

KANSAS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



**THE RIGHT
ROAD TO
PROSPERITY**

Tax Reform

- Single rate: *Income taxes are the most economically distortionary tax; discouraging work, job creation, and making it harder for Americans to live the American Dream.* Kansas' graduated income tax brackets complicate the state's tax code creating an excessive burden on low to middle income families. Americans for Prosperity believes replacing Kansas income taxes with a flatter, lower single tax rate brings simplicity to the Kansas tax code and budget management.
- Local governments have played games with assessments and mil levies for years while Kansans continue to see their property taxes skyrocket. *Americans for Prosperity believes in not propping up local governments' lousy spending habits through failed programs like the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund (LAVTR).* Families must think critically about budgets and spending. The government should do the same.
- End Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying: State agencies are supposed to use taxpayer funds to carry out the laws passed by the legislature. Over time, however, *more and more state agencies are using taxpayer funds to help craft the laws passed by the legislature. Not only is this a dereliction of custodial responsibility, but it can pervert incentives and violate our rights as citizens.* Americans for Prosperity believes we should end taxpayer-funded lobbying to ensure government is funded exactly as intended and that Kansans' earned tax dollars are not being used against them.

Energy

- We need more competition, not less. *We will oppose monopolistic policies such as Right of First Refusal (ROFR) and look for opportunities to improve the market for ratepayers in Kansas.*
- KCC Reform: Spiraling energy prices are hitting pocketbooks especially hard, and in Kansas, *high electricity prices are leading the way. Our state ranks #34 in terms of electricity prices. In fact, data shows that Kansas electricity rates are the second highest in the region!* The appointed Kansas Corporation Commission crushes our communities and families with skyrocketing rates and more regulations than any other state agency.

Budget Reforms

- Reigning in/Ending Credits and Star Bonds: Incentive credits and *STAR Bonds, in particular, are an egregious form of income redistribution from Kansas families and small businesses to politically connected Kansas firms.* Moreover, these tools allow government to pick winners and losers, and encourage private businesses to focus efforts on lobbying government instead of competing to win customers. Americans for Prosperity believes such tools should be discarded as they pervert the role of government, lead to higher property, sales, and income taxes, and redirects economic activity instead of growing them.
- Budget audit/accountability on agency goals: Performance Based Budgeting is core to maintaining an efficient government. It's the pretext to reduce tax rates, giving businesses and Kansans more freedom. Americans for Prosperity believes proper enforcement of *Performance Based Budgeting is key to getting government to operate like a privately run enterprise, ensuring it can provide better government services at a better price to Kansas families and businesses.*



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Education

- Tax Credit Scholarship: Kansas education is trending in the wrong direction. Whereas education was to be controlled by local communities it has now moved to the control of all communities; away from parents and towards educational bureaucrats. ***Declining test scores, truancy, and more instances of misconduct point to a need to bring learning back to the classroom.*** Americans for Prosperity believes education should be responsive to the needs of the children in their communities. The best way to foster that environment is to give parents more control and input into their children's educational journey. Enacting an education savings account or expanding the current tax credit scholarship to all students ensures that those who have the greatest interest in a child's schooling, the parents, are the most important decision makers.

Regulatory Reform

- Universal Sandboxes: ***The Kansas Administrative Regulatory Code takes four and a half workweeks to read through once, placing an undue burden on Kansas small businesses.*** However, it remains difficult for lawmakers to identify which regulations are burdensome and which are not. Americans for Prosperity believes a novel way to identify onerous and unnecessary regulations could be a regulatory sandbox. Legal classification where participating companies won't be subject to onerous regulations for a limited period. In a nutshell, businesses can "play in the sandbox" to discover what works and what doesn't.
- Regulatory Sunset review: Americans for Prosperity could enact a sunset advisory commission, where its mission is to ask whether state agencies and programs are needed. ***In Texas, the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission (TSAC) oversees over 140 state agencies and has abolished 85 since its start, saving taxpayers \$981 million.***
- Regulatory legislative fix REINS Act: Americans for Prosperity believes enacting ***a REINS-style state law can address onerous regulations by increasing legislative oversight of administrative rulemaking.*** While REINS state laws differ in states such as Wisconsin, and Florida, Kansas should enact legislation authorizing legislative approval of agency regulations on the conditions they have certain financial or economic impacts.

Healthcare

- Over the decades government control of healthcare has resulted in higher prices, longer wait times and a decreasing quality of care. Americans for Prosperity believe the solution to the growing healthcare crisis is to grow the access to healthcare services. That means expanding the scope of practice for non-physician providers, removing barriers on nurses, physician assistants, and pharmacists, and allowing more short-term personal option healthcare plans. It also means stopping ***Medicaid expansion; as the program would cost the state billions, would raise healthcare costs and would actually restrict access to care for Kansans who need it the most.***

Constitutional Protections

- CAF: Kansas civil asset forfeiture laws allow law enforcement to seize and forfeit people's property and money if suspected of criminal activity. The problem is that an overwhelming majority of the affected property owners have not been convicted of a crime. ***Kansas reported seizing \$25.3 million of Kansans' property, taking on average more than a year for that property to return to its owner.*** Americans for Prosperity-Kansas believes civil asset forfeiture should be reformed to protect Kansans that are innocent until proven guilty.

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