

## **Tuesday Topics, Dec. 7, 2021**

### **Shawnee County Legislative Forum**

All 13 members of the Shawnee County legislative delegation were invited to participate in our every-other-year legislative forum. Five members of the Shawnee County delegation accepted our invitation and participated in the December Tuesday Topics' legislative forum. They were Sen. Brenda Dietrich, Senate District 20; Rep. Vic Miller, District 58; Rep. Fred Patton, District 50; Rep. Jim Gartner, District 53; and Rep. Annie Kuether, District 55.

The group identified top issues for the 2022 session to be:

- Elimination of state sales tax on food
- Broadband
- Vaccination and COVID issues
- Tax policy of all sorts
- Redistricting
- The school finance formula
- Issues affecting students in schools
- Criminal justice issues
- Election laws
- Pushing back against some organized interest groups

Concerns about the redistricting process were identified, as well as ideas to expand opportunities for voting in our county. The delegations expressed concerns about the Critical Race Theory controversy filtering into Kansas political discussions and the balance between state influence and local school board control of education issues.

They reminded the audience that contacting legislators about issues remains vitally important.