

# Office of the Governor

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**Mission.** The mission of the Office of the Governor is to serve the people of Kansas by carrying out the executive functions of the state as authorized by the *Kansas Constitution*. In doing so, the Office provides honest, appropriate, effective, efficient, and equitable executive leadership.

**Operations.** The Governor is the Chief Executive Officer of the State of Kansas, elected with the Lieutenant Governor by the people to a four-year term. The constitution vests the Governor with the authority to sign or veto acts of the Legislature, convene the Legislature in special session, present a special message to the Legislature on the condition of the state, submit an annual state budget to the Legislature, and grant pardons to those convicted of criminal acts. Over the years, legislative enactments have authorized gubernatorial appointment of the members of various boards, commissions, and authorities as well as the executive heads of specific state agencies and departments. The Governor serves as chair of the State Finance Council and is the Commander-in-Chief of the Kansas National Guard.

The Administration Program provides staff and technical assistance to the Governor in administering the Executive Branch. The program staff provides research and assistance to the Governor to ensure that all laws are faithfully executed. It has the responsibility to see that appointments made by the Governor are made expeditiously. The Governor's Residence Program encompasses expenditures for Cedar Crest, the Governor's official residence. Beginning in FY 2014, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor was merged into this budget.

The Office of Recovery is responsible for the state's federal allocation from the federal response for COVID-19 mitigation and response.

The Governor's Grants Office administers grants that fund programs to enhance the criminal justice system as well as improve public safety, crime victim services, and drug and violence prevention programs.

The Advisory Commission on African-American Affairs disseminates information on issues concerning

African-Americans and works to serve the needs of African-Americans.

The Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission identifies community issues and serves as a liaison between the Hispanic community and state government. The Commission on Disability Concerns facilitates equal access for those with disabilities to employment opportunities and living outside institutions. The Governor's Native American Affairs Liaison works to ensure the concerns and needs of the state's Native Americans are addressed in state policy making decisions as well as coordinate intergovernmental communications between tribal governments and the Governor's Office.

**Goals & Objectives.** One goal is to carry out the executive functions of the state entrusted to the Office of the Governor in an honest, efficient, and equitable manner through the following objectives:

- Provide leadership and direction to the Executive Branch of government.

- Be accessible to the people of Kansas.

**Statutory History.** Article 1 of the *Kansas Constitution* provides that the supreme executive power of the state is vested in a Governor, who must see that the laws are faithfully executed. General powers in addition to those granted by the constitution can be found in Chapter 75 of the *Kansas Statutes Annotated*. Statutory authority concerning the residence and the Governor's Residence Advisory Commission can be found in KSA 75-128 et seq.

The duties of the Lieutenant Governor are found in KSA 75-301. KSA 74-9901 through 74-9906 created the Advisory Commission on African-American Affairs. The Kansas Advisory Committee on Mexican-American Affairs was established in 1974 by KSA 74-6501. The 2004 Legislature renamed it the Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission and relocated both it and African-American Affairs to the Governor's Office. The 2011 ERO No. 35 moved the Commission on Disability Concerns to the Governor's Office.