



PEGGY MAST

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News From the Capitol

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SURVEY RESULTS IN

It felt like we were getting our survey out late this year, but in reality, the results came in at a very appropriate time. We did not spend any taxpayer dollars to prepare or mail the survey and my intern Eiffel, was more than happy to compile the information on the days she volunteered to be here.

There were 687 total respondents to the survey and lots of comments on the side as well as some letters. All the input was welcome and I am happy to share it with you. We tried to word the questions in such a way as not to lead the respondents, but to give people an opportunity to give their honest input.

| | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> | <u>UNDECIDED</u> |
|---|------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1. Should the state government learn to live within its means? | 668 | 6 | 13 |
| 2. Should Kansas increase taxes for any reason? | 266 | 344 | 77 |
| 3. Should schools be held harmless without budget cuts? | 144 | 480 | 63 |
| 4. Should schools receive the same level of cuts as other areas of government? | 280 | 351 | 56 |
| 5. Is it reasonable to use a legislative post audit to help schools find further efficiencies? | 349 | 238 | 100 |
| 6. Should small schools be forced to consolidate? | 127 | 464 | 96 |
| 7. Do you favor schools going to a four-day school week? | 187 | 385 | 115 |
| 8. Do you favor requiring a photo ID before you can vote? | 628 | 44 | 15 |
| 9. Do you support a transportation plan even if it means higher taxes or going further into debt? | 52 | 560 | 75 |
| 10. Do you favor a state wide smoking ban? | 328 | 333 | 26 |
| 11. Should a smoking ban apply to all groups including casinos? | 426 | 213 | 48 |
| 12. Are you in favor of letting criminals out of prison early to save money? | 82 | 558 | 47 |
| 13. Do you support the state regulating sexual-oriented businesses? | 455 | 186 | 46 |

Some have expressed frustrations because I even asked their opinion. It is important to me to know if I am voting with the wishes of my district and it is a relief to know I have stood with the majority votes from my constituents on every item on the survey. I might say some had a slim margin. Of all the issues close to my heart, the consolidation issue was one that gave me the greatest peace of mind. Thank you to all who responded. Please note – my survey was not an effort to raise campaign donations. I will not be hitting you up for money. I want to know if I am representing you.

TAXES???

The leadership of the House predicted there would be no appetite for tax increases in the House and they were right. The tax bill came up on the floor and the first amendments made to it stripped out the biggest tax increases in the bill. They were supported overwhelmingly by everyone in the House. Yes, I did vote for a tax increase when I supported an amendment to allow locals to raise a \$.25 increase on local sales tax to go to schools after an election of the people. It did not pass either. A motion was made to table the bill until May, I voted against it, but lost again.

PASTOR & PAGES

It is always wonderful to see people from home in Topeka. Pastor Jess Allen came this week to lead our prayer breakfast and open the House Chamber in prayer. The same day, we had seven pages from the district and it was a real blessing to have them here.

