Despite the sound and fury of the election campaign, Kansas voters on Tuesday picked the status quo, giving Gov. Sam Brownback another four years in office backed by a conservative Legislature that will face a troubling fiscal situation. In addition, Republicans swept all statewide offices and congressional seats on the ballot.

Kansas Association of School Boards Associate Executive Director Mark Tallman discussed the election results and reviewed the KASB Legislative Committee Report during a Webinar yesterday. To view the recording go to www.kasb.org/legiswebinars.

Brownback, a Republican, was re-elected in a hard-fought contest against Democrat Paul Davis, who made restoration of public school funding and criticism of the Brownback tax cuts the major themes of his campaign.

In his victory speech, Brownback said, “We have made bold moves in the state of Kansas and in some cases tough moves to get our state growing again. Tomorrow we get back at it.”

Brownback reduced income tax rates, saying the cuts would stimulate the economy to produce enough revenue to fund the core services of state government.

But so far, tax revenues have fallen below projections; raising concerns about school funding, which makes up half of the state budget.

The Legislature’s non-partisan staff is predicting a revenue shortfall of at least $268 million by July 2016. The state’s Consensus Revenue Estimating Group will meet Monday to reassess revenue projections for the current and next fiscal years. Meanwhile, a three-judge panel is considering whether the state must increase school funding, which would put added strain on the budget picture.

Brownback’s victory Tuesday was coupled with changes in the state House that added to the majority support he already enjoyed in that chamber. Several races remained too close to declare a victory, but Republicans in the House will pick up several seats to add to their already lopsided 93-32 advantage. Once the votes are official, Republicans could have a 98-27 margin in the House.

Democrats were not able to take any seat held by a Republican in the House, and lost four incumbents in very close races, one by six votes.

Candidates supported by the Kansas Chamber of Commerce won in most contested races.

Kansas National Education Association President Mark Farr, who along with other KNEA members campaigned hard against Brownback, issued a statement, telling his members, “Our state is better regardless of an election outcome because you stood strong for Kansas students.”

Conservative Republicans are also firmly in command in the state Senate: two state senators were elected, keeping the Republican advantage in the Senate 32-8.

Meanwhile, the Kansas State Board of Education remained in control of moderates as Janet Vaugh, a Democrat from Kansas City, Kan., won re-election in the board’s only contested race.

Brownback given four more years as revenue situation worsens

Former KASB President Denise C. “Denny” Apt has died

Denise C. “Denny” Apt, a long-time public official and advocate for public education, including as a Kansas legislator and president of the Kansas Association of School Boards, died Monday at her home. She was 84.

Her career in public service began as a local school board member on the Iola USD 257 board of education, where she served as president. In the early 1970s, she became a Regional Vice President and in 1976 she became President of the Kansas Association of School Boards, and was then elected to the Kansas State Board of Education.

Mrs. Apt was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 1980 and served 8 years. She was appointed to the House Education Committee, which she eventually chaired. Following her legislative services, she was education advisor to Governor Mike Hayden. After his term ended, she became a lobbyist and included among her clients, the United School Administrators of Kansas and Kansas City USD 500.
First General Session: James Spellos

James Spellos is a teacher of way cool courses, including social media, mobile apps and tools, and way cool productivity tools such as Google. Come hear James speak and find out if you are Google-licious.

Spellos has 20+ years teaching at New York University, winning their award for teaching excellence in 2004 and over 20 years experience teaching technology . . . delivering over 150 courses and seminars annually.

Learn more at www.meeting-u.com

Three rounds of BREAKOUT SESSIONS with more than 40 topics to choose from including:

- Results Matter & Kansas Reading Initiative is Helping Early Childhood Education: The Foundation for Making Students College and Career Ready
- Data Savvy vs. Data Dangerous
- Developing Your Board’s Capacity
- Supporting Teachers during Curriculum Change
- Innovation Spaces: A Shared iPad Cart Model
- Initiating 1 to 1
- Customizing Your Mentoring Program
- Finding Extra Money for Schools: How to Maximize Philanthropic Links with Corporations and Community Partners
- The OECD Test for Schools (based on PISA)
- Breaking the Bond (Issue)
- Expanding Opportunities through Virtual Learning
- Using iPads to Share and Show Student Creations
- Creating Stakeholder Buy-In to Lower Costs through Innovation
- Refocusing our District
- You Are There
- AMO-Based Teacher Compensation
- 2014: Google’s Significant Impact on Kansas Schools
- Simplifying Identification for Gifted Education Services
- HS RPS Success
- Twittering Around: What Board Members & Superintendent’s Should Know About Twitter
- Making The Journey Count
- Hot Technologies 2014
- Deciding to Modernize or Replace an Old School Building
- KSDE/School Finance Update
- Higher Education Update
- USD 503’s Long Term Engineering Project
- Physics for All Students
- NSBA Connections
- Educational Facility Planning
- Legislative Committee Report Review
- 2015 Legislative Session Preview
- KASB Research: Because Inquiring Minds Want to Know
- Economic Futuring
- Mentoring and Induction for New Leaders in Kansas: KELI
- Special Education, ESI and 504 Plans
- You and Your 2015 Negotiations Team
- Second General Session: Wavelength

Wavelength is an award-winning ensemble of actors and educators dedicated to using humor and improvisation to create theatrical keynote performances for training for educators. Founded in 1980 by a former high school English teacher, Wavelength has created memorable, transformative professional development training for over 30 years.

Jim Winter founded Wavelength in 1980 after attending workshops at the Players Workshop of Second City. As a former high school English teacher, he saw the connection between the art of improvisation and effective and engaging teaching. To that end he created Wavelength to deliver professional staff development training.

Find out more at www.wavelength.biz
Editor’s Note: American Fidelity Assurance Company is a KASB Prestigious Partner and a Preferred Provider of services and benefits customized to meet the unique needs of public education employees and employers. The following information was provided to KASB to share with our members. To learn more about what American Fidelity can do for your district, contact: Jeremy Woydziak, Kansas State Manager, 800-365-1167 jeremy.woydziak@americanfidelity.com

And be sure to stop by the American Fidelity booth #305 during the KASB Annual Conference! Representatives from American Fidelity will be on-hand throughout the conference.

Your Partner for Services and Benefits

Discover the ease and simplicity of acquiring administrative support services, employee benefits, and a streamlined employee enrollment experience – all from one partner. With more than 50 years of experience, American Fidelity Assurance Company’s (American Fidelity) commitment to serving the education community has earned us the trust of more than 8,500 employer groups nationwide, including key relationships with KASB.

American Fidelity assists in designing a custom package of service solutions and benefits that will best suit your school district and employees. Local, salaried account managers provide a year-round service with a focus on service. We work diligently to share our experience in delivering expense management benefits and services to help you and your employees.

Benefit Administrative Services

- Section 125 Plans - Plan document and setup, compliance support, and VIP email notifications
- Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) - Uniform Coverage Risk Insurance Plan, funding options, and debit cards
- Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) - Investment options, online account management, and debit cards
- Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) - Multiple plan options and flexible plan funding
- 403(b) and 457(b) Plan Administrative Services - Ongoing plan document services and compliance support
- Pre-Tax Transportation Benefits - Easy online sign-up and administration

Administrative Support Services

- Dependent Verification Reviews - One-on-one reviews and periodic progress reports
- COBRA Administrative Solutions - Easy and simple online COBRA administration
- Non-discrimination Testing - Available multiple times during the year

Health Care Reform Support
- Educational materials and individual consultations
- Online Administrative Tools
- Secure online billing and account management

Enrollment Solutions

American Fidelity saves districts considerable staff time by managing employee benefit enrollment and administration duties. Enrollment solutions were designed specifically to assist employers with the administration of the entire enrollment experience, and American Fidelity staff remain committed to making sure employees understand the benefits available to them.

Employee Benefits

- Disability Income Insurance
- Accident Only Insurance
- Cancer Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Critical Illness Insurance
- Hospital GAP Insurance
- Annuities
- Core Benefits*

*Benefits include dental insurance, vision insurance, and group life insurance. American Fidelity does not underwrite these products. These policies may contain limitations, exclusions and or waiting periods. Products may be referred to by a different name.
Early Bird Workshop: Winter School Law Conference

The KASB Winter School Law Program held on Friday, December 5, 2014 in conjunction with the KASB annual convention will provide an update on timely school law legal topics including:

- Bullying and Harassment – Recent Cases and Guidance from the Office of Civil Rights
- The Battle in the Courts and State Legislatures over Teacher Tenure and Teacher Due Process
- Legislative Repeal of the Kansas Due Process Act – What the Teacher Nonrenewal Process Should Look Like in January, 2015?
- Accommodating School Employee Medical and Disability Needs – The Interplay of Family Medical Leave and the Americans With Disabilities Act and Recent Cases
- School Employees and On-Line Speech – What Every School Attorney, Administrator and Board Member Should Know
- Title IX and Student Athletes: What is an Equal Opportunity to Participate and Equal Treatment?

Presenters include KASB staff attorneys and other Kansas legal experts including Norm Wilks, attorney, President of KSAA; Cindy Kelly, general counsel, Topeka USD 501; Larry Mears, attorney; David Cunningham, attorney, Lawrence USD 497; Deryl Wynn, attorney, McAnany, Van Cleave & Phillips; and Gina Riekhof, attorney, Gillmore & Bell.

Find a complete agenda online at www.kasb.org/store/events/registration.aspx?event=14CONV. To register log in to the store and choose convention registration or call KASB today!