

# VOTE COUNT

July 2016  
**Kansas PTA**<sup>®</sup>

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**Advocacy**

## Education Policy Votes: Southeast KS Region 5

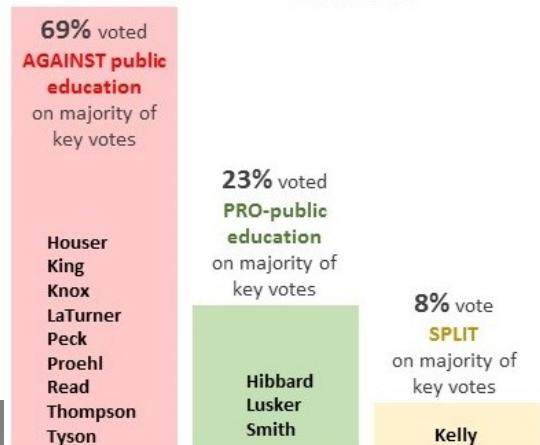
**THE BILLS & PTA POSITION.** Key votes are reviewed to profile current Kansas legislators' positions on public education policy. The past several legislative sessions have been alarming, in part, for their repeated attempts to diminish the K-12 public school system, often in the name of *reform*.<sup>1</sup> This Vote Count reflects the scope of policy positions pushed by legislative leadership, which run in opposition to nearly all of Kansas PTA Legislative Priorities<sup>2</sup> and often originate from the pool of ALEC<sup>3</sup> free-market template bills. Over a dozen votes since 2011 are presented here, though not intended to be a comprehensive list. Half of the bills were worked through both chambers, but a number of critical single-chamber votes are included as well.

This Vote Count profile starts with PTA Legislative Priority 1 and the *block grant* vote to repeal the 1992 school finance formula and ends with our Priority 10 and the vote to prohibit local schools boards from establishing their own weapons policies to keep schools safe. A green ✓ indicates a vote in alignment with Kansas PTA's pro-public education legislative platform and a red ✗ indicates a vote against PTA pro-public education positions.

### PTA Legislative Priorities & Key Votes

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1: Equitable &amp; Adequate School Finance Formula</p>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2015 H Sub SB 7 Repealed the constitutionally sound 1992 school finance formula and replaced with the unconstitutional block grants, freezing public education state aid for three years.<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>   |
| <p>3: Uphold Article 6 of the Kansas Constitution</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2015 HB 2104 Moved local school board elections to the partisan fall cycle, in opposition to educators and local communities.<sup>5</sup></li> <li>▪ 2012 HCR 5006 (<i>House only</i>)   2016 SCR 1602 (<i>Senate only</i>) Attempted to restrict the Kansas judicial branch from holding the legislative branch accountable to their constitutional obligation.<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>  |
| <p>4: Support State Education Standards</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2016 Sub Sub HB 2292 (<i>House only</i>) Attempted to ban Common Core education standards, including a ban on advanced academics (IB, AP, ACT) and Kansas College &amp; Career Ready Education Standards.<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>   |
| <p>5: Oppose Vouchers, Tax Credit Scholarships</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2014 S Sub HB 2506   2015 S Sub HB 2109 Established the voucher-like Tax Credit <i>Scholarship</i> program, diverting public funds with a 70% tax credit for payment into a <i>scholarship</i> for private school tuition and then expanded the program to include higher income students and tax credit for tithing.<sup>8</sup></li> <li>▪ 2016 SB 410 (<i>Senate only</i>) Attempted to establish a voucher program via foster care, transferring public funds with no accountability mandate, to private schools who can reject students at will.<sup>9</sup></li> </ul>   |
| <p>7: Maintain Quality Charter School Guidelines</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2013 HB 2319 Established the Innovative School Districts program, essentially chartering school districts all at once, using a partisan approval process and teacher licensure waivers.<sup>10</sup></li> </ul>  |
| <p>8: Promote Professional Teaching Communities, Recruitment &amp; Retention of Educators</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2011 Sub HB 2229 (<i>House only</i>)   2013 HB 2221   2016 SB 469 (<i>Senate only</i>) Attempted to undermine the Professional Negotiations Act (PNA) by hindering the process for teacher representation.<sup>11</sup></li> <li>▪ 2014 S Sub HB 2506 Eliminated the protection of teacher due process, several teacher licensure requirements, and mandated the cost-cutting <i>K-12 Efficiency</i> study.<sup>12</sup></li> <li>▪ 2015 S Sub HB 2353 Adopted the collaborative agreement among education stakeholders to amend terms to the PNA.<sup>13</sup></li> <li>▪ 2015 SB 56 (<i>Senate only</i>) Attempted to repeal educator's affirmative defense, such that teachers could be criminally prosecuted for instructing students on materials parents deem offensive.<sup>14</sup></li> </ul> |
| <p>10: Promote Safe School Communities</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2015 SB 45 Legalized conceal and carry of guns on college campuses, effective 2017, overruling local weapons policies.<sup>15</sup></li> <li>▪ 2016 HB 2502 Restricted local school board control over district weapons policies, prohibiting school districts from adopting policies preventing possession or use of air guns on school property.<sup>16</sup></li> </ul>   |

**Southeast Kansas Legislators' Voting Records on Education Policy 2011 to 2016**



Advanced Voting for Primaries begins July 13 thru Aug 2

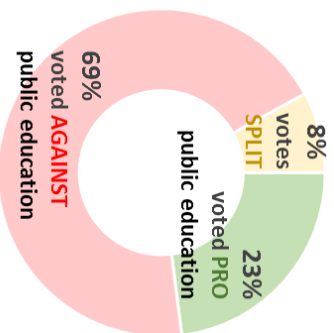
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Publication of Kansas PTA Advocacy Team (2016). Denise Sultz, Josh Halperin, Devin Wilson, Mary Sinclair, PhD

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**THE VOTE COUNTS.** Less than a quarter of these southeast Kansas legislators supported pro-public education policies, in alignment with Kansas PTA legislative platform and priorities, over the past six years:

## Southeast KS PTA Region 5 Legislators' Voting Records on Public Education Positions | 2011 to 2016



City	Dist	Office	Name	2015	2015	2012 / 2016	2016	2014	2015	2016	2013	2011 / 2016	2013	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	First Term	Party
Home City				2015	2015	HCR 5006 / SCR 1602	2016	2014	2015	2016	2013	HB 2229 / SB 469	2013	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016		
Frontenac	2	House	Lusker, Adam	✓	✓	na	✓	✓	✓	na	na	na	na	✓	✓	na	na	na	na	2014	D
Pittsburg	3	House	Smith, Charles	✗	✓	na	✓	na	✗	na	na	na	na	na	✓	na	na	na	na	2015	R
Toronto	13	House	Hibbard, Larry	✓	✓	na	✓	✓	✓	na	✓	na	na	✓	✓	na	na	na	na	2013	R

City	Dist	Office	Name	2015	2015	HCR 5006 / SCR 1602	2016	2014	2015	2016	2013	2011 / 2016	2013	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	First Term	Party
Home City				2015	2015	HCR 5006 / SCR 1602	2016	2014	2015	2016	2013	HB 2229 / SB 469	2013	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016		
Independence	11	House	Kelly, Jim	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	na	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	na	na	na	na	2011	R

City	Dist	Office	Name	2015	2015	HCR 5006 / SCR 1602	2016	2014	2015	2016	2013	2011 / 2016	2013	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	First Term	Party
Altoona	14	Senate	Knox, Forrest	✗	✗	na	na	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	2005	R
Columbus	1	House	Houser, Michael	✗	✗	na	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	na	✗	✓	✓	na	na	na	na	2013	R
Havana	12	House	Peck, Virgil	■	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	na	✗	✗	✗	✓	na	na	na	na	2005	R
Independence	15	Senate	King, Jeff +	✗	✗	✗	na	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	2011	R
Iola	9	House	Thompson, Kent	✓	✗	na	✓	✗	✓	na	na	na	na	✗	■	na	na	na	na	2013	R
Mound City	4	House	Read, Marty	✗	✗	na	✗	✗	✗	na	na	na	na	✗	na	na	na	na	na	2013	R
Parker	12	Senate	Tyson, Caryn	✗	✗	na	na	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	2011	R
Parsons	7	House	Proehl, Richard	✗	✓	na	✓	✓	✗	na	na	✗	✗	✓	na	na	na	na	na	2005	R
Pittsburg	13	Senate	LaTurner, Jacob	✗	✓	na	na	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	2013	R

- KEY**
- ✓ voted PRO -public education
  - ✗ voted AGAINST public education policy
  - absent or abstaining
  - na not applicable, legislator had not yet taken office
  - \* break in service from either House or Senate
  - + not running for re-election in 2016

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Publication of Kansas PTA Advocacy Team (2016) ■ Denise Sultz, Josh Halprin, Devin Wilson, Mary Sinclair, PhD ■ [kansaspta@gmail.com](mailto:kansaspta@gmail.com)

- 1 Kansas City Star (Rose, July 2, 2016); Wichita Eagle (Eweld, April 5, 2016).
- 2 Kansas PTA Legislative Platform and Priorities (2015-16).
- 3 American Legislative Exchange Council, (retrieved, 2016); ALEC, KPI and Education "Reform" (Game On for Kansas Schools, retrieved 2016).
- 4 Kansas Legislature, H Sub SB 7, (2015); ALEC Student Center Funding Act (2010).
- 5 Kansas Legislature, HB 2104, (2015); ALEC American City County Exchange (2015).
- 6 Kansas Legislature, HCR 5006 (2012, House only); SCR 1602 (2016, Senate only).
- 7 Kansas Legislature, Sub Sub HB 2292, (2016).
- 8 Kansas Legislature, S Sub HB 2506, (2014); S Sub HB 2109, (2015); ALEC Great Schools Tax Credit Program (2009).
- 9 Kansas Legislature, SB 410, (2016, Senate only); ALEC Foster Child Scholarship Program Act (2014).
- 10 Kansas Legislature, HB 2319, (2013); ALEC Innovation Schools and School Districts Act (retrieved 2016).
- 11 Kansas Legislature, Sub HB 2229, (2011, House only); HB 2221, (2013); SB 469, (2016, Senate only); ALEC Public Employee Freedom Act (1999).
- 12 Kansas Legislature, S Sub HB 2506, (2014); ALEC Council on Efficient Government Act (2014).
- 13 Kansas Legislature, S Sub HB 2353, (2015); KASB, KNFA, KSSA and USA Kansas agree on proposed changes to PNA, (2015).
- 14 Kansas Legislature, SB 56 (2015, Senate only).
- 15 Kansas Legislature, SB 45, (2014).
- 16 Kansas Legislature, HB 2502, (2016).