Welcome to the Kansas Insurance Department

Built in 1924, the building that houses the Kansas Insurance Department is listed on the national and state registers of historic places. It is located at the corner of S.W. 9th and Topeka Boulevard.

Vicki Schmidt
Commissioner of Insurance

Contact us

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Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays
(except state holidays)

Kansas Insurance Department
Vicki Schmidt
Commissioner of Insurance

January 2019

www.ksinsurance.org
The Kansas Insurance Department, established in 1871, assists and educates consumers, regulates and reviews companies and licenses agents selling insurance products in our state. Commissioner Vicki Schmidt is responsible for regulating all insurance sold in Kansas and overseeing the nearly 1,500 insurance companies and nearly 140,000 agents licensed to do business in Kansas.

The department has approximately 100 full-time employees who work in 13 divisions.

**A historic location**

The building that houses the Kansas Insurance Department was formerly the Topeka Woman’s Club. Located one block west of the Kansas Statehouse, the building is listed on the national and state registers of historic places.

The grand brick exterior and the building’s elegant interior prove to be the appropriate atmosphere for the strong and enduring beliefs of the women who organized the Woman’s Club in 1924.

Originally, the first floor included an 800-seat auditorium. It had a small balcony, a stage and an orchestra pit. The second-floor dining room could accommodate 700 to 800 people and had a serving room at one end. A ballroom on the third floor boasted a spring-loaded dance floor and had a small balcony for an orchestra. The building also had a roof garden with a promenade. The main kitchen and the caretaker’s quarters were in the basement.

The Woman’s Club was a popular and prominent Topeka organization. Its membership grew to 800 people in 1951, but declining membership, limited parking and the high cost of maintenance and utilities eventually led the group to sell the building. It was purchased by Manhattan Builders Inc., which remodeled the building for modern office space. Some areas of the building still have the original oak and tile floors, which have now been covered by carpet. Above the acoustic ceilings hang the original light fixtures. The ballroom floor and orchestra balcony remain, although the springs have been secured. The first floor auditorium’s inclined floor is now covered by a level floor, and its proscenium arch has been enclosed.

The stained glass, light fixtures and other appointments, such as the gilt mirror in the lobby, were included in the purchase. The wall sconces and ceiling fixture in the main lobby are purported to be Tiffany Co. creations. In 1982, the State Finance Council authorized leasing the building for use by the insurance commissioner, and subsequently the building was purchased by the state.

First elected in November 2018, Vicki Schmidt is the sixth Commissioner of Insurance to run the insurance department from the former Woman’s Club building.

“We believe our primary responsibility is to the people whose personal lives or business endeavors are protected by an insurance product in the state of Kansas. We recognize that we are here to serve them and consider this responsibility an honor.”