

HOUSE DISTRICT 100, REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

WHAT CANDIDATES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE ISSUES

Daniel Hawkins

Age: 51
Occupation: Employee benefits insurance consultant
Education: Bachelor's degree



Hawkins

Experience: One term as precinct committeeman
Phone: 316-722-7307
E-mail: dan@vote4hawkins.org
Website: vote4hawkins.org

Are the income tax cuts Gov. Sam Brownback signed into law a good thing for Kansas?

Yes, I believe that tax cuts are essential to fuel the economy. I think this will be revisited in the 2013 legislative session.

What further changes, if any, would you advocate in the state's overall tax laws?

Property tax relief and sales tax on groceries.

How would you change the state's laws or budget to improve K-12 education?

A school's budget should be based on outcomes, with most of the money being spent in the classrooms. Those school systems that subscribe to this thought will survive and prosper. Those that don't should be merged with systems that do operate effectively.

What was the most meaningful event or experience in your life, besides births and marriages?

My military experience was both rewarding and important in shaping who I am and how I approach life. Life is about being disciplined and making good decisions. If you ask my children what I have taught them, they will say that dad says every decision you make in life has a consequence. That consequence may be positive or negative. You must be willing to accept the consequence of your actions or decisions and learn from them.

Bridget Schneider

Age: 37
Occupation: Home-maker
Education: Bachelor's degree, Friends University



Schneider

Experience: None
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Are the income tax cuts Gov. Sam Brownback signed into law a good thing for Kansas?

I do believe the tax cuts are good for Kansas. Government growth has become burdensome on our families. Reforming the tax code will both spur growth and change how future legislatures prioritize spending initiatives. I believe government needs to learn to live by the same budget constraints as our families.

What further changes, if any, would you advocate in the state's overall tax laws?

I would support the continued reduction of the personal income tax. The disparity between an individual's personal income tax and that of LLC's and subchapter S corporations needs to be addressed.

How would you change the state's laws or budget to improve K-12 education?

I believe both revenue and spending decisions need to be more local. Centralizing K-12 funding decisions to the state and federal governments has transferred education decisions away from families.

What was the most meaningful event or experience in your life, besides births and marriages?

Growing up on a farm, I learned the value of hard work. Difficulty and suffering strengthen us, and the best seeds to plant are gratitude and kindness.

WHERE TO MEET, HEAR THE CANDIDATES

■ **Butler County Republican candidates** will speak at a 2012 primary forum from 6 to 7:30 tonight at El Dorado High School, Commons Area, 401 McCollum Road, El Dorado. The event is free and open to the public. All Butler County Republican candidates are invited.

■ **Candidates in western Sedgwick County** will speak at a forum organized by the Goddard Chamber of Commerce at 7 tonight at Goddard City Hall, 118 N. Main Street, Goddard. The free forum is open to the public. Candidates for county commissioner and for seats in state House District 101 and state Senate District 26 will attend the forum. Call 316-208-3262 for more

information.

■ **Republican candidates for Kansas Senate** will speak at a forum hosted by the Wichita Pachyderm Club from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday on the ninth floor of the Bank of America Building, 100 N. Broadway. Candidates in Districts 25, 26, and 31 – Michael O'Donnell, Jean Schodorf, Dick Kelsey, Dan Kerschen, Carolyn McGinn and Gary Mason – are expected to attend. The event, including a buffet lunch, costs \$10.

■ **Sedgwick County judicial and district attorney candidates** will speak at a forum sponsored by the Wichita Women Attorneys Association at 7 p.m. Monday at Wichita State Uni-

versity's Hughes Metropolitan Complex, 5015 E. 29th St. North, Wichita. The forum is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6 p.m. with a meet and greet preceding the forum.

■ **State Senate and House candidates** in west Wichita will speak at a forum hosted by the League of Women Voters at 6:30 p.m. July 26 at Reflection Ridge Retirement Home and Community, 2300 N. Tyler Road, Wichita. The forum is free and open to the public.

If you know of an event that should be included in this calendar – any event where voters can meet candidates and hear their views – send the information to Marcia Werts at mwerts@wichitaeagle.com.

BUDGET

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Other proposed fee increases:

■ **Fire inspection cost recovery:** The Wichita Fire Department is proposing a \$65 fee for drinking establishments, in addition to a \$250 licensing fee. High-hazard occupancies would also be charged a \$65 fee.

■ **Convenience payment fees:** Based on the approximately 300,000 electronic transactions occurring annually at city hall, a proposed \$1 fee per transaction would

increase revenue by an estimated \$300,000 for payment of city bills as the city expands that service in 2013. Included transactions include water bills, municipal court fines, central inspection fees, Century II tickets and purchasing police accident reports, city finance director Kelly Carpenter said.

■ **Pre-sentence investigation fees for drug court defendants:** No estimates are available for these fees, which had been funded by the state.

Highlights from the proposed expense cuts include:

■ **Resetting the transit subsidy:** City staff proposes using the remaining \$1.2 million in the contingency

reserve fund to supplement transit spending through 2014. West-side bus routes would be reconfigured without eliminating any services, Manning said.

■ **Cutting fuel use by 3 percent in 2013 and 5 percent in 2014,** generating an estimated \$120,000 in 2013 and \$270,000 in 2014.

■ **Eliminating Sister Cities travel to reduce the travel budget by \$11,200.**

■ **No funding increase for economic development:** The budgeted amount for the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition would remain at \$300,000, reducing budget projections for 2013 and 2014 by a total

of \$75,000.

Today's meeting is the latest in two months of budget sessions between Layton and the council, including a workshop and several one-on-one meetings.

Council members will take public comment today, schedule a public hearing for August and plan another Twitter town hall.

"Not a lot of comments came through," Layton said about the late June social media effort. "We're going to try to publicize this one more and get more dialogue going."

Reach Bill Wilson at 316-268-6290 or bwilson@wichitaeagle.com.

RULINGS

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Summitlawn, southeast of Central and Ridge Road.

Smith pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of battery and was placed on probation May 29. A ruling in that incident "should come around before too long," Cole said.

The most recent officer-involved shooting, in which Karen Jackson was shot to death in the 700 block of North Spruce last Tuesday night, may well be resolved quicker than other reviews because Jackson acted alone and did not survive, Cole said. That means there are no criminal cases to delay the review.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation has presented information to the district attorney's office about the officer-involved shooting in Old Town on March 10, in which one person was killed and four others were wounded. But Cole said the office is still waiting on an autopsy report.

Marquez Smart, 23, was shot to death by officers after he opened fire on a crowd on Mosley Street and then refused numerous commands to drop his weapon. Authorities have not said how many of those wounded in the incident were shot by Smart and how many were wounded by bullets fired by police.

Clifford Gustus, 33, who was fired at by police as he reportedly tried to run over them while fleeing a fuel theft on Feb. 4, is set for trial Aug. 6.

Investigators are still waiting for an autopsy report in the death of Troy Lanning, who was shot by an officer on April 1 after he was chased into a residential backyard following a high-speed chase. He placed his hand into a bag and ignored repeated commands to surrender, police have said. Three co-defendants face criminal charges in the case, Cole said.

A ruling in the fatal shooting by police of a 17-year-old boy on April 13 is being delayed because of criminal cases involving his accomplices, Cole said. Bradley Ohle, 19, is set for a jury trial July 23, Eric Evans, 18, is scheduled for trial beginning Aug. 13 and Reginald Vaughn, 20, is slated for trial on Aug. 27.

Police have not released the victim's name because he was a juvenile. He was killed

and Vaughn and Evans wounded as they ran from a home robbery in the 1200 block of West Crawford, just southwest of Pawnee and Seneca. Vaughn, Evans and Ohle all face numerous charges, including kidnapping and aggravated robbery.

Ohle left the house prior to the arrival of police and was eventually arrested in Salina.

There were two officer-involved shootings on opposite sides of town on the night of June 11.

Michael Westendorff, 40, was shot and wounded by a Wichita police officer near Central and Woodlawn when he pointed an object that looked like a gun at her and then ran toward an Eastborough officer pointing it toward him.

Court records show he is set for a preliminary hearing on July 30 on a charge of aggravated escape from custody and two counts of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer. West-

endorff escaped from the Wichita work release center on May 30. Police were called when motorists saw him jumping into and out of traffic in east Wichita on the night of June 11.

About 45 minutes later in southwest Wichita, Robert McCosh III was shot when he

charged an officer with a machete. He is scheduled to go to trial on Aug. 27 on charges of attempted murder and aggravated assault of a law enforcement officer.

Reach Stan Finger at 316-268-6437 or sfinger@wichitaeagle.com.

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PRIMARY

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runs her own family as an example.

"We're a cash-only family – we don't spend what we don't have," Schneider said. Kansans should expect the same from her regarding the state budget, she said.

"Nothing is sacred when the funds aren't there."

As for education, Schneider, a former elementary schoolteacher, doesn't think schools need more money.

"We can't keep doing the same thing and expect different results," she said. Teachers "don't need more money, they need less restrictions."

Hawkins takes a slightly different approach to education but agrees that the education budget doesn't need to be increased.

"Throwing more money doesn't solve the problem," Hawkins said. "Maybe what we need to do is to start looking at some of the internal parts of the school."

Hawkins has owned his own insurance business for 21 years. He said he would bring a business approach to education and suggested possibly combining school districts to find efficiencies.

"Before we cut or add to our education budget, wouldn't it be nice to know if the system itself is operat-

ing properly?" he said.

Hawkins would apply this business logic to other areas of government.

"There are a lot of places where we can make government more efficient," he said. "I don't necessarily think cutting is the answer, but we have to have a balanced budget."

Like Schneider, Hawkins doesn't have specific areas he would cut. He said changes in taxes and regulations would encourage businesses to come to Kansas.

On taxes, Hawkins would like to see relief for grocery sales taxes and property taxes. He also is intrigued by the flat tax and "fair tax" models.

Should a "fair tax" be proposed in the House, Hawkins said he would support it.

One area Hawkins would like to focus on is getting health care for the uninsured.

Hawkins, who has specialized in employee benefits for 11 years, opposes the Affordable Healthcare Act and thinks health care should be administered at the state level.

"In Kansas, we have the ability to do that right now," he said. "Instead of redoing the entire system, why don't we subsidize that system and help the uninsured?"

Reach Sarah Tucker at 316-268-6514 or stucker@wichitaeagle.com.

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