



GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-48

Establishing the Governor's Commission on Racial Equity and Justice

WHEREAS, Kansas is committed to a shared vision of increased prosperity and improved well-being for all Kansans;

WHEREAS, Kansas was founded as a Free State and was the home of prominent abolitionists and advocates for racial justice;

WHEREAS, Kansas is the home of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* and the Dockum Drug Store sit-in – events that highlight the state's commitment to and struggles with racial equity and justice;

WHEREAS, racial inequity and injustice that impacts any Kansan is a threat to the well-being of all Kansans;

WHEREAS, trust between law enforcement and the people they protect and serve is essential in a society, and is key to the security of our communities, the safe and effective delivery of policing services, and the rectitude of our criminal justice system;

WHEREAS, citizens expect law enforcement officers to serve the public and conduct themselves with the highest standards of civility, fairness, and honor toward citizens, while maintaining respect for the rule of law;

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of all Kansans to seek best practices for hiring and training of law enforcement and maintaining transparency and accountability to build greater trust between police and communities;

WHEREAS, people of color are disproportionately more likely to be stopped, detained, or killed by police; and

WHEREAS, the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others have caused worldwide protests and calls to action.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I hereby establish the Governor's Commission on Racial Equity and Justice ("Commission"):

1. The Commission shall comprise no more than 15 Kansans representing broad perspectives on racial equity and justice. All members will be appointed by the Governor and serve at the Governor's pleasure.

3. The Governor shall select a chair and vice-chair, or co-chairs, from the Commission's membership, and the Commission may establish rules for the Commission's meetings and conduct of business.
4. Members shall receive no compensation and shall serve voluntarily. Members other than the chair, vice-chair, or co-chairs shall not be reimbursed for expenses or mileage. Officers or employees of state agencies who are appointed to the Commission as part of their duties shall be authorized to participate on the Commission and may claim subsistence, allowance, mileage, or associated expenses from their respective agency budgets as permitted by law.
5. The Commission shall be subject to the Kansas Open Records Act and the Kansas Open Meetings Act.
6. Plans, reports, or recommendations of any nature adopted by the Commission shall be considered advice to the Governor, and shall not be construed as official policies, positions, or interpretations of laws, rules, or regulations by any department or agency of state government, nor shall any such department or agency be bound in any manner to consider such advice when conducting their advisory and regulatory affairs.
7. The Commission shall:
 - a. Study issues of racial equity and justice in Kansas, focusing first on policing and law enforcement then expanding the work to other systemic problems determined by members of the Commission;
 - b. Perform outreach and hold listening sessions with Kansans, including community members, local elected officials, law enforcement, state legislators, educators, mental health professionals, social workers, people impacted by systemic racism, and other Kansans with experience and expertise in various aspects of racial equity and justice;
 - c. Research and analyze the state of policing in Kansas as it relates to racial equity and justice, including the availability of adequate data on the topic;
 - d. Review research on actions that have been proven effective in increasing racial equity and justice in policing;
 - e. Analyze racial equity and justice in the context of various systems in Kansas, including mental health, education, housing and economic opportunity;
 - f. Make recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and local governments on concrete and immediate steps that can be taken to increase racial equity and justice in Kansas.
8. By December 1 of 2020, the Commission shall submit to the Governor an initial report detailing assessments, recommendations, and any proposals for the Commission's further work. By July 1, 2021, the Commission shall submit to the Governor a second report detailing assessments, recommendations, and any proposals for the Commission's further work. By January 1, 2022, the Commission shall submit a final comprehensive report to the Governor

detailing assessments, recommendations and relevant findings of the Commission. The Commission may also, at any time, choose to submit a letter to the Governor or the Legislature with any information or recommendation that the Commission believes requires immediate action or attention.

9. The Commission shall be staffed by the Governor's Office with assistance from other experts or organizations as appropriate.

10. The Commission shall meet virtually or in-person as recommended by public health guidance.

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order No. 20-48. It shall become effective immediately.

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

BY THE GOVERNOR

DATED

6.24.2020

FILED
JUN 24 2020
SCOTT SCHWAB
SECRETARY OF STATE

Secretary of State
Assistant Secretary of State