



Kansas – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

11th Edition – 2025

Summary

The eleventh edition of the Kansas CPAC Scorecard analyzes 19 consequential votes from the 2024 Regular Session in both the State Senate and House of Representatives. The results underscore a state legislature actively engaged in a high-stakes ideological battle between committed conservative lawmakers and a radical Democrat minority backed by Governor Laura Kelly's veto pen.

The **Kansas Senate earned an overall average of just 66%**, dragged down by a **shocking 13% average among Democrats**, while **Republicans held the line with a 87% average**. In the House, the picture was similar: an **overall average of 63%**, with **Republicans at a strong 88%** and **Democrats floundering at 7%**. These numbers reflect a legislature where nearly all opposition to conservative policy comes from a deeply entrenched Left.

Conservative legislators spent the session fighting to eradicate DEI indoctrination from Kansas universities, protect the unborn, fortify election integrity, support the border mission in Texas, and defend parental rights and free speech. Many of these measures were passed and even overcame Governor Kelly's veto, demonstrating a bold willingness to govern from principle. However, several key reforms, especially on tax relief and election law, were crushed by the governor. Even more troubling, several big-government spending packages made their way through with bipartisan support, subsidizing film producers, sports leagues, and corporate interests under the guise of economic development. These votes reveal an ongoing need to root out the last vestiges of cronyism from within Republican ranks and hold every legislator accountable, not just for rhetoric, but for action.

Kansas remains a red state, but one at a crossroads. The contrast is stark: one side is fighting for freedom, accountability, and prosperity, and the other is advancing government control, cultural decay, and fiscal irresponsibility. CPAC stands with the lawmakers who refuse to bend to the Left's agenda and continue to lead Kansas toward a freer, more prosperous future.

Key Takeaways

Kansas Conservatives Lead the Fight Against DEI and Gender Ideology

In a session marked by cultural conflict, **HB 2105** struck at the heart of institutionalized wokeness by banning DEI-based hiring practices at public universities. CPAC supported this critical bill, which passed without Governor Kelly's signature. Likewise, **SB 233** took aim at taxpayer-funded gender transitions for minors. Though this bill was vetoed and not overridden, it revealed the resolve of Kansas conservatives to end the grotesque abuse of children under the guise of "affirming care."

A Fierce Stand for Life and Parental Rights

Life-affirming legislation defined the session. **HB 2436** made it a crime to coerce a woman into abortion. **HB 2749** added reporting requirements for abortion providers to enhance accountability. And **HB 164** and **SB 394** took meaningful steps to protect children online by mandating age verification on adult websites. Kansas Republicans overrode the governor's veto on several pro-life and child protection bills, making clear that the culture of life is alive and growing in the heartland.

Governor Kelly Vetoes Conservative Tax Reform and Election Integrity

Governor Laura Kelly showed her hand this session: she is wholly opposed to conservative governance. She vetoed **HB 2284**, a flat tax that would have delivered relief to working Kansans. She also rejected **HB 2614** and **HB 2618**, which were designed to ensure ballot security and limit federal interference in state elections. Despite strong conservative support, these common sense reforms were struck down—thanks in part to Democrat intransigence and the inability to override every veto in the Senate.

Cracks in Fiscal Discipline Emerge

Even with a solid GOP presence, not every vote reflected a conservative commitment to limited government. Bills like **HB 2001** and **HB 2097** funneled taxpayer dollars into special funding projects for wealthy sports leagues and film producers. CPAC opposed these giveaways, which signal that some in the legislature remain susceptible to the trappings of big-government corporatism.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

SB 28 – Retaining Funding for a Southwest Border Mission

This roll call vote attempts to override a line-item veto that Governor Kelly made of appropriations to assist Texas in combating President Biden's migration crisis. CPAC supports efforts to help protect federal immigration law and opposed the veto. The Senate overrode Governor Kelly's veto on April 29, 2024 by a vote of 28-12.

HB 2105 – Cracking Down on DEI at Kansas' Universities

This bill prohibits public institutions of higher education from deploying DEI tactics in hiring or promotion decisions. CPAC opposes DEI and supported this bill. The Senate passed it 28-11; the House passed it 81-40. It later became law without the governor's signature.

HB 2436 – Criminalizing the Act of Coercing a Woman to Kill Her Baby

This bill makes it a crime to coerce a woman into having an abortion. CPAC supported this life-affirming bill. The Senate overrode Governor Kelly's veto 28-10, and the House overrode it 85-40, allowing the bill to become law.

HB 2284 – Delivering Tax Relief Through a Flat Tax Plan

This bill would have implemented a long-awaited flat income tax for Kansans, simplifying the tax code and returning money to the taxpayers. CPAC strongly supported this measure, which represented a landmark opportunity to restrain government growth and reward work. Governor Kelly vetoed the bill, and unfortunately, the override vote failed in the Senate. The Senate vote to override occurred on April 26, 2024, but fell short 25-14. The House had previously passed the bill 84-39.

Trends and Observations

Conservative Lawmakers Are Outnumbered, Not Outmatched

Kansas Republicans showed consistent resolve on the most important issues of our time: fighting DEI, securing elections, defending life, and slashing taxes. Despite being hamstrung by a far-left governor and a Democrat caucus completely disconnected from reality, conservative lawmakers delivered. With stronger majorities or a new governor, the conservative movement in Kansas is poised to win big.

Governor Kelly's Veto Pen Is a Blunt Weapon Against Freedom

From flat tax proposals to election integrity, Governor Kelly vetoed nearly every major conservative bill passed by the legislature. She rejected DEI bans, age verification laws, property tax protections, and national security bills. Her administration has become the single greatest obstacle to Kansas' ability to govern itself according to conservative values.

Fiscal Responsibility Needs Recommitment

While many Republicans performed admirably on social, cultural, and electoral issues, too many supported cronyist economic policies—like tax incentives for sports leagues (**HB 2001**) and Hollywood filmmakers (**HB 2097**). True conservatives must remain vigilant against state-subsidized corporatism and recommit to free-market principles across the board.

Conservative Excellence - Senate

Virgil Peck - 100%

Mark Steffen - 100%

Alicia Straub - 100%

Mike Thompson - 100%

Caryn Tyson - 100%

Molly Baumgardner - 94%

Rick Billinger - 94%

Beverly Gossage - 94%

Rick Kloos - 94%

Kristen O'Shea - 94%

Tim Shallenburger - 94%

Conservative Excellence - House

Kenny Titus - 100%

Brian Bergkamp - 100%

Joe Seiwert - 100%

Doug Blex - 95%

Bill Rhiley - 95%

Bob Lewis - 95%

Leo Delperdang - 94%

Steven Howe - 94%

Les Mason - 94%

Michael Murphy - 100%
Brett Fairchild - 100%
Stephen Owens - 100%
Paul Waggoner - 100%
Carrie Barth - 100%
Francis Averkamp - 100%
Fred Gardner - 95%

Carl Turner - 95%
Susan Huphries - 95%
Kristey Williams - 95%
Lisa Moser - 95%
Rebecca Schmoe - 95%
Pat Proctor - 95%
Adam Smith - 95%

Clarke Sanders - 94%
Marvin Robinson - 94%
Kyle McNorton - 94%
Samantha Poetter - 94%
Randy Garber - 93%
Michael Houser - 92%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

Larry Alley - 89%
Chase Blasi - 89%
J.R. Claeys - 89%
Michael Fagg - 89%
Mike Petersen - 89%

Dennis Pyle - 89%
Elaine Bowers - 89%
Renee Erickson - 89%
Dan Kerschen - 89%

Ty Masterson - 89%
Rick Wilborn - 89%
Kellie Warren - 89%
Ronald Ryckman Sr. - 87%

Conservative Achievement - House

Kyle Hoffman - 89%
Sandy Pickert - 89%
Nick Hoheisel - 89%
Adam Thomas - 89%
Patrick Penn - 89%
Bill Sutton - 89%
Scott Hill - 89%
Cyndi Howerton - 89%
Sean Tarwater - 89%
Lance Neelly - 89%
Trevor Jacobs - 89%
Timothy Johnson - 89%
Tom Kessler - 89%
Jim Minnix - 89%
Brenda Landwehr - 89%
Carl Maughan - 89%

Adam Turk - 89%
Kent Thompson - 89%
Ken Corbet - 89%
Avery Anderson - 89%
Emil Bergquist - 89%
Tory Marie Blew - 89%
Lewis "Bill" Bloom - 89%
Ron Bryce - 89%
David Buehler - 89%
Gary White - 89%
Blake Carpenter - 89%
Will Carpenter - 89%
Troy Waymaster - 89%
Barbara Wasinger - 89%
Daniel Hawkins - 89%
Ken Rahjes - 89%

Jason W. Goetz - 89%
Chris Croft - 89%
Dan Goddard - 89%
Shannon Francis - 89%
Robyn R. Essex - 89%
Susan Estes - 89%
Laura Williams - 88%
Angela Stiens - 86%
Bill Clifford - 84%
John Resman - 84%
Eric Smith - 84%
Charles Smith - 84%
Duane Droge - 84%
Ronald Ellis - 84%
Leah Howell - 84%
Webster T. Roth - 84%