Kansas History

Kansas takes its name from the Kansa Indians. Kansa means “People of the South Wind.” Kansas entered the Union on January 29, 1861, marking the end of a long period of exploration and settlement, and following a brief but bloody and bitter struggle between early settlers over the extension of slavery. Ahead were days of growth and development that contributed to the strength and prosperity of our American nation.

Early Exploration of Kansas

The region that is now Kansas had been inhabited by Indians for thousands of years before the first white man appeared. In 1540, the Spanish conquistador Francisco Vasquez de Coronado marched north from Mexico in search of the Seven Golden Cities of Cibola. In New Mexico he was told of the land of Quivira, and in 1541 he turned east and north in search of this fabled place of wealth. Coronado found no gold in Quivira but he called the country, which is now a part of Kansas, “the best I have ever seen for producing all the products of Spain.” This was 80 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

Coronado returned to New Mexico, but the next year a priest who had accompanied him was back in Kansas. Father Juan de Padilla hoped to bring Christianity to the Indians. He was killed, however, by those he tried to help. The exact place of his death is unknown, but it is presumed to have been in present central Kansas. Father Padilla is said to be the first Christian martyr in the United States.

By the late 17th century, France claimed all the land drained by the Mississippi River. This vast territory was named Louisiana by the French explorer LaSalle in honor of his king, Louis XIV. French fur-traders reached present northeastern Kansas in 1702, and in following years the explorers Claude Charles du Tisne, Etienne de Bourgmont, and Paul and Pierre Mallet traversed the area. In 1744, a French military post and trading center, Fort Cavagnolle, was constructed near present Leavenworth. French claims were ceded to Spain in 1763, but in 1800 title was returned to France, from whom the United States purchased the entire Louisiana territory in 1803. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, exploring the new purchase, made camp at several points on the Kansas side of the Missouri River in late June and early July 1804. Two years later Lieutenant Zebulon Pike, of the U.S. Army, crossed the Kansas area on an exploring expedition during which he met with the Indians and treated with them as the representative of the new “White Father.” He continued westward on this journey to discover the high mountain, which is called Pike’s Peak.

The Santa Fe and Oregon Trails

As the exploration of Kansas continued, trails were established by traders and immigrants. Many followed earlier routes used by the Indians. William Becknell, a Missouri trader, opened the Santa Fe Trail to trade with the Spanish in what is now New Mexico. Early in the 1820s, wagon trains were being sent over this route from the Missouri River to Santa Fe. The trail was about 800 miles long.

The Oregon Trail, used by emigrants to California and the Northwest during the middle decades of the 1800s, crossed the northeastern section of the state. Some who traveled this route were so impressed by the possibilities in Kansas they stopped and made their homes here, while others returned later to settle on the rich farm lands. Still others came after hearing of the new lands from those who had crossed the area while on the trail.
The Territorial Period

Passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act by Congress in 1854 opened the territories to white settlement. It also gave rise to the historic struggle between proslavery and free-state forces that made "Bleeding Kansas" known across the nation as a battleground for freedom. Settlers representing both groups flocked into Kansas: proslavery men from the southern states and from Missouri, and free-state people from the eastern and northcentral states. As they came into conflict, acts of terrorism were committed by both sides. For the next few years Kansas was the scene of many violent encounters. Among them were the Pottawatomie Massacre, in which John Brown and his men killed five proslavery partisans in Franklin County; the battles of Black Jack, Franklin and Hickory Point; the burning of Osawatomie; and the Marais des Cygnes Massacre in Linn County.

In 1857, word began to circulate of rich gold discoveries in the western part of the territory, "near Pike's Peak, Kansas." For the next year, gold was a principal subject of conversation and a leading topic in Kansas newspapers. Hundreds of Kansas settlers left for the mountains, and many more from eastern states crossed Kansas on their way to the gold fields. Stage lines were started and travel became faster.

Soon it became important to inaugurate a better system of communication with the West Coast. Members of the Leavenworth firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell, a large freighting concern, established the Pony Express in 1860. Speedy horses and hardy riders carried the mail from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California, in the amazingly short time of seven to ten days. The route led across the northeastern corner of Kansas, through Elwood, Troy, Kickapoo, Seneca and Marysville. The last relay point in Kansas was at Hollenberg Station, where the only unaltered Pony Express building in the country still stands in its original location near Hanover, Kansas, as a state museum. From there, the route led into Nebraska and west across the mountains. The Pony Express made its last run in October 1861, when it was made obsolete by the completion of the transcontinental telegraph.

Statehood Begins

Several attempts were made during the territorial period to draw up a constitution under which Kansas might be admitted to statehood. The first attempt took place in 1855, when a free-state constitution was framed in Topeka. However, it was never given serious consideration by Congress. In 1857, a second constitution, written at Lecompton, provided for a vote on the admission of Kansas with slavery. The constitution was adopted in an election in which free-state men refused to vote, and later was rejected at a second election in which the proslavery men took no part. This constitution was sent to Washington, but while it was being debated by Congress a third constitutional convention convened at Leavenworth. The constitution drafted there was adopted by the people in 1858. But this, too, failed to gain congressional acceptance.

The fourth and last convention assembled at Wyandotte (now part of Kansas City) in July 1859. This time the free-state advocates were solidly in control, and the document they drafted barred slavery and fixed the present boundaries of the state. This constitution was accepted by a vote of the people in October, and in December a provisional state government was elected. In April 1860, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to admit Kansas, but the Senate, under proslavery domination, refused. Statehood for Kansas thus became a national issue, and the Republican platform of 1860 included a plank for immediate admittance. The victory of Abraham Lincoln in November was followed by secession of southern states. The withdrawal of their senators and representatives gave control of Congress to the Republicans even before the change of administrations. The Kansas bill was passed by both houses on January 29, 1861. Kansas thus became the 34th state of what at the time was a rapidly disintegrating union.
The Civil War

Kansans had known civil war since the territory was organized in 1854. Now large-scale rebellion faced the entire nation.

In answer to President Lincoln’s first call for troops in April 1861, Kansas supplied 650 men. Before the war ended in 1865 the state had furnished more than 20,000 men, a remarkable record in view of the fact that the population included less than 30,000 men of military age. Kansas also suffered the highest mortality rate of any of the Union states. Of the African-American troops in the Union army, 2,080 were credited to Kansas though the 1860 census listed fewer than 300 of military age in the state; most actually came from Arkansas and Missouri.

Although Kansas soldiers saw action in many of the important engagements of the war, only one major battle was fought within the state. This was the Battle of Mine Creek, which took place in Linn County October 25, 1864. Some 25,000 men were involved. The Confederate army under Major General Sterling Price was defeated, and the threat of a southern invasion of Kansas was ended. Civil War action within the state consisted primarily of guerrilla skirmishes and raids. Of these, the most notorious was William C. Quantrell’s surprise attack on Lawrence August 21, 1863, in which 150 residents were slaughtered and most of the city was looted and burned.

Late 19th Century Development

After the Civil War, a series of Native American attacks threatened the western frontier. The tribes were alarmed by the steady encroachment of white settlers, and although undermanned military outposts did their best to protect settlers and travelers, and federal commissioners held peace talks with the chiefs, no permanent peace was obtained. The attacks reached their height in Kansas in 1867, when nearly 130 settlers were killed. By the end of 1869, most of these troubles had shifted to other areas. However, western Kansas continued to have conflict until the last Native American raid, which took place in Decatur County in 1878.

Meanwhile, rapid settlement was being made. Towns were founded, schools established, businesses and small industries started, and railroads were pushing westward across the state. In 1869 the Kansas (now Union) Pacific reached the Colorado line, and by the end of 1872 the Santa Fe had done the same.

The era of the great cattle drives, which focused national attention on several Kansas towns, came in with the railroads. Abilene became a shipping center for Texas cattle in 1867 when Joseph McCoy persuaded Texas drovers to use the extended Chisholm trail to bring their herds to the just-arrived Union Pacific, Eastern Division (later the Kansas Pacific). Newton, Ellsworth, Caldwell, Wichita and Dodge City were other towns that became prominent as tracks were built south and west.

The introduction of Turkey Red wheat by Mennonites from Russia in 1874 was a milestone in Kansas agriculture. This hardy winter wheat was ideally suited to crop-growing conditions in the state and provided the early basis for the preeminence of Kansas as a producer of wheat.

A prohibition amendment to the Kansas Constitution was adopted in 1880. It remained in effect until 1948 when a system of licensed liquor sales was established. At the turn of the century Carrie Nation became a national figure, symbolizing the strong temperance sentiment among church and other groups as she traveled about smashing illegal saloons with her famous hatchets.
Kansas in the 20th Century and Beyond

Significant changes occurred in agriculture, industry, transportation and communication in the years after 1900. Mechanization became almost universal in farming; heavy industry began replacing individual shops and mills; transportation entered a new era that was to be characterized by diesel-powered trains, commercial air travel and multi-lane highways; and communication was revolutionized by radio and television that augmented the state’s large publishing industry. World War I brought an unprecedented boom in agriculture because of the demand for food from the warring nations of Europe. Thousands of previously uncultivated acres were planted in wheat, and this land, allowed to lie fallow during the recession of the 1920s, became part of the “dust bowl” of the 1930s. Conditions improved in the 1940s. New industries came to Kansas, and by the early 1950s industry for the first time surpassed agriculture as the state’s largest source of income. Kansas became steadily more urbanized as industry concentrated more and more in the population centers around Kansas City, Wichita, Topeka and other major Kansas communities.

A number of Kansans have gained national prominence during the 20th century. William Allen White, famed editor and publisher of the Emporia Gazette, was the confidant of U.S. presidents. Charles Curtis of Topeka, for many years a U.S. senator from Kansas, served as vice president of the United States under Herbert Hoover. Alfred M. Landon, governor of the state from 1933 to 1937, was the unsuccessful Republican presidential nominee in 1936.

Mrs. Georgia Neese (Clark) Gray, Topeka banker and business woman, became the first woman appointed treasurer of the United States in 1949 and served in that capacity until January 1953. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Abilene, commander-in-chief of the Allied armies in Europe during World War II, was president of the United States from 1953 to 1961.

Nancy Kassebaum Baker, Burdick, became the first woman elected to the United States Senate in her own right in 1978. She served as a U.S. senator until 1996.

Former U.S. Senator Bob Dole, Russell, was the Republican nominee for vice president of the United States in 1976 and for president in 1996.

In the field of athletics, Jim Ryun, of Wichita and the University of Kansas, held the world record for the mile run. William Inge, a native of Independence, was a Pulitzer prize-winning playwright, and Gordon Parks, born at Fort Scott, was a world famous photographer, writer and motion picture producer.

Kansas also is home to three astronauts. Ron Evans, command ship pilot during the flight of Apollo 17 to the moon, was born in St. Francis, and graduated from Topeka public schools and the University of Kansas. Chapman native Joe Engel, who commanded two space shuttle missions, graduated from Chapman High School and the University of Kansas. A graduate of Salina Central High School and the University of Kansas, Steve Hawley was a mission specialist on four space shuttle flights.

To the Stars

Kansas, now in its second hundred years, takes pride in its fine schools, its leadership in the field of agriculture, and its rapid economic development. A financially solvent state government, low taxes, low unemployment and good highways and recreation areas are additional achievements.

With solid achievement in the past and bright promise for the future, Kansas is fulfilling its motto: “Ad astra per aspera” (To the stars through difficulties).
The state government of Kansas is based in Topeka, which has served as the state capital since 1861. Topeka was named the permanent capital only after considerable disagreement. The first capital of Kansas was Fort Leavenworth, where territorial Governor Andrew Reeder had his headquarters. Other state capitals during the territorial period were Shawnee Mission, Pawnee, Lecompton, Minneola, Leavenworth and Lawrence. Some of those towns served as the capital several times—the capital changed whenever the territorial leaders decided to move it.

Kansas became a state January 29, 1861. In November of that year an election was held to decide on a capital, and Topeka was selected over Lawrence and several other cities. In later years there were several attempts to move the capital to a more central location, but none came close to succeeding.

A progressive yet cautious spirit has always characterized the government of Kansas. The state has led the country in many important areas. Kansas government has changed to meet contemporary needs; yet it has retained those things that are “tried and true” and that continue to be necessary, effective and efficient.

Kansas is one of the few states in the nation that does not issue revenue bonds to finance general government activities. A “cash-basis law” requires that the state operate strictly on the money available. Bond issues are allowed for capital improvements, such as major roads and buildings.

Kansas leaders have never been afraid to try new ways of doing things. The state pioneered in the use of the direct primary election. It was Senator Bristow, the first United States senator nominated in Kansas under that system, who introduced in Congress the resolution that put direct election of U.S. senators into the U.S. Constitution. Prior to that time senators were not elected by the people, but were chosen by the state legislators.

State government officials are constantly working for economic development in Kansas. Great strides have been made in the last few years, many businesses have expanded, new businesses have located in the state, and numerous new jobs have been created.

Elected officials from Kansas (both state and federal officeholders) have often served in recent years as spokesmen on behalf of farmers. Agriculture is of great importance to the state’s economy, and there has been great concern in Kansas over the problems plaguing farmers.

Kansas led the nation in granting suffrage to women. The first Legislature in 1861 gave women the right to vote in school elections. Suffrage was extended in 1887 to city and bond elections, and in that year a Kansas town elected the first woman mayor in the country—Mrs. Medora Salter of Argonia.

The rights of women were recognized in the original state constitution, which guarantees women equal privileges with men in the ownership of property and control of children. This was a tremendous advance over the rights allowed women in the eastern states at that time. Universal suffrage was granted in Kansas in 1912 by constitutional amendment.

Kansas was one of the first states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution, making ratification March 28, 1972.

Kansas has the traditional three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial.
Executive Branch

The executive branch includes the elected state officers provided for in the Kansas Constitution: governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general and members of the State Board of Education. Other elected state officers are the commissioner of insurance and state treasurer. All serve four-year terms.

All offices in the executive branch are either directly or indirectly controlled by one of the elective officers, or are special agencies created by the Legislature to function independently within state government. The executive branch offices exist to enforce or carry out the laws enacted by the legislative branch. The structure of the executive branch has evolved over the years to its present form. Governors and legislators have made changes as necessary through executive reorganization orders, constitutional amendments and legislation.

Major state agencies are now headed by cabinet-level secretaries. In recent years, the efficiency of state government has been increased by combining similar agencies and abolishing antiquated, unnecessary ones.

In 1978, the Legislature adopted a “Sunset Law,” which automatically abolishes specified state agencies at certain times. When an agency is due to be abolished, it may only be continued by receiving renewed statutory authority. The Legislature has the power to abolish any state agency (except constitutional offices) at any time.

Legislative Branch

The State Senate and the House of Representatives make up the legislative branch. There are 40 senators and 125 representatives, all elected by the voters of Kansas. Each senator represents approximately 70,986 people and each house member represents about 22,716 Kansans. Senators serve four-year terms and representatives serve two-year terms.

The Legislature, which meets annually, has the responsibility to create, amend or repeal state laws; appropriate money to be spent by state government; review rules and regulations of state agencies and departments; propose amendments to the Kansas Constitution; and approve or disapprove proposed amendments to the federal constitution.

Since the late 1960s, the Legislature has made great progress towards becoming a truly efficient and effective lawmaking body. A “Legislative Improvement Award” was presented to the Kansas Legislature in 1976. The award was given by Legis 50/The Center for Legislative Improvement “... to recognize the progress made in strengthening the legislative institution in order to provide better representation for the people of the state of Kansas.”

One major reform enacted in recent years is the lengthening and expanding of legislative sessions to allow more time and flexibility. Sessions are now limited to 90 days in even-numbered years and are unlimited in odd-numbered years, although generally they are held to 90 days.

Organizational meetings are now held every other year, following election of new legislators, before the session begins. Legislative officers are chosen at that time, and the meetings give freshman lawmakers a chance to get oriented.

Prefiling of legislative bills between sessions, carry-over of bills from one session to the next in nonelection years, and committee meetings between sessions are reforms that have helped to increase flexibility and provide better workload distribution.
Reconstructing and improvement of support services have been vital elements in the legislative revamping. All legislators now have offices in the Capitol available throughout the year, and clerical services are provided during sessions. The legislative leaders have full-time administrative and clerical staffs. The Revisor of Statutes’ Office, the Division of Legislative Administrative Services and other support offices have been strengthened.

Increased pay for legislators has made service in the lawmaking body more attractive to and possible for qualified citizens.

Strong ethics legislation has been adopted to regulate legislative lobbying by special interest groups.

Judicial Branch

The state’s judicial system is headed by the Supreme Court with a chief justice and six justices. The other courts are the Court of Appeals, with a chief judge and 13 judges, and 31 district courts. Each judicial district has district judges and district magistrate judges, as prescribed by law.

A major overhaul of the judicial system has taken place in recent years. In 1973 the Judiciary Study Advisory Committee was appointed by the chief justice pursuant to legislative authority. The committee made several recommendations for improvement of the court system, and most of the suggestions were eventually implemented by the Legislature.

The state courts and the district courts have been joined to form the Unified Judicial Department. To ease the workload on the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals was created in 1977 and made a part of the department.

Part of the court system overhaul was establishment of a nonpartisan method for selection of district court judges. The majority of districts now use this method. However, it was adopted on a local option basis, and several districts have chosen, by popular vote, to elect their judges by a partisan election process.

A major aspect of the court system overhaul is state financing of the entire personnel cost for the judicial system. These costs have traditionally been borne by the counties, but have now been assumed by the state.

Other court system reforms enacted recently are adoption of a Code of Judicial Conduct and establishment of uniform procedures for district courts.

The Supreme Court maintains a regular program of education, sponsoring a variety of seminars on a continuing basis for judges and support personnel in the judicial system.

Local Government

Kansas has 105 counties and 626 incorporated cities. Kansas cities operate under various forms of government, including the commission form, the mayor-council-manager system, the commission-manager system, the mayor-council plan, the modified mayor-council plan, and the consolidated city/county system.

Local government in Kansas has some colorful history. In the early days of statehood, “county seat wars” took place. Being named the county seat could help to ensure the future of a town, so there was a great deal of competition for that designation. During the county seat wars, records were stolen, ballot boxes were tampered with and shooting and bloodshed took place. In Stevens County six men were killed and the militia was sent in to restore order.
Officers of Kansas Territories

(1854-1861)

Governors

Reeder, Andrew H., Shawnee Manual Labor School, commissioned June 29, 1854; oath taken July 7, 1854; arrived in Kansas, Oct. 7, 1854; served until April 17, 1855; June 23 to Aug. 16, 1855.

Woodson, Daniel, Shawnee Manual Labor School, acting governor April 17 to June 23, 1855; Aug. 16 to Sept. 7, 1855; June 24 to July 7, 1856; Aug. 18 to Sept. 9, 1856; March 12 to April 16, 1857.


Geary, John White, Lecompton, Sept. 9, 1856 to Mar. 12, 1857; resigned March 4, 1857; resignation effective March 20, 1857.

Stanton, Frederick P., Lecompton, acting governor April to May 27, 1857; Nov. 16 to Dec. 21, 1857.

Walker, Robert John, Lecompton, oath taken May 9, 1857; served May 27 to Nov. 16, 1857.

Denver, James W., Lecompton, acting governor Dec. 21, 1857 to May 12, 1858; appointed governor; served May 12 to July 3, 1858; July 30 to Oct. 10, 1858.

Walsh, Hugh Sleight, Lecompton, acting governor July 3 to 30, 1858; Oct. 10 to Dec. 18, 1858; Aug. 1 to Sept. 15, 1859; April 15 to June 16, 1860.

Medary, Samuel, Lecompton, oath taken Dec. 1, 1858; commission dated Dec. 22, 1858; served Dec. 18, 1858 to Aug. 1, 1859; Sept. 15, 1859 to April 15, 1860; June 16 to Sept. 11, 1860; Nov. 26 to Dec. 17, 1860.

Beebe, George M., Lecompton, acting governor Sept. 11 to Nov. 26, 1860; Dec. 17, 1860 to Feb. 9, 1861.

Secretaries


Stanton, Frederick P., Lecompton, commissioned March 13, 1857; oath taken April 2, 1857; served April 16 to Dec. 21, 1857.

Denver, James W., Lecompton, commissioned Dec. 11, 1857; oath taken Dec. 21, 1857; served Dec. 21, 1857 to May 12, 1858.

Walsh, Hugh Sleight, Lecompton; served May 12, 1858 to June 28, 1860.

Beebe, George M., Lecompton; served July 1, 1860 to Feb. 9, 1861.
Auditors
Strickler, Hiram Jackson, Lecompton, Legislature confirmed appointment Feb. 20, 1857; served until Feb. 9, 1861.

Treasurers
Mitchell, Robert Byington, commissioned Feb. 11, 1859; oath taken March 4, 1859; served Feb. 1, 1859 to Feb. 9, 1861.

Attorneys General
Isacks, Andrew Jackson, Louisiana, commissioned June 29, 1854; oath taken Nov. 29; served June 30, 1854 to March 1857, when he resigned.
Weer, William, Lecompton, confirmed March 13, 1857; served until June 5, 1858.
Davis, Alson C., Wyandotte, served June 5, 1858 to Feb. 9, 1861.

Superintendents of Schools
Noteware, James H., commissioned Feb. 13, 1858; oath taken March 5; served March 1 to Dec. 2, 1858.
Greer, Samuel Wiley, Leavenworth, commissioned Dec. 2, 1858; served to Jan. 2, 1861.
Douglas, John C., Leavenworth, served Jan. 2 to Feb. 9, 1861.

Chief Justices
Brown, Madison, Maryland, commissioned June 29, 1854, refused the appointment.
Lecompte, Samuel Dexter, Shawnee Manual Labor School and Leavenworth, commissioned Oct. 3, 1854; oath taken Dec. 5, 1854; served until March 9, 1859; on Dec. 17, 1856, the President appointed James O. Harrison of Kentucky to supersede Lecompte, but Congress declined to confirm the appointment.
Petit, John, Leavenworth, oath taken April 2, 1859; served Mar. 9, 1859 to Feb. 9, 1861.

Associate Judges
Johnston, Saunders W., commissioned June 29, 1854; served until Sept. 13, 1855.
Burrill, Jeremiah Murry, appointed Sept. 13, 1855; oath taken Dec. 2, 1855; sworn in again June 13, 1856.
Cunningham, Thomas, commissioned Nov. 19, 1856; oath taken Jan. 10, 1857; served until June 3, 1857.
Williams, Joseph, commissioned June 3, 1857; oath taken July 10, 1857; served until Feb. 9, 1861.
Elmore, Rush, Lecompton, commissioned June 29, 1854; oath taken Oct. 15, 1854; served until Sept. 13, 1855.
Cato, Sterling G., commissioned Sept. 13, 1855; oath taken Oct. 31, 1855; served to Aug. 13, 1858.
Elmore, Rush, Tecumseh, oath taken Aug. 13, 1858; served until Feb. 9, 1861.
United States Senators
*(since statehood on January 29, 1861)*

Political affiliation has been indicated by Republican, (R); Democrat, (D); Independent, (I); and People’s party, (P). In 1890 the People’s party was commonly known as the Alliance; later it was better known as the Populist Party.

Lane, James Henry, Lawrence (R), April 4, 1861 to July 11, 1866.
Ross, Edmund Gibson, Lawrence (R), July 19, 1866 to March 3, 1871.
Caldwell, Alexander, Leavenworth (R), March 4, 1871 to March 24, 1873.
Crozier, Robert, Leavenworth (R), Nov. 22, 1873 to Feb. 2, 1874.
Harvey, James Madison, Vinton (R), Feb. 2, 1874 to March 3, 1877.
Plumb, Preston Bierce, Emporia (R), March 4, 1877 to Dec. 20, 1891.
Perkins, Bishop Walden, Oswego (R), Jan. 1, 1892 to March 3, 1893.
Martin, John, Topeka (D), March 4, 1893 to March 3, 1895.
Baker, Lucien, Leavenworth (R), March 4, 1895 to March 3, 1901.
Burton, Joseph Ralph, Abilene (R), March 4, 1901 to June 4, 1906.
Benson, Alfred Washburn, Emporia (R), June 11, 1906 to Jan. 29, 1907.
Curtis, Charles, Topeka (R), Jan. 29, 1907 to March 3, 1913.
Thompson, William Howard, Garden City (D), March 4, 1913 to March 3, 1919.
Roberts, Pat, Dodge City (R), Jan. 7, 1997—.

Pomeroy, Samuel Clark, Atchison (R), April 4, 1861 to March 3, 1873.
Ingalls, John James, Atchison (R), March 4, 1873 to March 3, 1891.
Peffer, William Alfred, Topeka (P), March 4, 1891 to March 3, 1897.
Harris, William Alexander, Linwood (D), March 4, 1897 to March 3, 1903.
Long, Chester Isaiah, Medicine Lodge (R), March 4, 1903 to March 3, 1909.
Bristow, Joseph Little, Salina (R), March 4, 1909 to March 3, 1915.
Curtis, Charles, Topeka (R), March 4, 1915 to March 3, 1929.
Allen, Henry, Wichita (R), April 1, 1929 to Nov. 30, 1930.
McGill, George, Wichita (D), Dec. 1, 1930 to Jan. 3, 1939.
Reed, Clyde, Parsons (R), Jan. 3, 1939, to Nov. 8, 1949.
Darby, Harry, Kansas City (R), Dec. 2, 1949 to Nov. 28, 1950.
Carlson, Frank, Concordia (R), Nov. 29, 1950 to Jan. 3, 1969.
Frahm, Sheila, Colby (R), appointed vice Dole, June 11, 1996 to Nov. 27, 1996 (resigned).
Brownback, Sam, Topeka (R), appointed vice Frahm, Nov. 27, 1996 to Jan. 5, 2011.
Moran, Jerry, Hays (R), Jan. 5, 2011—.
United States Representatives
(since statehood on January 29, 1861)

Political affiliation has been indicated by Republican, (R); Democrat, (D); Independent, (I); and People's party, (P). In 1890 the People's party was commonly known as the Alliance; later it was better known as the Populist Party.

At Large

Conway, Martin Franklin, Lawrence (R), Jan. 30, 1861 to March 3, 1863.
Wilder, Abel Carter, Leavenworth (R), March 4, 1863 to March 3, 1865.
Clarke, Sidney, Lawrence (R), March 4, 1865 to March 3, 1871.
Lowe, David Perley, Fort Scott (R), March 4, 1871 to March 3, 1875.
Cobb, Stephen Alonzo, Wyandotte (R), March 4, 1873 to March 3, 1875.
Phillips, William Addison, Salina (R), March 4, 1873 to March 3, 1875 (also 1st dist.).
Hallowell, James Reed, Columbus (R), elected Nov. 5, 1878; refused a seat in the House, March 18, 1879, since Kansas was entitled to only 3 members.
Peters, Samuel Ritter, Newton (R), March 4, 1883 to March 3, 1885; election unsuccessfully contested by Samuel N. Wood (also 7th dist.).
Morrill, Edmund Needham, Hiawatha (R), March 4, 1883 to March 3, 1885 (also 1st dist.).
Hanback, Lewis, Salina (R), March 4, 1883 to March 3, 1885 (also 6th dist.).
Perkins, Bishop Walden, Oswego (R), March 4, 1883 to March 3, 1885 (also 3rd dist.).
Harris, William Alexander, Linwood (P), March 4, 1893 to March 3, 1895.
Blue, Richard Whiting, Pleasanton (R), March 4, 1895 to March 3, 1897.
Botkin, Jeremiah Dunham, Winfield (P), March 4, 1897 to March 3, 1899.
Bailey, Willis Joshua, Baileyville (R), March 4, 1899 to March 3, 1901.
Scott, Charles Frederick, Iola (R), March 4, 1901 to March 3, 1907 (also 2nd dist.).

First District

Phillips, William Addison, Salina (R), March 4, 1875 to March 3, 1879 (also at large).
Anderson, John Alexander, Manhattan (R), March 4, 1879 to March 3, 1885 (also 5th dist.).
Morrill, Edmund Needham, Hiawatha (R), March 4, 1885 to March 3, 1891 (also at large).
Broderick, Case, Holton (R), March 4, 1891 to March 3, 1899.
Curtis, Charles, Topeka (R), March 4, 1899 to Jan. 28, 1907 (U.S. Senate) (also 4th dist.).
Anthony, Daniel Read, Jr., Leavenworth (R), vice Curtis; Dec. 2, 1907 to March 3, 1929.
Avery, William H., Wakefield (R), Jan. 3, 1955 to Jan. 3, 1963 (also 2nd dist.).
Huelskamp, Tim, Fowler (R), Jan. 5, 2011—.
Second District

Goodin, John Randolph, Humboldt (I), March 4, 1875 to March 3, 1877.
Haskell, Dudley Chase, Lawrence (R), March 4, 1877 to Dec. 16, 1883.
Funston, Edward Hogue, Iola (R), elected March 1, 1884, vice Haskell; served March 21, 1884 to Aug. 2, 1894, when contested 1892 election was decided in favor of H.L. Moore.
Moore, Horace Ladd, Lawrence (D), Aug. 2, 1894 to March 3, 1895.
Miller, Orrin Larabee, Kansas City (R), March 4, 1895 to March 3, 1897.
Peters, Mason Summers, Kansas City (P), March 4, 1897 to March 3, 1899.
Bowersock, Justin De Witt, Lawrence (R), March 4, 1899 to March 3, 1907.
Scott, Charles Frederick, Iola (R), March 4, 1907 to March 3, 1911 (also at large).
Mitchell, Alexander Clark, Lawrence (R), March 4, 1911 to July 7, 1911.
Taggart, Joseph, Kansas City, (D), elected Nov. 7, 1911 vice Mitchell; Dec. 4, 1911 to March 3, 1917.
Little, Edward Campbell, Kansas City (R), March 4, 1917 to June 27, 1924.
Guyer, Ulysses Samuel, Kansas City (R), vice Little; Dec. 1, 1924 to March 3, 1925.
Little, Chauncey Bundy, Olathe (D), March 4, 1925 to March 3, 1927.
Guyer, Ulysses Samuel, Kansas City (R), March 4, 1927 to June 5, 1943.
Ellsworth, Robert F., Lawrence (R), Jan. 3, 1961 to Jan. 3, 1963 (also 3rd dist.).
Avery, William H., Wakefield (R), Jan. 3, 1963 to Jan. 4, 1965 (also 1st dist.).
Brownback, Sam, Topeka (R), Jan. 3, 1995 to Nov. 27, 1996 (U.S. Senate).
Jenkins, Lynn, Topeka (R), Jan. 5, 2009 —.

Third District

Brown, William Ripley, Hutchinson (R), March 4, 1875 to March 3, 1877.
Ryan, Thomas, Topeka (R), March 4, 1877 to March 3, 1885 (also 4th dist.).
Perkins, Bishop Walden, Oswego (R), March 4, 1885 to March 3, 1891 (also at large).
Clover, Benjamin Hutchinson, Cambridge (P), March 4, 1891 to March 3, 1893.
Hudson, Thomas Jefferson, Fredonia (P), March 4, 1893 to March 3, 1895.
Kirkpatrick, Snyder Solomon, Fredonia (R), March 4, 1895 to March 3, 1897.
Ridgely, Edwin Reed, Pittsburg (P), March 4, 1897 to March 3, 1901.
Jackson, Alfred Metcalf, Winfield (D), March 4, 1901 to March 3, 1903.
Campbell, Philip Pitt, Pittsburg (R), March 4, 1903 to March 3, 1923.
Sproul, William Henry, Sedan (R), March 4, 1923 to March 3, 1931.
McGugin, Harold Clement, Coffeyville (R), March 4, 1931 to Jan. 3, 1935.
George, Myron Virgil, Altamont (R), vice Meyer; Nov. 27, 1950 to Jan. 3, 1959.
Ellsworth, Robert F., Lawrence (R), Jan. 3, 1963 to Jan. 3, 1967 (also 2nd dist.).
Yoder, Kevin, Overland Park (R), Jan. 5, 2011—.

Fourth District
Ryan, Thomas, Topeka (R), March 4, 1885 to April 3, 1889; announced his resignation to become minister to Mexico (also 3rd dist.).
Kelley, Harrison, Burlington (R), vice Ryan; Dec. 2, 1889 to March 3, 1891.
Otis, John Grant, Topeka (P), March 4, 1891 to March 3, 1893.
Curtis, Charles, Topeka (R), March 4, 1893 to March 3, 1899 (also 1st dist.).
Miller, James Monroe, Council Grove (R), March 4, 1899, to March 3, 1911.
Jackson, Fred Schuyler, Eureka (R), March 4, 1911 to March 3, 1913.
Doolittle, Dudley, Strong City (D), March 4, 1913 to March 3, 1919.
Hoch, Homer, Marion (R), March 4, 1919 to March 3, 1933.
Carpenter, Randolph, Marion (D), March 4, 1933 to Jan. 3, 1937.
Pompeo, Mike, Wichita (R), Jan. 5, 2011—.

Fifth District
Anderson, John Alexander, Manhattan (R), March 4, 1885 to March 3, 1891 (also 1st dist.).
Davis, John, Junction City (P), March 4, 1891 to March 3, 1895.
Calderhead, William Alexander, Marysville (R), March 4, 1895 to March 3, 1897.
Vincent, William Davis, Clay Center (P), March 4, 1897 to March 3, 1899.
Calderhead, William Alexander, Marysville (R), March 4, 1899 to March 3, 1911.
Rees, Rolin Raymond, Minneapolis (R), March 4, 1911 to March 3, 1913.
Helvering, Guy Tresillian, Marysville (D), March 4, 1913 to March 3, 1919.
Strong, James George, Blue Rapids (R), March 4, 1919 to March 3, 1933.
Ayres, William Augustus, Wichita (D), March 4, 1933 to Aug. 21, 1934; announced his resignation to accept appointment on Federal Trade Commission (also 8th dist.).
Hope, Clifford Ragsdale, Garden City (R), Jan. 3, 1943 to Jan. 3, 1957 (also 7th dist.).
Sixth District

Hanback, Lewis, Salina (R), March 4, 1885 to March 3, 1887 (also at large).

Turner, Erastus Johnson, Hoxie (R), March 4, 1887 to March 3, 1891.

Baker, William, Lincoln (P), March 4, 1891 to March 3, 1897.

McCormick, Nelson B., Phillipsburg (P), March 4, 1897 to March 3, 1899.

Reeder, William Augustus, Logan (R), March 4, 1899 to March 3, 1911.

Young, Isaac Daniel, Beloit (R), March 4, 1911 to March 3, 1913.

Connelly, John Robert, Colby (D), March 4, 1913 to March 3, 1919.


Sparks, Charles Isaac, Goodland (R), March 4, 1929 to March 3, 1933.

McCarthy, Kathryn (O'Loughlin), Hays (D), March 4, 1933 to Jan. 3, 1935; elected as Kathryn O'Loughlin, she married Daniel M. McCarthy, Feb. 4, 1933.


Dole, Robert, Russell (R), Jan. 3, 1961 to Jan. 3, 1963 (also 1st dist.).

Seventh District

Peters, Samuel Ritter, Newton (R), March 4, 1885 to March 3, 1891 (also at large).

Simpson, Jeremiah (Jerry), Medicine Lodge (P), March 4, 1891 to March 3, 1895.

Long, Chester Isaiah, Medicine Lodge (R), March 4, 1895 to March 3, 1897.

Simpson, Jeremiah (Jerry), Medicine Lodge (P), March 4, 1897 to March 3, 1899.

Long, Chester Isaiah, Medicine Lodge (R), March 4, 1899 to March 4, 1903 (U.S. Senate).

Murdock, Victor, Wichita (R), elected May 26, 1903, vice Long; Nov. 9, 1903 to March 3, 1907 (also 8th dist.).

Madison, Edmond Haggard, Dodge City (R), March 4, 1907 to Sept. 18, 1911.


Shouse, Jouett, Kinsley (D), March 4, 1915 to March 3, 1919.

Tincher, Jasper Napoleon, Medicine Lodge (R), March 4, 1919 to March 3, 1927.

Hope, Clifford Ragsdale, Garden City (R), March 4, 1927 to Jan. 3, 1943 (also 5th dist.).

Eighth District

Murdock, Victor, Wichita (R), March 4, 1907 to March 3, 1915 (also 7th dist.).

Ayres, William Augustus, Wichita (D), March 4, 1915 to March 3, 1921 (also 5th dist.).

Bird, Richard Ely, Wichita (R), March 4, 1921 to March 3, 1923.

Ayres, William Augustus, Wichita (D), March 4, 1923 to March 3, 1933 (also 5th dist.).
Kansas State Officers
(since statehood on January 29, 1861)

Political affiliation has been indicated by Republican, (R); Democrat, (D); Independent, (I); and People’s party, (P). In 1890 the People’s party was commonly known as the Alliance; later it was better known as the Populist Party.

Governors

Robinson, Charles, Lawrence (R), Feb. 9, 1861 to Jan. 12, 1863.
Carney, Thomas, Leavenworth (R), Jan. 12, 1863 to Jan. 9, 1865.
Crawford, Samuel Johnson, Garnett (R), Jan. 9, 1865 to Nov. 4, 1868 (resigned to take command of the 19th regiment).
Green, Nehemiah, Manhattan (R), Nov. 4, 1868 to Jan. 11, 1869.
Harvey, James Madison, Fort Riley (R), Jan. 11, 1869 to Jan. 13, 1873.
Osborn, Thomas Andrew, Leavenworth (R), Jan. 13, 1873 to Jan. 8, 1877.
Anthony, George Tobey, Leavenworth (R), Jan. 8, 1877 to Jan. 13, 1879.
St. John, John Pierce, Olathe (R), Jan. 13, 1879 to Jan. 8, 1883.
Glick, George Washington, Atchison (D), Jan. 8, 1883 to Jan. 13, 1885.
Martin, John Alexander, Atchison (R), Jan. 12, 1885 to Jan. 14, 1889.
Humphrey, Lyman Underwood, Independence (R), Jan. 14, 1889 to Jan. 9, 1893.
Lewelling, Lorenzo Dow, Wichita (P), Jan. 9, 1893 to Jan. 14, 1895.
Morrill, Edmund Needham, Hiawatha (R), Jan. 14, 1895 to Jan. 11, 1897.
Leedy, John Whitnah, Le Roy (P), Jan. 11, 1897 to Jan. 9, 1899.
Stanley, William Eugene, Wichita (R), Jan. 9, 1899 to Jan. 12, 1903.
Bailey, Willis Joshua, Baileyville (R), Jan. 12, 1903 to Jan. 9, 1905.
Hoch, Edward Wallis, Marion (R), Jan. 9, 1905 to Jan. 11, 1909.
Stubbs, Walter Roscoe, Lawrence (R), Jan. 11, 1909 to Jan. 13, 1913.
Hodges, George Hartshorn, Olathe (D), Jan. 13, 1913 to Jan. 11, 1915.
Allen, Henry Justin, Wichita (R), Jan. 13, 1919 to Jan. 8, 1923.
Davis, Jonathan McMillan, Bronson (D), Jan. 8, 1923 to Jan. 12, 1925.
Paulen, Ben Sanford, Fredonia (R), Jan. 12, 1925 to Jan. 14, 1929.
Reed, Clyde Martin, Parsons (R), Jan. 14, 1929 to Jan. 12, 1931.
Woodring, Harry Hines, Neodesha (D), Jan. 12, 1931 to Jan. 9, 1933.
Landon, Alf Mossman, Independence (R), Jan. 9, 1933 to Jan. 11, 1937.
Huxman, Walter August, Hutchinson (D), Jan. 11, 1937 to Jan. 9, 1939.
Ratner, Payne, Parsons (R), Jan. 9, 1939 to Jan. 11, 1943.
Schoeppel, Andrew Frank, Ness City (R), Jan. 11, 1943 to Jan. 13, 1947.
Carlson, Frank, Concordia (R), Jan. 13, 1947 to Nov. 28, 1950 (resigned; elected U.S. senator).
Hagaman, Frank Lester, Fairway (R), appointed vice Carlson; Nov. 28, 1950 to Jan. 8, 1951.
Hall, Fred, Dodge City (R), Jan. 10, 1955 to Jan. 3, 1957 (resigned; appointed justice of Supreme Court).
Sebelius, Kathleen, Topeka (D), Jan. 13, 2003 to April 28, 2009 (resigned; appointed as U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services).
Parkinson, Mark, Olathe (D), appointed vice Sebelius, April 28, 2009 to Jan. 10, 2011.
Brownback, Sam, Topeka (R), Jan. 10, 2011—.

Lieutenant Governors

Root, Joseph Pomeroy, Wyandotte (R), Feb. 1861 to Jan. 1863.
McGreew, James, Wyandotte (R), Jan. 1865 to Jan. 1867.
Green, Nehemiah, Manhattan (R), Jan. 1867 to Nov. 4, 1868.
Eskridge, Charles V., Emporia (R), Jan. 1869 to Jan. 1871.
Elder, Peter Percival, Ottawa (R), Jan. 1871 to Jan. 1873.
Stover, Elias Sleeper, Council Grove (R), Jan. 1873 to Jan. 1875.
Salter, Melville J., Thayer (R), Jan. 1875, to July 10, 1877 (resigned).
Humphrey, Lyman Underwood, Independence (R), elected vice Salter, Nov. 6, 1877; served until Jan. 1881.
Finney, David W., Neosho Falls (R), Jan. 1881 to Jan. 1885.
Riddle, Alexander Pancoast, Girard (R), Jan. 1885 to Jan. 1889.
Felt, Andrew J., Seneca (R), Jan. 1889 to Jan. 1893.
Daniels, Percy, Girard (P), Jan. 1893 to Jan. 1895.
Harvey, Alexander Miller, Topeka (P), Jan. 1897 to Jan. 1899.
Richter, Harry E., Council Grove (R), Jan. 1899 to Jan. 1903.
Hanna, David J., Hill City (R), Jan. 1903 to Jan. 1907.
Fitzgerald, Wm. J., Dodge City (R), Jan. 1907 to Jan. 1911.
Hopkins, Richard J., Garden City (R), Jan. 1911 to Jan. 1913.
Ingalls, Sheffield, Atchison (R), Jan. 1913 to Jan. 1915.
Morgan, William Yost, Hutchinson (R), Jan. 1915 to Jan. 1919.
Huffman, Chas. H., Columbus (R), Jan. 1919 to Jan. 1923.
Paulen, Ben S., Fredonia (R), Jan. 1923 to Jan. 1925.
Chase, D.A.N., Pleasanton (R), Jan. 1925 to Jan. 1929.
Thompson, Chas. W., Topeka (R), Jan. 1933 to Jan. 1937.
Lindsay, W.M., Pittsburg (D), Jan. 1937 to Jan. 1939.
Friend, Carl E., Lawrence (R), Jan. 1939 to Jan. 1943.
Hall, Fred, Dodge City (R), Jan. 1951 to Jan. 1955.


Frahm, Sheila, Colby (R), Jan. 9, 1995 to June 11, 1996 (U.S. Senate).


Parkinson, Mark, Olathe (D), Jan. 8, 2007 to April 28, 2009 (succeeding Governor Kathleen Sebelius, resigned).

Findley, Troy, Lawrence (D), appointed vice Parkinson, May 15, 2009 to Jan. 10, 2011.

Colyer, Jeff, Overland Park (R), Jan. 10, 2011—.

**Presidents of the Senate**

Ingalls, John J., Secretary, Atchison (R), 1861.

Banks, A.R., Secretary, 1862.

Francis, John, Secretary, Colony (R), 1863.

Sherry, Byron, Secretary Pro-Tem, Leavenworth, 1864.

Devenney, A. Smith, Secretary, 1865.

Eskridge, C.V., Secretary Pro-Tem, Emporia (R), 1866.

Emmert, D.B., Secretary Pro-Tem, Fort Scott (R), 1867.

Green, N., President, 1868.

Crowther, George C., Secretary, 1869 to 1872.

Murdock, M.M., Secretary Pro-Tem, 1873.

Cavanaugh, T.H., Secretary, 1874.

Folks, John H., Secretary, Wellington, 1875 to 1876.

Brandley, Henry, Secretary, Matfield Green (R), 1877, 1879, 1881 and 1883.

Riddle, A.P., President Pro-Tem, 1884.

Humphrey, L.U., President Pro-Tem, Independence (R), 1885 to 1887.

Harkness, F.P., President Pro-Tem, Clay Center (R), 1889 to 1891.

King, L.P., President Pro-Tem, 1893 to 1895.

Householder, M.A., President Pro-Tem, Columbus (P), 1897 to 1899.

Morrow, J.C., President Pro-Tem, Haddam (R), 1901.

Fitzpatrick, W.S., President Pro-Tem, Sedan (R), 1903, 1905, 1907 and 1908.

Porter, E.F., President Pro-Tem, Pittsburg, 1909 to 1911.

King, L.P., President Pro-Tem, Winfield (D), 1913 to 1915.

Huffman, C.S., President Pro-Tem, Columbus (R), 1917.

Price, Francis, C., President Pro-Tem, Ashland (R), 1919 to 1921 and 1923.

Laing, Henry M., President Pro-Tem, Russell (R), 1925, 1927 and 1928.
Geddes, K.M., President Pro-Tem, El Dorado (R), 1929 to 1931.
Knapp, Dallas W., President Pro-Tem, Coffeyville (R), 1933, 1935 and 1936.
Bradney, Claude C., President Pro-Tem, Columbus (R), 1937 to 1939.
Dale, Kirke W., President Pro-Tem, Arkansas City (R), 1941 to 1943.
Briles, E.A., President Pro-Tem, Stafford (R), 1945 to 1947.
Wunsch, Paul R., President Pro-Tem, Kingman (R), 1949, 1951, 1953 and 1955 to 1964.
Smith, Glee S., President Pro-Tem, Larned (R), 1965 to 1972.
Bennett, Robert F., President, Overland Park (R), 1973 to 1974.
Rogers, Richard D., President, Manhattan (R), 1975.
Doyen, Ross O., President, Concordia (R), 1976 to 1984.
Talkington, Robert V., President, Iola (R), 1985 to 1990.
Burke, Paul Bud, President, Leawood (R), 1991 to 1996.
Bond, Dick, President, Overland Park (R), 1997 to 2000.
Kerr, Dave, President, Hutchinson (R), 2001 to 2004.
Stephen R. Morris, President, Hugoton (R), 2005 to 2012.
Wagle, Susan, President, Wichita (R), 2013—.

Speakers of the House
(SS) Special Session; (BS) Budget Session

Barker, George J., Lawrence (R), 1901.
Pringle, J.T., Burlingame (R), 1903, 1903 (SS).
Stubbs, W.R., Lawrence (R), 1905.
Simmons, J.S., Dighton (R), 1907, 1908 (SS).
Dolley, J.N., Maple Hill (R), 1909.
Buckman, G.H., Winfield (R), 1911.
Brown, W.L., Kingman (D), 1913.
Stone, Robert, Topeka (R), 1915.
Keene, A.M., Fort Scott (R), 1917.
Lambertson, W.P., Fairview (R), 1919, 1919 (SS) and 1920 (SS).
Harvey, W.W., Ashland (R), 1921.
Mann, Charles E., Osborne (R), 1923.
Hope, C.R., Garden City (R), 1925.
Hamilton, J.D.M., Topeka (R), 1927, 1928 (SS).
Myers, John H., Merriam (R), 1929, 1930 (SS).
Harlan, Hal E., Manhattan (R), 1931.
Vernon, W.H., Larned (R), 1933, 1933 (SS) and 1934.
Buzick, H.S., Jr., Sylvan Grove (R), 1937, 1938 (SS).
Briles, E. A., Stafford (R), 1939.
Carper, Clay C., Eureka (R), 1941.
Wunsch, Paul R., Kingman (R), 1943.
Hagaman, Frank L., Kansas City (R), 1945.
Miller, Frank B., Langdon (R), 1947.
Bryant, Dale M., Wichita (R), 1949.
Gibson, Lawrence M., Pittsburg (R), 1951.
Stough, Charles D., Lawrence (R), 1953.
Jennison, Robert H., Healy (R), 1955, 1956 (BS).
Arthur, Charles, Manhattan (R), 1963, 1964 (BS) and 1964 (SS).
Hill, Clyde, Yates Center (R), 1965, 1966 (BS) and 1966 (SS).
Conard, John J., Greensburg (R), 1967, 1968.
Strowig, Calvin, Abilene (R), 1969 to 1972.
Carlin, John W., Smolan (D), 1977 and 1978.
Lady, Wendell E., Overland Park (R), 1979 to 1982.
Hayden, John Michael, Atwood (R), 1983 to 1986.
Braden, James D., Clay Center (R), 1987 to 1990.
Shallenburger, Tim, Baxter Springs (R), 1995 to 1998.
Jennison, Robin, Healy (R), 1999 to 2000.
Glasscock, Kent, Manhattan (R), 2001 to 2002.
Mays, Doug, Topeka (R), 2003 to 2006.
Neufeld, Melvin, Ingalls (R), 2007 to 2008.
O'Neal, Michael, Hutchinson (R), 2009 to 2012.
Merrick, Ray, Stilwell (R), 2013—.

Secretaries of State

Robinson, John Winter, Manhattan (R), Feb. 1861 to July 28, 1862 (resigned).
Shepherd, Saunders R., Topeka (R), appointed vice Robinson, Aug. 28, 1862 to Jan. 1863.
Lawrence, Warren Wirt Henry, Peoria City (R), Jan. 1863 to Jan. 1865.
Barker, Rinaldo Allen, Atchison (R), Jan. 1865 to Jan. 1869.
Moonlight, Thomas, Leavenworth (R), Jan. 1869 to Jan. 1871.
Smallwood, William Hillary, Wathena (R), Jan. 1871 to Jan. 1875.
Cavanaugh, Thomas Horne, Salina (R), Jan. 1875 to Jan. 1879.
Smith, James, Marysville (R), Jan. 1879 to Jan. 1885.
Allen, Edwin Bird, Wichita (R), Jan. 1885 to Jan. 1889.
Higgins, William, Topeka (R), Jan. 1889 to Jan. 1893.
Osborn, Russell Scott, Stockton (P), Jan. 1893 to Jan. 1895.
Clark, George Alfred, Junction City (R), Jan. 1899 to Jan. 1903.
Burrow, Joel Randall, Smith Center (R), Jan. 1903 to Jan. 1907.
Denton, Charles Eugene, Attica (R), Jan. 1907 to Jan. 1911.
Sessions, Charles Harrison, Topeka (R), Jan. 1911 to Jan. 1915.
Botkin, J.T., Galena (R), Jan. 1915 to Jan. 1919.
Pettijohn, L.J., Dodge City (R), Jan. 1919 to Nov. 11, 1922 (resigned).
McCray, D.O., Topeka (R), appointed vice Pettijohn, Nov. 14, 1922 to Jan. 1923.
Ryan, Frank J., Leavenworth (R), Jan. 1923 to Jan. 1929.
Ryan, Frank J., Kansas City (R), Jan. 1933 to Jan. 1949.
Ryan, Larry, Manhattan (D), Jan. 1949 to Jan. 1951.
Shanahan, Paul R., Salina (R), Jan. 1951 to April 14, 1966 (deceased).
Shanahan, Elwill M., Salina (R), appointed vice P. Shanahan, April 28, 1966 to May 10, 1978 (retired).
Thornburgh, Ron, Topeka (R), Jan. 9, 1995 to Feb. 15, 2010 (resigned).
Biggs, Chris, Manhattan (D), appointed vice Thornburgh, March 16, 2010 to Jan. 10, 2011.
Kobach, Kris W., Piper (R), Jan. 10, 2011—.

State Auditors

Hillyer, George Shaller, Grasshopper Falls (R), Feb. 1861 to July 28, 1862 (removed).
Lakin, David Long, Grasshopper Falls (Unknown), appointed vice Hillyer, Aug. 6, 1862 to Jan. 1863.
Hairgrove, Asa, Mound City (R), Jan. 1863 to Jan. 1865.
Swallow, John R., Emporia (R), Jan. 1865 to Jan. 1869.
Thoman, Alois, Lawrence (R), Jan. 1869 to Jan. 1873.
Wilder, Daniel Webster, Fort Scott (R), Jan. 1873 to Sept. 20, 1876 (resigned).
Bonebrake, Parkinson Isaiah, Topeka (R), appointed vice Wilder, Oct. 2, 1876; twice elected, Oct. 2, 1876 to Jan. 1883.
McCabe, Edward P., Millbrook (R), Jan. 1883 to Jan. 1887.
McCarthy, Timothy, Larned (R), Jan. 1887 to Jan. 1891.
Hovey, Charles Merrill, Colby (R), Jan. 1891 to Jan. 1893.
Prather, Van B., Columbus (P), Jan. 1893 to Jan. 1895.
Cole, George Ezekiel, Girard (R), Jan. 1895 to Jan. 1897.
Cole, George Ezekiel, Girard (R), Jan. 1899 to Jan. 1903.
Wells, Seth Grant, Erie (R), Jan. 1903 to Jan. 1907.
Nation, James M., Erie (R), Jan. 1907 to Jan. 1911.
Davis, William E., Dodge City (R), Jan. 1911 to Jan. 1917.
Knapp, Fred W., Beloit (R), Jan. 1917 to Jan. 1921.
Turner, N.A., Russell (R), Jan. 1921 to June 30, 1925 (resigned).
Davis, W.E., Topeka (R), appointed vice Turner, July 1, 1925 to Jan. 1927.
Robb, George, Salina (R), Nov. 12, 1935; appointed vice Powers; elected to office 12 succeeding terms; served Jan. 1936 to Jan. 1961.

State Treasurers

Tholen, William, Leavenworth (R), elected Dec. 6, 1859 (entered the army before qualifying for office).
Dutton, Hartwin Rush, Hiawatha (R), appointed vice Tholen, March 26, 1861; elected for remainder of term, Nov. 5, 1861; served to Jan. 1863.
Spriggs, William, Garnett (R), Jan. 1863 to Jan. 1867.
Anderson, Martin, Circleville (R), Jan. 1867 to Jan. 1869.
Graham, George, Seneca (R), Jan. 1869 to Jan. 1871.
Hayes, Josiah E., Olathe (R), Jan. 1871 to April 30, 1874 (resigned).
Francis, John, Iola (R), appointed vice Hayes; served May 1, 1874 to Jan. 1875.
Lappin, Samuel, Seneca (R), Jan. 1875 to Dec. 20, 1875 (resigned).
Francis, John, Iola (R), appointed vice Lappin; elected to office three succeeding terms; served Dec. 21, 1875 to Jan. 1883.

Howe, Samuel T., Marion (R), Jan. 1883 to Jan. 1887.

Hamilton, James William, Wellington (R), Jan. 1887 to March 1, 1890 (resigned).

Sims, William, Topeka (R), appointed vice Hamilton; served March 1, 1890 to Dec. 30, 1890.

Stover, Solomon G., Belleville (R), Jan. 1891 to Jan. 1893.


Atherton, Otis L., Russell (R), Jan. 1895 to Jan. 1897.

Heflebower, David H., Bucyrus (P), Jan. 1897 to Jan. 1899.

Grimes, Frank E., Leoti (R), Jan. 1899 to Jan. 1903.

Kelly, Thomas T., Paola (R), Jan. 1903 to Jan. 1907.

Tulley, Mark, Independence (R), Jan. 1907 to Jan. 1913.

Akers, Earl, Stafford (R), Jan. 1913 to Jan. 1917.


Thompson, E.T., Bellaire (R), Jan. 1921 to Jan. 1925.

White, Carl R., Topeka (R), Jan. 1925 to Jan. 1929.

Boyd, Tom B., Topeka (R), Jan. 1929 to Oct. 1, 1933 (resigned).

Jardine, Wm., Manhattan (R), appointed vice Boyd, Oct. 2, 1933; served to April 1, 1934 (resigned).

Rhodes, J.J., Council Grove (R), appointed vice Jardine, April 2, 1934; elected 1934, 1936; served to Oct. 14, 1938 (resigned).

Hewitt, Jibo, Medicine Lodge (D), appointed vice Rhodes, Oct. 14, 1938; served to Jan. 1939.

Wilson, Walter E., Topeka (R), Jan. 1939 to April 7, 1945 (deceased).

Beck, Eimer T., Dwight (R), appointed vice Wilson, May 7, 1945; served to Jan. 1947.


Thompson, Sally, Topeka (D), Jan. 1991 to Feb. 27, 1998 (resigned).

Graeber, Clyde, Leavenworth (R), appointed vice Thompson, Feb. 27, 1998; served to Jan. 11, 1999.


McKinney, Dennis, Greensburg (D), appointed vice Jenkins, Jan. 5, 2009 to Jan. 10, 2011.

Estes, Ron, Wichita (R), Jan. 10, 2011—.

Attorneys General

Simpson, Benjamin Franklin, Paola (R), Feb. to July 1861 (resigned).

Chadwick, Charles, Lawrence (Unknown), appointed vice Simpson; served July 30, 1861 to Dec. 1861.

Stinson, Samuel A., Leavenworth (D), oath taken Dec. 20, 1861; served to Jan. 1863.


Brumbaugh, Jerome D., Marysville (R), Jan. 1865 to Jan. 1867.

Hoyt, George H., Leavenworth (R), Jan. 1867 to Jan. 1869.

Danford, Addison, Fort Scott (R), Jan. 1869 to Jan. 1871.

Williams, Archibald L., Topeka (R), Jan. 1871 to Jan. 1875.

Randolph, Asa Maxson Fitz, Burlington (R), Jan. 1875 to Jan. 1877.
Davis, Willard, Oswego (R), Jan. 1877 to Jan. 1881.
Johnston, William Agnew, Minneapolis (R), Jan. 1881 to Dec. 1, 1884
(resigned to become associate justice).
Smith, George P., Humboldt (D), appointed vice Johnston; served Dec. 1, 1884 to Jan. 1885.
Kellogg, Lyman Beecher, Emporia (R), Jan. 1889 to Jan. 1891.
Ives, John Nutt, Sterling (D), Jan. 1891 to Jan. 1893.
Little, John Thomas, Olathe (P), Jan. 1893 to Jan. 1895.
Dawes, Fernanda B., Clay Center (R), Jan. 1895 to Jan. 1897.
Godard, Aretas A., Topeka (R), Jan. 1899 to Jan. 1903.
Coleman, Chiles Crittendon, Clay Center (R), Jan. 1903 to Jan. 1907.
Jackson, Fred Schuyler, Eureka (R), Jan. 1907 to Jan. 1911.
Dawson, John Shaw, Hill City (R), Jan. 1911 to Jan. 1915.
Hopkins, Richard J., Garden City (R), Jan. 1919 to Jan. 1923.
Smith, William A., Valley Falls (R), Jan. 1927 to Dec. 1, 1930 (resigned, elected justice of Supreme Court).
Boynton, Roland, Emporia (R), appointed vice Smith, Dec. 1, 1930; elected 1930, 1932; served to Jan. 1935.
Parker, Jay S., Hill City (R), Jan. 1939 to Jan. 1943.
Arn, Edward F., Wichita (R), Jan. 1947 to Feb. 21, 1949 (resigned, appointed justice of Supreme Court).
Fatzer, Harold R., Kinsley (R), appointed vice Arn, Feb 21, 1949; elected Nov. 1950; served to March 1, 1956 (resigned, appointed justice of Supreme Court).
Anderson, John, Jr., Olathe (R), appointed vice Fatzer, March 1, 1956; elected to office two succeeding terms; served Jan. 1957 to Jan. 1961.
Schmidt, Derek, Independence (R), Jan. 10, 2011—.

State Superintendents of Public Instruction
Griffith, William Riley, Marmaton (R), Feb. 1861 to Feb. 12, 1862.
Thorp, Simeon Montgomery, Lawrence (R), appointed vice Griffith; served March 24, 1862 to Jan. 1863.
Goodnow, Isaac T., Manhattan (R), Jan. 1863 to Jan. 1867.
McVicar, Peter, Topeka (R), Jan. 1867 to Jan. 1871.
McCarty, Hugh DeFrance, Leavenworth (R), Jan. 1871 to Jan. 1875.
Fraser, John, Lawrence (R), Jan. 1875 to Jan. 1877.
Speer, Henry Clay, Junction City (R), Jan. 1881 to Jan. 1885.
Lawhead, Joseph Hadden, Fort Scott (R), Jan. 1885 to Jan. 1889.
Winans, George Wesley, Junction City (R), Jan. 1889 to Jan. 1893.
Gaines, Henry Newton, Salina (P), Jan. 1893 to Jan. 1895.
Stanley, Edmund, Lawrence (R), Jan. 1895 to Jan. 1897.
Stryker, William, Great Bend (P), Jan. 1897 to Jan. 1899.
Nelson, Frank, Lindsborg (R), Jan. 1899 to Jan. 1903.
Dayhoff, Insley L., Hutchinson (R), Jan. 1903 to Jan. 1907.
Fairchild, Edward T., Ellsworth (R), Jan. 1907 to Nov. 1912 (resigned).
Ross, W. D., Oskaloosa (R), appointed vice Fairchild, Nov. 19, 1912; elected 1912, 1914 and 1916; served to Jan. 1919.
Wooster, Miss L.E., Salina (R), Jan. 1919 to Jan. 1923.
Miley, Jess W., Girard (R), Jan. 1923 to Jan. 1927.
Allen, George A., Jr., Frankfort (R), Jan. 1927 to Dec. 12, 1932 (deceased).
Markham, W.T., Yates Center (D), appointed vice Allen, Dec. 12, 1932; elected 1934, 1936; served to Jan. 1939.
McCleny, Geo. L., Topeka (R), Jan. 1939 to Jan. 1945.
Kampschroeder, W. C., Topeka (R), appointed vice Throckmorton, Sept. 2, 1966; elected Nov. 1966; served to Nov. 8, 1967 (deceased).

State Superintendents of Insurance

Webb, William C., Fort Scott (R), 1871 to 1873.
Russell, Edward, Leavenworth (R), 1873 to 1874.
Clarkson, Harrison, Topeka (Unknown), 1874 to 1875.
Welch, Orrin T., Topeka (R), 1875 to 1883.
Morris, Richard B., Atchison (D), 1883 to 1887.
Wilder, Daniel W., Hiawatha (R), 1887 to 1891.
McBride, W.H., Osborne (R), 1891 to 1893.
Snider, S.H., Kingman (Unknown), 1893 to 1895.
Anthony, George T., Ottawa (R), 1895 to 1896.
Riddle, Alexander P., Minneapolis (R), 1896 to 1897.
McNall, Webb, Gaylord (P), 1897 to 1899.
Church, Willard V., Marion (R), 1899 to 1903.
Luling, Charles H., Wichita (R), 1903 to 1907.
Barnes, Charles W., Osage City (R), 1907 to 1911.
Lewis, Isaac S., St. John (R), 1911 to 1915.
Wilson, Carey J., Topeka (R), 1915 to 1919.
Travis, Frank L., Iola (R), 1919 to 1923.
State Commissioners of Insurance

Selzer, Ken, Leawood (R), Jan. 2015—.

State Printers

McNeal, Thomas A., Topeka (R), 1907 to 1911.
Austin, William C., Cottonwood Falls (R), 1911 to 1915.
Smith, W.R., Columbus (R), Jan. 1915 to Feb. 1919 (resigned).
Zumwalt, Imri, Bonner Springs (R), Feb. 1919 to May 9, 1921 (deceased).
Kelley, E.E., acting state printer, May 14, 1921 to Sept. 1, 1921.
Walker, Bert P., Osborne (R), Sept. 1, 1921 to June 30, 1933.
Austin, William C., Cottonwood Falls (R), July 1, 1933 to June 14, 1944 (deceased).
McCalla, Leonard, Garnett (R), appointed vice Austin, June 20, 1944; served to June 30, 1945.
Voiland, Ferd, Jr., Topeka (R), July 1, 1945 to June 30, 1957 (resigned).
Washabaugh, Lillie M., Natoma (D), appointed vice Voiland, July 1, 1957; elected to office one succeeding term; served July 1, 1959 to June 30, 1961.
Neibarger, Jean M., Tonganoxie (R), July 1, 1961 to Jan. 1964 (resigned).
Timberlake, Harry, Leavenworth (R), appointed vice Neibarger, Jan. 3, 1964; served to July 1, 1965.
Sanders, Robert R., Salina (R), July 1, 1965 to June 30, 1977 (office abolished).

Kansas Supreme Court

Political affiliation has been indicated by Republican, (R); Democrat, (D); Independent, (I); and People’s party, (P). In 1890, the People’s party was commonly known as the Alliance; later it was better known as the Populist Party.

After July 1, 1959, all Supreme Court justices are elected under the nonpartisan plan, which was adopted by constitutional amendment.

Chief Justices

Ewing, Thomas Jr., Leavenworth (R), Feb. 9, 1861 to Nov. 28, 1862 (resigned).
Watson, John Hampton, Emporia (R), elected Nov. 4, 1862; Supreme Court ruled election void because proclamation was not issued for election of chief justice (resignation of Judge Ewing did not reach governor’s desk until Nov. 28, 1862).
Cobb, Nelson, Lawrence (D), appointed vice Ewing, Dec. 28, 1862 to Jan. 5, 1864.
Crozier, Robert, Leavenworth (R), Jan. 5, 1864 to Jan. 14, 1867.
Kingman, Samuel Austin, Atchison (R), Jan. 14, 1867 to Dec. 30, 1876 (resigned).
Horton, Albert Howell, Atchison (R), appointed vice Kingman, Dec. 31, 1876 to April 30, 1895 (resigned).
Martin, David, Atchison (R), appointed vice Horton, April 30, 1895 to Jan. 11, 1897.
Doster, Frank, Marion (P), Jan. 11, 1897 to Jan. 12, 1903.
Johnston, William Agnew, Minneapolis (R), Jan. 12, 1903 to June 30, 1935 (resigned).
Burch, Rousseau Angelus, Salina (R), July 1, 1935 to Jan. 11, 1937.
Dawson, John Shaw, Hill City (R), Jan. 11, 1937 to Jan. 8, 1945 (retired).
Harvey, William West, Ashland (R), Jan. 8, 1945 to Mar. 1, 1956 (resigned).
Smith, William A., Valley Falls (R), March 1, 1956 to Jan. 3, 1957 (resigned).
Parker, Jay S., Hill City (R), Jan. 14, 1957 to May 1, 1966 (retired).
Nuss, Lawton R., Salina, Aug. 3, 2010—.

Justices
Kingman, Samuel Austin, Hiawatha (R), Feb. 1861 to Jan. 9, 1865 (elected chief justice, 1866).
Bailey, Lawrence Dudley, Emporia (R), Feb. 1861 to Jan. 11, 1869.
Safford, Jacob, Topeka (R), Jan. 9, 1865 to Jan. 9, 1871.
Brewer, David Josiah, Leavenworth (R), Jan. 9, 1871 to April 8, 1884 (resigned).
Hurd, Theodore A., Leavenworth (D), appointed vice Brewer, April 23, 1884 to Dec. 1, 1884.
Johnston, William Agnew, Minneapolis (R), Dec. 1, 1884 to Jan. 12, 1903 (chief justice).
Valentine, Daniel Mulford, Ottawa (R), Jan. 11, 1869 to January 9, 1893.
Allen, Stephen Haley, Pleasanton (P), Jan. 9, 1893 to January 9, 1899.
Smith, William Redwood, Kansas City (R), Jan. 9, 1899 to July 1, 1905 (resigned).
Cunningham, Edwin Wilbur, Emporia (R), Jan. 15, 1901 to Aug. 16, 1905 (deceased).
Greene, Adrian Lawrence, Newton (R), Jan. 15, 1901 to July 28, 1907 (deceased).
Ellis, Abram Halsted, Beloit (R), Jan. 15, 1901 to Sept. 25, 1902 (deceased).
Pollock, John Calvin, Winfield (R), Jan. 15, 1901 to Dec. 2, 1903 (resigned).
Burch, Rousseau Angelus, Salina (R), appointed vice Ellis, Sept. 29, 1902; served to July 1, 1935 (chief justice).
Mason, Henry Freeman, Garden City (R), Jan. 12, 1903 to May 4, 1927 (deceased).
Smith, Clark Allen, Cawker City (R), Dec. 1, 1904 to Jan. 11, 1915.
Porter, Silas Wright, Kansas City (R), appointed vice William R. Smith, July 1, 1905 to Jan. 8, 1923.
Graves, Charles Burleigh, Emporia (R), appointed vice Cunningham, Aug. 21, 1905 to Jan. 9, 1911.
Benson, Alfred Washburn, Ottawa (R), appointed vice Greene, Aug. 1, 1907 to Jan. 11, 1915.
West, Judson S., Kansas City (R), Jan. 9, 1911 to Jan. 8, 1923.
Dawson, John Shaw, Hill City (R), Jan. 11, 1915 to Jan. 11, 1937 (chief justice).
Marshall, John, Topeka (R), Jan. 11, 1915 to March 25, 1931 (deceased).
Hopkins, Richard Joseph, Garden City (R), Jan. 8, 1923 to Dec. 27, 1929 (resigned).
Harvey, William West, Ashland (R), Jan. 8, 1923 to Jan. 8, 1945 (chief justice).
Hutchinson, William Easton, Garden City (R), appointed vice Mason, May 12, 1927 to Jan. 9, 1939.
Jochems, William D., Wichita (R), appointed vice Hopkins, Jan. 4, 1930; served to Dec. 1, 1930.
Sloan, Edward Ray, Holton (D), appointed vice Marshall, April 6, 1931 to Jan. 9, 1933.
Allen, Harry K., Topeka (D), Jan. 11, 1937 to Jan. 11, 1943.
Hoch, Homer, Marion (R), Jan. 9, 1939 to Jan. 30, 1949 (deceased).
Parker, Jay S., Hill City (R), Jan. 11, 1943 to Jan. 14, 1957 (chief justice).
Cowan, Austin M., Wichita (R), appointed vice Burch, June 9, 1948 to Nov. 30, 1948.
Price, Robert T., Topeka (R), November 30, 1948 to May 1, 1966 (chief justice).
Arn, Edward F., Wichita (R), appointed vice Hoch, Feb. 21, 1949 to March 1, 1950 (resigned).
Wertz, William J., Wichita (R), appointed vice Arn, March 1, 1950, to Dec. 4, 1950; elected
Kagey, Lloyd M., Wichita (R), elected Nov. 7, 1950 for unexpired term; served Dec. 4, 1950
 to Jan. 8, 1951.
Fatzler, Harold R., Kinsley (R), appointed vice Harvey, March 1, 1956 to
Sept. 1, 1971 (chief justice).
Hall, Fred, Dodge City (R), appointed vice Smith, Jan. 3, 1957 to April 7, 1958 (resigned).
Jackson, Schuyler W., Topeka (D), appointed vice Hall, April 7, 1958 to Feb. 8, 1964 (resigned).
Fontron, John F., Hutchinson, appointed vice Jackson, March 5, 1964 to Oct. 1, 1975 (resigned).
Fromme, Alex M., Hoxie, appointed vice Parker, May 2, 1966 to Oct. 25, 1982 (deceased).
Herd, Harold, Coldwater, appointed vice Owsley, March 18, 1979; served to Jan. 11, 1993 (retired).
Luckert, Marla J., Topeka, appointed vice Six, Jan. 13, 2003—
Biles, Dan, Shawnee, appointed vice McFarland, Jan. 12, 2009—
Stegall, Caleb, Lawrence, appointed vice Moritz, Dec. 5, 2014—.
Kansas Court of Appeals

Chief Judges

Briscoe, Mary Beck, Topeka, appointed vice Abbott, Sept. 1, 1990 to June 1, 1995 (resigned).
Rulon, Gary W., Emporia, appointed vice Brazil, Jan. 8, 2001 to Jan. 9, 2011 (retired).
Malone, Thomas E., Wichita, appointed vice Greene, Oct. 22, 2012—.

Judges

Briscoe, Mary Beck, Topeka, appointed vice Spencer, March 15, 1984 to Aug. 31, 1990 (chief judge).
Briscoe, Mary Beck, Topeka, appointed vice Abbott, Nov. 14, 1985 to June 1, 1995 (chief judge).
Elliott, Jerry G., Wichita, fills position 8, created pursuant to K.S.A. 20-3002; appointed Sept. 11, 1987 to April 5, 2010 (deceased).
Rulon, Gary W., Emporia, fills position 9 created pursuant to K.S.A. 20-3002; appointed Dec. 18, 1987; served to Jan. 8, 2001 (chief judge).
Pierron, G. Joseph, Olathe, appointed vice Abbott, Dec. 11, 1990—.
Green, Henry W. Jr., Leavenworth, appointed vice Davis, April 22, 1993—.
Hill, Stephen D., Paola, appointed vice Knudson, Dec. 5, 2003—.
McAnany, Patrick D., Olathe, appointed vice Beier, Feb. 6, 2004—.
Buser, Michael B., Overland Park, fills position 12 created pursuant to K.S.A. 20-3002; appointed Jan. 28, 2005—.
Leben, Steve A., Fairway, appointed vice Johnson, June 15, 2007—.
Standridge, Melissa Taylor, Kansas City, fills position 13 created pursuant to K.S.A. 20-3002; appointed Feb. 29, 2008—.
Atcheson, G. Gordon, Overland Park, appointed vice Elliott, Sept. 10, 2010—.
Arnold-Burger, Karen, Kansas City, appointed vice Rulon, Feb. 14, 2011—.
Bruns, David, Kansas City, appointed vice Caplinger (Moritz), May 16, 2011—.
Powell, Anthony J., Wichita, appointed vice Greene, Feb. 8, 2013—.
Schroeder, Kim R., Hugoton, appointed vice Marquardt, March 4, 2013—.