

2012 PRIMARY ELECTION: SENATE

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of the things I think is most important is for me, I believe, what is good for the 31st District is good for our state."

Mason said he feels the campaign forced McGinn to more conservative stances, and he said he at least changed the debate.

"I just felt we weren't getting representation for our district that was consistent with the concerns and the beliefs of the people in this district," he said.

As results slowly came in from the Sedgwick County Election Commissioner's office, some grew impatient.

Kelsey sent about 50 people attending his party at the Haysville Learning Center home just before 10 p.m., complaining that it may be Wednesday before results are known.

In a speech, he said that his opponent's victory was on the strength of what Kelsey estimates was about \$100,000 spent on fliers and radio spots attacking Kelsey as a businessman and as a person. After his speech, he said Koch Industries has targeted about a dozen Republican senators, wanting to replace them with people more amenable to Koch political beliefs.

"If my opponent wins, on the basis of all this money spent in the last few days of the campaign, it will change the nature of politics in this state for a generation," Kelsey said. For one thing, he said, many people won't want to run for office and risk being savaged, as he said he was.

McGinn, who was in Newton, sent her supporters home around 10:30 p.m. without final results.

"Maybe we'll know more, and maybe we'll find out at midnight tonight watching TV from our homes," she told supporters.

Her opponent, Mason, said that McGinn very obviously moved from moderate to conservative during the campaign.

"I think her moving that way was a statement in our success as a campaign and what we were able to accomplish."

"Whatever happens tonight, I think we can feel good about that," Mason said.

Elsewhere in the state, Rep. Tom Arpke, who had strong backing from Brownback-aligned groups, took an early lead over incumbent Sen. Pete Brundgardt. Rep. Larry Powell opened a small lead over Senate President Steve Morris. And Bob Reader took a lead over incumbent Sen. Roger Reitz.

Republicans have long dominated state politics, but in 2010, limited government candidates aligned more with tea party ideals than traditional Republican thinking, took over most of state government, led by Gov. Sam Brownback.

Brownback made cutting taxes, shrinking government and privatizing services for the poor and disabled the cornerstone of his agenda. He has consistent support from the House, where Republicans hold a powerful 92-33 majority. But his plans have met resistance in the Senate, where Democrats and moderate Republicans formed a majority to block some of the most aggressive parts of Brownback's agenda.

The growing divide between Republican senators reached critical mass this year with political financing groups controlled by chambers of commerce, unions, trade



Dan and Norene Kerschen, granddaughter Abigail Kerschen and the rest of the family were on hand at Avivo Pizza to watch election results in his state Senate race.

groups and other special interests picking sides in a battle for control of the Senate, viewed as the last stronghold for traditional Republicans and the only remaining obstacle for Brownback's vision for Kansas.

That led to a deadlock on reapportionment and turned the drawing of district lines over to a federal court, which scrambled the political landscape, forcing some incumbents to run against each other and leaving some district open.

Both Kerschen and O'Donnell received help from the state and local chamber PACs, who sought out conservative candidates who tend to be more aligned with Brownback's agenda.

The Kansas Chamber of Commerce, which made the elimination of income taxes its primary goal, first targeted eight incumbent Republicans, including Carolyn McGinn and Jean Schodorf in the Wichita region. But the field grew, and at least 18 races pitted Republican senate candidates against each other, most of which feature a candidate backed by Brownback-aligned political fundraisers.

Though not a precise science, most observers feel Brownback-backed politicians could take control of the senate by controlling four more seats — enough to give them control of the calendar and the 21 votes needed to pass most legislation. That appeared to be completed with Tuesday's results. In November if Republicans can win some of the eight seats held by Democrats.

The highly divisive primary battles drew millions of dollars in campaign cash.

Heavy-hitters including the Teamsters Union, Kansas Chamber of Commerce and others poured huge donations primarily into Senate races.

Koch Industries gave \$125,000 to the Kansas Chamber of Commerce PAC, which announced support for Brownback-aligned conservative candidates late last year and gave hundreds of thousands to conservative candidates who sought to defeat incumbent

what I wanted to accomplish, and the voters decided," Herzet said.

Herzet, who has been with the Sheriff's Office for 24 years, says his next step is to continue the good work performed by his office, as well as expand the reserves and move forward with a program called Senior Patrol.



Abrams



Faust-Goudeau



Snow



State Sen. Jean Schodorf is hugged by a supporter during her election party on Tuesday evening at the Wichita Boathouse.



Bo Graves prays for Dick and Doris Kelsey at the end of a watch party for Kelsey's Senate campaign at the Learning Center in Haysville.

Republican senators.

Koch gave another \$20,000 to the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce PAC, fueling similar ads aimed at knocking out incumbent Republicans the Chamber once supported. Wichita oilman and Brownback supporter David Murfin gave \$80,000 to the state chamber to help pay for ads attacking incumbents.

On the other side, Senate President Steve Morris' Senate Republican Leadership Committee PAC pumped \$100,000 into the Kansas Jobs PAC to pay for ads attacking conservative Republicans who challenged incumbent Senators. That added to the Jobs PAC's cashflow from organized labor groups, including the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the national education association and the carpenters' union from St. Louis.

And the Jobs PAC funneled money to the Wichita-based Kansas Values PAC, which also attacked Republicans who challenged incumbent or moderate Republican senate candidates.

Moderate senate candidates had support of some gambling interests, including the PAC associated with the Kansas Star Casino in Mulvane and Phil Ruffin, who owns the closed Kansas Greyhound Park.

Individually, Schodorf and McGinn raised more money than their challengers. Scho-

dorf had \$115,000 to O'Donnell's \$72,000 and McGinn had nearly \$190,000 to Mason's \$70,000, which included more than \$23,000 in his own money.

However, the field was leveled by outside spending. The Kansas Chamber PAC invested about \$36,000 on O'Donnell and \$7,500 on Mason; and The Wichita Metro Chamber PAC, which made about \$6,200 in independent expenditures for O'Donnell and \$3,800 for Mason, according to campaign finance forms.

Schodorf benefitted from outside money as well, picking up \$15,000 from Ruffin's Kansas Wins PAC and another \$4,000 from a PAC affiliated with the Kansas National Education Association. The KNEA PAC also put about \$2,600 behind McGinn.

Kelsey was slightly out-raised by Kerschen, \$38,000 to \$44,000, and independent expenditure groups inundated voter mailboxes with pro-Kerschen and anti-Kelsey ads.

The Kansas Chamber PAC spent nearly \$36,000 backing Kerschen and the Wichita Chamber PAC kicked in \$9,600.

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STATE SENATE REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES

Here are races in which candidates backed by pro-Gov. Sam Brownback organizations such as the Kansas Chamber of Commerce face candidates who are more moderate or who do not always support the governor's proposals.
*Race settled in primary because there is no general election opponent
**Endorsed by Kansas Chamber
Results unofficial
All precincts reporting, except where noted

South-central Kansas

District 14

131 of 151 precincts reporting
Rep. John Grange 42%
Rep. Forest Knox** 58%

District 25

Michael O'Donnell** 59%
Sen. Jean Schodorf 40%

District 26*

Sen. Dick Kelsey 42%
Rep. Dan Kerschen** 57%

District 31*

Gary Mason** 54%
Sen. Carolyn McGinn 45%

District 32*

111 of 154 precincts reporting
Sen. Steve Abrams** 54%
Miranda Allen 46%

District 35*

McPherson County
Jesse Bryant 27%
Sen. Jay Emler 73%

Elsewhere

District 7

Johnson County
David Harvey** 43%
Kay Wolf 57%

District 8

Johnson County
Rep. Jim Denning** 60%
Sen. Tim Owens 40%

District 10

Johnson County
Sen. Mary Pilcher-Cook** 64%
Tom Wertz 36%

District 11

Johnson County
Rep. Pat Colloton 41%
Jim Melcher** 59%

District 12

Southeast Kansas
John Coen 44%
Rep. Caryn Tyson** 56%

District 13

Southeast Kansas
Jacob LaTurner** 57%
Sen. Bob Marshall 43%

District 15*

48 of 117 precincts reporting
Southeast Kansas
Sen. Jeff King** xx%
Sen. Dwayne Umbarger xx%

District 17

89 of 91 precincts reporting
Emporia
James Fawcett** xx%
Sen. Jeff Longbine xx%

District 20

Topeka
Rep. Joe Patton** 49%
Sen. Vicki Schmidt 51%

District 21

Johnson County
Joe Beveridge 48%
Rep. Greg Smith** 52%

District 22

Manhattan
Joe Knopp 28%
Bob Reader** 43%
Sen. Roger Rietz 29%

District 24

Salina
Rep. Tom Arpke** 56%
Sen. Pete Brungardt 44%

District 33*

177 of 195 precincts reporting
Central Kansas
Rep. Mitch Holmes** 53%
Sen. Ruth Teichman 47%

District 39*

Southwest Kansas
Sen. Steve Morris 49%
Rep. Larry Powell** 51%

Area Democratic primaries

District 25

Perry Schuckman 47%
Timothy Snow 52%

District 29

Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau 78%
KC Ohaebosim 21%

Voters turn down Andover budget increase

BY SARAH TUCKER
The Wichita Eagle

Residents of the Andover school district voted down a proposed increase in the local option budget, which is funded by district property taxes.

On Tuesday, 851 voters cast their ballots against the increase, while 732 people voted for it.

Superintendent Mark Evans said he was disappointed about the outcome but pleased to have given people the opportunity to vote.

"We will make the most of it," Evans said. "Obviously it was very close. I'm not sure everyone understood taxes were going down regardless."

The district's mill levy would have decreased no matter what the outcome. Because the measure failed, the district's mill levy will go down about 3 mills. If the LOB had passed, the mill levy would have gone down about 2.5 mills.

Evans said he wouldn't

worry about the what-ifs and planned to focus on the upcoming school year.

"They would have made a difference for kids," Evans said. "(But) we will have a great year regardless."

The 1 percent LOB increase would have generated \$433,000 for the district.

About 53 percent of the increase, or \$228,000, was to go to fill teaching staff positions, and 15 percent of the increase was to be spent on coaches and activity sponsor positions. About \$118,000, or 27 percent, would have been spent on instructional support, and \$20,000, or 5 percent, would have helped with district maintenance.

State law allows Kansas school districts to raise the LOB to a maximum of 31 percent of their general budget. However, the last 1 percent of the LOB must go to a public vote.

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Herzet, Chambers win in sheriff's races

BY SARAH TUCKER
The Wichita Eagle

Kelly Herzet was elected Butler County sheriff Tuesday, receiving nearly 70 percent of the vote.

Herzet received 4,968 votes, while Carl Enterkin received 2,236 votes.

Herzet, who was appointed sheriff approximately 15 months ago, said he was excited to be elected for the first time and attributed the victory to his positive campaign.

"I just let the people know



Herzet

"I'm going to work at 8 a.m. and (I'm going to) continue to lead the Sheriff's Office and make it the best in the state," Herzet said.

The Butler County sheriff's race got controversial when Enterkin criticized Herzet's handling of a jail death in 2007.

At the time, Herzet was a sheriff's detective and conducted a joint investigation of the death with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

Enterkin could not be reached for comment.

In Sumner County, voters

elected Darren Chambers for sheriff in the primary.

Incumbent Chambers received 1,871 votes; his opponent, Gerald Gilkey, received 743 votes.

Chambers replaced his opponent as sheriff last August when Gilkey stepped down for another job.

The two winners in the Republican primary face no opponent in November's general election.

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