

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 14, 2021

Contact: Tom Treacy Thomas.Treacy@ks.gov

Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt unveils new department seal

Topeka, Kan. – Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt and staff recently unveiled a new department seal. The unveiling took place this past Saturday at the State Fair in Hutchinson during a public event hosted in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Kansas Insurance Department.

"With the recent merger of the Kansas Securities Commission into the Insurance Department and this year's milestone of 150 years of service to the state, the time was right to introduce a new look," Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt said. "The new seal was created by staff within the Department and designed to pay homage to the rich history of the Insurance Department, the Securities Commission, and the state of Kansas."

State fairgoers and Facebook Live viewers were the first to publicly view the new department seal. At the unveiling event, Commissioner Schmidt discussed the history of both the Insurance Department and Securities Commission and how their efforts to protect Kansans from bad actors played a significant role in the design of the new department seal.

The Kansas Insurance Department seal was designed with four primary features and two secondary features. The **shield** is the focal point of the seal and symbolizes the Kansas Insurance Department's efforts to protect Kansans from bad actors in the insurance and securities industries. The "**sky blue**" color used within the seal was chosen to represent the "blue sky" legislation that established the Kansas Securities Commission and helped put a stop to fraudsters promising farming families a device that would deliver rain, but instead only delivered "blue sky." The **sunflower** is a nod to our state's nickname, "The Sunflower State," and was chosen to represent the people of Kansas. The intertwining **wheat** stalks symbolize the 2017 merger of the Securities Commission and Insurance Department. The **thirty-four kernels** of wheat symbolize Kansas becoming the 34th state admitted to the union. The **purple sunflower petals** pay tribute to the rolling Flint Hills depicted on the Kansas state seal.

###