



# AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY K A N S A S

## 2010 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Please return by July 2 to:**

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1) Why are you running for the Legislature?

*I am seeking election to the Kansas Legislature because 1) I enjoy assisting my constituents in accessing government; 2) the legislative process is one which requires a willingness to find a compromise in order to find realistic solutions to controversial issues and I have had experience in finding such solutions as a former chief negotiator for Salina educators; 3) I enjoy the challenge of trying to find solutions to those controversial issues which in the past I have had the opportunity to affect; and 4) I want to work with a governor who is genuinely interested in ensuring that Kansas is a state which not only recognizes the importance of an excellent education but also recognizes and promotes economic well-being in such a way that those who have received that excellent education will be able to find well-paying jobs within Kansas because the state's economic development efforts not only retains existing companies, but attracts other companies and encourages entrepreneurial efforts. [My reference is to future Governor Brownback!] These are just some of the reasons why I chose to seek re-election.*

2) If you had the opportunity, what is the first bill you would like to submit in the 2011 session and why?

*I actually have several that I would like to submit either personally or as committee bills. They are as follows: 1) Reduce the Food Sales Tax by 1% [Food is a must and the increase in sales tax affects those with the least to spend.] 2) Try to find a solution to the Commercial Properties Appraisal Issues [Saline County had large increases in the values of some commercial property this year in spite of the economy making it difficult for such property owners to recoup the expense of increased taxes.] 3) Add a requirement to the seatbelt law that requires the state to provide a means of identifying those who have a Doctor's permit not to wear a seatbelt. [The new seatbelt law is a problem for those who are unable to wear seatbelts because of a medical condition, etc. They will likely be stopped time and time again for a seatbelt violation which, in my opinion, is a type of harassment.] and 4) a Rainy Day-type Fund*

3) Do you support or oppose legislation that would allow for tax increases to be enacted only by a legislative supermajority or referendum? (i.e. either 3/5 or 2/3 vote of legislature for approval of a tax increase)

a. support

b. oppose

Why? I support a legislative supermajority. Even in an emergency situation, if it is truly an emergency all legislators should recognize it as such and a supermajority should be reachable. [If we would have had such a law in place, it is unlikely that we would have the large tax increase which we will be experiencing for three years.]

4) When state revenues are less than state expenditures, which statement most accurately reflects your first priority?

Maintain current expenditures and raise taxes.

X Both cut spending and raise taxes. [Small tax increase only if needed prefer other means of revenue enhancement.]

Cut more than 15% before considering a tax increase.

Do not raise taxes and cut spending.

If you would cut spending, are there any specific areas you would cut? Why?

Cut all agencies to some extent so the 'experience' is equitable.

If you were to raise taxes, what specific taxes you would raise and why?

Some sales, some cigarette, some alcohol, some soda because I believe that by spreading the amount over several tax possibilities none are raised to an extent that reduces sales. The amount collected from cigarettes, soda and alcohol could be targeted toward Medicaid. I also would be willing at looking at reducing by 1% the amount of sales tax exemption for certain entities. (I would assume that the such reduction would be for a short period of time.)

5) What do you believe to be the most important issues facing the Kansas Legislature in the upcoming session? (Please rank 1-5, 1 being the most important)

1 Budget Issues

2 Revenue

3 Services to the Disabled

4 School Drop-outs

5 Access to post-secondary education

- 6) Many Cities, Counties and State agencies use tax dollars to hire lobbyists to lobby the Kansas Legislature. Do you believe this is a proper use of tax dollars and should such expenditures be disclosed to Kansas taxpayers? Why or why not?

I believe it is a local decision, but those expenditures and benefits received from those expenditures should be disclosed to local taxpayers because ultimately the local taxpayers should determine if they feel if it is appropriate use of their tax dollars.

- 7) How do you believe Kansas Supreme Court Justices should be selected?

Names should be proposed to the Governor which he/she can reject or accept then the Governor's selection ultimately should be submitted to the Senate for ratification.

- 8) If the rate of inflation (consumer price index), plus population growth in Kansas grew at 4%, what do you believe would be the appropriate percentage increase in state budget expenditures? Why?

The appropriate percentage increase in budget expenditures would be 4% because in order to continue services at the same level, that amount of increase should suffice.

- 9) Kansas economic growth has been lagging behind our neighboring states and annual population growth is stagnant at an average increase of less than one-half of one percent per year. As a legislator, how would you address these problems?

First, the legislature should determine what is different about the success of neighboring states and Kansas. Those things would be those which are variables, such as tax levels, types of businesses, etc. An analysis should be then done to determine if Kansas was to change its policy, would the desired changes be likely to occur if changes were made in state policy. Once those determinations are made, the next step would be to determine what changes need to be made in state policy, draft those changes and submit them to the legislative process. Some might be able to be accomplished through rules and regulations which would mean convincing the agency head that such change would be beneficial to the state.

- 10) The 2010 Legislature increased the state sales tax from 5.3% to 6.3% in part, to help fund a FY 2011 state general fund budget that increases spending by \$204 million over FY 2010. Once implemented, Kansas will have the largest sales tax amongst neighboring states. (Nebraska is next closest at 5.5%). Considering 33% of our population resides in a county bordering Missouri alone, do you support the decision of the Legislature?

No. I believe it will be detrimental to the success of businesses in border communities as well as a potential deal-breaker in communities. [A much smaller sales tax might not have the dramatic effect that I fear this will cause and including a small increase in cigarette tax coupled with selling some unused state assets and some cuts would have been a much more palatable than the 1% sales tax increase and was favored by constituents from whom I am still hearing.]

- 11) Do you have any other positions or information that would be of interest to the members of AFP-Kansas?

In my hard copy version which will be mailed to you, I am enclosing a palm card which may have some information which members may find of interest. Thanks for your consideration of my candidacy.