EMPOWERED

SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION 2026

Kansas National Education Association

October 2026



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Updated Oct. 23, 2026

KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2026-2029 Strategic Plan | Vision, Mission, Core Values and Goals

VISION

KNEA works to cultivate fully resourced, supportive and inclusive public education communities that honor the dignity of all people.

MISSION

KNEA is a statewide union, empowering educators to organize for the strong public schools our communities deserve.

CORE VALUES

Equitable Opportunity | A Just Society | Professionalism | Democracy | Partnership | Solidarity and Collective Action

2026-2029 STRATEGIC GOALS

ADVOCACY FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

Advocate for equitable access with full state funding for general and special education.

Strategies: *Build internal capacity, engage public, build coalitions, shift political power.*

20,000 ACTIVE MEMBERS

Current: 18,438 (gap: 1,562). Build capacity through localized plans, new-hire outreach, building visits and Member Organizers.

Five pillars:

- *Membership growth*
- *Leadership*
- *Issue-based organizing*
- *Statewide alignment*
- *Community visibility*

ESP GROWTH

Partner with locals to organize support staff by advancing the ESP Bill of Rights and securing collective bargaining recognition, including a living wage.

Five strategies:

- *Engagement*
- *Leadership*
- *Political power*
- *Wage equity*
- *Collective bargaining*

10% COMPENSATION INCREASE

Secure at least 10% increase in statewide average salary for PK-12 certified staff and higher education faculty.

Local-first approach:

- *Communications*
- *Member education*
- *Bargaining capacity*
- *Legislative alignment*

KEY TIMELINE MILESTONES

2026

General (Nov. 3) election for 125 Kansas House seats; two Kansas Senate special elections; statewide executive offices — Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer and Insurance Commissioner; five of the 10 Kansas State Board of Education seats; one US Senate seat; and all four US Congressional seats.

2027

School finance formula expires July 1; legislative session; and local school board elections.

2028

Legislative session; and primacy (Aug. 1) and general (Nov. 7) elections for 125 Kansas House seats, all 40 Kansas Senate seats, five of the 10 State Board of Education seats, one US Senate seat and four US Congressional seats.

2029

Legislative session and local school board elections.

From the President: A vote for public education is a vote for our communities



We know that public schools are about much more than classrooms, lesson plans and report cards. Public schools are the heart of our communities. They bring people together, create opportunities for students and help ensure a bright future for every corner of Kansas.

That is why voting matters.

Every election is an opportunity to shape the future of our schools and students, which in turn strengthens our communities. The decisions made by elected leaders affect everything from school funding and student support services to the ability of educators to provide every child with the high-quality public education they deserve.

Public education is not a partisan issue. Strong public schools benefit everyone, regardless of political affiliation, geography or background. Whether you live in a rural community, a small town or a larger city, public schools are essential to the health and success of your community.

Strong communities need strong public schools.

When we invest in public education, we invest in the future of Kansas. We help ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed, pursue their dreams and build a life in the community they call home. We want today's students to become tomorrow's educators, business owners, farmers, health care professionals, skilled trades workers and community leaders. We want them to raise their families here, contribute to local economies and strengthen the communities that helped shape them.

The future of every Kansas community depends on the next generation choosing to stay, work and build their lives there. Public schools play a critical role in making that future possible.

Just as important, strong communities help us maintain our connections to one another. They remind us that we share common goals and common responsibilities.

When communities thrive, people know their neighbors, support one another and work together to solve challenges. Public education helps create those connections and fosters the understanding and empathy that bring people together.

As you review the KPAC-recommended candidates in this special election edition, I encourage you to remember what is at stake. This election is not about party labels. What matters is whether candidates support the students, educators and public schools that serve every Kansas community.

We need leaders who understand the value of public education and who will work to strengthen the schools that prepare our children for the future.

Your vote is your voice. By participating in this election, you can help ensure that Kansas continues to invest in strong public schools, strong communities and strong futures for generations to come.

Thank you for your commitment to public education and for making your voice heard at the ballot box.

In solidarity,

Sherri Schwanz
KNEA President

KPAC kansas political action committee

2026 General Election Candidate Recommendation Process

Member Driven, Non-Partisan

Candidates are recommended through a **non-partisan, member-driven process.** KNEA respects that our members have diverse backgrounds and opinions.



Because of this, the Kansas Political Action Committee (**KPAC**) **"recommends" rather than "endorses."** Recommended candidates have **pledged or proven their support for public education.**

1 Candidate Participation

Candidates are invited to participate in the process, **unless they are challenging a friendly incumbent.**

Friendly incumbents are automatically recommended because they have proven their commitment to public schools and educators through their voting records.

2 Questionnaire and Interview



A **questionnaire** is developed based on core values, legislative priorities and resolutions **adopted by KNEA members.**



KPAC provides all eligible candidates with this questionnaire. **Completion is required** to move on in the process.



Candidates must then participate in a **face-to-face interview** with a team of local members.

3 Recommendation

Based on responses to the questionnaire and interview, KNEA **members determine** whether they believe the candidate will be supportive of **public education, our educators and our students.**

A vote is held by the entire committee that oversees KPAC. The recommendations are then sent to the KNEA Board of Directors for a **final vote of approval.**



KPAC-Recommended Candidates | 2026 General Election

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

Oct. 13 Deadline to register to vote or update your voter registration information to participate in the 2026 general election.

Oct. 14 First day of advance voting. Advance ballots by mail are transmitted. In-person advance voting may begin. Check with you county election officer for specific times and locations.

Oct. 27 Last day to apply for an advance voting mail ballot.

Nov. 2 In-person advance voting ends at 12 p.m.

Nov. 3 **General Election**
All advance ballots by mail must be postmarked by this date and received by Friday, Nov. 6.

Confirm your registration, review your ballot and find your polling place at myvoteinfo.voteks.org/VoterView.



*Anyone who turns 18 on or before **Nov. 3, 2026,** and registers by **Oct. 13, 2026,** can vote in this year's General Election. Register at KSVotes.org.*

Below, and on the following pages, you will find the names of KPAC-recommended candidates for the November general election. These candidates have expressed a commitment to strengthening public education in Kansas. If your district is not listed, there is no recommendation in that race.

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

NOTE: *To view a Kansas State Board of Education map, visit ksde.gov/state-board.*



Jennifer Lloyd - D
KSBOE District 1



Amy Diediker - D
KSBOE District 3



Ann Zimmerman - D
KSBOE District 7



Destry Brown - R
KSBOE District 9



Heather Guernsey - D
KSBOE District 9

Candidates who earned a recommendation are given this badge to post on social media. Watch for it online!

KPAC-Recommended Candidates | 2026 General Election

KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOTE: **Denotes Friendly Incumbent.*

OFFICE	DISTRICT	CANDIDATE	PARTY AFFILIATION
Kansas House	2	**Avery Rowland**	Democratic
Kansas House	3	**Isaiah Harris**	Democratic
Kansas House	5	**Henry Johns**	Democratic
Kansas House	10	**Suzanne Wikle***	Democratic
Kansas House	14	**Sherry Giebler**	Democratic
Kansas House	15	**Allison Hougland**	Democratic
Kansas House	16	**Linda Featherston***	Democratic
Kansas House	17	**Jo Ella Hoye***	Democratic
Kansas House	18	**Cindy Neighbor***	Democratic
Kansas House	19	**Stephanie Sawyer Clayton***	Democratic
Kansas House	20	**Mari-Lynn Poskin***	Democratic
Kansas House	21	**Jerry Stogsdill***	Democratic
Kansas House	22	**Reed Krewson**	Democratic

LATE RECOMMENDATIONS:
Kansas House, District 7: Taylor Moreland - D; Kansas House, District 12: Pete Ferrell - D; Kansas House, District 38: Richard Paz - D

OFFICE	DISTRICT	CANDIDATE	PARTY AFFILIATION
Kansas House	23	**Susan Ruiz***	Democratic
Kansas House	24	**Jarrod Ousley***	Democratic
Kansas House	25	**Rui Xu***	Democratic
Kansas House	26	**Laura Johnson**	Democratic
Kansas House	27	**Sara Kiewiet**	Democratic
Kansas House	28	**Bryan Mouber**	Democratic
Kansas House	29	**Heather Meyer***	Democratic
Kansas House	30	**Amelia Wiederaenders**	Democratic
Kansas House	31	**Emily Hane**	Democratic
Kansas House	32	**Pam Curtis***	Democratic
Kansas House	33	**Emily Blanks**	Democratic
Kansas House	34	**Valdenia Winn***	Democratic
Kansas House	35	**Wanda Brownlee Paige***	Democratic
Kansas House	36	**Lynn Melton***	Democratic
Kansas House	37	**Melissa Oropeza***	Democratic
Kansas House	39	**Zach Maier**	Democratic

KPAC-Recommended Candidates | 2026 General Election

KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOTE: **Denotes Friendly Incumbent.*

OFFICE	DISTRICT	CANDIDATE	PARTY AFFILIATION
Kansas House	41	**Jeff Pittman**	Democratic
Kansas House	43	**Kristen Schultz**	Democratic
Kansas House	44	**Barbara Ballard***	Democratic
Kansas House	45	**Mike Amyx***	Democratic
Kansas House	46	**Brooklynne Mosley***	Democratic
Kansas House	47	**Mary T. Williams**	Democratic
Kansas House	48	**Dan Osman***	Democratic
Kansas House	49	**Nikki McDonald***	Democratic
Kansas House	53	**Kirk Haskins***	Democratic
Kansas House	55	**Tobias Schlingensiepen***	Democratic
Kansas House	56	**Virgil Weigel***	Democratic
Kansas House	57	**John Alcala***	Democratic
Kansas House	58	**Alexis Simmons***	Democratic
Kansas House	59	**Michael Lewis**	Democratic
Kansas House	60	**Mark Schreiber***	Republican
Kansas House	66	**Sydney Carlin***	Democratic

OFFICE	DISTRICT	CANDIDATE	PARTY AFFILIATION
Kansas House	67	**Brenda Bandy**	Democratic
Kansas House	67	**Stacy Kohlmeier**	Republican
Kansas House	78	**Tim Lundberg**	Democratic
Kansas House	81	**Kayden Bennett**	Democratic
Kansas House	82	**Kyle Beauchamp**	Democratic
Kansas House	86	**Abi Boatman***	Democratic
Kansas House	88	**Candace Landers**	Democratic
Kansas House	91	**Velma Davis**	Democratic
Kansas House	92	**John Carmichael***	Democratic
Kansas House	95	**Tom Sawyer***	Democratic
Kansas House	103	**Angela Martinez***	Democratic
Kansas House	104	**Lynnette Krieger-Zook**	Democratic
Kansas House	105	**John Burke**	Democratic
Kansas House	108	**Brandon Woodard***	Democratic
Kansas House	110	**Mark Shaukowitch**	Democratic
Kansas House	123	**Becca Burnfin**	Democratic

KPAC-Recommended Candidates | 2026 General Election

KANSAS STATEWIDE RACES

NOTE: **Denotes Friendly Incumbent.*



Cindy Holscher - D
Governor



Chris Mann - D
Attorney General



Jennifer Day - D
Secretary of State



Dinah Sykes - D
Insurance Commissioner

KANSAS SENATE

NOTE: **Denotes Friendly Incumbent.*



Silas Miller* - D
Kansas Senate, District 25

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOTE: **Denotes Friendly Incumbent.*



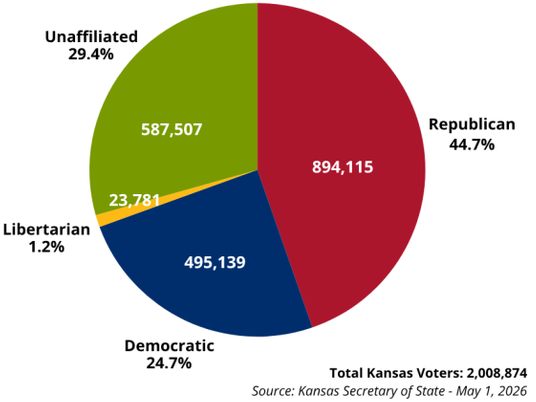
Don Coover - D
United States House District 2



Sharice Davids* - D
United States House District 3

REGISTERED KANSAS VOTERS - 2026

Total doesn't include No Labels Kansas or United Kansas.



Total Kansas Voters: 2,008,874
Source: Kansas Secretary of State - May 1, 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS VIA NEA

While KNEA does not endorse candidates at the federal level, we use the National Education Association (NEA) to inform our members on federal races.

Adam Hamilton - D
U.S. Senate

Lauren Reinhold - D
U.S. House, District 1

Katy Tyndell - D
U.S. House, District 4

KNEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION FORM

Kansas NEA members are encouraged to get involved and run for leadership positions. Involvement at this level of association work will be challenging, but the opportunity to positively impact the lives of your fellow members can also be quite rewarding.

NOTE: The deadline for nomination of all positions is **5 p.m. Dec.1, 2026**. A candidate nomination form must be received by the KNEA Office of the President by **5 p.m. Dec. 1, 2026**. A postmark of this date is **NOT** sufficient. **Information and forms can be found at www.knea.org** or by contacting the KNEA Office of the President at **785-232-8271**.

The following positions are open for nomination. Unless otherwise noted, all positions are three-year terms. Please indicate the position you wish to run for below.

☐ **KNEA President** (2027-2030)*	☐ **Capital UniServ Board of Directors** (2027-2030)	☐ **Walnut Valley UniServ Board of Directors** (2027-2030)
☐ **KNEA Vice President** (2027-2030)*	☐ **Wyandotte United UniServ Board of Directors** (Unexpired Term 2025-2028)	☐ **Education Support Profession Board of Directors** (2027-2030)
☐ **KNEA Secretary-Treasurer** (2027-2030)*	☐ **UD1-Valley UniServ Board of Directors** (2027-2030)	☐ **Pony Express UniServ Board of Directors** (Unexpired Term 2026-2029)
	☐ **Higher Education Board of Directors** (2027-2030)	☐ **KNEA Aspiring Educator President** (2027-2028)

Name of Nominee: _____

Address, City, Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____ **E-mail address:** _____

Local Affiliate and UniServ: _____

All election forms must be received by **5 p.m. Dec. 1, 2026**. A postmark of this date is **NOT** sufficient.

Mail: Kansas NEA
Office of the President
715 SW 10th Ave
Topeka KS 66612

Fax: (785)232-6012
Attn: Office of the President

Email: vote@knea.org

ELECTION DATES: FEB. 15–MARCH 31, 2027
ELECTION CANVASSING: April 1, 2027, at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita.
(SHOULD A RUN-OFF ELECTION BE REQUIRED, IT WILL TAKE PLACE: APRIL 19-MAY 14, 2027.)

The nominee must sign the following statement: ***"I agree to be a candidate for the position indicated above."***

Nominee Signature: _____

*Petition can be found at www.knea.org/knea-elections.

NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM

The 2027 NEA Representative Assembly (RA) is in Indianapolis, Indiana. Delegates will travel to Indianapolis on June 29, 2027, and home on July 5, 2027. Delegates are expected to attend the entire NEA RA.

(Please indicate the applicable position(s) you are running for and complete this form.)

☐ **STATEWIDE DELEGATE** (Two-year position)
Open to all active members except administrators and supervisors. Nomination forms must be received by the Kansas NEA Office of the President by **5 p.m. Dec. 1, 2026.**

☐ **REGIONAL DELEGATE*** (Two-year position)
Open to all active members except administrators and supervisors. Specific geographic areas are listed below. Nomination forms must be received by the Kansas NEA Office of the President by **5 p.m. Dec. 1, 2026**.

☐ **CLUSTER DELEGATE** ** **- Nomination forms for cluster delegates must be received by the Kansas NEA Office of the President by 5 p.m. March 1, 2027.** (One-year position)
Open to all active members except administrators and supervisors in local affiliates **with less than 76 members**. If you are unsure of the size of your local, feel free to check this box. The Office of the President will verify the eligibility of all nominations after the official membership is sent from NEA in January.

☐ **ADMINISTRATOR/SUPERVISOR (CATEGORY 2 DELEGATE)** (One-year position)
NEA Bylaw 12-1(e) defines Category 2 positions as NEA Active members in **supervisory roles**. Nomination forms must be received by the Kansas NEA Office of the President by **5 p.m. Dec. 1, 2026.**

☐ **KNEA RETIRED DELEGATE** (One-year position)
Open to any KNEA Retired member who is not employed by a public school district, public college, or other public educational institution, which would require them to contribute to a public pension and thereby make them eligible for active membership. This nomination form must be received by the Kansas NEA Office of the President by **5 p.m. Dec. 1, 2026.**

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

ADDRESS/CITY/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

LOCAL AFFILIATE in which employed: _____

* To allow for the greatest possible membership participation, the state is divided into sections called Regions. Each Region is comprised of one or more UniServ and elects delegate(s) to the NEA Representative Assembly.

Region A: Cottonwood Uniserv and KNEA Southwest UniServ
Region B: UD1-Valley, South Central UniServ and Walnut Valley UniServ
Region C: United Teachers of Wichita
Region D: Rolling Hills UniServ, UniServ Southeast and Capital UniServ
Region E: Pony Express UniServ, Konza UniServ and Kaw Valley UniServ
Region F: Ad Astra UniServ, Alliance UniServ and Wyandotte United

** For locals with 75 or fewer members, KNEA has combined these locals into Clusters. Anyone who wishes to run to be a cluster delegate will need to mark the Cluster box on the NEA Representative Assembly Delegate Nomination Form. These nominees will be notified in January if they qualify for a delegate position.

Statewide, Regional, Retired and Category 2 nomination forms must be received no later than **5 p.m. Dec. 1, 2026.**
Cluster nomination forms must be received no later than **5 p.m. March 1, 2027.**
MAIL form to 715 10TH AVE, TOPEKA, KS 66612 | EMAIL: vote@knea.org | FAX: 785-232-6012
A postmark of this date is **NOT** sufficient.

NEA.ORG/UNION

Together, we have the power to advocate for:

- ☑ Better learning conditions for students
- ☑ Better working conditions
- ☑ Better educator pay and benefits

nea NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION | Together, we're stronger.

Exclusive Auto, Home & Renters Insurance



We've Got Your Back

When the unexpected happens, you need *more than an insurance policy.* It's the care behind the coverage that makes California Casualty the trusted auto and home insurance choice for KNEA members.

Endorsed by KNEA for 32 years, we offer you educator-specific coverages and dedicated service through a team passionate about customer satisfaction.

We work for you. Let us show you how.

Experience our S.T.A.R. Promise: Simple. Trusted. Affordable. Right for You.

Call: 1.866.268.1754
CalCas.com/KNEA

KNEA | California Casualty AUTO AND HOME INSURANCE

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#KSEMPOWERED

OCTOBER 2026
715 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1686

Return Service Requested

KNEA partners with amazing, longtime supporters of Kansas public school educators and students. Please consider visiting our partners for financial and insurance needs.

Security Benefit℠

www.securitybenefit.com

California Casualty

www.calcas.com

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www.knea.org

comms@knea.org

This edition of EmpowerED is a special election edition and is one of four editions produced by KNEA's Communications team.

KNEA President:
Sherri Schwanz

Executive Director:
Dr. David Fernkopf

Director of Communications:
Ann Marie Bush

Layout & Design:
Ann Marie Bush