

# VOTE COUNT

June 2016

**Kansas  
PTA**

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## March-to-Zero Income Tax & Budget Votes: Region 5

**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.

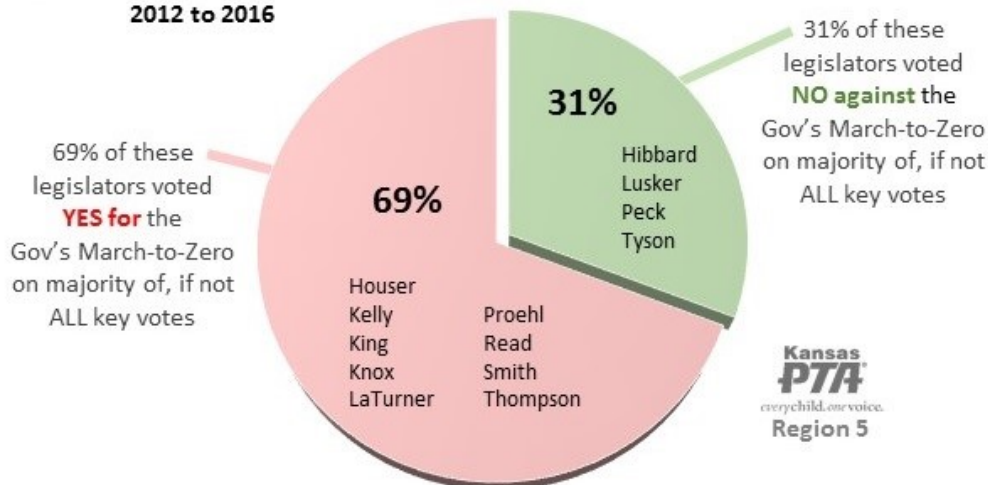
- 2012 S Sub HB 2117 Passed Governor Brownback's 2012 March-to-Zero Income Tax Policy, without restoring \$435M in state aid to K12 public education budget following the Great Recession. <sup>1</sup>
- 2013 HB 2059 Continued income tax deductions & protection of business tax exemption, with \$700M in state reserves. <sup>2</sup>
- 2014 S Sub HB 2506 Bundled anti-public education policy (vouchers, due process, licensure), in exchange for minimal K12 budget. <sup>3</sup>
- 2014 S Sub 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 H Sub 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 H Sub 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 H Sub 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 H Sub 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>14,13</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>

**Southeast Kansas – Region 5  
Legislators' Voting Records on  
Gov Brownback's March-to-Zero Income Tax Policy  
2012 to 2016**



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**THE VOTE COUNTS.** About a third of these southeast Kansas 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:

## KS PTA Region 5 Legislators' Voting Records on Gov Brownback's March-to-Zero Income Tax Policy 2012 to 2016



	Current	2012	2013	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	First Term	Party
Home City	Dist 2	HB 2117	HB 2059	HB 2506	HB 2231	SB 4	SB 228	SB 112	HB 2109	SB 161	SB 249										2014	D
Frontenac	House 12	na	na	NO	NO	na	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	2014	R
Havana	House 12	YES	NO	YES	YES	na	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	2011	R
Parker	Senate 12	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	2011	R
Toronto	House 13	na	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	2013	R

	Current	2012	2013	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	First Term	Party
Home City	Dist 14	HB 2117	HB 2059	HB 2506	HB 2231	SB 4	SB 228	SB 112	HB 2109	SB 161	SB 249												2015	R
Altoona	Senate 1	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	2005	R	
Columbus	House 11	na	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	2013	R	
Independence	House 11	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	2011	R	
Independence	Senate 15	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	2011	R	
Iola	House 9	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2013	R	
Mound City	House 4	na	YES	YES	YES	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2013	R	
Parsons	House 7	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	2005	R	
Pittsburg	Senate 13	na	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	2013	R	
Pittsburg	House 3	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	2015	R	

- 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

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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 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).
- 8 Kansas Legislature, SB 228, (2015).
- 9 Kansas Legislature, H Sub SB 112, (2015).
- 10 Topeka Capital-Journal, (Carpenter, Jan 8, 2016).
- 11 Kansas Legislature, HB 2109, (2015).
- 12 Kansas Legislature, H Sub SB 161, (2016).
- 13 The Kansas Budget (April 2016).
- 14 Kansas Legislature, H Sub SB 249, (2016).
- 15 The Kansas Budget (Dec 2015); Bloomberg View (March 2016); Wichita Eagle (Lowry, Jan 27, 2016; Leifer, May 3, 2016); MainStream Coalition (June 2015);
- 16 Tallman Education Report (July 21, 2015; Oct 15, 2014); The Kansas Budget (Oct 2015; Sept 2015); Topeka Capital-Journal (Llopis-Jepsen, June 17, 2014).
- 17 Kansas PTA Legislative Platform and Priorities (2015).