

Opponent Testimony on House Bill 2451
House Committee on Elections
Session of 2026

Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill 2451.

Representative Waggoner extended a personal invitation for me to testify on this bill, for which I am grateful. Because that invitation was sent to my personal email address rather than my professional one, I am appearing today in my personal capacity and do not represent my employer.

I oppose HB 2451 because, while it is framed as a measure to prevent misuse of public resources, it is overly broad, inconsistently applied, and risks silencing legitimate public education efforts by state and local governments. Additionally, the circumstances surrounding this bill raise serious concerns about whether it is being advanced in response to specific political disagreements rather than as a neutral improvement to Kansas election law.

1. Existing law already prohibits misuse of public resources

Kansas law already prohibits the use of public funds, equipment, and employee time to expressly advocate for or against candidates. HB 2451 does not close a demonstrated gap in the law, but instead creates unclear and expansive restrictions that could chill lawful communications. To the best of my research, I cannot find a single instance of a charged or convicted violation of the current act, yet this bill seeks to strengthen its language. The lack of charged or convicted violations give credibility to the argument that the current language is sufficient and does not need changed.

2. Unequal application and conflicts of interest

There is a troubling perception that this bill is being advanced by Representative Waggoner, who has a personal agenda against Hutchinson Public Schools and individuals associated with our district. Representative Waggoner's opponent in the 2024 House race is a substitute teacher in our district and the President of the Hutchinson National Educators Association. It was widely known that she not only served on a community-wide District Facilities Committee, but also supported the 2025 USD 308 bond issue. Even though Mr. Waggoner won the election, he reportedly told volunteers from the USD 308 bond campaign that he "may have supported the bond if the district supported him more." It should be stated that Mr. Waggoner does not live within the USD 308 boundary, and was never eligible to vote in the 2025 USD 308 bond election, and would never be impacted by the passage of the bond now or of any future bond.

I refuse to believe that Representative Waggoner's intentions with this bill are pure, as he also has a personal agenda against me. In that same election, he supported and campaigned for my

opponent in a contested, supposedly nonpartisan Hutchinson City Council race- one that he was also not even eligible to vote in. Mr. Waggoner took to ridiculous name-calling of me on social media, calling me “Tax-and-spend Stacy”, again, in a race that he has no dog in the fight. If he did, he would be an eligible voter in my district.

Mr. Waggoner’s campaign volunteer served as the treasurer for the Stop the Bond – Hutchinson campaign. She was also personally thanked by my opponent, along with Mr. Waggoner for their support during her losing campaign. I believe this information is relevant to you and the whole body because it provides historical context for you. This history raises concerns about whether this legislation would ever be applied neutrally or is it targeted to limit communications by certain public institutions and employees.

I firmly believe elections should be free, fair, and conducted in a manner that ensures their outcome reflects that of the voter. This bill however, does nothing to accomplish that or move the needle toward safer elections, which is the charge of this body.

While this bill would create criminal charges for communication of a bond vote for state employees, it does nothing to ensure that the information distributed by other parties is true, accurate, or even loosely based in facts. This allows any opposition campaign to make wildly inaccurate claims, as we have seen in not only the 2025 USD 308 bond vote, but in all campaigns Mr. Waggoner has personally been involved in. Furthermore, it handicaps any school district or defined municipality from providing factual information in defense of or in respond to misinformation. This damages our elections in Kansas and would decrease voter knowledge and potentially sway the outcome of future ballot measures.

3. Double standards and partisan behavior

Representative Waggoner has himself engaged in activities that, under the definitions in HB 2451, would be restricted if carried out by others:

- In January, he sent a mailer using taxpayer-funded resources that included partisan language such as:

"...the current Kansas court is considered to be far left in its legal and constitutional opinions."

"Liberals were not excited about the easing regulations..."

"The House banned progressives favored 'ranked choice voting.'"

And more.

Also peculiar is Rep. Waggoner’s clear use of the Great Seal of Kansas on his mailer, which, according to the “PRINTING AND POSTAGE FOR NEWSLETTERS Per LCC Policy 38” document, would make his mailer ineligible for reimbursement. I have included that document, the franking rules, and Waggoner’s mailer at the end of this document.

This mailer also included his campaign email and campaign PO box prominently on official stationery, yet HB 2451 would restrict similar informational communications by school districts or other public agencies. This makes you wonder if the goal is “rules for thee but not for me.” If that mailer were an official piece of informational material from any school district and included a yes campaign email, website, or address, you can guarantee that would be a violation of the Kansas election ethics rules and the existing statute.

HB2451 creates a double standard as legislators would now be able to send mass communications, and under the new LCC guidelines, there would be no time limit on those who are entering an election cycle. School districts rely on mass communications of various types to distribute information to their parents, staff, voters, and residents. While current law outlines the content, this new bill criminalizes the act of doing so, yet creates the loophole that legislators, state employees by definition, are not held to the same standard.

I should know. I live in Mr. Waggoner’s district and my household received two. Apparently, the franking privilege has no requirement to be efficient, and my husband and I both received one. We live in the same house, are both the registered owners, and the state funded two mailers to the same address. Perhaps the franking privilege should be revised to only include one mailer per household. The state franking privilege, if used in its entirety, accounts for \$1,470,000 in spending.

- Representative Waggoner has also publicly opposed constitutional amendments and local ballot measures on social media, call-in radio shows, and other platforms. If HB 2451 passes, such communications by a state employee, which he is under KS Stat § 12-105a, would presumably fall under the prohibited “mass communication” category, raising concerns about selective enforcement.

During a local radio station piece on October 8, 2025, Mr. Waggoner called in to complain about the USD 308 bond issue. He was asked by the station manager if the District violated the law in its 2025 campaign. He said no, they did not, but that he didn’t like the actions of the bond campaign. I believe this bill’s sole purpose is to criminalize speech that Mr. Waggoner doesn’t like.

I hope you also take into consideration the fact that Mr. Waggoner donated 35% of the Stop the Bond – Hutchinson’s total cash donations. If this bill becomes law it sets a dangerous precedent for legislators to write or amend the rules of elections that they are financially invested in. While you may think that tightening the rules on a race that he won is a moot point, please consider the other side of the coin- if Representative Waggoner were advocating for the passage of the bond and were financially invested in the yes measure and was currently advocating for loosening of the regulations, would you consider that request?

4. State employees engaged in political advocacy

Concerns extend beyond Representative Waggoner. Other state employees, including Kansas Highway Patrolman Dustin Sawyer, and Chair of the Stop the Bond – Hutchinson campaign, have publicly advocated against local ballot measures while serving as state employees. Such activities highlight the challenges of defining “mass communication” and the difficulty of enforcing this law consistently.

Would the language added under this bill prohibit Representative Waggoner from donating 35% of the total funds raised to a bond campaign? Would it limit him from making Facebook posts for or against a future ballot measure or constitutional amendment?

5. Chilling effect on public education and transparency

HB 2451 discourages state and local agencies from providing factual, neutral information about ballot questions or constitutional amendments. Agencies may hesitate to communicate at all for fear of criminal liability, leaving voters less informed rather than better informed.

As noted previously, school districts and other entities defined as “municipalities” are uniquely positioned to provide accurate information about their own day-to-day operations. When misinformation is presented regarding a school bond and the district is unable to respond with facts, the harm is borne by the district itself—not merely by a campaign. Over time, this dynamic further erodes public trust in and confidence in public education in Kansas.

6. Constitutional and ethical concerns

By restricting communications about ballot questions, HB 2451 raises serious First Amendment concerns. Courts have long recognized a distinction between express advocacy and the dissemination of factual, educational information by governmental entities. This bill blurs that line by discouraging even neutral, explanatory speech related to ballot measures and constitutional amendments.

Public officials and public institutions have an affirmative responsibility to educate citizens about how laws, policies, and ballot measures operate, particularly when those measures directly affect public services, taxation, or legal obligations. Preventing or discouraging such communication does not enhance democratic participation; instead, it deprives voters of essential context needed to make informed decisions.

Moreover, blanket prohibitions that rely on vague terms and carry criminal penalties invite selective enforcement. When similar conduct is permitted by some officials but prohibited for others, public confidence in both elections and government institutions is undermined. Legislation that chills lawful speech and creates unequal application not only risks constitutional conflict, but also erodes public trust in the fairness and integrity of our democratic processes.

7. Criminal penalties are disproportionate

Making violations of this section a Class C misdemeanor is excessive and disproportionate to the conduct being regulated. Determinations about whether a communication is “neutral,” whether it

constitutes a "mass communication," or whether it crosses the line into advocacy are often subjective judgment calls involving tone, format, and medium—not clear-cut violations of law.

Imposing criminal penalties for such determinations places public employees and officials at risk of prosecution for good-faith efforts to inform the public. This risk will inevitably lead to overcorrection, where agencies choose silence over transparency to avoid potential liability. The result is less public information, not more ethical use of public resources.

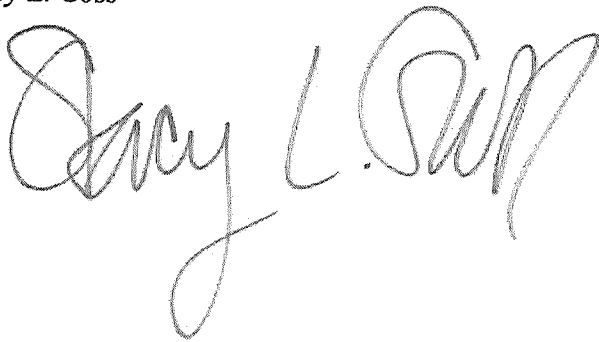
If the Legislature believes additional safeguards are necessary, administrative guidance, advisory opinions, or civil enforcement mechanisms would be far more appropriate. These tools allow for correction and accountability without criminalizing ambiguous conduct. Criminal sanctions should be reserved for willful misuse of public resources, not for communications that fall into gray areas subject to reasonable disagreement.

Conclusion

HB 2451 does not strengthen election integrity. Instead, it risks silencing legitimate civic education, creates opportunities for selective enforcement, and raises serious constitutional questions. Moreover, the history of partisan engagement and conflicts of interest among those advocating for this bill casts doubt on its impartiality. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reject House Bill 2451.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy L. Goss

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stacy L. Goss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stacy" being the most prominent part.

Policy 38. Correspondence and mailing. (a)(1) Only correspondence pertaining to constituent services shall be prepared or mailed at state expense.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, on and after January 22, 2012: Each representative will be allowed a maximum \$1,044 postage allotment per calendar year; each senator will be allowed a maximum \$3,136 postage allotment per calendar year; and a committee chairperson will be allowed an additional \$322 postage allowance per calendar year in response to committee mail. The postage allotment allowed by this subsection shall not be used by any legislator after the day the regular session of the legislature adjourns sine die in a calendar year during which a general election is to be held to elect the members of such legislator's house of the legislature, except in 2012 such allotments may be used through Wednesday, June 13, 2012. The maximum allotment amount established under this paragraph will change in relation to postage rate changes made by the U.S. Postal Service for letter-size, first-class mail.

(3) Allotments not used are not cumulative from calendar year to calendar year and shall not be used in any other calendar year.

(4) Mailings by legislators which exceed this allotment will be charged to the respective legislator at the same amount charged to the legislature by central mail. Failure to pay for any overage in a timely manner will result in loss of legislative mailing privileges.

PRINTING AND POSTAGE FOR NEWSLETTERS

Per LCC Policy 38

Printing and Postage (franking) Allotments

You will be billed for any amount over the newsletter print/franking allotment

Newsletter Printing and Postage Allotment for Representatives -\$6,000

Newsletter Printing and Postage Allotment for Senators -\$18,000

(Allotments for postage and printing of newsletters combined effective July 1, 2024.)

Newsletter deadline in a non-election year is December 14.

Newsletter deadline in an election year is Sine Die.

State Printer

ALL print requests for State Printer go through LAS Office

Commercial Printer

You are reimbursed for actual printing and associated costs according to your newsletter print allotment.

Postage

You are reimbursed for actual metered postage only— no service charges or taxes that may be included in bill

Postage used during the legislative session will be deducted from printing/postage allotment.

Reimbursement for the purchase of postage stamps is prohibited.

To receive reimbursement on outside printing/postage:

- Please provide copy of invoice from Post Office and/or Commercial Printer
- Please provide a copy of your newsletter along with invoice.
- Newsletter rules
 - No campaign material
 - Cannot use the Great Seal of Kansas
 - Survey must use outside address for return, not state capitol address

You are reimbursed via Direct Deposit – same as your checks

Vendor Payments

Alternatively, legislators may exercise the option to have vendors paid directly by LAS for postage and newsletter expenses, within the remaining allotment of funds. Invoices received for more than the remaining funds shall be the responsibility of the legislator. Vendors must agree to supply Legislative Administrative Services with required paperwork and accept automated clearing house (ACH) direct deposit payments.

KANSAS FINANCES 2021-2025

KANSAS GENERAL FUND TAXES (in millions)	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	% change '21-'25
Income Taxes (All)	\$5,318m	\$5,704m	\$6,068m	\$5,969m	\$6,038m	+ 13.5%
SALES & EXCISE TAXES (All)	\$3,382m	\$3,834m	\$3,870m	\$3,539m	\$3,475m	+ 2.7%
TOTAL TAX REVENUE w/interest	\$8,979m	\$9,830m	\$10,477m	\$10,400m	\$10,393m	+15.7%
ALL TRANSFERS (KDOT, etc-net)	(\$113m)	\$1,905m)	(\$1,194m)	(\$371m)	(\$503m)	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS	\$8,868m	\$7,936m	\$9,283m	\$10,140m	\$10,022m	+13.0%
EXPENDITURES						
K-12 Schools w/KPERS	\$3,946m	\$4,134m	\$4,389m	\$4,570m	\$4,740m	+ 20.1%
Higher Education	\$ 833m	\$ 902m	\$ 1,013m	\$1,149m	\$ 1,242m	+ 55.1%
General Government	\$ 250m	\$ 585m	\$ 404m	\$ 324m	\$ 361m	+ 44.4%
Judiciary and Public safety	\$ 543m	\$636m	\$ 708m	\$ 768m	\$ 891m	+ 64.0%
Health/ Human Services caseload	\$ 994m	\$1,135m	\$1,217m	\$ 1,412m	\$ 1,642m	+ 65.2%
Human services and all other costs	\$ 702m	\$804m	\$ 997m	\$ 1,142m	\$ 1,390m	+ 98.0%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE	\$7,268m	\$8,196m	\$8,727m	\$ 9,365m	\$10,315m	+ 41.9%
ENDING CASH BALANCE	\$2,095m	\$1,835m	\$2,410m	\$3,221m	\$2,933m	

This data is gathered from the Governors January budget report adjusted for changes made by the legislature and updated information from the November 2025 Consensus Revenue Estimate. Further data is from an updated SGF Outlook from the Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD) accessed 12/15/25. The 13.5% increases in Income tax revenue (over 5 years) is after the legislature reduced the tax rate on taxes in 2022 and 2025. Ditto for sales tax increases. Total Cash-on-hand does not reflect the additional \$1,890m the legislature has placed in our "Budget Stabilization fund". Total All Funds spending in Kansas rose again in FY2025 to a record \$27.0 billion.

CHILD CARE REGULATION REFORMS (FINALLY!!)

The cost and availability of child care has been widely discussed for years in Kansas around both the dinner table and the halls of the Capitol. The last major changes in regulation came in 2011, with the last major financial incentives for child care centers coming from various federal COVID funds 2021-2024. Republicans and Democrats had differing ideas on reforms with little movement to compromise.

All of that changed over the last 2 years with the Governors office and legislative leaders in the House and Senate actively looking for mutually agreeable solutions. HB2045 took the first version of the Kansas Office of Early Childhood and made it the overseer of all the policies, regulations and monies for early childhood education. Prior to this at least three different Kansas agencies were involved. The new agency director will be appointed by the Governor, with Senate confirmation. Conservatives in Topeka were not excited about "adding" another new government agency. Liberals were not excited about easing regulations on the smallest (4 kids or less) home based child care providers, or accepting greater opt-out provisions to parents opposed to certain vaccines. But in the end the bill passed 30-10 in the Senate and 99-23 in the House and has now become law.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS MOVE FORWARD!

The Kansas House and Senate have sent many important issues to the voters for a final verdict in the last 20 years. This would be constitutional amendments that permanently change Kansas law.

In 2025 the legislature approved two new amendments by an overwhelming (90-28 and 84-40 vote in the House).

The first is HCR5004 that amends the Kansas constitution so that non-citizens will not be allowed to vote. Currently state law only speaks of who can vote. In other states radical groups have taken the lack of a clear statement of who "can't vote" that they have allowed non-citizens to vote. HCR5004 stops this and it will be on the ballot in November of 2026.

SCR1611 is another amendment whose goal is to let the voters decide who sits on the Kansas Supreme Court rather than the current method of a small 9-member committee (composed mostly of lawyers) selecting the final choices. Direct election of Supreme Court members is the most common method in the nation and was the Kansas method for the first 100 years of statehood.

The legislature also looked at the Federal method, where the Governor selects and the Senate confirms, but decided that the voters are the best ultimate judge of character and common sense jurisprudence. The current Kansas court is considered to be far left in its legal and constitutional opinions. Having the people vote, it is argued, would bring the court more to the right and to a place where its arguments would enjoy broader support.

This vote will be highly contested and will be on the August 4th ballot in 2026.

Improving Kansas Election Laws

Election law has become a major issue in Kansas and nationally over the last 20 years. In national comparisons, Kansas ranks in the top 10 states with the most secure processes and policies. In 2025 election security and integrity remained a key issue for our House Elections committee. SB4 we passed (over the Governors veto) to require all advance ballots to be in by 7 pm on election day with no exceptions. We prohibited federal government funds (again despite a Governors veto) from being used for election activities unless first approved by the Kansas legislature with SB5. We worked on the integrity of voter rolls in HB2020 and HB2016 requiring the names of non-citizens with drivers license to be regularly checked to insure they are not voting and to require county officials to check even online obituary sources to remove the names of voters who have passed away.

The House banned progressives favored "ranked choice voting" method on a 86-37 party line vote (SB6). We reduced the unilateral power of the Governor to fill vacancies for US Senator, State Treasurer and Insurance Commissioner (SB105) and forced school districts and municipalities to no longer hold off-year elections on any date other than the first Tuesday of March, August or November (HB2022).

The overarching theme in all this was to make the voting or nomination process more fair, transparent, and secure. The unstated goal, within the Committee, is for our great state to receive the number one ranking in the nation for election integrity law!!

KANSAS NEW BUDGET POLICY

The Kansas State General fund (SGF) budget represents the money directly controlled by the legislature and not just merely pass-thru federal dollars for welfare, highways, or education. The SGF budget had just hit a record \$7.0 billion in FY2019 when I first came to Topeka. The Governors annual "State of the State" speech was a major event as the governors proposed budget was revealed on that day. The legislature had a process to review and modify the budget but too often merely rubber-stamped what was proposed and sent it to the House or Senate floor. The result, fueled by rapidly growing tax revenue, was that double digit spending increases were not uncommon. From FY2021-FY2025 Kansas general fund spending went up \$3.05 billion (42%) in 4 years to a record \$10.3 billion. This trajectory is not sustainable.

So in 2025 a new Legislative Budget Committee was set up to present a "legislative budget" which then became the benchmark for all House budget committees. Rather than the House and Senate working separately on the budget, the House was given priority to work out a budget that then went to the Senate for final approval. Governor Kelly disapproved but had little leverage to change the process other than her line item veto power.

Seeing a Republican leadership that is, at last, willing to put it's foot down to stop the explosive growth of Kansas government is definitely a positive step. Spending is still projected to go up 5% between FY25 and FY26. Whether these budget policy changes can genuinely control spending is still uncertain, but we now have reason for hope

PROPERTY TAX HELP IS DEBATED!

Property taxes have for decades been the most unpopular type of tax in Kansas. In recent years home valuations have sky-rocketed 35-40% fueling the dislike. Kansas Legislative Research showed that statewide property taxes increased \$1.1 BILLION in the last 3 years (FY2025 vs FY 2022). Voters email legislators, tell pollsters or focus groups, or tell candidates on the doorstep that this is unacceptable. Kansas legislators hear you, but the answer remains unclear.

In the 2025 session the Senate moved first approving 28-11 a constitutional amendment that capped annual valuation increases to 3%. This Senate Tax committee bill was very coolly received by the House Tax committee. Kansas law (indeed it is in our Constitution!) is predicated on using the actual market value of property to figure taxes. An artificial cap doesn't actually reduce taxes at all. It actually benefits big urban markets like Johnson County and (in effect) shifts more of the tax burden to rural and small town areas where the housing market is flat or declining. The House proposed instead a "rolling average" appraisal system as being less disruptive to market value but still providing some potential relief. The Senate countered with a new constitutional amendment that had a 4% limit on valuation increases. That measure passed the Senate 27-13 on March 27th but failed miserably in the House on a 37-88 defeat. The Senate retaliated by taking up the House "rolling average" bill and gutting it with their original 3% appraisal cap. That gutted bill went nowhere.

Two property tax relief measures passed both chambers. SB35 eliminated the 1.5 mill tax levy that Kansas levy's for state building maintenance. It passed the House 96-26 and the Senate 40-0. It saves taxpayers about \$80 million annually. And HB2231 exempted off-road vehicles, watercraft and certain trailers from property tax was another tax relief measure. It passed almost unanimously in both chambers.

Legislators feel a certain frustration with this issue since literally zero property tax levy's come from the state. It is all big spending city councils or reckless school boards pushing ever larger bond issues that actually push up property tax rates. If local spending was under control the "appraised value" issue would not ultimately matter at all.

The legislature has provided exemptions from property tax increases to seniors (with non-social security incomes under \$55,000 and home values under \$350,000), many disabled veterans, and with stronger Homestead tax refunds.

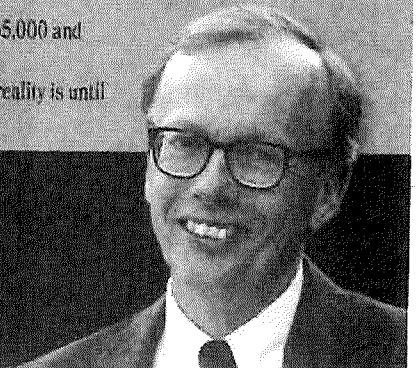
The state can set up processes like the Revenue Neutral act, or mandate automatic votes on property tax increases but the reality is until local spending is under control local taxes will never be under control.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | HOUSE DISTRICT 104

PAUL WAGGONER

waggonerforkansas@gmail.com | 620-899-2845

P.O. Box 3184 Hutchinson, KS 67504 | fax: 620-662-0610





STATE REPRESENTATIVE | HOUSE DISTRICT 104

PAUL WAGGONER

waggonerforkansas@gmail.com | 620-899-2845

P.O. Box 3184 Hutchinson, KS 67504 | fax: 620-662-0610

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE | HOUSE DISTRICT 104

PAUL WAGGONER

2025 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear Constituents and Friends:

The Kansas Legislature did all of its work in a strict 90 day session in 2025. This was facilitated by the stronger, and more cohesive, Republican majorities sent to Topeka after the 2024 elections. We now have 88 Republican House members (out of 125) and 31 Republican Senators (out of 40).

One fruit of this stronger GOP majority is that the Legislature began in 2025 to set up the building blocks to restrain out of control Kansas spending! For the first time in 70 years a legislative budget committee presented a state budget prior to that of the Governor. In our House budget committee's we followed the lead of this House Appropriations Committee effort. In addition to this switch in focus, we passed SB14 which sets up a continuous budget in the event a state budget bill can't pass the House or Senate. In those cases we automatically fall back to the previous years budget for the year going forward. This empowers fiscal conservatives with an attractive taxpayer-friendly option to continually spending more money.

A grand compromise was reached between the Legislature and the Governor in HB2045 to establish the Kansas Office of Early Childhood which has all child care center regulations under one agency only. Further, many regulations were loosened, to both match what other states are doing, and to help new child care providers in Kansas get set up and established more easily.

We aimed to improve state governance by approving HB2160 which is the Kansas Municipal Whistleblower Act. This bill provides new legal protections for municipal employees who report conduct that is dangerous or unlawful. Along the same line was HB2217 which gives the inspector general more authority to investigate problems in state grants or for food and health assistance programs. And we removed unnecessary college educational requirements for many state government positions (SB166). A final example of this pragmatic approach in removing unnecessary regulations was HB2291 which provides a 2-year test period for new companies to skip burdensome regulations.

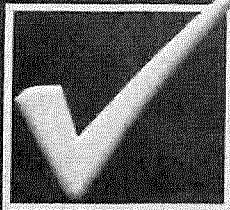
The 2025 session ended with a record number of successful veto overrides (14 out of 19 bills), plus a half-dozen key bills from House Elections to improve the security and processes we use on Election Day.

I truly am honored to serve you in being Vice-Chairman of House Elections Committee and a member of House Fed and State, House Insurance and Higher Education Budget Committees. Our new session starts on January 12th.

I genuinely appreciate hearing from voters across the 104th District and on all sides of the issues. The best way to contact me is to call my office at 620-662-0181 or on my cell phone 620-889-2845. For email, please use my House account at paul.waggoner@house.ks.gov.

Until we meet again!

Rep. Paul Waggoner, District 104



2026 LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

I want to hear from you! Please complete this survey below. If you do not find that there is adequate room to leave your comments, please include them on a separate sheet or send me an email at waggonerforkansas@gmail.com. Once I'm back in Topeka you can also use 785-296-7196 or paul.waggoner@house.ks.gov.

Please return the survey to: Representative Paul Waggoner, P.O. Box 3184 Hutchinson, KS67504-3184.

Or you can fax your response to 620-662-0610.

Sign-up to receive District News and Updates, or email me at waggonerforkansas@gmail.com

Name _____

Email _____

1) PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND REFORM

The legislature repealed the 1.5 mill state property tax for state building improvements in 2025. Otherwise all other property taxes (typically 150-180 mills) are due to city, county, township or school board spending. Some have called for limits on property valuation assessments or mandatory voter approval of ALL mill levy increases. What are your thoughts on property tax reform in 2026?

- ☐ We need to focus on better exemptions for our low income and/or senior population
- ☐ We need to limit valuation increases to 3-4% a year to try and control property taxes
- ☐ The real problem is excessive spending by city and county governments, or our local school boards. We need limits on spending increases as the best way to limit tax increases!
- ☐ We need to switch more of the tax burden to sales taxes or income taxes and by that reduce our property tax burden
- ☐ Other _____

2) ^{SP}CONTROLLING GOVERNMENT SPENDING – BEST OPTIONS!

The legislature has begun writing their own budget as an alternative to the Governor's. Prior to that in Kansas our State General fund (SGF) spending went up 42% in the last 4 years (FY21-FY25). Is there any hope we can change this trajectory?

- ☐ I am still not really concerned about state spending levels and see no real problem
- ☐ I want the legislature to mandate that state spending cannot exceed inflation
- ☐ The legislature should seek a constitutional amendment (like Colorado's TABOR law) that keeps spending from exceeding inflation and rebate excess money to taxpayers
- ☐ The legislature should vote down any budget that exceeds inflation and just go back to the prior years spending levels
- ☐ The legislature should simply do across the board % cuts to literally bring state spending down (current spending went up 10.1% in 2025 and projected 5.2% in 2026).
- ☐ Unsure/Other _____

3) SPORTS WAGERING – ROUND 2

Kansas approved wagering on college and professional sports in 2022. This gambling continues to grow but generates relatively little money for the state. And the money generated mostly goes for a special fund to build a taxpayer financed stadium for a pro sports team. What do you think of all this?

- ☐ Sports wagering is a mistake and I think we should restrict it greatly
- ☐ Sports wagering is not great but we need to focus more on taxpayers having something to show for it and not just having all the money going to casinos and websites.
- ☐ We should ban the use of sports wagering tax money to pay for the KC Chiefs or Royals stadiums!
- ☐ The State of Kansas should be totally hands off and let unregulated off-shore sites be active participants and not just the big US platforms (Draftkings, FanDuel, etc)
- ☐ Other options: _____

2026 ISSUES NEEDING ATTENTION

A number of issues were legally solved in 2025 for Kansas (including gender transition surgery on minors, foreigners owning farmland near military bases, child care center regulation and more). In 2026 we can tackle more issues!. This can range from property taxes and sports wagering to school choice, AI, medical marijuana, inflation and cost of living, DEI, election integrity, cell phones in schools and more. Of all these issues (and any others you can think of!!!) please list your top 3 concerns for the 2026 legislature:

- ☐ TOP ISSUE: _____
- ☐ 2nd Issue: _____
- ☐ 3rd Issue: _____
- ☐ Other issues of concern: _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THE ISSUES:

