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A HISTORY OF GOLF AT COTTONWOOD HILLS AREA

Charles Rankin
Salina Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

With the announcement of new proposed golf courses coming to Hutchinson, what is the history of one of the more famed courses, Cottonwood Hills, and why did it close?

Designed by retired English golfer Nick Faldo, the course fully opened in 2007 and was considered by many a premier golf experience in the plains.

Since that original opening however, the course and the surrounding area has been hit with several setbacks, closing and reopening more than once before closing again and being dismantled a few years ago.

Now, a new company is coming in to try and give the area new life.

Here's a look at the golf history of Cottonwood Hills.

Original plans included more than just golf course

When the idea of Cottonwood Hills first came about, it was as the centerpiece of what was supposed to be an upscale residential subdivision.

The housing element of the project was hit with financial issues and never come to fruition.

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An overgrown bunker near hole 11 at Cottonwood Hills Golf Course in 2014. The course went through several ownership changes before shutting down completely in 2019 and being dismantled after that. THE HUTCHINSON NEWS FILE PHOTO

ELECTIONS 2026

Republican candidates for governor report fundraising

Jason Alatidd
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Republicans running for governor in 2026 are raising significant amounts of money to spend on their campaigns, but a lot of those contributions are coming from the candidates themselves.

Four of the nine Republican candidates running for governor have more than $1 million cash on hand to start the election year. Each of those four put at least $1 million of their own money into their campaign coffers.

A fifth candidate has nearly $1 million, while a sixth candidate said he has more than $1 million when including an outside organization that didn't file a report.

The figures come from newly released campaign finance reports for calendar year 2025 filed with the Kansas Public Disclosure Commission and Kansas Secretary of State's Office.

Philip Sarnecki raised $2.5 million, with $2 million of his own money

Businessman Philip Sarnecki, of Overland Park, reported raising $2,528,716 in total contributions and other receipts while spending $209,668 in total expenditures and other disbursements. He started 2026 with $2,319,048

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Here are the top Democratic fundraisers for governor

Jack Harvel
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kansas Sen. Ethan Corson, R-Fairview, is the leading fundraiser in the Democratic race for governor.

Last year, Corson raised $902,641, spent $375,655 and has $526,975 on hand for the year. Corson touted that his campaign has more than 3,000 donors, with 70% of them contributing less than $100.

"Our campaign is about creating a Kansas where the next generation can build a life right here, and this milestone is proof that people all across the state believe in that vision," Corson said in a press release. "This campaign is powered by Kansans who are chipping in and showing up because they want lower costs for families, the best public schools in America, safe communities, and a growing economy in all 105 counties."

Corson started his campaign in July and has been endorsed by Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly.

The second-largest fundraiser in the Democratic Primary, Kansas Sen. Cindy Holscher, D-Olathe, raised $397,952 in 2025, spent $218,060 and is starting the year with $179,891 on hand.

Holscher's campaign said that over 92% of her 5,400 donors are from Kansas, and that the average donation is under

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