Kansas’ 2020 Legislative Session is currently in its “April Break”, with the regular session having concluded early on March 19 to take precaution for COVID-19. The early adjournment left virtually all pending bills unresolved, save for the budget and creation of KDOT’s new comprehensive transportation plan. Governor Kelly signed both the budget (SB 386) and Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Plan into law.

Veto session is scheduled to begin on April 27. Governor Kelly’s statewide stay-at-home order expires on April 19. If this order is extended, which is very possible if not expected, the Legislative Coordinating Council has the power to postpone the veto session start. The only caveat, the Legislature cannot meet beyond May 21, which is known as Sine Die. If COVID-19 limitations continue through May, there is a likely chance the Legislature may be finished for the rest of the year, unless Governor Kelly calls a special session. Adding complexity is that 2020 is an election year, with every state House and state Senate seat up for election. June 1 is the filing deadline, with the primary election in August.

If the Legislature returns for veto session, there are a handful of noted priorities, while dozens of issues remain unresolved. House Republican leaders still hope to secure a 2/3 majority for a constitutional amendment on abortion while a large faction in the Senate wants to debate Medical Expansion. Sports wagering and tax policy remain, with several additional items expected to be added to an omnibus budget bill.

Until April 27, all eyes are on Governor Kelly as the state learns the status of the stay-at-home order and any other executive orders.

Thank you and please let us know any questions.

Travis Lowe