

The Patriots' Truth

Flint Hills TEA Party News

Next meeting Nov. 15 – 9:30am, Manhattan Fire Dept HQ-Sta #1 – Guest Speaker will be State Rep. Ron Highland. *The elections will be over – We can celebrate it being over, regardless of the results. Bring your concerns for discussion. The Working Group meets at McAlisters Deli, 5:30-10pm, come & go at your convenience, on Wednesdays. Join us at the Firehouse in November or at McAlisters on Wed. evenings.* I've been asked to explain the different colors of print here – Green is me/my thoughts; Red, blue & others – mostly article headings, etc – just to get your attention. Font changes are just to break the monotony or get your attention. **We MUST keep God in our Hearts & PRAY. GOD be with you & yours & GOD Bless America!**

Folks, this newsletter is going to be a little different. We, FHTP, told Keen Umbehr, Libertarian Candidate for Governor that we would put his info in a newsletter. I put a bit of it in the last mailing, here is more. I just received it a short time ago, so your going to get it all at once. Some of our group have ill-feelings toward to Libertarian Party in itself. I searched the internet and the following is the statement I found. I want to remind you that the FHTP does NOT align with any one party – we are Conservative thinkers, independent thinkers, striving to get the information and facts to the people for YOU TO USE as YOU see fit.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY PLATFORM

As adopted in Convention, Columbus Ohio, June 2014

PREAMBLE

As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others.

We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.

Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power.

In the following pages we have set forth our basic principles and enumerated various policy stands derived from those principles.

These specific policies are not our goal, however. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

That said, the following information is from Keen Umbehr, Libertarian Candidate for KS Governor:

Brief Biography of Keen Umbehr

Keen A. Umbehr was born in Great Bend, Kansas, on November 8, 1958. His father's job with an oilfield supply company moved the family throughout the world. In Keen's youth, he lived in Nigeria and Angola, Africa, Singapore, and London. From the time Keen was in the 7th grade he would fly back to his father's hometown of Alma, Kansas, to spend the summer working in the fields on his uncle's farm.

When Keen was 15 years old and a freshman at Singapore American school, he met Eileen Van Kirk, the girl who would eventually become his wife.

In 1981 Keen was the successful bidder in a county-wide trash collection contract for Wabaunsee County, Kansas. During his time operating his trash collection business, Keen wrote a weekly newspaper column called "My Perspective".

In his articles, he was often critical of the decisions of the local county commissioners. Later, the Wabaunsee County Commissioners warned the owner of the county newspaper that Keen's articles were "offensive and should be censored." Shortly thereafter, the commissioners voted to terminate Keen's contract to collect trash from six of the seven towns in Wabaunsee County. Keen filed suit in Federal District Court in Topeka, Kansas.

Approximately 2½ years later, Federal District Judge Richard Rogers dismissed the lawsuit, ruling that private contractors doing business with the government do not enjoy the same First Amendment protections as government employees. However, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned Judge Rogers' decision. The County Commissioners then appealed that decision to the United States Supreme Court.

On June 28, 1996, the United States Supreme Court handed down a 7-2 ruling in Keen's favor. This decision set a national precedent establishing the principle that independent contractors have the same First Amendment rights and protection as government employees. [518 U.S. 668 \(1996\) \(Oyez.org\)](#)

Keen was named one of eight Distinguished Kansans by the Topeka Capital-Journal for 1996, and on June 18, 1998, he was one of twelve individuals receiving the Free Spirit Award and \$10,000 from The Freedom Forum, a nonpartisan foundation dedicated to free press, free speech and free spirit for all people.

Two years after his Supreme Court victory, Keen decided to sell his trash company and return to college at Kansas State University. At the age of 40, Keen began classes at K-State, along with one of his sons (Josh), who was also a freshman at the time.

After completing a four-year degree in three years, Keen graduated from Kansas State University cum laude with a BS in political science.

Keen chose to attend Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kansas. Keen graduated from the Washburn University School of Law in May of 2005.

After graduation, Keen opened his own private law practice in Topeka, Kansas, and later established his practice in his hometown of Alma. In 2007 Keen's wife, Eileen Umbehr, published a book about their First Amendment battle and Supreme Court victory titled [Small Town Showdown](#).

Even after starting his law practice, Keen has remained a champion of government accountability and transparency. In 2009, Keen took on the case of prisoner abuse at the Topeka Women's Correctional Facility. His fight for the prisoners to be free from sexual exploitation resulted in the Kansas Department of Corrections filing an ethics complaint against Umbehr which was ultimately dismissed. Still not satisfied, Keen continues to fight for government accountability and transparency related to this violation of public trust:

Keen and Eileen still reside in Alma Kansas and recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. They have 4 sons, 4 daughters-in-law, 9 grandchildren and one more on the way. [KeenEileen.com](#).

Now Keen is still reaching for his dreams as he asks for the support of everyday Kansans to elect him for Governor, where he can continue his fight for liberty.

Resumé: Keen Umbehr, Libertarian Candidate for Governor

EDUCATION

- Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas
Juris Doctorate - May 2005
Phi Delta Phi, member
Women's Legal Forum, member
- Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas
B.S. Political Science, Cum Laude - December 2001
- Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota
- Singapore American School (SAS), Singapore
Seven years at SAS. Attended final semester of high school in London, England. Diploma from Singapore American School, 1977.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2009-2012, Public Defender, Municipal Court, Junction City, Kansas
- Former Member, USD 329 Mill Creek Valley Board of Education; Former City Council Member, City of Alma; Former Member, Wabaunsee Rural Water Board No. 2
- 2009-2010, Public Defender (one of three), Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- 2006-present, City Attorney, City of Paxico
- 2005-present, Attorney, private practice
- 2004, One semester externship - Kansas Securities Commission
- 1993-1995, Vice-president of Flint Hills Development Group
- 1988, Opened restaurant in Alma, The Back Porch; later closed. Rented and eventually sold building to Gambino's Pizza in 2003.
- 1981-2001, Owned self-service car wash in Alma, Kansas.

- 1981-1999, Owned and operated a refuse company, serving six towns in Wabaunsee County. Sold business in 1999 to attend Kansas State University in pursuit of a law degree.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- 1996 Distinguished Kansan designee, *Topeka Capital-Journal*
- 1997 Recipient, The Freedom Forum Free Spirit Award
- 1998 Finalist, PEN/Paul Newman's First Amendment Award
- 2001 Nominee, Harry S. Truman Memorial Scholarship

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- Guest Speaker, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas; Professors Leland, Bressers, Fliter, Unekis, and Rutherford (1999, 2000, 2001)
- Keynote speaker, Center for First Amendment Rights, Student Conference on the First Amendment; University of Connecticut School of Law, Hartford, CT (1998)
- Guest Speaker, Washburn University School of Law, Constitutional Law class, Professor Bill Rich (1997, 1998)
- Keynote Speaker, The Freedom Forum, State of the First Amendment Conference; Arlington, Virginia (1997)
- Guest Speaker, Highland Community College, Wamego, Kansas, Judge Steven Roth (1998)
- Guest Speaker, Washburn University School of Law, Adjunct Professor Ed Collazo

PERSONAL

- Appellant, *Umbehr v. Wabaunsee County Commissioners*, 252 Kan. 30 (1992)
- Respondent, *Board of County Commissioners v. Umbehr*, 518 U.S. 668 (1996)
- Born in Great Bend, Kansas, 1958
- Grew up overseas in Nigeria and Angola, Africa, and Singapore, Southeast Asia. Spent final semester of high school in London, England (diploma from Singapore American School).
- Married high school sweetheart, Eileen, in 1978.
Four grown sons:
 - Jared, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi - U.S. Navy, served 3 tours in Iraq with Special Forces (SWCCC)
 - Josh, Wichita, Kansas - family practice physician, Founder and CEO of Atlas MD
 - Keen II, Leawood, Kansas - Director of Business Development for NISSCO
 - Kirk, Overland Park, Kansas - Food and Beverage Director, Hallbrook Country Club
- Three daughters-in-law - Lisa, Tiffany, and Amanda - and eight grandchildren.
- Hobbies (when I can find the time): hiking, scuba diving, fishing, reading, bicycling, climbing in the mountains near Buena Vista, Colorado, and spending time with my family.

Wichita Eagle Voter Guide Questionnaire

Dear Keen A. Umbehr,

Thank you for replying to our voter guide questionnaire. We appreciate your participation.

Here is a copy of your submission:

Age: 55

City: Alma, Kansas 66401

Family: Wife Eileen; 4 grown sons, Jared, Josh, Keen, Kirk.

Occupation: My wife and I owned operated a trash collection company for 18 years in Wabaunsee County, then, at the age of 40, I obtained my Political Science degree at Kansas State University in 2001, then earned a law degree at Washburn University School of law in 2005. I am currently a family practice and criminal defense attorney.

Education/degrees: Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas - 2005 Juris Doctor • Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas - 2001 Bachelor of Science in Political Science - Cum Laude, 3.86 GPA • 2001 Nominee, Harry S. Truman Memorial Scholarship

Political experience: 1987-1993 Councilman, City of Alma • 1989-1993 Board Member, Mill Creek Valley USD #329 • 2011-2013 Board Member, Rural Water District # 1

Community involvement: 1997 President, Kansas Chapter Solid Waste Management Association • 1981-2014 Member, Alma Chamber of Commerce • 1985-1988 Member, Alma Rotary Club • 1986-1989 Board Member, Alma Senior Homes

How long lived in district: I was born in Great Bend, Kansas in 1958. I grew up in Nigeria, Africa, Angola, Africa, Singapore, SE Asia and England. At the age of 19, I married Eileen (my first girlfriend) and we came back home to Alma, Kansas, to raise our family and run our businesses. Eileen and I have lived in Alma for the last 36 years.

Endorsements: I have received the nomination of the Kansas Libertarian Party for Governor of Kansas. I do not have the endorsements of any newspapers, special interest groups or corporations. The only endorsement I am seeking is the trust and vote of the hardworking Kansans on November 4, 2014.

Campaign phone: (785) 765-2626

E-mail: Keen@KeenForKansas.com

Website: <http://KeenForKansas.com>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/KeenForKansas>

Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/i/notifications>

YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/keenforkansas>

What is the biggest issue facing the state in the next few years, and what will you advocate doing about it?

The Governor's income tax plan. This income tax law permits 191,000 business owners to pay zero income tax while at the same time forcing 1.4 million hourly payroll workers to continue paying income taxes on their hard-earned wages. I advocate passage of the Kansas Fair Tax bill, which repeals income taxes for all 1.4 million hourly wage earners.

Why are you the best choice for voters?

I am the only candidate for Governor that has publicly committed to veto each and every piece of legislation that is placed on my desk until the Kansas Legislature passes the Kansas Fair Tax bill and/or grants the 1.4 million wage earners the same zero income tax rate as the 191,000 business owners. The business owners were granted their zero income tax rate in one legislative session; the Legislature can do the same for the hourly wage earners in Kansas.

How do you plan to grow good-paying jobs in Kansas in the next four years?

By passing the Kansas Fair Tax bill, 1.4 million wage earners will retain more of their hard-earned income. This will put approximately 2.5 billion dollars back into the hands Kansas wage earners and into our Kansas economy. With more disposable income circulating in all 105 counties, demand for Kansas goods and services will grow, resulting in more jobs being created to meet the demand. Entrepreneurs create jobs, not government programs.

What state policies could help grow industry in the Wichita area specifically?

The number one state policy that could help grow industry in Wichita is the passage of the Kansas Fair Tax bill. When entrepreneurs in the Wichita area see an increased demand for their respective goods and services, these business owners will immediately staff up to meet the increased demand. This will in turn create more jobs. Government can only nurture economic growth by creating a favorable business tax environment coupled with regulatory certainty.

Overall, how healthy is the Kansas economy?

The sun is not shining on the Kansas economy, nor is the doomsday scenario an accurate assessment. The truth lies somewhere in the middle. I do believe that the governor elected on November 4 will have a very serious budget problem when he takes over in January, 2015. Program cuts and staffing levels in all non-K-12 educational agencies

will have to be considered. Currently our revenue is lagging behind the state's expenditures.

Are additional changes in tax policy needed?

Yes. In the educational funding formula statute, the base state aid must be spent on a specified area that can be tracked as being spent in the classrooms of our 286 school districts.

Do you plan or expect to cut spending? If so, what areas will you target?

In January 2015, the next governor will have 6 remaining months to design a spending-reduction plan that protects K-12 funding and yet allows the state to arrive at the statutorily-required 7.5% ending balance. Across the board cuts will be the first option. Targeted agency cuts will be the most likely option as I believe the state budget director will announce in January that the ending balance in June will be less than zero. All non K-12 budgets will have to be cut.

What policy or budget changes would you seek to improve K-12 education?

Our public school system does an outstanding job in delivering educational services to our K-12 students. However, there are some students that need access to other educational opportunities such as home school, private schools, religious-based schools and military schools. I propose that the state and federal aid should follow the student and not the building. Lastly, I would defund Common Core as I oppose the federalization of our Kansas K-12 curriculum.

What policy or budget changes would you seek to improve higher education in Kansas?

Only Kansas citizens should receive in-state-tuition and all other non-Kansas citizens should pay out-of-state tuition. I also advocate for the new state law that prohibits any higher education institution from taking adverse action against any employee who expresses any opinion while on their own time and on their own computers. The First Amendment is a constitutional right, not a malleable suggestion. We must have full transparency in our colleges and universities.

Has Kansas politics become more polarized in the past four years? If so, how does that affect the state?

Yes. Kansas is quickly moving towards a Washington D.C. model of partisanship where party ideology is more important than preserving the limitations contained in our State and Federal Constitution. The affect on the State of Kansas is that very little is accomplished when the two major parties waste time defending their turf rather than finding middle ground solutions that serve the best interests of all Kansans.

Should Kansas participate in Medicaid expansion in any form? Why or why not, and what for

No. Expansion of Medicaid allows the federal government to redefine and dictate the criteria for new enrollees, placing an unsustainable burden on Kansas taxpayers. The key to resolving the healthcare issues in Kansas is to recognize that healthcare services are separate and distinct from health insurance. My Lt. Governor, Dr. Josh Umbehr, Founder and CEO of AtlasMD Concierge Family Practice in Wichita, has proven that a direct primary care model is a viable solution.

Has the KanCare program been successful so far? Would you seek any changes?

No. The KanCare model inexorably combines healthcare services with health insurance, whereas a direct primary care model (DPC) provides enrollees with unlimited access to a doctor at a cost of \$50 for most adults and \$10 for children - with no co-pay or deductible. This is healthcare service. A wrap around health insurance policy pays for the unexpected health issues requiring hospitals and specialists. This DPC model could save KanCare up to 1 billion dollars a year.

Do you support keeping the state's ban on same-sex marriage? If a federal court overturns the ban in the future, what should the state do in response?

As a Libertarian and a lawyer, I am a strict Constitutionalist. The 14th Amendment requires that all citizens be treated equally, all the time, under the law. Kansas basically had the same ban on same-sex marriage as Oklahoma and Utah. Both state's same-sex marriage laws have been struck down as being unconstitutional. Kansas has its own case winding through the court system. I advocate for following the law and our constitution.

How do you define yourself politically?

I would define myself as a conservative Libertarian. My platform includes: Schools, job, taxes and the Kansas economy. As a lawyer, I am a strict Constitutionalist. This means that the meaning of the words used at the time our constitution was written controls my interpretation of the document. I hold the Constitution supreme above party ideology and political expediency. Lastly, I believe our state and federal Constitutions limit the government, not the people.

Do you think the Legislature should legalize any form of marijuana in Kansas? Explain

With over 20 states passing some form of legalization, attitudes toward the full legalization of marijuana are rapidly changing. While the legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes is not on my platform, I do support Senate Bill 9, which proposes the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes with a doctor's prescription.

I do not believe the government should interfere with the relationship between a doctor and his/her patient.

Do you support or oppose renewable energy standards? Explain.

I support the repeal of the renewable energy standards (RPS). The RPS is just one more reason for large corporations not to re-locate in Kansas. The RPS is an artificial subsidy granted to huge companies which is ultimately paid for through higher electric rates for all Kansans. If wind energy companies cannot produce a commercially viable product at a comparable economic cost, then the “time” for the wind energy industry hasn’t arrived yet.

What, if any, changes would you like to see made to the state’s abortion laws?

I am 100% pro-life. The child’s liberty to life, from the stage of conception, must be protected. Currently, Kansas has maximized their Constitutional authority in this area of law. Under Roe v. Wade the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld a woman's right to choose. Until that ruling is overturned, our Kansas legislature is limited and cannot pass any law that statutorily prohibits abortion. Lastly, I oppose the use of tax dollars to fund abortions.

What, if any changes would you like to see made to the state’s gun laws?

As a gun owner and concealed carry permit holder, I am a strong advocate for the 2nd Amendment. I believe the current gun laws adequately protect Kansas citizens' constitutional rights to bear arms.

Do you believe the state adequately addresses the needs of low-income and disabled residents? If not, how would you change things?

No. The Kansas legislature must adopt a Direct Primary Care model (DPC) for their KanCare enrollees. Healthcare services must be separated from health insurance. Similarly, an individual does not buy auto insurance to pay for gas, oil and tires.

The implementation of a DPC model could potentially save The KanCare program \$1 billion per year. With this amount of savings, more employment skills-based programs could be developed for low-income and disabled Kansans.

What, if any, changes would you like to see made to affirm the rights of Kansas in its dealings with the federal government?

Under the 10th Amendment, the rights of the federal government are few and the rights for the states are many. However, under the current federalist mindset, state rights and state sovereignty have all but disappeared. Each state must be allowed to be its “laboratory” of policy for our country. If this were done, the power of the EPA would be nullified. The lesser prairie chicken issue, for example, would be solely up to Kansas to decide - as it should be.

Who do you most admire and why?

My father, Jim Umbehr. I never saw him mad, out of control, say something that wasn’t true or not help someone in need. He taught me how to respectfully disagree, outwit my opponent, work hard, save money and love my wife. My father lived what he preached until he passed away. I miss him dearly.

What other issue do you feel strongly about?

Government transparency and accountability. As a government watchdog, I have repeatedly witnessed government officials doing everything in their power to keep citizens from learning the truth about sensitive issues that they would prefer not be made public. I have requested documents under the Kansas Open Records Act, only to have them denied altogether or delayed for months. Often times, records are heavily redacted. Transparency is critical to better government.

The state is projected to face a \$238 million shortfall by July 2016. How would you address that?

I believe that the projected shortfall will be much larger than \$238 million by July 2016. The Kansas Legislature must pass the Kansas Fair Tax bill in the 2015 legislative session. This legislation will grant individual wage earners the same zero income tax rate Kansas business owners currently enjoy. Giving Kansas wage earners more disposable income to spend on goods and services will set our Kansas economy on a sustainable upward trend.

Kansas is one of the top 5 states in danger of running out of water, according to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. How can the state improve its water sustainability?

Continue developing the 50-year water plan and work with the 4 other states for a comprehensive five-state solution. All conservation efforts must be voluntary at this point. Our state's agricultural economy is too vitally important to our economic survival to mandate any legislative enactment. At this point in time, when the cost of bringing the water to the surface exceeds its economic benefit, the individual farmer will plant non-irrigated dry land crops.

Does asking voters for proof of citizenship provide greater security at the ballot box or make it more difficult for citizens to vote? Is the state striking the right balance between these concerns now?

In light of the fact that federal law only requires a written affidavit, I believe the Kansas legislature was ill-advised to pass the requirement that an individual must provide a birth certificate in order to register to vote. I believe this law disenfranchises American citizens and particularly Kansas residents. Currently, the voting rights of over 15,000 individuals have been held in limbo.

An affidavit of citizenship should be sufficient for registering to vote.

Keen Umbehr, Libertarian candidate for governor Answers to Topeka Capital-Journal Voter's Guide

1. Explain your vision for reforming Kansas K-12 public education and outline how you would generate public support for that detailed plan?

In January 2015, the newly-elected governor will be facing a budget crisis. The strategy to address this predicted budget shortfall will, without a doubt, impact the level of K-12 funding in FY 2016. Notwithstanding, providing fair funding for our K-12 schools one of my top priorities, above all other state funding obligations. At this time I will propose that the current base-state-aid be frozen at its current levels in order to protect the gains in funding that have been achieved up to this point. In the 2015 legislative session I will fight for a phase-out of the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and require the phase-in of property tax to be used exclusively for funding K-12 base-state-aid. Regardless of the future level of funding for K-12 schools from all sources, the fact remains that it is the local school boards in all 286 districts that make the ultimate decision on how much of the state funding will go to teacher salaries and into the classrooms. The legislature can continue to increase base-state-aid, but it is the local school boards which retain the exclusive authority on how the funds are allocated.

Our public school system does an outstanding job in delivering educational services to our K-12 students, however, there are some students that need access to other educational opportunities such as home schooling, private schools, religious-based schools and military schools. I propose that the state and federal aid follow the student and not the building. In addition, I support the defunding of Common Core as I oppose the federalization of our Kansas K-12 curriculum.

2. Define how you would promote job development in the state's urban core as well as sparsely populated rural areas?

The undeniable truth is that governments do not create jobs. Jobs are created by entrepreneurs who sign loan documents and take business risks. State governments can only nurture economic growth by creating a favorable business tax environment coupled with sustained regulatory certainty. Kansas businesses should be competing for customers, not misguided government jobs programs.

It is simple economic logic to state that higher taxes mean consumers have less disposable income to spend on goods and services. Therefore, if consumers had more disposable income in their control, most individuals would spend their "new money" on additional goods and services. This new spending will in turn increase the demand for new goods and services. In order to meet the increased demand, the business owners will hire additional employees.

The governor's current income tax plan allows 191,000 business owners a zero income tax rate, while at the same time requiring the 1.4 million hourly wage earners to continue paying income tax on their hard-earned wages. Is that fair? 1.4 million wage-earners don't think so.

As governor, I will make the passage of the Kansas Fair Tax bill my number one priority. The Kansas Fair Tax bill repeals income tax for all of the 1.4 million hourly wage earners, thereby allowing them to retain the state income tax that was formerly taken out of their payroll checks. The loss of revenue will be replaced by a 5.7% consumption tax imposed on goods and services, thereby treating all Kansas citizens equally. This will immediately put approximately \$2.5 billion dollars back into the hands of individuals living and working in all 105 Kansas counties. As a result, the demand for Kansas goods and services will grow, and business owners will need to hire more employees to meet the increasing demand.

Passage of the Kansas Fair Tax is how jobs will be created in all sectors of Kansas.

3. How should Kansas change laws related to abortion?

I am a pro-life, pro-child candidate. As a Christian and a Libertarian, I believe that the unborn child's liberty interest in LIFE itself begins at conception. In addition, I believe that it is at the stage of conception when the unborn child's constitutional rights attach and become a legally-protectable interest. That is what I believe.

As a lawyer, I also believe that our state and federal constitutions are the two documents that dictate how our government can exercise power over its citizens. Our state and federal constitutions place limits on what laws can be passed and enforced upon us.

Currently, Kansas has passed some very well-crafted abortion restrictions which are Constitutional. However, unless and until the U.S. Supreme Court overturns or modifies the case known as Roe v. Wade, no state law can pass laws that absolutely prohibit abortion. Some states have tried, but the proposed law was ultimately ruled unconstitutional and struck down.

At this point in time, I believe that Kansas has maximized our legislative efforts in regards to placing restrictions on abortion and abortion providers. Therefore, I do not advocate any changes in our laws regarding abortion.

4. Describe where you would want state tax policy to stand after a four-year term as governor?

If elected governor, in January 2015 I will inform the Kansas Legislature that the first bill they send to my desk must be one that repeals the income tax law which requires 1.4 million hourly wage earners to continue paying income tax on their wages.

The current income tax law allows 191,000 business owners the right to pay zero income tax on their wages and profit while requiring 1.4 million hourly wage earners to pay income tax on their wages. This law is unfair, discriminatory and makes the wage earner the tax slave of the Kansas legislature. I will not allow this to continue.

I will fight for the passage of the Kansas Fair Tax bill, or a version of this legislation. I will do more than just use words and rhetoric. I will instruct the Kansas Legislature that the first bill on my desk must grant the 1.4 million wage earners the same zero income tax as the business owner or I will veto each and every piece of legislation they present to me for my signature.

The 2012 legislature granted the business owners a zero income tax rate in a single legislative session. The 2015 legislature can do the same for the wage earner. I will not accept anything less for the wage earners.

In terms of the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), I will support a phase-out of this law and a phase-in of assessing property tax on wind-generated electric facilities. The legislation granting a lifetime property tax abatement on wind farms was misguided. I further propose that the first phase-in property tax collected for wind farms be dedicated to K-12 funding.

5. Explain your views on the state's ban on same-sex marriage in light of federal court action elsewhere?

As a Libertarian and a lawyer, I am a strict Constitutionalist. When I take the oath of office, I place my hand on the Bible and swear to uphold the Constitution of the State of Kansas and the Constitution of the United States of America. As such, I am duty-bound to govern this state only by the texts contained in our state and federal constitution. The 14th Amendment requires that all citizens be treated equally, all the time, under the law. By virtue of the Tenth Circuit Court's recent decisions regarding same-sex marriage, this includes the right for same sex couples to marry.

Kansas currently has a same-sex marriage ban which mirrors Oklahoma and Utah. These same-sex marriage laws have been stuck down by the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals as being unconstitutional, holding in part that "gays and lesbians have a Constitutional right to marriage that states cannot take away."

Since the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision striking down a key part of the Federal Defense of Marriage Act, more than 20 federal court decisions have rendered rulings against state laws banning same-sex marriages.

Kansas has its own case winding through the Federal Court system. If the federal court renders a decision finding Kansas's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, then that ruling will most likely be appealed to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. It seems safe to assume that the Court will find the Kansas same-sex ban unconstitutional, just like they did in the Oklahoma and Utah cases.

At the end of the day, I believe the people of Kansas desire a governor who will uphold the 14th Amendment, even if doing so places it at odds with a closely-held religious belief.

6. [How would you realign the state's approach to cast votes in elections to inspire greater participation?](#)

Kansas's current law on voter registration requires the registrant to produce proof of citizenship by presenting a birth certificate, a passport or other such documents. This has resulted in thousands of voter registrations being held in suspense. This is wrong and unfair and deprives law-abiding citizens the right to participate in a state election. To realign Kansas's approach to voter registration and inspire greater election participation, I propose that our election law be amended to allow an affidavit of citizenship to be recognized as one of the approved documents indicating proof of citizenship.

7. [Review how you would prefer to adjust state water law or policy in Kansas?](#)

The current Republican governor and the Democratic challenger have both advocated that the allocation of "additional state recourses" to find a solution for the depleting aquifer in western Kansas.

"Additional state recourses" means increasing property taxes on every piece of property in Kansas. I am opposed to increasing property taxes on Kansans until there is a five-state plan/solution which would adequately address the depleting aquifer issue without destroying our state's most valuable economic resource – agriculture.

Until a five-state solution is adopted, I only support voluntary conservation efforts and continued development of Kansas's 50-year water plan.

8. [What is the proper role of state government in promoting the arts?](#)

I do support the arts and believe that state support – which means the use of tax dollars – is an essential and necessary function of state government. The state of Kansas spent ten years and over 300 million dollars on remodeling the state capitol building. I believe funding the arts is in line with our Kansas values.

9. [Explain your views on the status of debt held by Kansas and the past to reducing the total?](#)

On August 11, 2014, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission filed an Order instituting a cease and desist proceeding against the state of Kansas for violating Sections 17(a)(2) and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act. Apparently, from August 2009 through July 2010, the Kansas Development Finance Authority ("K DFA") raised \$273 million through eight series of bonds without disclosing (in the bond offering documents) the existence of the true amount of unfunded liability in the State's pension system, known as the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System ("KPERS").

In fairness to Governor Brownback, these illegal acts were committed under the administration of Governor Parkinson. Nevertheless, under the current administration, Kansas bonds have been the subject of three bond-rating downgrades. This makes the cost of Kansas bonds more expensive, thus requiring additional taxation of Kansas citizens and businesses and/or the cutting of expenses elsewhere in the budget.

KPERS's is our state's largest unfunded liability. While positive actions have been taken in recent years to pull KPERS away from the brink of bankruptcy, it remains at risk due to the remaining amount of unfunded liability.

10. [What would be the best model going forward for providing retirement benefits to state employees?](#)

As governor, I will make the passage of the Kansas Fair Tax bill my number one propriety. Passage of the Kansas Fair Tax bill will put \$2.5 billion dollars into our state's economy by giving 1.4 million wage earners a zero income tax rate.

As 1.4 million hourly wage earners spend what was formerly withheld from their payroll checks, the Kansas economy will begin improving, adding more jobs and sales or consumption tax revenue. I will place a budgetary priority on making yearly contributions to KPERS until it is fully funded.

I will oppose funding new state programs until KPERS is fully funded.

As a retired State Employee that last sentence sounds good to me. Past State Governors have treated the KPERS (State Employee Retirement Fund) as Congress treated Social Security. Can Kansas refunding KPERS set an example for Congress? Well, Congress has a huge debt to pay off before they can ever consider repaying Social Security. It is a topic for you to discuss with your Legislators. Think about all these facts and give Keen Umbehr serious consideration.

Well, that gives you all the info I have on Keen Umbehr. Read it and think about it. It is the same old deal. We don't want the Democrat to win and not really anxious for another go round with Brownback either. Will voting for Umbehr take votes away from Brownback and give Davis the win or will Davis lose votes and Brownback will? Will enough votes be taken from each of them and Keen Umbehr be our next Governor? Good question. Each of us will have to work it out for ourselves. I'm sure there are those that think they have it all figured out. PRAY the right person wins and Kansas will prosper. No matter what your decision VOTE. We have NO chance of winning if we don't vote – voting is the only way to win!! VOTE and PRAY!! In all reality it is in GOD's hands.

Congressionally speaking Kansas is in pretty good shape. We need to keep it that way. Reelection for all of our Representatives is very important. I know we have had some questions about some of them at various times, however, they are all better than our others choices.

Now to give another FHTP member a chance to speak -----

The Primary is where we "buy and plant the good seed". The question of ourselves needs to be...did we put effort/voice in that process?

Did we put effort/voice into the educating of the individual voters making them aware that the key to saving our Country and putting it back on track is not the General election but in reality it is the Primary?

Now that the "crop is ready for harvest" (General Election)...we are faced with a weedy field and we are now asking, "did we not plant good seed" (Primary Election)? For many of us...the seed planted was not what we envisioned, it was not the course that we wanted chosen by the voters. It was the Primary where we needed the effort/voice focused.

The crop (November 4th) is ready for harvest...so as the parable goes..."the weeds were allowed to grow and now must be harvested first"...THE DEMOCRATS and their socialist agenda (whether cloaked in independent and/or libertarian) must be removed. The crop harvested now is compromised and will not be as bountiful as a crop that did not have to compete with the weeds. But it is a crop...

The decision facing each one of us is whether to keep a compromised crop or plow it under. Dare I say, is not some grain better than none at all? Empty bins are dismal when waiting for the next growing season and its unknown challenges. Will there even be seeds for a new crop? Will a new crop result in disappointment just as this one did?

The effort, the voices now must be to establish "good seed"...principled, informed citizens; principled, informed voters; and principled, informed candidates prior to the next primary. Diligent workers committed to task with a watchful eye, teaching, informing and getting messages to all...basically in the field to do the weeding early in the season. Planting and cultivating the crop is needed now not in the weeks just prior to the planting (Primary). We need all workers on task.

It is a slow process but over the next weeks and months, after the general election, we can sort and collect the "good seed" (principled individuals and elected employees); and eliminate the shriveled grains (wrong policy & principles, inaction, complacency, lack of accountability) of what remains in our bins.

That should be the task that our efforts/voices should be focused on going forward. We are at the harvest; we have the results of what has been sowed, granted it was not of our choosing "as the thief sowed weed seed during the night". Our efforts/voices must now be set on preparing the field for the next season and to be diligent in that task. Our tools are the guidance of our Faith in God, our Constitution and in those principled workers that come forth to endure the task ahead.

Chris

Derek Schmidt, State Attorney General; Kris Kobach, Sec. of State; Ron Estes, State Treasurer; are running on their records. It seems they have "GOOD" records to run on. I'm very pleased with Kris Kobach's record. Along with Arizona (which Kris helped write) Kansas has one of the best voting laws in the Country. Most of the voter registrations that were in question at the primary election have been checked out and taken care of. I, certainly, do NOT want those that are NOT citizens of the USA or citizens of Kansas voting in Kansas. I do want all Military votes counted. I believe Kris is taking care of that thoroughly and honestly. Kris has been accused of spending too much time on his pet projects – working with other states on their Constitutional problems. We knew this was his love/hobby when he first ran for office. I don't know of any "duties" in Kansas he is neglecting, or meetings he is continually missing. At least, he is NOT ignoring informative meetings and out chasing golf balls instead of doing his job. There have been times when I wondered why Derek Schmidt didn't take one action or another, but have been behind him when he did. Quite frankly, I know nothing about Ron Estes, but have NOT HEARD criticism of him. I'll give all 3 of them a thumbs up. Three Cheers for them!! When we have good, sincere officers in our state we need to keep them and back them.

Congressionally speaking Kansas is in pretty good shape in the House of Representatives. We need to keep it that way. Reelection for all of our Representatives is very important. I know we have had some questions about some of them at various times, however, they are all better than our other choices. Much, MUCH better!!

**We very badly NEED TIM HUELSKAMP, LYNN JENKINS,
MIKE POMPEO and KEVIN YODER!!!**

COME be with us at the November 15th FHTP meeting at the Firehouse on Denison in Manhattan. This fight for our Country and Freedom of the USA citizens will be going on and on. On the old TV show "The Rifleman" today Chuck Connors, as the rifleman was telling his son, "We, Americans, can only lose our right to speak up and defend ourselves and keep things right as long as we pay attention!" You see, there were those that understood what must be done from George Washington all the way through to today and beyond. There is no doubt that we must keep our heads high, our thoughts clear, and believe in GOD today, tomorrow and always. It is when we let our guard down and think the sailing is clear that we get in trouble. We must hang in there even when things look like clear sailing or when the clouds are the blackest. Teaching our children, grandchildren, and all their friends about the Constitution and what it stands for will take us a long way. Have them go to "YESforLiberty.com." Encourage them to join the scholarship and contribute to it. It is our path to success!

GO VOTE!!

REMEMBER THE SCHOLARSHIP TO HELP OUR YOUTH!!!

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS GOD TEACHES US TO DO.

PRAY FOR GOD TO BE WITH US!!

VOTE!!!!

BE SURE YOU VOTE!!!!

It is a vote AGAINST OURSELVES when we don't vote!

WE CAN'T WIN IF WE DON'T VOTE!!

**If you would like to forward this Newsletter as is on to others – be my guest.
If you would like to send comments (just a sentence or two) to the editor – be my guest.
If you have an editorial to submit – be my guest.**

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