

AFP Americans for Prosperity 2010 Candidate Questionnaire

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1) Why are you running for the legislature?

I have always held the beliefs that smaller government is better and a frugal fiscal policy is the direction that Kansas needs to head, we are spending our way into debt and a tax hike in the next legislative session if cuts in the budget are not implemented. I favor lowering the tax burden on Kansas families and businesses. Currently Kansas has one of the highest per capita tax burdens in the Country; I will consistently support measures to decrease the cost of living and doing business in Kansas. It is a must that we reform our property tax system to limit stealth tax increases created by reappraisals. We should also provide greater tax relief to families with children, and follow through on the elimination of the estate tax. Our tax code must encourage wealth creation; Elimination of taxes on business investment in machinery and equipment, as well as doing away with the franchise tax are necessary first steps to make Kansas competitive with surrounding states. I also support the Taxpayer Protection Act, which would make it more difficult to raise taxes on Kansans.

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

I really like HB2630 stabilizing the mil levy vs. assessed property valuation and not letting city and county government double dipping on a increase in both rates. This would and will keep the spending on a even year over year comparison allowing the public to recognize where the money went.

3) Do you support or oppose legislation that would allow for tax increases to be enacted only by a supermajority or referendum?

I would support this piece of legislation because it really would involve all the legislators and hopefully the public would become energized on issues where they actually can/could control government (over)spending!

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

DO NOT RAISE TAXES AND CUT SPENDING.

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

All budget line items are subject to review and adjusted.

ANY services that we do as "government" must serve the most people. Anywhere we have added personnel/services and not have population increase or a drop in the need would be subject to review and defunded to the correct level or the program(s) cut.

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

There are to many areas where wed can/could reduced spending I can't see raising any taxes.

5) What do you believe to be the most important issues facing the Kansas Legislature in the upcoming session? Ranked ...

Limited Government / Spending
Taxes

Energy
Education
Technology
Healthcare/Welfare reform

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 the Kansas Taxpayers? Why or Why not?
Yes all these expenditures of tax money need to be disclosed. I feel is dishonest and hiding what should be public knowledge.

7) How do you believe Kansas Supreme Court Justices should be selected.
The current nomination process peer review and nomination to the governor seems to have left the balance of the court to sometimes lean in one direction at times. It has been proposed that we have peer review and then submit nominations to the Senate for approval. We might want to combine the two and have the nominee approved by both Governor and Senate.

8) If the rate of inflation (CPI) plus population growth in Kansas grew at 4% what do you believe would be the appropriate increase in the state budget expenditures? Why?
I am assuming that the CPI did not affect all segments of government services. A 4% increase in population would most likely pay for additional services with increase revenues for existing tax rates and structures already in place.

9) Kansas economic growth has been lagging behind our neighboring states and annual population growth is stagnant at an average increase of less than ½ of 1% /YR. As a legislator how would you address these problems?
See answer to question 1.

10) The 2010 Legislature increased the state sales tax from 5.3% to 6.3% in part to help fund a FY2011 state general fund budget that increases spending by 204 million over 2010. Once implemented, Kansas will have the largest sales tax amongst neighboring states. Considering 33% of our population resides in a county bordering Missouri alone do you support the decision of the Legislature?
Absolutely and Emphatically NO ! This was totally ignoring the peoples wish to reduce spending and make cuts to balance the budget WITHOUT any increase. I saw a white paper that had 10-15 different things we can do as Kansans to cut and reduce government spending at the State County and City Levels. It must be done if we are to grow our State.

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

Energy

For almost 100 years, Kansas has been an energy exporter of gases, oil, refined oil products and electricity. We need to maintain this energy independence by using a blend of coal, wind and new energy producing technologies. If we do not maintain our leadership in energy production we will be forced to pay to import energy needs. Clean energy is of vital interest to all Kansas residents and we fortunately have many options to be able to provide this important energy source. Coal is a proven low cost design with engineering firms making sure they are compliant with all EPA and

Federal emissions regulations. The two proposed plants in South West Kansas are not new proposals, and were in the original design when the land was purchased with water rights.

The construction of these two plants will let us also construct the necessary transmission lines to get this reliable energy source to metropolitan areas. Wind Energy, a wonderful addition to the energy platform, also needs to have these transmission lines to transport electrical energy. Right now there is no high voltage infrastructure to transmit this wind energy to the end users but several plans have been submitted to have these transmission line built. If we would piggy back the proposed Coal Fired plants with the Wind Farms it would let us have the benefits of recouping the initial start up costs by selling the energy to local and out of state users.

Immigration

While immigration policy is largely a federal issue the state does have a role to play. I believe that all people are entitled to be treated with dignity and to be afforded basic human rights. That having been said, citizens of The United States have both a right and an obligation to enforce an orderly and lawful immigration system. Policies that provide incentives for people to skirt the law are inherently counterproductive and must be reformed.

Republican's are committed to implementing a workable system to aid in the enforcement of federal laws that deny public benefits to unauthorized aliens. Failing to do so encourages a climate of law breaking that is inconsistent with our Party's historic commitment to the rule of law.

Consistent with this principle is the protection of the integrity of our electoral system. That is why we support the imposition of tougher penalties on any unauthorized alien who registers to vote and/or votes in an election and on those who knowingly assist them in doing so. While most Kansas businesses comply with state and federal labor and immigration laws. Businesses that chose to violate the law must be held accountable for their actions - especially repeat offenders.

Hearings for SB 458, both for and against, were held and on Wed. March 12th the Federal and State Affairs Committee gathered to consider whether to vote this law out of committee. Seven of the 9 committee members decided they knew what was best for Kansas and totally ignored the fact that phone calls and emails were 300 to 1 for passing the bill as written. Committee rules were ignored and the committee Chaired by my opponent replaced original language making it a worthless tool for dealing with the problem of the illegal immigration.

The committee then voted and destroyed SB 458 as originally written.