

# Classifieds

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**716 S. Maple**  
**Coffeyville, KS 67337**  
**coffeyvillejournal3@gmail.com**

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## 121 Help Wanted

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# • Commissioners

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\$260,000. Commissioner Robert Bever requested that Beurskens send letters to the residents along that road to alert them to the construction plans. The Commissioners approved.

The KDOT cost-share application is due this week. Beurskens recommended they reapply for funding for the low water crossing on CR 6200 near mile 24 near Cherryvale. This will be the second time they applied this project for this funding. The daily road count is approximately 40 vehicles. The Commissioners approved.

Jonathan Booe, County Administrator, presented an RFP for review in preparation for approval. "It is the RFP for a comprehen-

sive plan with county-wide zoning regulations," Booe explained. "Right now it's a free-for-all." He became aware of the zoning issues when a battery storage facility approached the County last year. Batteries, towers, solar panels and the like are on skids and not permanent structures which means that they are not restricted by the current regulations. Booe recently attended a KAC meeting in Topeka, where they recommended counties put regulations in place to restrict the use of AG land for data centers, cell towers, solar farms and wind farms.

Booe explained that the RFP presented requires new businesses coming

into the County to seek the approval of the Planning and Zoning Board and the Board of Commission before establishment while not restricting what property owners can do with their property. "When you drive from Cherryvale to Independence, you pass far more fields full of cattle and soybean than you do big industry, and for the majority of people who live here that is their way of life; that's how they earn a living and I don't want to infringe upon that. What I do want to do is prevent wind farms, solar fields, battery energy storage systems having free reign... such that they can plop something hazardous down next to your farm and your cattle," he stated. Matt Debo, Environmental Health and Zoning stated, "We need to protect our AG land because each year we are losing more and more."

This will only establish

regulations in the County and will not affect city zoning regulations. The new Cherryvale data center is located within the city limits of Cherryvale and is subject to the zoning regulations of Cherryvale. Commissioner Bever recommended getting stake-holder feedback before proceeding. Booe will return next week with the final draft of the RFP.

Jason Niemier, Health Department, provided an update on grant monies. He stated that the Work Force Development grant was required by the State of Kansas to be earmarked for use. Niemier earmarked it all for salary and supplies. He then recommended that they apply for two grants — the Pregnancy Maintenance Initiative and the Teen Pregnancy Case Management grants — and create a regional pregnancy assistance co-op with the surrounding counties. This would require hiring at least one more nurse whose salary would be paid by grants. Commissioner Bever requested that Niemier return with a concrete plan including monetary estimates. "I don't want to

keep adding personnel that the taxpayers have to keep paying for," stated Bever. Booe responded that the funding for the program is expected to continue into the future similar to the current WIC program funding. "It only puts more people in Montgomery County," added Booe.

Journalist Andy Taylor drew the Commission's attention to the Buffalo Flats Evergy project which is expected to run a massive power line through Montgomery County to bring power to Springfield and Branson. The connecting point to Oklahoma is expected to be placed near Caney. The second proposed connecting point might be at CR 2300.

The next meeting of the County Board of Commissioners will be held on Monday, March 30, at 9:00 a.m., in the lower level of the Judicial Center. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Recordings of the meetings are available for viewing at the new county website [www.ks-montgomerycounty.civicplus.com](http://www.ks-montgomerycounty.civicplus.com) under the agendas section.

# • A quick

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ber of counties attempted to use zoning or local rules to block large water pipeline projects and this bill would override most of the restrictions in certain cases. Some that support the law say that it clarifies other confusing laws and creates consistency statewide, preventing counties from overstepping into state-controlled water laws. Others that are against the bill claim that it reduces local control and could put a hurt on rural communities by allowing water to be moved. While Governor Kelly has signed this piece of legislation, it has not yet become a law.

**SB299-** This Senate Bill would require the Kansas Supreme Court Nominating Commission to make more of its records public, requiring

certain documents and records from the commission to be released subject to the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA), opening up part of the judicial selection process to public view. Kansas uses a merit-based system to select Supreme Court justices- The nominating commission reviews applicants, it sends three finalists to the governor and the governor picks one. Right now, much of the process is strictly confidential. If this Senate Bill becomes law, some records related to applicants or deliberations would no longer be considered secret and the public and media could request access to those records under the open records law. By doing so, many believe that transparency and accountability will increase, as the public should know more about how judges are selected; while others feel that it could possibly discourage qualified applicants from applying, as many believe confidentiality helps ensure honest evaluations of candidates.

# • Speaking Truth

Con't from Page 4

sarily agree. Why did Jesus die and rise again? Because of sin. No other person in human history has ever died for the sins of another. It is the most unique death. This was spoken of at Jesus' birth. An angel told Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, "[Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

Why did Jesus die for "sin"? Because of its awfulness. The Scriptures say, "... nothing unclean will ever enter [God's presence], nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Revelation 21:27) Sin is called unclean, detestable and false. God lays out some examples, "...the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars..." (Rev. 21:8) Outwardly, there is a lot of difference between being a coward versus a murderer. What do they both have in common regarding God's rules? Proud defiance. When God lays down His rules for us and we respond with defiance, that angers Him. He will have nothing of it.

What are the consequences God has laid out for such rebellion? Death. Both spiritual and eternal. God clearly communicates this, "...their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (Rev. 21:8) Is there any hope for humanity or is it the fate of us all? This is the good news of Easter.

Though the consequence for our sinful defiance is death, it is something we can be delivered from. The Bible says in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him, should not perish, but have eternal life."

God is willing to show you mercy in the face of your deserved penalty. He voluntarily sent His Son to take that sentence. Jesus' death on Easter's cross was an act of divine kindness toward you. He died so you would not have to. Then He rose again, conquering sin and death, that you might overcome and have the incredible gift of eternal life, beginning now.

*A prayer for you – Lord God, I pray that all people would know why you died and rose again. Help them to admit their prideful defiance toward your rules. Humble them, that they would cry out to you, for the forgiveness of their sin and walk in victory through Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

# • Kansas GOP

Con't from Page 4

son has managed the Senate more skillfully. I believe someone (who could it be?) once used the term "brutally effective" to describe his stewardship of the upper chamber. Even he had to step aside.

Now that Republican lawmakers have seen what power they wield, who knows what they might accomplish in the waning days of the 2026 session?

An expansion of the state Medicaid program?

Medical marijuana or outright legalization?

An increase in our shameful \$7.25 an hour minimum wage?

A quick repeal of the anti-trans law that has already landed the state in Douglas County District Court?

Who knows. All I can say for sure is that the everyday GOP lawmakers now hold the power. For the first time this session, they've unapologetically used it. No one can predict what other revolutions may follow.

*[Clay Wirestone is Kansas Reflector opinion editor. Through its opinion section, Kansas Reflector works to amplify the voices of people who are affected by public policies or excluded from public debate.]*



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# • The ever-evolving

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sizable shares of Latinos supporting Republican candidates. For instance, both former President George W. Bush and his brother, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, performed well with Latinos in Texas and Florida.

For two decades, Democrats have campaigned among Latinos on the promise of comprehensive immigration reform and an economic policy that would level the playing field, including raising the federal minimum wage, providing universal pre-K education and promoting affordable housing.

Many Latinos feel they are still waiting for these Democratic policies to be enacted, let alone improve their lives.

Democratic trifectas in 2009-10 and 2021-22 – when the party held both chambers of Congress, along with the presidency – failed to produce meaningful movement on immigration policy. Many Latinos felt their daily lives had not improved, as they faced high costs of living, expensive housing markets and rising health care costs. While House Democrats did pass numerous bills to address these topics, Senate moderates proved difficult to persuade.

Given these shortcomings, running on the message that "the GOP are bad guys" only gets Democrats so far. In 2024, surveys and focus groups of Hispanic voters made it clear that not everyone was convinced by this characterization. The frustrations of working-class families during the Biden administration were real, whereas fears of mass deportations and other social chaos that a second Trump term might portend were, at that point, conjecture.

The Trump campaign specifically promised widespread action against immigrants, but many of our Latino focus group participants felt this was bluster. They believed that Trump's actions would be targeted against blatant criminals and that his policies would not affect their families and friends.

They did not believe the worst-case scenarios presented by Vice President Kamala Harris and other Democrats during the campaign. Despite often not liking Trump, his economic promises felt good during the 2024 affordability crisis.

## LATINOS SHIFTING BACK LEFT?

Many Latinos are now quite upset with Trump. The 2025 gubernatorial elections in New Jersey and Virginia point to dramatic 25-point changes in the Latino vote in the

Democrats' direction, compared with Trump's 2024 performance.

In December 2025, the first Democrat was elected mayor of Miami since 1997, with Latino support. A Democrat won a heavily Republican state legislative district in Texas in February 2026 with an estimated 79% of the Latino vote. Most recently, Latino voter turnout surged to record levels in the March Democratic primary in Texas.

Majorities of Latino voters believe that their economic fortunes have declined since Trump returned to the White House. Moreover, they expect the situation to worsen over the next year. In March 2026, The Economist reported that Trump's support among Latinos had fallen to 22%.

In a bipartisan poll by UnidosUS released in November 2025, only 14% of Latino voters said their lives were better after one year under Trump, while 39% said they had gotten worse. Looking ahead, 50% expected things to get worse still in 2026, while only 20% were optimistic about their economic future. Two-thirds of Latino voters felt that Trump and the Republicans were not focusing enough on improving the economy for people like them.

What's more, mass deportations have happened under the second Trump administration. The vast majority of those detained for deportation, including those who have died, had no criminal record.

Latinos are overwhelmingly opposed to federal troops in U.S. cities, according to our polling; 41% fear legal residents and U.S. citizens getting caught up in enforcement actions. The No. 1 immigration concern for Latino voters remains a path to citizenship for Dreamers – the undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children – and for immigrants who have worked and paid taxes in the country for more than 20 years but lack formal status.

Among Latinos who actually voted for Trump, many would not do so again. Our poll suggests that 22% of Latinos who voted for Trump in 2024 would not vote for him again. By contrast, Democrats retain support from 93% of their 2024 Latino voters.

The long-term effects of the Trump presidency on the Latino electorate are difficult to predict, but for now party preferences have shifted firmly back toward the Democrats. Among voters in the UnidosUS poll, 55% said they felt the Democrats "care a great deal" about Latinos, compared

with 29% saying they felt that way about the GOP. At the same time, 33% of Latino voters see the GOP as "hostile," compared with just 7% who believe this about the Democrats.

If the recent leftward shift is sustained, or the earlier shift to the right was illusory, the effects on the politics of 2026 could be large, potentially putting control of Congress in the hands of Latino voters. There are 46 House districts where the number of registered voters who are Latino exceeds the total margin of victory for those seats in 2024, with 23 currently held by Republicans and 23 currently held by Democrats.

Latino voters need to believe that politicians truly care about their concerns and will work to implement a plan to create equal opportunities for the nation's largest minority group to achieve the American dream. We believe the candidates able to make that pitch convincingly will be the most successful.

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*[Matt A. Barreto is a professor of political science and director of the UCLA Voting Rights Project at the Luskin School of Public Affairs. Gary M. Segura is professor of public policy in the Luskin School of Public Affairs at UCLA, where he served as dean from 2017 through 2022. Through its opinion section, Kansas Reflector works to amplify the voices of people who are affected by public policies or excluded from public debate.]*



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