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First woman joins crowded race for KS governor

**TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - The first woman to enter the 2018 governor's race in Kansas joins a crowded field of men seeking to replace term-limited Republican Gov. Sam Brownback.**

**Democratic State Sen. Laura Kelly becomes the 22nd candidate to launch a campaign or appoint a treasurer. Twelve Republicans, seven Democrats and three independents are in the race.**

**The 67-year-old has served in the Senate since 2005.**

**Kelly is the top Democrat on the Senate Ways and Means Committee and is highly visible in budget and tax debates. She is a leading critic of the Brownback administration, including its oversight of the state's foster care system and Medicaid programs and a proposal from the state Department of Corrections for a private company to build a new prison in Lansing.**

Associated Press