

# The Patriots' Truth

## Flint Hills TEA Party News

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### ON OUR CALENDAR

#### MEDIA COMMITTEE MEETING – MCALISTER’S EVERY WED AT 5:30PM

**July 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> – Sundown Salute, Junction City**

**July 9– 9:30 AM Monthly Meeting at Manhattan City  
Library**

**July 21 thru 25 – Riley County 4-H Fair**

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### Newt Gingrich is a “Change-Oriented” Washington Outsider?

*On May 23, 2011, in [GOP Candidates](#), by Eric Odom*

A couple clips floating around the web today display a clearly uneasy **Newt Gingrich** trying his best to right his ship before it completely sinks. Both clips are loaded with irony from the beginning and display exactly why Newt Gingrich isn’t taken seriously by a lot of movement activists.

For example, instead of working towards a drastic plan to cut spending (that INCLUDES entitlement reform), Gingrich claims he’s “change-oriented” followed by the claim that he’s a Washington outsider. The problem, of course, is that his open attack on Paul Ryan’s plan as “right wing social engineering” aligns him with... wait for it... *Washington insiders who want everything to remain on its current path.*

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**We want to express our appreciation to those who have generously donated to the Flint Hills TEA Party Educational Fund, Inc. We are well on our way in funding this Constitutional project. As this is an ongoing scholarship to be awarded each year all contributions will continue to be welcome.**

**Thank you, Thank you!!**

Pottawatomie County Republican Women  
18<sup>th</sup> Annual

# FLAG DAY PICNIC

Sunday, June 12, 2011  
Onaga Fairgrounds

(TAKE THE MAIN STREET N. THROUGH TOWN AND FOLLOW THE SIGNS)

1 P.M.

Program:  
Tribute to the AMERICAN FLAG  
Reports from all County-Wide Elected Office  
Holders

All candidates for County Clerk office invited to speak

PCRW Provides fried chicken, drinks, plates, cups, and table service. Feel free to bring a side dish you would like to share with the Republicans who attend.

A GREAT PLACE TO BRING THE FAMILY

## **Beware of groups using the TEA Party name. Some are NOT “real” TEA Party groups.**

I forgot to tell you this story when it happened. Guess I’m getting senile in my old age. I was on my porch the 20<sup>th</sup> of February drinking coffee when my neighbors cute little 8-year-old daughter came up to check on me. After some routine conservation went by I asked her, “What day is tomorrow?”

She said “It’s President’s Day!” She is really a smart kid.

I asked, “What does President’s Day mean?” I was waiting for something about Washington or Lincoln, etc.

She replied, “President’s Day is when Obama steps out of the White House, and if he sees his shadow we have one more year of unemployment.”

You know, it really hurts when hot coffee spurts out your nose.....

Sent to me by a friend living in a warmer climate!!

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## **Legislative Summary Issue**

The 2011 Kansas Legislature officially ended yesterday. It was marked by a new administration, a more conservative makeup of the House, and a difficult budget process.

Here are the major issues we watched at KEPC and how they turned out.

### **Repeal of the one-cent sales tax increase fails**

The effort to repeal last year’s temporary one-cent sales tax increase failed on a March 17 vote in the House of 39 to 80. The increase helps the state through economic recovery and funds the ten-year transportation program. Had the bill passed, the state’s budget hole would have grown from \$492 million to about \$860 million, as well as killing the new transportation program. Governor Brownback and many legislative leaders had indicated repeal was not a good idea. KEPC opposed the bill and testified against it.

### **Phase-out of income tax passes House, slows in Senate**

A plan to phase out the individual and corporate income taxes in Kansas was discussed in several private meetings in March, then rapidly introduced and passed by the House.

Called the MEGA Bill (March to Economic Growth), it eliminates the individual income tax and reduced the corporate income tax beginning in tax year 2012.

Here’s how it works:

- At the end of each fiscal year, the Director of Legislative Research would be required to certify the increase in a group of state general fund tax receipts over a 2010 base year. These include most major income, privilege, and excise taxes.
- The Secretary of Revenue would then be required to compute the percentage growth of those tax receipts.
- The Secretary of Revenue would then reduce all individual and corporate income tax brackets for the next tax year by that percentage.
- The corporate income tax rate would not be reduced further after reaching 3.5%.
- The individual income tax rate would be totally phased out.

Introduced on Thursday, March 10, it was given a quick hearing in Tax Committee and passed the House the next Friday. That’s practically light speed for a bill with such major ramifications for the future of state government. It was supported by the Kansas Chamber, Americans For Prosperity, the Wichita Metro Chamber, and others who said it would result in rapid job and business growth.

Senate leaders slowed it down. Senate President Steve Morris (R-Hugoton) sent it to the Senate Taxation Committee, where it remains until the 2012 legislative session.

The Kansas Economic Progress Council testified against the bill. I told legislators:

***“We believe there can be a positive impact on the economy by strategically lowering taxes that affect business. However, we also know that economic growth is also affected by encouraging investment in***

*equipment and infrastructure, supporting quality education and the attraction of skilled workers, and supporting innovation.*

*“We are concerned that narrowing our revenue base makes us more vulnerable to fluctuations that can be especially harmful during economic hard times. That’s what’s happening in many states that do not have an individual income tax or a corporate income tax.*

*“These states often have other kinds of revenue, usually from rich natural resources.”*

KEPC believes the measure will act as a spending lid, and eventually shift the burden of financing state government to the sales tax, which tends to be more volatile than the income tax. The sales tax generally grows at a slower rate than income taxes, which will make recovery of state revenues after the recession more difficult.

In addition, states with no individual income tax generally put a higher tax burden on low income residents.

## The budget is slashed

The disappearance of federal funding and slow revenue growth due to the recession resulted in a budget hole of nearly \$500 million. After months of wrangling, the House and Senate agreed on a budget with hundreds of millions in cuts to make up the loss and a \$70 million ending balance in the state’s checking account. Ironically, after lawmakers went home, May revenues grew \$47 million over estimates.

Some of the budget details:

- Base aid to schools is cut \$104 million from the previous year. Best estimate is that means spending of \$3780 per pupil, down from \$4012.
- Overall spending is said to be cut between five and six percent.
- Prior to the legislative session, Transportation Secretary Deb Miller was able to identify \$200 million in savings, a major component of the budget.
- The Kansas Department of Transportation budget was further reduced \$5 million, which reflects administrative savings. The agency is given an additional \$1.75 million for radio towers.
- SRS is cut \$9.9 million, a five percent across the board reduction. Excluded from these cuts are caseloads and waiver programs. There is not expected to be a mental health impact. SRS Foster Care is reduced \$6.2 million.
- State employee pay is reduced \$6.4 million in undermarket adjustments. There will be a market pay study conducted in 2012.
- Kansas Neurological Institute, Washburn University, Early Head Start, Pre-Kindergarten, Parents as Teachers, and Kan-Ed are funded, although some items have reductions. There will be an interim study and post audit of Kan-Ed.
- Courts are cut \$3 million.
- The Kansas Arts Commission is funded, but Governor Brownback line-item vetoed the spending, thus closing the agency.
- Governor Brownback also vetoed an across-the-board reduction enacted by the Legislature for all state agencies, but vowed to make an equivalent \$5.9 million through imposition of targeted cuts. Will he follow through now that May revenues came in \$47 million over estimates?
- Other so-called “administrative savings” amount to \$5.9 million, but do not affect KDOT, the courts, legislature, or schools.

It was ironic that during a session driven by conservative demands for more spending cuts, many of the newly elected conservatives would not vote for this budget. They wanted more reductions. Without moderate Republican support, the session would have likely continued at least another week. Moderates voted for this budget because they knew the next option would include further decreases.

## Economic development sees major overhaul

Governor Brownback proposed major economic development legislation. Much of it passed, but not without some pushback from the business community, especially over HPIP (High Performance Incentive Program), which the Governor proposed eliminating.

Here are some of the highlights:

## **High Performance Incentive Program**

- HPIP income tax credits are modified beginning in tax year 2012. The current \$50,000 minimum investment threshold to qualify is increased in the five urban counties (Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee, and Wyandotte) to \$1 million.
- HPIP must be reviewed by the Legislature prior to January 2, 2017.
- The current 10 year carry-forward limitation of HPIP credits is extended to 16 years.
- A qualified company is now required to self-certify under oath rather than re-qualify for the program when the credits are used in future years.

## **Expensing**

Governor Brownback proposed a new state income tax deduction known as “expensing” for qualified investments. It basically allows businesses to deduct their full investment in equipment in one year instead of a prescribed schedule of smaller deductions over several years. Taxpayers electing to expense qualified investments are prohibited from also claiming a number of existing tax incentives that might otherwise apply, including tax credits from the HPIP program. They would also be prohibited from claiming accelerated depreciation.

## **Job Creation Program Fund**

Governor Brownback proposed a Job Creation Program Fund (JCPF), which has long been sought by economic developers in Kansas. It’s a “closing fund” for economic development projects. The Secretary of Commerce will administer the fund in consultation with the Governor and Secretary of Revenue.

## **Repeal of existing tax incentives**

Some income tax credits were repealed. The savings will be used to pay for the Job Creation Program Fund (above). Beginning in tax year 2012, income tax credits can no longer be earned pursuant to the Kansas Enterprise Zone Act, the Job Expansion and Investment Credit Act, or the 25% refundable tax credit for property taxes paid on machinery and equipment acquired prior to July 1, 2006.

## **PEAK changes**

For the third year, the legislature addressed PEAK (Providing Employment Across Kansas) economic development incentives. Certain high impact projects would be allowed to retain 95% of state income tax withholdings for five to ten years under certain circumstances.

Changes include:

- PEAK can be used to retain jobs for a two year period in 2013 and 2014. This will sunset in tax year 2015
- Non-profit corporations which locate regional, national, or international headquarters in Kansas could use PEAK.

## **Rural Opportunity Zones**

50 Kansas counties are designated Rural Opportunity Zones. Out-of-state taxpayers who relocate to these counties get a full tax credit against their own state income tax for tax years 2012 – 2016. They must have:

- lived out of state for five or more years prior to establishing residency,
- earned a Kansas source of income of less than \$10,000 for each of the five years prior to establishing a residency,
- lived in a rural opportunity zone during the entire tax year.
- Rural Opportunity Zone Counties are: Barber, Chautauqua, Cheyenne, Clark, Cloud, Comanche, Decatur, Edwards, Elk, Gove, Graham, Greeley, Greenwood, Hamilton, Harper, Hodgeman, Jewell, Kearny, Kingman, Kiowa, Lane, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Mitchell, Morton, Ness, Norton, Osborne, Pawnee, Phillips, Pratt, Rawlins, Republic, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Scott, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Stafford, Stanton, Trego, Thomas, Wallace, Washington, Wichita, Wilson, and Woodson.
- The state will set up a student loan program in Rural Opportunity Zone counties. Counties that choose to participate must match half of student loan costs. The maximum student loan with county participation is \$15,000.

## **Engineering initiative**

The legislature passed a measure designed to increase the number of engineers educated in Kansas to 1,365 graduates per year by 2021. It creates three new funds in the state treasury. The first \$10.5 million is distributed to KU, K-State, and Wichita State, and must be matched by private industry on a one to one basis.

### **KTEC eliminated**

A proposal that barely passed the Kansas Senate will eliminate KTEC, the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation. It shifts KTEC's duties into the Kansas Department of Commerce, a merger proposed by Governor Brownback when he took office. KTEC supporters argued that the organization's institutional knowledge and business contacts will be lost at Commerce.

KTEC is a private/public partnership established to promote technology-based economic development. It supports strategic research and development at the Centers of Excellence through intense hands-on business assistance at incubators and through direct equity investments in early-stage companies.

## **Workers Compensation Reform passes**

Negotiators for business and labor brought the legislature a comprehensive workers' compensation compromise, which passed both houses unanimously.

The legislation includes these changes to the law:

- Terms defined:
  - ‘Accident’ excludes repetitive trauma
  - ‘Arising out of and in the course of employment’ is revised to clarify when an employee was on the employer’s premises
  - ‘Burden of proof’ is revised to include higher standards if specifically required by the Workers Compensation Act
  - ‘Functional impairment’ is a new term expressed by the percentage of loss of human function based on medical evidence
  - ‘Occupational disease’ excludes repetitive trauma
  - ‘Personal injury or injury’ occurs only by accident, repetitive trauma, or occupational disease as defined in the bill. An injury is not compensable if it affected a preexisting condition
  - ‘Prevailing factor’ is a new term meaning caused when measured against other contributing causes
  - ‘Repetitive trauma’ is a new term that refers to an injury occurring due to repetitive use or cumulative trauma
  - ‘Task loss’ is a new term meaning the percentage to which an employee has lost the ability to perform work
  - ‘Wage loss’ is a new term meaning the difference in average weekly wage earning
- No benefits if injury resulted from reckless violation of workplace safety rules, fighting, or horseplay
- Extends period of time for notice of injury from 10 to 30 calendar days
- Drug testing - “probable cause” for drug testing replaced with “sufficient cause”
- Shortens period of time, from five to three years, that a case may remain open without having an administrative hearing
- Compensation awards for permanent partial impairment, work disability, or permanent total disability will be reduced according to the level of functional impairment determined to be preexisting
- Requires expert evidence to prove permanent total disability
- Revises calculation of “average wages” to include the cumulative wages, up to 26 weeks prior to injury, divided by the same period of weeks
- Caps on compensation for various benefits increased:
  - Permanent total disability - \$125,000 to \$155,000
  - Temporary total disability - \$100,000 to \$130,000
  - Permanent or temporary partial disability – \$100,000 to \$130,000
  - Death - \$250,000 to \$300,000
- In the case an employee who is receiving compensation benefits and also takes a lump sum retirement, the lump sum payment is amortized at a rate of 4% per year over the employee’s life expectancy and compensation benefits are reduced accordingly

- Expands the appeals process regarding future medical treatment so that an employer or insurance carrier also has standing to request a post-award hearing
- Burden of proof for future medical treatment will be on the employee
- Requires private insurer or self-insured employer to issue warning notices to employees receiving temporary disability benefits informing them that they could be committing fraud if they accept work performing activities that they previously claimed they could not perform due to injury
- Permits claims to be heard by video or telephone conference

## Unemployment Insurance

Due to the recession, there has been unprecedented demand for unemployment benefits. Employers pay taxes into the Employment Security Trust Fund. When workers become unemployed, they can claim benefits from this fund.

At the beginning of calendar year 2009, the fund had a balance of \$566.5 million.

By January 31, 2011, Kansas had borrowed over \$100.8 million from the federal government to pay benefits because the fund was depleted. The state must replenish the fund and pay back the federal government with interest.

The legislation authorizes the creation of the Employment Security Interest Assessment Fund to be administered by the Secretary of Labor. The Interest Assessment Fund will be used to pay interest and principal owed to the U.S. Department of Labor for advances received by the Kansas Employment Security Trust Fund.

In subsequent years, the Secretary would be able to adjust the amount of the surcharge necessary to pay the interest.

The legislation changes caps on different rate groups and creates some new rate groups. It also repeals the provision that allows an unemployed individual to receive compensation for the waiting period of one week. The bill also modifies the “trailing spouse” provision. It now only applies to the spouse of those serving in the armed forces and military reserves.

The bill which passed is basically the House version, which the Senate accepted in the final days of the session in what amounts to some parliamentary maneuvering over another issue. It’s likely this issue will be revisited next year.

## Immigration

A coalition of business groups, including KEPC, opposed Arizona-style immigration legislation which requires verification of employment eligibility using the federal E-Verify program. The bill failed to come out of committee. However, the issue is likely to return after the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding the Arizona law.

The business position is that immigration issues are the domain of the federal government.

*The Kansas Economic Progress Council is a not for profit designed to draw together organizations and businesses interested in advancing sound public policy in Kansas to enhance our state's quality of life.*

**Kansas Economic Progress Council**  
[www.ksepc.org](http://www.ksepc.org)  
 212 SW 8th Avenue, Suite 200  
 Topeka KS 66612  
 Bernie Koch, Executive Director

When this came out a couple days ago I really had to laugh!! Then I cried!!

**TOPEKA** – In a unique partnership this year, the City of Topeka and McElroy’s Plumbing, Electrical, Heating and Air will give away fans and small window air-conditioning units to qualifying Topekans through the City’s Project Neighborhood Heat Relief. This summer’s event on Friday, June 3 is an opportunity for the City to help seniors and persons with disabilities find relief from the summer heat. This is the sixth year for the program and the first time a private **business** has stepped up to co-sponsor.

"We wanted to find a way to celebrate our 60th year in business in the Topeka community in a meaningful way," said Jerry McElroy, chairman of the board for McElroy's. "Homer McElroy started the business in 1951 with a focus on heating and air service, and we thought Project Neighborhood Heat Relief was the perfect avenue for us to celebrate the tremendous years McElroy's has enjoyed in the Topeka community."

To qualify, a person must be a Topeka resident at least 55 years of age or have a disability and have an annual income of \$25,860 or less for a one-person household. Two-person households must have an annual income of \$29,520 or less; three-person households, \$33,240 or less; and four-person households, \$36,900 or less.

Those applying must provide proof of household income, Social Security card and photo identification. Those with a disability must provide documentation of the disability, such as a letter from a doctor or documentation from Social Security. "During these uncertain economic times, it's gratifying to have a **private business** come to us and want to help by providing matching **funds** for the fans and small air-conditioning units," said Randy Speaker, deputy city manager.

"Sponsorship of the 2011 Project Neighborhood Heat Relief by a private business creates a public/private partnership that allows the City to provide more units using fewer tax dollars."

The fans and window AC units can be picked up today, Friday, June 3rd from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Holliday Building, 620 S.E. Madison, first floor. The City plans on distributing about 100 fans and 100 window air conditioners to qualified applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information call 785-368-3711.

Celebrating their 60th year in business, McElroy's, Inc. has provided mechanical, electrical and plumbing services to residential and commercial clients throughout northeast Kansas, including Topeka, Manhattan and Lawrence.

Seems just a touch ironic that the City of Topeka can require a photo ID for individuals to receive a fan or small air conditioner, but it is **hugely** inappropriate to require one to vote in Kansas!! NOW do you know who wanted that part of the voter fraud bill to **NOT be in effect until AFTER the 2012 election?**

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## A Crackdown on Employing Illegal Workers      By JULIA PRESTON

TUCSON – Obama administration officials are sharpening their **crackdown** on the hiring of illegal immigrants by focusing increasingly tough criminal charges on employers while moving away from criminal arrests of the workers themselves.

After months of criticism from Republicans who said President Obama was relaxing immigration enforcement in workplaces, the scope of the administration's strategy has become clear as long-running investigations of employers have culminated in indictments, convictions, exponentially increased fines and jail sentences. While conducting fewer headline-making factory raids, the immigration authorities have greatly expanded the number of businesses facing scrutiny and the cases where employers face severe sanctions.

In a break with Bush-era policies, the number of criminal cases against unauthorized immigrant workers has dropped sharply over the last two years.

Among the employers who have felt the impact of the administration's tactics are two owners of Mexican restaurants in the Chuy's restaurants in coordinated raids in Arizona and California, detaining kitchen workers and carrying away boxes of payroll books and other evidence.

But at the arraignment days later in federal court here, no immigrant workers stood before the judge. The only criminal defendants were the owners, Mark Evenson and his son Christopher, and an accountant who worked with them, Diane Ingrid Strehlow. If the Enensons are convicted on all charges against them of tax fraud and harboring illegal workers, they each could face more than 80 years in jail.

Of 42 illegal immigrants caught in the Chuy's sweep, only one was charged with a crime, and it was not related to the raid. Thirteen workers were processed for immigration violations – which are civil offenses – and detained or deported. The others remained in this country as witnesses or to seek legal status through the immigration courts.

Under President George W. Bush, immigration agents frequently conducted high-profile factory raids, leading away scores of unauthorized workers in handcuffs, often to face jail time for document fraud or identity theft before being deported. After a raid in Postville, Iowa, in 2008, nearly 300 immigrant workers went to federal prison.

The Chuy's prosecution contrasted with the application by state and county authorities of a law that Arizona adopted in 2007 to punish employers who hire illegal immigrants; the measure was upheld by the Supreme Court on Thursday. Despite the political furor over that law, only a handful of cases have been brought against employers under its terms, which provide mainly for civil penalties. But state authorities have continued to bring criminal cases against illegal immigrant workers, leading to their deportations.

The Obama administration's record on workplace enforcement has been fiercely debated in Washington since President Obama announced that he would try, against steep odds, to pass an immigration overhaul this year. Administration officials say that their audits and investigations of employers have laid the groundwork for a system that would dissuade companies from hiring illegal immigrants.

"We have steadily increased our efforts to investigate and prosecute employers who violate the law on a serious and grand scale," said John Morton, the director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE. The next step, administration officials said, is to open a pathway that would allow millions of illegal immigrants in the country to live and work here legally.

Republicans, pointing to the decline in arrests of unauthorized workers, say the administration is failing to remove those immigrants from the work force just when Americans are grappling with high rates of unemployment.

"While President Bush's so-called get-tough strategy clearly did not do enough to remove illegal workers, President Obama's strategy is much worse, said Representative Elton Gallegly, Republican of California, who is chairman of the House Judiciary Committee's immigration subcommittee.

Secretary Janet Napolitano of the Homeland Security Department halted the flashier raids in 2009. Until this year, ICE's leading tactic was "silent raids," audits of companies' hiring documents. If immigration inspectors found irregularities suggesting that immigrant workers' identity documents might be false, managers had to dismiss the workers or risk prosecution.

Last year, according to government figures, the enforcement agency started 2,746 workplace investigations in addition to the audits, more than double the number in 2008, the last full year of the Bush administration. Fines totaling about \$3 million, also a record, were levied on companies in immigration cases.

Department of Homeland Security officials, speaking anonymously in order to discuss internal policy, said immigration officers were no longer authorized to discuss internal policy, said immigration officers were no longer authorized to carry out workplace raids unless they cooperated with federal prosecutors to prepare criminal cases against the employers. Last year, 119 employers were convicted.

In March, Rick M. Vartanian, the president of a furniture company in California, was sentenced to 10 months in prison for hiring illegal immigrants. A federal investigation is also under way into hiring practices at the Chipotle chain of Mexican fast-food restaurants.

Dennis K. Burke, the United States attorney for Arizona, who led the Chuy's prosecutions, called them a "game changer" for the state. During a lengthy inquiry, investigators, including undercover operatives, discovered that the Evensons were keeping two sets of books: one for waiters and cashiers, Mr. Burke said, and another for Mexican kitchen workers.

According to the indictment, a customer complained to Mark Evenson that he was employing illegal immigrants. "I need to hide you in the kitchen," Mr. Evenson is said to have told one Hispanic employee he knew to be undocumented.

Mr. Burke said prosecutor's way that they could accuse the Evensons under the severe penalties of the tax code – "the hammer," as he put it. Charged with evading more than \$400,000 in taxes on wages for some 360 unauthorized immigrant workers, the Evensons together face more than \$10 million in fines if convicted on all counts. They have pleaded not guilty, and their lawyers declined to comment, saying they awaited evidence from prosecutors.

Unusually, even immigration lawyers who represented Chuy's workers spoke favorably of the federal handling of the case.

"ICE was nice", said Delia Salvatierra, a lawyer in Phoenix who represents two workers who were in the process of gaining legal status when they were detained. "it was as benign as it can get," she said. Officers released the two workers so they could pursue their cases in immigration court.

The two of them, who are brothers, said they came to the United States from Mexico in the 1990s. Both had worked most of the time since in Chuy's restaurants. The eldest, Alejandro Diaz Ojeda, 36, learned to cook the Chuy's menu. Then he taught his brother, Javier, who is 30.

The brothers said they had been treated well. "I became very fond of the company," Javier said.

Their experience, however, suggests how the Evensons kept their menu prices famously low. The brothers said they were paid an hourly wage – Javier made \$9.50 after 14 years – by payroll check for the first 40 hours a week. Any overtime was paid with a different check, with no taxes deducted and no higher rate, they said. Both brothers said they often worked 70 hours a week.

The severe charges against the Evensons registered broadly with Arizona executives, business leaders here in Tucson said. But they said the case was mainly a cautionary lesson for managers who knowingly hire unauthorized immigrants.

"If companies are paying workers under the table," said Gleen Hamer, president of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, "we encourage the federal government to throw the book at them."

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We, Sylda & Tom Nichols, recently received a request from Senator Jerry Moran for his own fund referred to as Free State PAC for backing Conservatives in the 2012 election. Of course, should you receive such a request the response is yours to make. The following is OUR response.

Dear Senator Moran:

I appreciate your understanding that all American Citizens need to support the Conservative movement for our Country to become once again the Conservative Country we want it to be.

We are very strong Conservatives. We are active on an every day basis in one of the most Conservative organizations in the country. We belong to, work with and write under the name of **Flint Hills TEA Party**. We write and send the "**Patriot's Truth**" **Newsletter** to over 700 email address' and snail mail over 30 copies to persons around Kansas and across the Country. In addition to writing and producing the Newsletter we are in the process of establishing a Constitutional Scholarship that will not only help High School Graduates finance their higher education, but will teach them to know and understand the United States Constitution. To qualify for this scholarship the students will take part in a Spelling Bee type of contest. Students will receive monies for their 2012-13 school year. These are accomplishments of the **Flint Hills TEA Party** in addition to working hard and succeeding in more of our candidates than not being elected to office in the 2010 election.

As you can see this is a very strong, hard working, completely committed group. The **Flint Hills TEA Party** is an organization that is self-supporting. We, the **FHTP** members and supporters, are struggling and working to be able to accomplish great strides for our Country. At this time we, Tom and Sylda Nichols, are contributing all our retirement income will allow to this Conservative cause.

Our group was very instrumental in several Conservative Wins in Kansas in 2010 – yours, for example. We will be there again in 2012. You are correct that we MUST elect many Conservatives to Congressional, Legislative and the Presidential office. Your Conservative vote is very important to us. We will continue to support you as long as you continue to support us. The **FHTP** has decided to contribute to **individual** Presidential and Congressional battles rather than to lump sum monies into a fund that gives us NO CHOICE who we help. We have worked tirelessly to support those who we felt would support our Conservative beliefs and will diligently continue to do so. Success was achieved in many elections in 2010 and we are confident we'll be successful again in 2012. We wish great success to you and your Free State PAC.

Again, Thank you for thinking of us as a part of your Conservative list of constituents. We are now working hard to rid our government of employees who DO NOT vote Conservative. As we weed these RINO's (Republicans in name only) out we will work to replace them with strong Conservatives like those you speak of. We wish you success in your struggles to give America Conservative leaders and hope you understand our not being able to contribute to your organization.

We and the **Flint Hills TEA Party** wish you success in assisting Conservatives to be elected.

Sincerely,

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**Flint Hills TEA Party contact information: [www.flinthillsteaparty.com](http://www.flinthillsteaparty.com); email:  
[fhtp@flinthillsteaparty.com](mailto:fhtp@flinthillsteaparty.com) or facebook – Flint Hills TEA Party; Manhattan contact – Chuck  
Henderson, 785-236-1286; Sylda Nichols, 12100 Walsburg Road, Leonardville, KS 66449 sends the  
snail mail Newsletter; Snail Mail: Flint Hills TEA Party of KS, 1228 Westloop Place, PMB #326,  
Manhattan, KS 66502-2840. All donations for the Educational Fund (payable to Educational Fund)  
will also be accepted at this address.**

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acting Moderator.**