



Americans for Prosperity 2010 Survey
Completed by Sen. Sam Brownback
Candidate for Kansas Governor

1. Why are you running for office?

I believe I have the experience to make Kansas better. I'm a fifth generation Kansan raised on the family farm in Linn County. I attended public schools and earned degrees from K-State and KU. After a career as a teacher, attorney and broadcaster, I served as Kansas' Secretary of Agriculture. For six years, I managed a cabinet level agency in Kansas state government and became familiar with our budget and legislative processes--traveling to every county in Kansas many times listening to our people where they live.

I was honored when my fellow Kansans elected me to the US House of Representatives and then the US Senate, where I continued the practice of regularly visiting every county for public meetings. I also felt it was important to continue to live at home. My wife Mary and I have raised our five children in Kansas while I commuted to Washington to vote. When first elected to the Senate, I made a pledge to serve no more than two full terms in the Senate. I am keeping that pledge and looking forward to staying in Kansas full-time. I hope to build on our record of bipartisan accomplishment as Governor.

To fulfill our dreams of all our state can be, we need to conquer three big challenges. We need to Grow our Economy, Improve our Schools and Protect our Families. Our campaign is offering a Road Map for Kansas which includes specific steps we can take to achieve measurable accomplishments in each of these areas.

2. If you had the opportunity, what is the first bill you would like to propose to the 2011 Legislature and why?

The next action taken must be to bring spending in line with revenues. The first bill I will introduce a balanced budget that forces the state to live within its means.

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. 3/5 or 2/3 vote of legislature for approval of a tax increase) Why?

I support legislation that would allow for tax increases to be enacted only by a legislative supermajority or referendum. Kansans should have a voice in whether they want their taxes increased. Our state representatives and senators are their voice in Topeka. A 3/5 or 2/3 vote of the legislature for approval would ensure Kansans are heard on the issue.

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

d. *Do not raise taxes and cut spending*

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

We need to protect our core functions like education and social services by focusing spending reductions on lower priority programs. It's worth noting that during the past two budget cycles, no requirements in the Kansas budget have been eliminated outright. State government needs to do fewer things and do them better.

- **If you were to raise taxes, what specific taxes would you raise and why? N/A**

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

1. *Get the state's economy growing again.*
2. *Reign in Government spending*
3. *Return local control to our schools*
4. *Promote pro-family policies*
5. *Improve government transparency*

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?

I am a strong supporter of transparency of government expenditures – especially for taxpayer-funded lobbyists.

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

All Kansas Supreme Court Justices should be subject to confirmation by the Kansas Senate.

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?

This assumes that the current baseline of state spending is appropriate. I believe government is too big and does too much.

- 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?**

The key is getting our state's economy growing again. As Secretary of Agriculture, I traveled frequently to promote Kansas products and businesses to export markets and we scored some real successes which helped to create jobs and generate income here at home. When it comes to recruiting new employers to our state, it's not going to be a mid-level appointee meeting with executives and boards of directors making the case for Kansas, it's going to be me.

I also would insist that state regulation consistently be based on sound science and use existing resources to establish an Office of the Repealer to do away with unnecessary outdated or duplicative regulations. During my remaining time in the Senate I continue to work across the aisle and with other members of the Kansas Delegation to win the Boeing Tanker contract for Kansas bringing thousands of new high-wage manufacturing jobs.

- 10. The 2010 Legislature and Governor Mark Parkinson 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 and Governor?**

There were many things done in the 2010 session which I did not agree with, the sales tax increase among them.

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

I have proudly dedicated my career serving the people of Kansas, first as Kansas Secretary of Agriculture and then as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. I am serving my second elected term in the U.S. Senate. I announced last year I will honor my term limit pledge and not seek re-election to the U.S. Senate in 2010. My running mate is State Senator Dr. Jeff Colyer.

You can learn more about the Brownback for Governor Campaign, please visit our website at www.Brownback.com. You also can follow the campaign on Facebook at www.facebook.com/brownbackforgov and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/brownbackforgov