



May 7, 2024

SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE

The Governor may call a special session of the Legislature whenever the Governor believes it is warranted. Additionally, a special session must be called when the Governor receives a petition for that purpose signed by at least two-thirds of the members elected to each house. Such sessions nearly always are necessitated by one or two important matters of state that the Governor specifies at the time of the call. However, once in session, the Legislature may act on any matter as if it were in the regular session. Special sessions rarely are convened. Since 1930, for example, there have been 15 special sessions: 1930, 1933, 1934, 1936, 1938, 1958, 1964, 1966, 1987, 1989, 2005, 2013, 2016, 2020, and 2021. There have been only seven special sessions since the Legislature returned to regular annual sessions in 1967. The first special session called as a result of legislative petition occurred in November 2021.

KANSAS LEGISLATURE SPECIAL SESSIONS

Year	Dates	Called by	Days	Main Issue
1874	Sept. 15 - Sept. 22	Governor	7	Grasshopper Relief
1884	March 18 - March 25	Governor	7	Foot-and-Mouth Disease
1886	Jan. 19 - Feb. 20	Governor	28	Judicial and Legislative Apportionment
1898	Dec. 21 - Jan. 9	Governor	17	Railroad Freight Rate Control
1903	June 24 - June 26	Governor	3	Kaw Valley Floods
1908	Jan. 16 - Feb. 4	Governor	13	Various State Issues
1919	June 16 - June 19	Governor	4	Federal Woman Suffrage Amendment
1920	Jan. 5 - Jan. 27	Governor	Senate-18 House-20	Industrial Court Law
1923	Aug. 6 - Aug. 14	Governor	7	Veterans' Bonus Legislation
1928	July 19 - July 21	Governor	3	Road Amendments
1930	Feb. 27 - March 12	Governor	11	Taxation
1933	Oct. 30 - Dec. 4	Governor	25	Various State Issues
1934	March 1 - March 7	Governor	6	Mortgage Foreclosures
1936	July 7 - July 13	Governor	6	Social Security Act
1938	Feb. 7 - March 4	Governor	22	Welfare and Taxation
1958	April 21 - May 9	Governor	17	State Budget
1964	Feb. 17 - Feb. 24	Governor	6	Legislative Apportionment
1966	Feb. 15 - March 9	Governor	14	Legislative Apportionment
1987	Aug. 31 - Sept. 5	Governor	6	State Highway Plan
1989	Dec. 8 - Dec. 9	Governor	2	Property Tax
2005	June 22 - July 6	Governor	Senate-11 House-12	School Finance
2013	Sept. 3 - Sept. 4	Governor	2	Sentencing (<i>Alleyne</i> fix of "Hard 50" law)
2016	June 23 - June 24	Governor	2	School Finance (<i>Gannon</i> response)

KANSAS LEGISLATURE SPECIAL SESSIONS

Year	Dates	Called by	Days	Main Issue
2020	June 3 - June 4	Governor	2	COVID-19 pandemic response; Kansas Emergency Management Act
2021	Nov. 22	Governor (Petition)*	1	State's response to certain federal COVID-19 mandates

Note: Prior to a constitutional change in 1972, only the Governor could call the Legislature into a special session. With the constitutional change, special sessions may be convened by call of the Governor or by petition of two-thirds of the members of each chamber of the Legislature.

* The Governor's proclamation indicates 86 House and 29 Senate member petition signatures were submitted.