

## Legislative Update No. 1 from Ron Highland, Representative of the 51<sup>st</sup> District

Life has been a whirlwind since the election in November. There has been training at the Capitol, studying of the issues raised during the campaign, and election of leadership for the legislature.

The entire process of the campaign was exciting, rewarding and humbling. Linda and I met so many wonderful people who were encouraging us on this journey. We owe so many for their prayers, support, and friendship. Thank each and every one of you for being a part of the representative process and going to the polls. I will do my very best to represent you all with dignity and a caring heart.

Last week was very busy with the swearing in, followed by many meetings. The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ray Merrick, assigned each of us to our office, desk in the House Chambers, parking space, and most importantly, to our committees. I have been assigned to Education, Education Budget, and Energy and Environment. I am finding these committees to be ones containing a large amount of detail to be studied.

Topics that will involve legislative activity this session were outlined by the Governor during his State of the State address. They include tax policy, budget, education (Gannon v. State decision), selection of judges, and combining KDOT and the KTA. I will be keeping you abreast of the happenings in these areas plus others as the weeks pass.

I am a member of our citizen legislature, representing you. If you have concerns, issues or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at [Ron.Highland@house.ks.gov](mailto:Ron.Highland@house.ks.gov) or 785-296-7310. I would be happy to include you in my regular email updates.