The results are in! In a year when all 165 legislative seats are up for grabs, Kansas’ primary election has concluded with a few surprises and shake-ups. A few hotly contested seats came down to the wire and were decided by a handful of votes, showing every vote does count. The primary election always plays a very significant role in Kansas, particularly in the districts with wide Republican margins. This election season featured several notable showdowns that will have major impacts on the shape of the 2020-2021 Legislature.

A handful of incumbent Senate and House members lost their election last night. Senators Berger, Givens, Goddard, Hardy, Rucker, Skubal and Taylor were defeated, suggesting a nudge of power shifted to conservatives within the Senate Republican caucus. A similar trend is seen in the House with Representatives Capps, Dierks, Karleskint, Kessinger, Frownfelter and Moore being defeated.

On the federal side, all eyes were on the US Senate seat currently held by Senator Pat Roberts, who is not seeking reelection. Congressman Roger Marshall defeated former Secretary of State Kris Kobach, business owners Dave Lindstrom and Bob Hamilton, along with seven others in the Republican primary. Marshall will now face State Senator Barbara Bollier in the November general election.

In the congressional races, contentious primaries also reached their conclusion. State Treasurer Jake LaTurner defeated Congressman Steve Watkins, who represents the second congressional district (eastern third of state minus Johnson and Wyandotte Counties). LaTurner will face Topeka Mayor Michelle De La Isla in the general election. In the third congressional district (Johnson and Wyandotte Counties), Congresswoman Sharice Davids will face Amanda Adkins, who defeated Sara Hart Weir, Mike Beehler and Adrienne Vallejo Foster in last night’s primary election.

In the first congressional district, former Lt. Governor Tracey Mann and Kali Barnett won their Republican and Democrat primaries, respectively, and will face off in the general election. Congressman Ron Estes did not have a primary challenge for his fourth congressional district seat.

The general election in November will offer more insight as seats are secured that could still
have impacts on Republican majorities. In early December, the newly elected Senate and House members will convene in Topeka to elect their leaders.

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

Travis Lowe