Kansas Speaks Fall 2026
Statewide Public Opinion Survey

Supplement on the Gubernatorial Election Question

November 6, 2026

In the full 2026 Kansas Speaks survey report of results, the findings on the gubernatorial election question (Q23) were not released, as reported in the footnote on page 54. Researchers had not yet had time to explore the various possibilities given other questions in the survey for filtering down to those most likely to turn out. What was known at the time was that an unrealistically high rate, 92.3%, of registered voter respondents planned to vote for one of the two candidates (83.9%) or indicated that they did not know who they planned to vote for at the time or preferred not to answer (8.4%). This 92.3% of registered voters indicating they planned to vote is significantly higher than the historical voter turnout rates in Kansas gubernatorial elections (around 50% at best and usually in the mid-40% range since 2002).

The Kansas Speaks survey is designed to measure Kansans' opinions (both registered voters and those not registered to vote) on a wide breadth of public affairs issues, and it does not use the "likely voter" lines of questioning common to election race polling. However, there are some questions that can be used to more conservatively model the likely voter turnout among the survey's registered voters than simply using the initial response to the single gubernatorial question (Q23). The survey asks a respondent whether they voted in the 2024 presidential election (Q22) and whether they voted in the 2022 midterm elections (Q21). The table shows that after filtering on a respondent's reported participation in those past election years, the gap between the two gubernatorial candidates becomes narrower than the gap with no past election participation filtering (column to the far left in the table below). The column to the far right is the most restrictive filtering, as it reports planned 2026 gubernatorial vote only among respondents who voted in both 2024 and 2022. We note that even filtering down to only those who report they voted in both of those past elections, the estimated voter turnout of 72.3% remains notably higher than would be expected.

Q23. *Who do you plan to vote for as governor in 2026?*	Registered voters (n=506)	Registered voters who voted either in 2022 or in 2024 (n=486)	Registered voters who voted in 2024 (n=450)	Registered voters who voted in 2022 (n=390)	Registered voters who voted in 2022 and in 2024 (n=377)
Cindy Holscher (Democrat)	43.05%	42.26%	42.93%	44.81%	45.23%
Ty Masterson (Republican)	40.81%	43.18%	43.89%	44.25%	45.09%
Don't know or prefer not to answer	8.42%	8.02%	8.20%	6.50%	6.72%
I do not plan on voting/cannot vote	7.71%	6.54%	4.98%	4.44%	2.95%
Estimated Voter Turnout Rate*		89.77%	84.50%	73.66%	72.30%

NOTES:
*When calculating the Estimated Voter Turnout Rate, respondents who indicated they did not plan on voting or could not vote are not considered as likely voters. Those who indicated that they would vote for either Cindy Holscher or Ty Masterson and those who said "don't know or prefer not to answer" are considered as likely voters.
Data shown in this supplement are weighted as described in the full 2026 survey report.