

BVPAGE Jan 9 2015 Legislative Update

Patty Logan, BVPAGE Legislative liaison [patty.d.logan@gmail.com](mailto:patty.d.logan@gmail.com)

1. LOB election ballot should have arrived-- time to vote!
2. Legislative session begins Monday Jan 12

[www.jocogov.org/voters/VoterRegistration.htm](http://www.jocogov.org/voters/VoterRegistration.htm)

- register to vote (also must fax or email proof of citizenship) {also may walk in to city halls to register}
- see a sample ballot before an election
- find out who your elected officials are and contact them

General advice for contact:

- Thank the person for serving as an elected official
- Give background on yourself: "I've lived in Leawood for 20 years"... "I have three children in the Blue Valley School District"... "I moved here for the schools"... "I work for \_\_\_\_\_" ... "I am very involved as a volunteer in the school district." You can be specific such as "My kids have been part of the band program in middle and high school and it has been a wonderful experience that I highly value." "My student has an IEP for gifted education, and the district gifted services are crucial to the educational success of gifted students, during K-12 and beyond."
- State your concerns. It can be general or specific. For example: "School funding is very important to me. I do not want to see any further cuts to the district operating expenses." "It is very important to me that our district is able to afford to keep class sizes as low as possible." "Funding of the gifted program is essential to the academic and emotional success of gifted students."
- You can add brief personal anecdotes. "My student has found that participation in band has improved many other aspects of his life by improving organizational skills, being part of a great group and learning to work together, and his classroom grades and performance have improved since starting band."
- Thank the person for reading your email or listening to your phone call.

There will be many proposals/bills/discussions about how to handle the massive budget shortage. K-12 education funding is a significant portion of the state of Kansas budget. Through BVLEAG, KASB, and KGTC, we will attempt to keep on top of what is "rising to the top" and notify members if the school district, BVPAGE board, or KGTC advises of any specific action for members to consider.

No bills have been introduced yet since the session has not started. KGTC has made us aware of a draft bill to remove gifted education from Special Education. BV District is aware of this and watching it closely. If this proposed draft bill becomes a concern, BVPAGE will notify members. The state contributes about \$27,500 per year toward the salary of each gifted teacher.