AG Kobach will run for reelection in 2026

Jason Alatidd
Topeka Capital-Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach is running for reelection with a campaign message focused on lowered crime rates, lawsuits against former President Joe Biden's administration and an immigration enforcement partnership with President Donald Trump's administration.

While he has not formally announced a reelection campaign, Kobach's campaign spokesperson, Danedri Herbert, confirmed to The Capital-Journal on July 30 that he is running for reelection.

The same day, Democrat Chris Mann announced he was running for attorney general. That could set up a rematch of the 2022 election, which was the tightest race of any statewide office. Kobach got 50.8% of the vote and Mann got 49.2%, or a separation of nearly 16,000 votes.

Kobach lives in Douglas County with his wife, and they have five daughters. He grew up in Topeka before attending Harvard University, Oxford University and Yale Law School.

Kris Kobach statement hits on crime rate, Biden lawsuits, immigration

In response to Mann's announcement, Kobach's campaign touted accomplishments from his first term.

"Kris Kobach has delivered," Herbert said in a statement. "Under Kris Kobach's leadership, the Kansas crime rate has dropped to the lowest point in 20 years. As a result, Kansans are safer than they have ever been in the last 20 years."

Kobach's campaign credited "his law-and order approach" and said "Kansas crime rates dropped far more than the rest of the nation."

Kansas Bureau of Investigation crime statistics include a total crime index, which is a count of both violent and property crimes. The 2024 index was the lowest of any year since at least 2003, which is the furthest back the KBI's online reports go.

The total crime index is a stronger indicator of property crime, which far outnumbers the amount of violent crime in the state. The violent crime rate has also declined during Kobach's term after peaking in 2020.



Attorney General Kris Kobach is running for reelection in 2026.
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL/2024 FILE

In the 2022 election, Kobach campaigned on suing Biden and promised to set up a division dedicated to suing the Democratic president. Kobach, who is now the chair of the Republican Attorneys General Association, led or joined a multitude of lawsuits against the federal government.

"As Kansas Attorney General, Kobach sued the Biden administration dozens of times," his campaign's news release said. "He specifically led 12 lawsuits to stop the Biden administration from breaking the law."

The campaign touted "victories in court that Kobach won" against Biden. The cases cited include one with a nationwide injunction from a federal judge in Kansas blocking student loan forgiveness, a Kobach-led case in South Dakota with a 19-state injunction on Obamacare for immigrants in the country illegally and a Kansas judge's injunction with nationwide implications barring Title IX sex discrimination protections at schools and universities from being extended to transgender people.

Now with Trump in office, Kobach is working with the president's administration on immigration enforcement using a 287(g) agreement. Kobach's campaign said "Kansans would not be as safe if Chris Mann were attorney general right now," in part because Mann "would not have signed a 287(g) agreement."

Kobach's campaign also touted elimination of the fee for concealed carry permits, because "no one should have to pay the state to exercise a constitutional right."

Jason Alatidd is a Statehouse reporter for The Topeka Capital-Journal. He can be reached by email at jalatidd@gannett.com. Follow him on X @Jason_Alatidd.

Rep. Ken Rahjes running for Kansas secretary of state

Jack Harvel
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kansas Rep. Ken Rahjes, R-Phillipsburg, officially filed as a Republican candidate for Kansas secretary of state.

Rahjes will face fellow House Rep. Pat Proctor, R-Leavenworth, in the Republican Primary for the seat being vacated by Scott Schwab, who is running for governor. Political newcomer Sam Lane filed to run for secretary of state as a Democrat.

In an announcement, Rahjes said he will work to streamline the processes for business filings, including the Secretary of State Office's One Stop online portal, where businesses can pay taxes, register in the state and find resources for new and existing businesses.

"You fill out the forms and it gets filtered out to the various agencies, but it still starts within the Secretary of State's Office," Rahjes told The Capital-Journal. "People should not be waiting for weeks on end to get a form approved or questions answered. We need to go back to the days when we were known as one of if not the most business-friendly states in the nation."

Rahjes also said he will continue election security programs, increase transparency of election audits and quickly produce accurate election results. He believes part of that is making sure local election officials have the resources to respond to voters.

"We need to make sure, especially in those counties that have county clerks that wear multiple hats, we need to make sure that they have the training, and their staff have the training and tools, so that if a citizen has a question about their election that they don't have to call the Secretary of State's Office," Rahjes said.

Rahjes has served in the House since 2015, and holds committee assignments on the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, the Water Program Task Force and Appropriations Committee. He is the owner of Authentic Ag Inc., and is the director of agricultural programming for Western Kansas Broadcast Center and Murfin Media, where he hosts shows about agricultural markets.

He said his experience in the Legislature and as a business owner would be valuable for a secretary of state.

"Secretary of State can hopefully be that influence that folks know their vote is safe and secure and that a business can succeed and get started quickly," Rahjes.

The primary for the office will take place in August 2026.

Rates

Continued from Page 1A

For millions of Americans, that would mean continued relatively high borrowing costs on auto loans, credit card balances, mortgages and other debt. It also would mean higher bank savings rates for seniors and other people who depend on fixed income assets.

The Fed lowers rates to bolster a sagging economy and raises rates – or keeps them higher longer – to head off inflation.

Powell gave a nod to risks on both sides of the ledger. Raising rates too early could reignite inflation, reversing the progress made since pandemic-related product and worker shortages drove it to a 40-year high of 9.1% in 2022. Waiting too long could allow the labor market to weaken significantly.

Powell specifically cited "downside risks to the labor market."

Amid an already slowing job market and economy, the Fed chief previously acknowledged that officials likely would be cutting rates now that inflation has eased but are waiting to see how much President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs feed into consumer prices.

"We're still a ways away from seeing where things settle down," Powell said July 30. "It doesn't feel like we're close to the end of that process."

Forecasters noted several other signals that add up to a cautious message about lowering rates in September.

Even though job growth is slowing, Powell noted labor supply growth is also downshifting because of Trump's immigration crackdown. That's keeping the unemployment rate steady at a low leve. In other words, low unemployment could keep the Fed from reducing rates soon despite meager job gains, Pearce said.

The chief seemed to throw a bone to rate-cut advocates.

"The effects on inflation could be short-lived, reflecting a one-time shift in the price level," he said. That sounds like a cut could be around the corner. But then he added, "It is also possible that the inflationary effects could instead be more persistent."

Noting tariffs are starting to push up prices, Powell said the Fed is already "looking through" goods inflation by not raising rates. That "could be pushback to those who might want lower rates now," economist Michael Feroli, of JPMorganChase, wrote to clients.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Senate committee backs $1B for Ukraine in Pentagon spending bill

WASHINGTON – A powerful U.S. Senate committee approved a military spending bill on July 31 that includes about $1 billion to support Ukraine, despite President Donald Trump's administration having asked Congress to eliminate such funding in its budget request.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved $852 billion for the Department of Defense in the fiscal year ending on Sept. 30, 2026, which is $21.7 billion, or 2.6%, more than the Republican president requested earlier this year.

The committee voted 26-3 to send the spending measure for a vote in the full Senate, with strong support from both Democrats and Trump's fellow Republicans.

"Not only the prior administration, but this administration as well, have underestimated the level of challenge that we have," said Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who chairs the panel's defense subcommittee.

The bill includes $800 million for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative and $225 million for the Baltic Security Initiative, much of which ends up supporting Ukraine in its war against Russia's invasion.

Combs requests acquittal or new trial, legal documents show

Lawyers for Sean "Diddy" Combs filed a motion July 30 asking a court to either overturn his conviction or grant him a new trial, according to legal documents obtained by USA TODAY.

The request comes nearly a month after the Bad Boy Records founder was cleared of the most serious of his sex-crimes charges in a bombshell split decision.

On July 2, jurors found Combs not guilty of racketeering and sex trafficking but convicted him on two charges of transportation to engage in prostitution, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison for each count.

"Mr. Combs, at most, paid to engage in voyeurism as part of a 'swingers' lifestyle. That does not constitute 'prostitution' under a properly limited definition of the statutory term," Combs' team writes.

Brown inks deal with Trump admin to restore over $500M in funding

Brown University has reached a deal with the Trump administration to restore more than $500 million in federal funding to the school and close three government investigations into its campus.

The university in Providence, Rhode Island, committed to providing $50 million in grants to workforce development organizations across the state over the next 10 years, and promised to comply with President Donald Trump's executive order aimed at banning transgender athletes in women's sports.

Under the deal, the university will survey Jewish students on campus life and submit annual admissions data – broken down by race and other factors – to the federal government.

The contract, announced by Brown's president on July 30, came a week after the White House struck a separate, unprecedented deal with Columbia University and fined the school over $220 million.

Sen. Wicker, head of Senate armed services panel, to visit Taiwan

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, will lead a congressional delegation to Taiwan in August, a senior congressional official said on July 31.

The trip, which was first reported by the Financial Times, takes place as some members of Congress – both Republicans and Democrats – have expressed concern that President Donald Trump is deemphasizing security issues as he works on negotiating a trade deal with China.

Lawmakers have proposed legislation to put pressure on China and voiced unhappiness with reports that Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te is set to delay a diplomatically sensitive trip his team had floated to the Trump administration for August that would have included stops in the United States.

Administration officials have said that Trump remains fully committed to Asia-Pacific security matters as he pursues his trade agenda and a good personal relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

SALINA JOURNAL

Customer service
To view our most recent disclosures and important information regarding your subscription, please visit **aboutyoursubscription.salina.com.** Contact Salina Journal for questions or to report issues at 888-339-1237.
Operating hours are:
- Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday: 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Full access print and digital subscriptions
Subscribe and save today by visiting **salina.com.**

The print Newspaper in Education program has been discontinued. Funds supporting this program are being redirected to the College Readership Program. If you have any questions, please contact 888-339-1237.

Contact us
Customer Service 888-339-1237
Newsroom ..... news@salina.com
Advertising ..... 888-986-9926, option 6
Obituaries ..... salina.com/obituaries
Classifieds ..... classifieds.salina.com

Postal information
The Salina Journal (USPS# 478-060) is published daily excluding Saturday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving (observed), Christmas Day (observed) and New Year's Day (observed) by Gannett Media Corp., 621 N Sante Fe Ave., Salina, KS 67401. Periodicals postage paid at Salina, KS and additional mailing offices. **Postmaster:** Send all UAA to CFS. (See DMM 507.1.5.2); **NON-POSTAL ONE AND MILITARY FACILITIES:** Please send address corrections to Salina Journal, P.O. Box 653098 Dallas, Texas 75265-3098.