales tax.”
 - Send a bill to my desk to end this tax once and for all. All Ds and Rs agree. Only thing that could stop it would be the toxicity in DC. We are better than that in KS. Let’s not overcomplicate.
 - “We hereby eliminate the state sales tax on food effective immediately.” - Just 13 words. Clean bi-partisan bill. Do it by Kansas Day. I will sign it the moment it hits my desk. We must not delay. Everyday we delay costs families money. It will be a win for everyone in this room and importantly all of Kansan's.

- No tuition increases whatsoever.

- Unemployment under 4% for more than a year and \$3.8B invested in Kansas this year. In 3 years \$7.6B - more than any previous governor in their first term and we still have a year left.

- Agriculture
 - 25% of the nations’ highest quality beef - during first days and weeks of pandemic - with Senator Robert’s and President Trump - needed to keep Kansans on the job feeding the world
 - Ag is the lifeblood of our economy and the farmers are the hearts. Wildfire relief. To Restore livestock, farms, ranches and lives.
 - Water plan – 15-year plan - ensure water supply – key to our Ag community

- Access to high-speed internet

- Transportation investment highlighting Wichita’s North Junction Road project - change the very quality of life of our citizens

- Health Care systems & Call for Medicaid expansion

- Schools and teachers - we support you.

- Signed 187 bills into law via bi-partisan work.
 - Gave several examples of bi-partisan success including budget bill, transportation bill AND the Emergency Loan Fund for community owned electric and natural gas utilities impacted by the February weather event.

As always, please call or email with any questions!

- Kimberly & Josh

Contact Information

Kimberly Gencur Svaty - 913.486.4446 | kimberly@gencursvaty.com

Joshua Svaty - 785.472.7794 | joshua@joshuasvaty.com @joshuasvaty

Jenour Svaty
PUBLIC AFFAIRS