



Capitol Highlights

WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE

*Kristey
Williams*



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To my friends of the 77th District,

Hope all is well in your homes and communities! Good things are happening at the Capitol. We had a successful week at the Capitol with a veto override. Here's a recap: last week, the Governor vetoed [SB 355](#), the Congressional map, known as Ad Astra 2. This week, the Legislature overrode the veto with the House voting [85-37](#) making the override successful. Check out the highlighted links above to see the Ad Astra 2 Map and to find out who voted with our team.

This was the 10th House veto override in two years. The Governor's hope is to divide our caucus and hand the great State of Kansas over to Washington's Democratic arm. Unfortunately for her, our resolve to work together for freedom, for life, for economic opportunity will not be so easily thwarted.

So, now what's next? Our Congressional map will undergo court review, providing a check and balance for Kansans that the map is drawn fairly and that it does not disenfranchise minority or other voting populations. We believe this map is for ALL Kansans — from the far-reaching rural and culturally-diverse populations in Garden City and Liberal to the urban areas of Wichita and KCK. One Kansas, one team.

The next set of maps to be considered will be our local Senate, House, and State Board of Education maps. Stay tuned for this next "under the dome" step.

Redistricting (Veto Override) Signing with President Ty Masterson and Speaker Ron Ryckman and Senate and House members *(I'm in back, middle)*



Besides the veto override, the House took action on a major economic development tool. The House approved **SB 347**, known as the Attracting Powerful Economic Expansion (APEX) Act. APEX would ensure that companies make a minimum investment in Kansas of \$1 billion over a five-year-period and, in exchange, would grant tax incentives to those companies. The Department of Commerce has announced that Kansas is one of two finalists for a \$4 billion, 3-million square foot advanced manufacturing facility that would employ 4,000 people and create 16,000 temporary jobs during construction. **SB 347** retools the current Kansas tax incentives in an effort to win this mega project, as well as attract other projects in the future.

Republicans worked to incorporate accountability and safeguards into the bill, so that this economic development initiative is not designed solely for one company but is instead designed to drive economic development across the board. The incentives to attract APEX projects should help all Kansas companies – not just one - with a measured corporate tax reduction. The property tax component of the bill must be addressed to ensure local control so that economic development

incentives offered by the state do not place an added tax burden on local residents and local business owners.

I voted, along with 79 other Republicans, to move the needle and tip our hand towards long-term investment. Voting yes, though not easy, comes down to this — we've got to make economic progress in our State. We have a net negative outward migration, an over-taxed citizenry that could be partially offset by a robust economy, and neighboring states pirating our workforce and landing all the large corporations that have the potential to help all Kansans. This bill has a two-year sunset allowing stakeholders to 'be the judge' and determine its merits and benefits.

Some comments from leadership: "The Governor cannot escape economic reality," said House Republican leadership. "She's made a long list of costly election-year promises to Kansans — promises she cannot deliver while at the same time paying out economic development incentives before the money is there to back it up."

Last topic — education. My role in the House is to lead the oversight of the K-12 budget and relevant policy. With nearly \$5 billion in State spending, it's our responsibility to ensure academic excellence is priority number one and that appropriate accountability and transparency are provided to parents, teachers, legislators, and all Kansans. This coming week, we'll be busy with hearing five policy bills. From there, we'll begin to consider what policy to bundle with funding. Stay tuned for more details and remember — kids first. Always.

Finally, a big HUGE shoutout to JAG-K, Jobs for America Graduates, led by former Augustan Chuck Knapp. I had the honor, along with Rep. Barbara Ballard of Lawrence, to recognize the JAG-K group and welcome 300 students to the Capitol. It was especially an honor to recognize Devin Russell-Unger, the JAG Kansas President, along with his teacher/specialist Christy Pray. Christy was awarded the great honor of being named the Specialist of the Year. Christy is all heart and gives her kids the extra push they need to succeed. Devin is one of those amazing kids who is laying a foundation of success through the JAG-K program. I'm betting great things for Devin in the future! Both Christy and Devin represent the Augusta School District.

So, as I wrap up this week's report up — please know it is my privilege to represent your voice in Topeka. Stay in touch!

Serving you,

Rep. Kristey Williams





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