

# VOTE COUNT

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

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**Advocacy**

## March-to-Zero Income Tax & Budget Votes: JoCo

**THE BILLS.** Key votes are reviewed to profile current Kansas legislators' positions on the 2012 march-to-zero income tax policy. At least ten major budget bills have been worked by both chambers since 2012. This profile starts with Governor Brownback's initial tax policy experiment (HB 2117) and is followed by nine bills that indicate whether legislators voted **YES** to continue the march-to-zero and retain the business tax exemption or voted **NO** to oppose the lack of structural changes in tax policy required to return Kansas to a more reliable and balanced revenue stream.

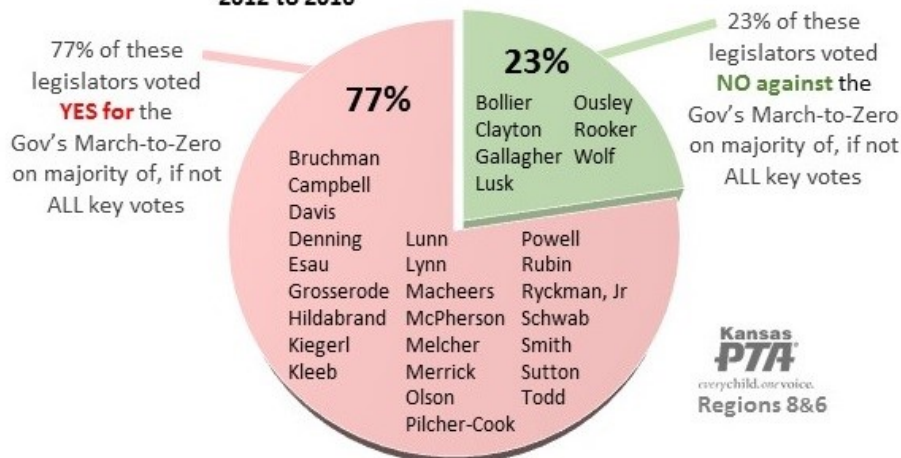
- 2012 SSub HB 2117 Passed Governor Brownback's 2012 March-to-Zero Income Tax Policy, without restoring \$435M in state aid to K12 public education budget following the Great Recession. <sup>1</sup>
- 2013 HB 2059 Continued income tax deductions & protection of business tax exemption, with \$700M in state reserves. <sup>2</sup>
- 2014 SSub HB 2506 Bundled anti-public education policy (vouchers, due process, licensure), in exchange for minimal K12 budget. <sup>3</sup>
- 2014 SSub HB 2231 Patched \$329M budget shortfall with fund transfers, borrowing, fees & auctions. Depleted state reserve funds to \$380M. Preserved business tax exemptions and income tax cuts—no tax policy fix. <sup>4,5</sup>
- 2015 HSub SB 4 Patched \$800M shortfall with initial mid-year 4% cut, payment delays & transfers. No tax policy fix. <sup>6,7</sup>
- 2015 SB 228 Borrowed \$1 billion to reduce state pension (KPERs) unfunded liability. No tax policy fix. <sup>8</sup>
- 2015 HSub SB 112 Uncapped transportation (KDOT) debt ceiling to borrow \$400M more, in addition to the cumulative sweep of \$1.4B from KDOT. No tax policy fix. <sup>9,10</sup>
- 2015 HB 2109 Patched remaining budget shortfall with largest tax increase in Kansas history, highest sales tax on food and more cuts. Depleted all state reserve funds. No tax policy fix. <sup>11</sup>
- 2016 HSub SB 161 Patched \$137M budget shortfall with initial mid-year fund sweeps, one-time transfers and granting the Governor authority for more budget cuts. Sale of Kansas Bioscience Authority pending. No tax policy fix. <sup>12,13</sup>
- 2016 HSub SB 249 Patched remaining budget shortfall with delayed KPERs payment, fund transfers, fees, more higher education cuts, and delayed highway projects. Projected negative 2017 ending balance by \$174M. No tax policy fix. <sup>14,15</sup>

**THE IMPACT.** The promised economic boost from the 2012 tax policy has not materialized: reduced income tax rates have curtailed state revenues by \$1 billion, promised private-sector job growth barely reached a third of the Governor's 2015 benchmark, and Moody downgraded the state's credit rating for a third time. <sup>15</sup> Subsequently, state aid for K12 operational budgets have been reduced even further and overall K12 budgets frozen for three years, while \$570M annually in local school aid is now rerouted to be claimed as an 'increase' in state aid. <sup>16</sup>

**THE PTA POSITION.** Kansas PTA opposes this experimental tax policy because the revenue instability and reductions have impeded the legislature's obligation to make suitable provision for the equitable and adequate finance of public education, in alignment with our

Legislative Platform and Priority 2: "Kansas PTA will support efforts to restore an equitable and balanced tax policy to maintain a reliable revenue stream for public education. A policy which draws upon a combination of income, property and sales taxes has been proven by history to be a secure and sustainable approach."<sup>17</sup>

**Johnson County Kansas – Regions 8 & 6**  
**Legislators' Voting Records on**  
**Gov Brownback's March-to-Zero Income Tax Policy**  
**2012 to 2016**



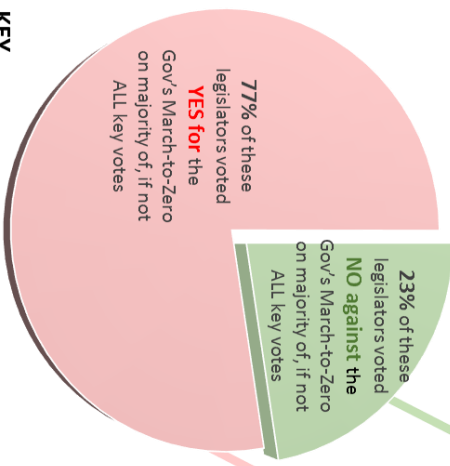
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Publication of Kansas PTA Advocacy Team (2016). Denise Sultz, Josh Halperin, Devin Wilson, Mary Sinclair, PhD

**THE VOTE COUNTS.** Less than a quarter of Johnson County legislators advocated for a long-term structural fix to Governor Brownback's march-to-zero income tax policy, voting no to the subsequent budget instability, in alignment with Kansas PTA legislative platform and priorities:

## Johnson County – KS PTA Regions 8 & 6 Legislators' Voting Records on Gov Brownback's March-to-Zero Income Tax Policy 2012 to 2016



**KEY**

- NO** vote AGAINST march-to-zero and fight for structural change
- YES** vote FOR march-to-zero income tax policy
- absent or abstaining from the vote
- na not applicable, legislator had not yet taken office
- \* break in service from either House or Senate
- + not running for re-election in 2016

	Current	2012	2013	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	Term	Party		
Home City	Dist	Office	Name	2012	2013	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	Term	Party
Fairway	25	House	Rooker, Melissa	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2013	R
Lenexa	23	House	Gallagher, Linda	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2015	R
Merrim	24	House	Ousley, Jarrod	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2014	D
Mission Hills	21	House	Bollier, Barbara	■	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2010	R
Overland Park	19	House	Clayton, Stephanie	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2013	R
Overland Park	22	House	Lusk, Nancy	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2013	D
Prairie Village	7	Senate	Wolf, Kay +	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2006	R

	Current	2012	2013	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	Term	Party		
Home City	Dist	Office	Name	2012	2013	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	Term	Party
Gardner	43	House	Sutton, William	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2012	R
Leawood	20	House	Bruchman, Rob	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2011	R
Leawood	11	Senate	Melcher, Jeff	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2013	R
Lenexa	16	House	Grosserode, Amanda	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2011	R
Olathe	26	House	Campbell, Larry	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	1997*	R
Olathe	15	House	Davis, Erin	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2014	R
Olathe	14	House	Esau, Keith	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2013	R
Olathe	121	House	Kiegehl, Mike	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2005*	R
Olathe	9	Senate	Lynn, Julia	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2006	R
Olathe	23	Senate	Olson, Robert	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2011	R
Olathe	30	House	Powell, Randy	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2015	R
Olathe	78	House	Ryckman, Ron Jr	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2013	R
Olathe	49	House	Schwab, Scott	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2003	R
Overland Park	8	Senate	Denning, Jim	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2011	R
Overland Park	48	House	Kieeb, Marvin	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2009	R
Overland Park	28	House	Lunn, Jerry	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2013	R
Overland Park	8	House	McPherson, Craig	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2013	R
Overland Park	21	Senate	Smith, Greg	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2011	R
Overland Park	29	House	Todd, James	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2013	R
Shawnee	17	House	Hildabrand, Brett	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2011	R
Shawnee	39	House	Macheras, Charles	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2013	R
Shawnee	10	Senate	Plicher-Cook, Mary	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2009	R
Shawnee	18	House	Rubin, John +	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2011	R
Stilwell	27	House	Merrick, Ray +	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2011	R

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- 1 Kansas Legislature, S Sub HB 2117, (2012); Myth Busters, KS PTA. (2011).
- 2 Kansas Legislature, HB 2059, (2013).
- 3 Kansas Legislature, S Sub HB 2506, (2014).
- 4 Kansas Legislature, S Sub HB 2231, (2014).
- 5 The Kansas Budget (Aug 2014).
- 6 Kansas Legislature, H Sub SB 4 (2015).
- 7 Kansas Center for Economic Growth, (May 2015); Kansas City Star (Cooper, Feb 5, 2015).
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- 11 Kansas Legislature, HB 2109, (2015).
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- 17 Kansas PTA Legislative Platform and Priorities (2015).