

Legislative Involvement

Track legislation

- **By computer:** Find House and Senate calendars, listings of lawmakers and an explanation of how a bill becomes law at www.kslegislature.org.
 - You can search for bills by keywords or phrases and track a bill through the legislative process.
 - You also can listen to House and Senate sessions live.
- **By phone:** Call the legislative hotline at 800-432-3924. Use the same number for TTY calls for the hearing impaired. The hotline has information about legislative activity and documents, including bill introductions, sponsorships, amendments, status and history. The same information is available by texting a question to the library at 785-256-0733.
- **By subscription:** There are multiple online bill tracking programs that you can subscribe to, however, please note these all have initial and ongoing fees associated with them. For an initial fee of \$95 you can access the following programs:
 - Multi-bill tracking. Lets you track the history of multiple bills at once. Cost: additional \$1 per search.
 - Full-text bill packet. Contains the full text of all bills introduced the previous day in the Legislature. Cost: additional \$2 per packet.
 - Lobbyist-in-a-box. Allows you to track specific bills and alerts you to any changes to those bills. Cost: additional \$1 per bill profile or \$50 a month for unlimited access.
 - For questions about subscription services, call 785-296-5059.

Track spending

To examine where the state's money comes from and how it is being spent, go to www.kansas.gov/kanview.

Testify about a bill

If you feel strongly about a bill, you can speak before a committee assigned to study it. Contact the secretary of the committee assigned to study the bill. You'll find the information at www.kslegislature.org.

You'll need written copies of your testimony. Ask how many copies to bring and how long you will be allowed to speak. Committee members may ask questions and committee decisions often may not be made the same day as the hearing.

Tips to be effective: Research the bill number and the bill's status. Let the committee know if you have any expertise on the issue. Be brief.

Legislative Involvement (cont)

Lobby a legislator

You can find contact information for legislators at www.kslegislature.org.

- **Write a letter.** Be formal and brief. If the lawmaker represents the district where you live, point that out. Lawmakers say most of the mail they receive comes from organized groups. They place more emphasis on those from individuals.
- **Send an e-mail.** Legislators get bombarded with e-mails, so they may have to sort through a lot before getting to yours. Your own words are more effective than copy-and-paste material from lobbying groups.
- **Make a phone call.** Although this is the most direct way to speak with a legislator, it may be the most difficult, because legislators are in session and committee meetings much of the day.
- **Watch for public forums.** The Wichita-area delegation and individual legislators conduct several forums each session, usually on the weekends. Notices will be published in The Eagle.
- **Register for newsletters.** Some lawmakers send newsletters to the registered voters who live in their district, explaining issues and seeking suggestions from constituents.

Contact the governor

- **By mail:** Office of the Governor, Capitol, 300 S.W. 10th Ave., Suite 212S, Topeka, KS 66612-1590
- **By phone:** 877-579-6757. Hearing-impaired: 800-766-3777
- **By e-mail:** Fill out the form at <http://governor.ks.gov/comment>

View campaign contributions

Find out who donated money to your legislator through reports filed with the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission. Go to www.kansas.gov/ethics/index.html and click on campaign finance on the left side of the screen.

Find a department

Go to www.kansas.gov for links to all state departments and elected officials, including the governor, attorney general and secretary of state.

Find a lobbyist

Go to www.kssos.org/elections/lobbyist_online.asp for a listing of all the registered lobbyists.

State Library

The State Library is on the third floor of the Capitol building. The collection includes state and federal documents along with books and audio recordings. It is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is on the Web at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/>.

Kansas “Statehouse” iPhone App

A newly launched free iPhone app called "Statehouse" that quickly links users to several legislative sites has been developed by **Jake Lowen**, of Kansas Grassroots Consulting, and Domain 51, a Lawrence technology company.

The app:

- Finds the Kansas Legislature’s site statuses, agendas, and calendars for both the House and the Senate.
- Searches for representatives and senators directly on your iPhone (no network connection required).
- Initiates a call to the representative's or senator's office directly from the app.

You can download the app from the iPhone app [store](#).