



# AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY KANSAS

## 2010 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please return by July 2 to:  
Americans For Prosperity, 2348 SW Topeka, Suite 201  
Topeka KS 66611  
Phone: (785) 354-4AFP : Fax: (785) 354-4239  
E-mail: DSONTAG@AFPHQ.ORG

Name Leslie O. Stearns District 9<sup>th</sup>  
Campaign Address 1401 Dallas, Wichita, KS 67217-2313  
Email lildocsa@gbcglobal.net Campaign Website \_\_\_\_\_

1) Why are you running for the Legislature?

I AM RUNNING FOR OFFICE SO I CAN LOWER TAXES WHICH WILL MAKE US MORE BUSINESS FRIENDLY DRAWING BUSINESSES TO KANSAS WHICH CREATE JOBS.

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

I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE A BILL FOR A RAINY DAY FUND OF 3 TO 7 PERCENT. THIS WOULD HELP KEEP THE STATE FROM HAVING TO RAISE TAXES TO MEET THE BUDGET.

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? By this it makes you fully think out what is needed. I AM AGAINST RAISING TAXES AT ALL.

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

- Maintain current expenditures and raise taxes.
- Both cut spending and raise taxes.
- 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?

I would do AN EQUAL CUT ACROSS THE  
BOARD. THIS IS THE ONLY FAIR WAY TO DO IT. THE  
CUTS THIS YEAR WAS FROM THE ADD ON BUDGET THAT  
DEPARTMENTS WANTED.

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

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
- 2 HEALTH CARE
- 3 EDUCATION
- 4 TAXES
- 5 BUSINESS FRIENDLY

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?

NO. I FEEL THAT TAX DOLLARS SHOULD NOT BE  
SPENT ON LOBBYISTS. IF THIS IS DONE THEN THESE  
EXPENDITURES SHOULD BE DISCLOSED TO THE TAXPAYERS.  
I FEEL WE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHERE OUR  
MONEY IS GOING.

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

I believe they should be selected just  
like the Federal Justices are done.

- 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?

I feel the Budget should be looked at  
very closely. If we were to award departments  
for having money left over or not over spending  
then we would have a real budget & not have  
to cut Budget or increase taxes.

- 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?

By becoming a more Business Friendly  
state. This is done by lower taxes which  
allows business to grow, along with drawing  
new businesses into 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 feel that we need to cut taxes and  
become more Business Friendly. If the state  
sold off all the land & buildings that are not  
using at all, we could get them back on the  
tax rolls and increase income.

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

I want our state to grow economically.  
The only way to do this is become more  
Business Friendly which would attract  
businesses in, as well as helping people start  
small businesses, creating new jobs.