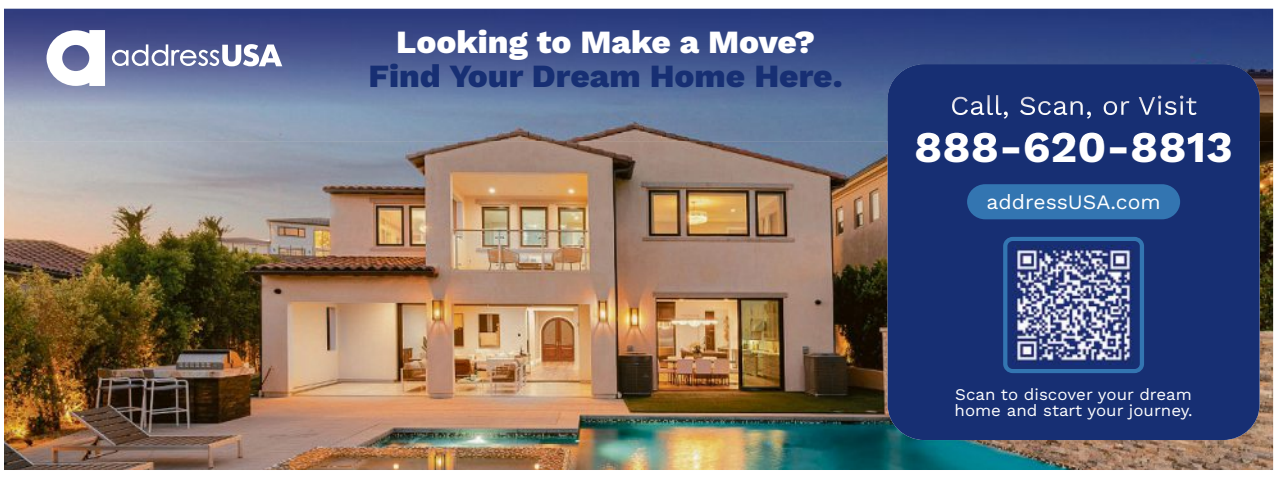

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Senate panel votes to hold Fauci in contempt

Paul argues pardon nullifies Fifth Amendment claim

Dr. Anthony Fauci is also being investigated for his conduct during the pandemic by Louisiana, Florida and Alabama. NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS

Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – A Republican-led Senate committee voted Aug. 6 to hold Dr. Anthony Fauci, the federal official who led the government's COVID-19 response in 2020, in contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions during a July 29 hearing.

The panel advanced the resolution to the full chamber on an 8-5 vote, with two senators also voting no by proxy, to rebuke the infectious disease expert for asserting his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination during congressional testimony.

Over several contentious hours during the July 29 hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Fauci was repeatedly pressured by Republican lawmakers to discuss a number of both professionally and personally sensitive issues, ranging from his actions as the country's top pandemic expert to his own revealing diary entries.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, says he plans to send his committee's criminal contempt referral against Dr. Anthony Fauci directly to the Justice Department. NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS

Fauci's stonewalling, pleading the Fifth more than 100 times, enraged Republicans, most notably committee chair Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, who accused him of defying Congress.

"The sole reason he is calling me before this committee is to get me to say something, anything, that could vindicate his repeated public pledges that I end up, in his words, quote, 'behind bars,'" Fauci told lawmakers. "Any reasonable person who has followed his unhinged obsession with me would readily come to the same conclusion."

Paul has repeatedly advocated for the imprisonment of Fauci, a longtime political foe. Fauci stressed that it pained him to not answer senators' questions. He insisted he respected the legislative branch's authority and underlined his "decades-long record of cooperating with Congress."

Before leaving office, former President Joe Biden issued a pardon to Fauci for any actions he took as a federal public health official between 2014 and 2025. That fact has prompted Paul and other Republicans to claim that Fauci is immune from concerns about self-incrimi-

See FAUCI, Page 4A

AG rematch headlines non-governor state races

Bryan Richardson and Jason Alatidd
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The fields are set for statewide positions, including a rematch of a 2022 race decided by less than 1 percentage point.

After the governor's race, most of the other statewide offices didn't have contested primaries.

Attorney General

The attorney general's race is set for a rematch in the general election, with Republican Attorney General Kris Kobach, of Lecompton, running for re-election and Democrat Chris Mann, of Lawrence, running again. Kobach narrowly defeated Mann in 2022.

Both were unopposed in the primary.

They both had about the same amount of money available for the general election as of July 27. Mann had $642,618.43, and Kobach had $606,808.78.

But Mann raised significantly more in campaign contributions from Jan. 1

See REMATCH, Page 4A

KDHE warns of West Nile virus risk

Stacey Saldanha-Olson
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is telling Kansans to be on the lookout for a virus that could spread.

On July 31, KDHE announced in a Facebook post that Kansans are at a "high risk" of being bitten by a mosquito carrying West Nile virus.

"Most people don't develop any symptoms, but when they do, symptoms can range from mild flu-like illness with fever, headache, body aches, rash, vomiting and diarrhea, to severe illness," KDHE's post read.

What is West Nile virus?

West Nile virus is a leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the U.S. In

See RISK, Page 2A

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