Campaign season is officially underway as June 1 marked the filing deadline for candidates. All 165 legislative seats (125 House and 40 Senate) will be up for grabs in primary elections set for August 4 and general elections on November 3.

Of the 165 legislators, 23 opted not to seek re-election for their seats. This includes Senate President Susan Wagle, Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning and two former House Majority Leaders- Don Hineman and Jene Vickrey. Seven House members are challenging incumbent senators, creating open House seats. There are 38 candidates (6 Senate and 32 House) running unopposed.

On the federal side, the announced retirement of Senator Pat Roberts opened the door to a hotly contested US Senate race. Former Secretary of State Kris Kobach, Congressman Roger Marshall, and business owners Dave Lindstrom and Bob Hamilton, along with seven others, will square off in a primary to face State Senator Barbara Bollier in the November general election.

Congressman Marshall’s attempt to move to the US Senate vacates his first congressional district seat, sought by former Lt. Governor Tracey Mann and five other hopefuls. Congressman Ron Estes is seeking re-election in the fourth congressional district (encompasses mostly the Wichita metro) challenged by Democrat Laura Lombard. On the eastern side of the state, Congressman Steve Watkins, who represents the second congressional district (eastern third of state minus Johnson and Wyandotte Counties) is being challenged by State Treasurer Jake LaTurner and a former cabinet member in the August primary. The winner will face Topeka Mayor Michelle De La Isla in the general election. Congresswoman Sharice Davids, representing the third congressional district, will face the winner of the primary matchup between Amanda Adkins, Sara Hart Weir and Adrienne Vallejo Foster.

Statewide offices, such as the Governor, Attorney General and Secretary of State, are not up for election until 2022.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions.

Travis Lowe