

STATE OF KANSAS



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GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

May 22, 2026

Members of the Legislative Coordinating Council,

I am requesting that the Legislative Coordinating Council extend the extraordinary event declaration issued on May 22, 2026, through July 31, 2026, to ensure Kansas remains fully prepared for the public safety and security demands associated with the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The World Cup is a once-in-a-generation event with sustained, multi-week impacts on Kansas's public safety, transportation, and emergency management systems. Although Kansas is not hosting matches, the event is already creating significant operational impacts across Douglas, Johnson, Shawnee, and Wyandotte Counties. These counties are supporting team accommodations, practice facilities, transportation routes, and large gatherings tied to Fan Fest activities and watch parties. England's national team intends to remain in Kansas for the entire duration of the tournament, and Algeria is expected to travel through Topeka and Shawnee County, which requires coordinated security, traffic management, and interagency communication. Visitor activity is projected to continue through the duration of the World Cup, and Kansas agencies must maintain the ability to respond quickly to emerging needs.

The extraordinary event declaration activates the disaster response and recovery portions of the Kansas Response Plan and authorizes the coordinated use of state and local resources. Without an extension, these authorities will lapse during the period of highest activity, limiting our ability to support local jurisdictions, maintain situational awareness, and coordinate with federal and regional partners. Extending the declaration through July 31 is essential to ensure the safety and security of Kansas residents and visitors. This extension ensures continuity of operations, preserves access to necessary resources, maintains the unified posture required for an international event of this scale, and allows for continued coordination as international travelers leave the area.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Legislative Coordinating Council approve an extension of the extraordinary event declaration through July 31, 2026. Thank you for your continued partnership and for your commitment to the safety and security of Kansas communities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Kelly".

Laura Kelly
Governor of Kansas

Explanation for the Legislative Coordinating Council on the Necessity of Extending the Governor's Extraordinary Event Declaration for the World Cup Through July 31, 2026

I. Statutory Basis for Extension

The Governor's authority to issue and maintain an extraordinary event declaration is established in [L. 2026, Ch. 31, § 1 \(Senate Substitute for House Bill 2212\)](#). The statute provides:

- The Governor may issue a proclamation when an event “*will attract a significant number of visitors to the state that would burden the ability of local agencies and law enforcement agencies to maintain public safety, transportation services, security or other essential infrastructure without additional resources and coordination.*”
- A declaration is valid for **15 days** and may be extended by the LCC for **up to 90 days**.
- The proclamation activates the disaster response and recovery aspects of the Kansas Response Plan and authorizes the use of state resources, interjurisdictional coordination, and requests for federal and state emergency funding.

The Governor's proclamation explicitly invokes this authority, stating that the World Cup will generate “*approximately 2.1 million visitor-days along with numerous Fan Fest celebrations and watch parties*” and that “*local resources may be significantly strained, particularly regarding public safety, security, transportation, and other essential infrastructure.*”

Given these statutory triggers and the operational realities of the World Cup, an extension through the end of the tournament is both legally appropriate and operationally necessary.

II. Why Kansas Is Directly Impacted Despite Missouri Hosting Matches

Although Kansas is not a match host state, the statute explicitly covers events “*hosted in Kansas or in any county bordering Kansas that causes a significant impact in Kansas.*”

Kansas City, Missouri, one of the 16 global host cities, is directly adjacent to Wyandotte and Johnson Counties. The Governor's proclamation identifies four Kansas counties as affected:

- Douglas
- Johnson
- Shawnee
- Wyandotte

These counties are not peripheral to the event; they are integral to team operations, training, lodging, transportation, and fan activity.

A. Team Basecamps and Training Sites

The proclamation states that these counties “*will accommodate teams, provide practice facilities, and team transportation venues.*”

Two specific developments heighten the need for continued coverage:

- England’s national team is planning to remain in Kansas for the entire duration of the tournament, using Kansas-based facilities as their basecamp.
- Algeria is expected to travel through Topeka/Shawnee County, requiring coordinated security, transportation routing, and international team movement support.

These activities create sustained operational demands that extend well beyond the initial 15-day window.

B. Fan Movement and Regional Tourism

Kansas will experience:

- Large-scale Fan Fest events
- Watch parties
- Overflow lodging
- Airport and highway congestion
- Cross-border transit between Kansas and Missouri venues

The Governor’s proclamation notes that the event will “*generate approximately 2.1 million visitor-days,*” a volume that will strain local public safety and transportation systems.

III. Duration of Impact: Why the Declaration Must Extend Through July 31

The World Cup is not a single-day event; it is a multi-week international operation with continuous public safety implications.

A. Tournament Timeline

The proclamation identifies the affected period as:

May 22 – July 31, 2026

This reflects:

- Early team arrivals
- Pre-tournament training
- Group stage
- Knockout rounds
- Quarterfinals (including one hosted in Kansas City, MO)
- Fan Fest activities that may continue through the finals
- Team departures and demobilization
- International fans leaving the area following the conclusion of matches

B. England’s Full-Duration Stay

England’s decision to remain in Kansas for the entire tournament means:

- Continuous security requirements
- Ongoing transportation coordination
- Daily public safety monitoring
- Sustained SEOC activation

This alone extends Kansas’s operational footprint through July 31.

C. Fan Fest and Watch Party Operations

Local organizers anticipate Fan Fest programming and watch parties through the championship match, which occurs on July 19. These events require:

- Crowd management
- Traffic control
- EMS surge capacity
- Interjurisdictional coordination

D. International Team Transit Through Shawnee County

Algeria's potential travel through Topeka/Shawnee County introduces:

- Motorcade security
- Road closures
- Coordination with federal partners
- Intelligence and threat monitoring

These activities will occur throughout the tournament, not just at the beginning.

IV. Why the Extraordinary Event Declaration Is the Correct Legal Mechanism

The extraordinary event authority was specifically designed by the legislature for large, planned, high-impact events like the World Cup. It provides:

A. Activation of the Kansas Response Plan

The proclamation activates "*the disaster response and recovery portions of the Kansas Response Plan.*"

This enables:

- SEOC activation
- Multi-agency coordination
- Resource deployment
- Interjurisdictional planning

B. Authority to Use State Resources

The statute authorizes the Governor to:

- "*Utilize all available resources of the state government*"
- "*Require and direct the cooperation and assistance of state and local governmental agencies*"
- "*Make requests to the state finance council for funding from the state emergency fund*"

These authorities are essential for:

- Law enforcement surge staffing
- Transportation operations
- EMS and public health support
- Intelligence and threat coordination
- Logistics and resource movement
- Coordination with local governments and agencies

C. Clear Limits on Executive Power

The statute explicitly prohibits the Governor from exercising any powers under **K.S.A. 48-925** except those listed.

This ensures:

- Legislative oversight
- Narrowly tailored authority
- Transparency and accountability

The extraordinary event declaration is therefore the least intrusive, most appropriate, and statutorily intended tool for this situation.

V. Why the LCC Should Extend the Declaration

Extending the declaration through July 31 ensures:

1. Continuity of Operations

The SEOC must remain activated to maintain situational awareness and coordinate internally across state and local agencies, and externally with:

- DHS
- FEMA
- FBI
- Missouri counterparts

2. Public Safety and Security

International teams, dignitaries, and fans require:

- Coordinated law enforcement presence
- Transportation security
- Crowd management
- Threat monitoring

3. Resource Flexibility

The state must retain the ability to:

- Deploy personnel
- Move equipment
- Support counties
- Access emergency funding

4. Interjurisdictional Coordination

Kansas must remain aligned with:

- Missouri's World Cup operations
- Federal security posture
- Local government plans

5. Statutory Compliance

The Legislature created this authority specifically for events like the World Cup, explicitly naming it in the statute.

Failing to extend the declaration would:

- Remove the legal basis for SEOC activation
- Limit the state's ability to support counties
- Create operational gaps during the highest-risk period of the tournament

This would severely and negatively impact the state's ability to address issues related to public safety and logistical management that could arise from hosting the World Cup events.

VI. Conclusion

The World Cup is a once-in-a-generation event with sustained, multi-week impacts on Kansas's public safety, transportation, and emergency management systems. The extraordinary event declaration is the precise legal mechanism the Legislature designed for this scenario. Given the ongoing presence of international teams, the expected duration of Fan Fest activities, and the continuous movement of visitors and dignitaries through Kansas, extending the declaration through July 31, 2026 is essential to ensure the safety and security of Kansas residents and visitors.