Jason Probst Summary

Filed for personal bankruptcy

(Source: District of Kansas Bankruptcy Court – Wichita, Case Number: 96-12124)

Voted to let men play women's sports

(Source: SB 160, 2022 Legislative Session)

Voted for transgender surgeries for minors

(Source: SB 26, 2023 Session)

Voted to give health care to illegal aliens

(Source: HB 2066, 2019 Legislative Session)

Voted for Sanctuary Cities for Illegal Aliens

(Source: HB 2717, 2022 Session)

Supported giving illegal aliens in-state tuition

(Source: Hutchinson News, 12/28/12)

Voted for a $500 Million Tax Hike

(Source: SB 22, 2019 Legislative Session)

Voted against tax relief that reduces income, sales and property taxes. It included eliminating the social security and food sales tax.

(Source: HB 2284, 2-20-24)

Voted to let China to buy farmland

(Source: SB 172, 2024 Session)

Received over $6,300 in lobbyist gifts and meals

(Source: Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, Lobbyist Expenditure Reports)

Blog

Once had a back and forth dispute with the Kansas Reflector's Clay Wirestone over the anti-porn legislation passed by the Legislature.

In another life, I was a fiery editorial writer. Perhaps, in my time, the most fiery editorial writer in Kansas.

I learned - sometimes the hard way - that if you're going to launch a screed about a piece of policy or a personality, you had best be sure that you are right.

Earlier this week the Kansas Reflector's editorial writer Clay Wirestone published a piece titled "Don't look, kids! According to Kansas lawmakers, this is pornogrophy." The headline was followed by a photo of two men exchanging wedding rings.

The headline, and the arguments in the piece, are patently false. And in an effort to create a fire where none exists, he has provided fuel to critics who often lament that liberals wail and gnash their teeth over the slightest of slights.

Here's the opening salvo in Wirestone's piece...

"Take a good look at the photo just above these words. You should see two men exchanging rings at a same-sex marriage ceremony.

You're also seeing, according to the Kansas Legislature, the kind of pornographic content that should be walled off from those under age 18 with age-verification software. That was the consequence — intended or not — of passing Senate Bill 394. All 40 state senators voted for the legislation, including 11 Democrats. In the House, nine Democrats joined Republicans to pass the bill, 92-31."

For the record, I was one of the Democrats that voted for Senate Bill 394 - which creates an age verification requirement to access online pornography sites.

On the morning of the vote, in the comfort of my temporary Topeka home while sipping a cup of coffee, I wondered if voting for the bill might do exactly what Wirestone contends in his missive. So, as I often try to do, I did my homework. My conclusion that calm morning was quite different from Wirestone's hysterical interpretation.

SB394 relies on the definition of material harmful to minors outlined in statute. It is a long definition that includes a number of exemptions and clarifications on what is legally defined as harmful to minors.

Wirestone argues that SB394 is a direct assault on the LGBTQ+ community because the definition of harmful to minors has a specific reference to homosexuality. He pulled in the advice of media attorney Max Kautsch, who lent some legal credibility to Wirestone's off-target accusations.

Here's another snippet...

"The online age-verification bill expressly incorporates the definition of 'harmful to minors' that already exists in Kansas statutes, a phrase defined to mean 'any description, exhibition, presentation or representation, in whatever form, of … acts of … homosexuality,' " (Kautsch) told me. "The term 'homosexuality' is undefined in the law, but it could include a wide swath of conduct between two persons of the same sex, including kissing, hand-holding, and other activities that would be considered 'public displays of affection.' "

We're going to get in the weeds a bit, and get a little lawyer-y, but I think it's an important discussion to have.

The definition of harmful to minors reads: "harmful to minors" means that quality of any description, exhibition, presentation or representation, in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement or sadomasochistic abuse when the material or performance, taken as a whole or, with respect to a prosecution for an act described by subsection (a)(1), that portion of the material that was actually exposed to the view of minors, has the following characteristics:"

Then it goes on and defines the elements outlined in the above definition.

There is only one reference to homosexuality in the statute, and that is under the definition of "sexual conduct." It reads: "sexual conduct means acts of masturbation, homosexuality, sexual intercourse or physical contact with a person's clothed or unclothed genitals or pubic areas or buttocks or with a human female's breasts…"

So the proper order of reading, in my view, looks like this..

Harmful to minors —> Sexual Conduct —> any act of sex as defined, including acts of homosexual and heterosexual intercourse.

Additionally, there are a load of examples of when images that might meet the harmful to minors definition is exempt. They include language that states there is an affirmative defense if there is an educational, artistic, cultural, scientific or medical purpose. There's even a clause that says it's OK for minors to view harmful material, if it's done so in the presence and with permission of their parents.

I agree that there's cause to update old language in our statute to eliminate the specific reference to homosexuality. That's a fair compliant. But functionally, Kansas' definition of sexual conduct simply states that all images of sexual activity would be considered harmful to minors.

Normally, I might let this go and not spend the little bit of time I have between conference committees airing my concerns. But there are two big issues here that I think warrant discussion.

First is the issue of children and pornography. I voted for SB394 because I have always thought we should do more to prevent children from accessing online pornography.

We're a generation into what I view as a dangerous normalization of pornography. Most surveys indicate that children are accessing porn between the ages of 10-12, and there's growing evidence that it affects their ability to form normal, healthy relationships in their teen years and adulthood.

The American College of Pediatricians reported that underage exposure to pornography led men to have "increased callousness toward women, consider the crime of rape less serious, say they were less satisfied with their sexual partner, and a decreased desire for children."

The provisions in SB394 definitely aren't perfect, but it's at least trying to address what I view as a serious cultural problem - one that we've been far too passive about, as it relates to the harm it can cause children.

The other reason I feel compelled to fire back is because such hyperbolic protestations from the left - and more specifically from someone in the media - feeds the narrative that 1) hypersensitive liberals level over-the-top accusations that aren't based in fact and 2) that media is biased.

What Wirestone wrote this week is demonstrably wrong. That photo of two men getting married is a nice prop for his opening paragraphs, but it is not, under Kansas statute, pornography. And SB394 does nothing to change that fact.

When people with a platform get wound up and scream about things that aren't really real, they undermine our work to elevate the conversation about the things that truly matter. It, then, shouldn't surprise us when people who have been unfairly accused of malfeasance don't listen to our concerns or take us seriously.

There are real attacks against the LGBTQ+ community and those deserve our earnest effort and attention. There are real efforts to muzzle speech and to disenfranchise entire groups of people. Those deserve our best effort. What's most unhelpful in our endeavors, however, is screaming pornography into a perfectly fine, and legal, photo of two men in love.

(Source: Jason Probst Blog/That Guy In Hutch, April 4, 2024; https://thatguyinhutch.substack.com/p/the-importance-of-being-earnest)

My next column will get to the meat of this legislative session (the-tax-plan-that-is-universally-supported-by-bipartisan-House-members-and-a-majority-of-Senators-yet-is-still-somehow-controversial).

But, first I want to double back on the issue I raised about an editorial by the Kansas Reflector's Clay Wirestone. He argued an age verification requirement for pornography sites would ban images of same sex couples holding hands.

I wrote this in response. My argument was 1) according to statute, a same-sex couple holding hands wouldn't qualify as porn under the bill, and 2) saying that it is porn undermines our ability to push back against legitimate attacks on the LGBTQ community.

He shot back, saying that I was mistaken, and took a swipe at my lack of a law degree. Fair enough - I don't have a law degree. Wirestone then rounded back to the attorney's statements within his piece.

"As far as I know, Probst does not have a law degree.

I'll tell you who does: Lawrence First Amendment specialist Max Kautsch, who not only served as my source for the column, but who responded at length to Probst. You can read a comment from him underneath the Substack post, and a longer explanation at Kautsch's website. In this case, I tend to believe the person with legal experience.

Listen, I know that folks get stressed in the heat of the session and say things they don't mean. I respect Probst and enjoy his writing.

On this subject, though, he's mistaken."

Ouch.

But it turns out other people have law degrees, too, and some of them lean more towards my interpretation of SB394. After this dust up with the Reflector, I privately joked to friends that every attorney is wrong half the time - otherwise we wouldn't need courts or judges.

This week a piece came from the Kansas City Star that did a good job exploring the complexity and nuance of a difficult area of discussion.

Here are a few excerpts, admittedly picked to validate my argument:

D.C. Hiegert, an attorney who is an LGBTQ+ Fellow at the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas said that while state statute does include homosexuality in its definition of sexual conduct, the legislation also says any material barred from minors must also meet the legal requirements for obscenity.

The bill would not allow for censorship of non-explicit LGBTQ+ content, he said. Rather, the law could only be used to restrict content online if it is sexual.

"While it is unfortunate that a lot of Kansas laws have remnants of old, homophobic or transphobic language in them, this is an instance where it is not necessarily explicitly being used in a homophobic or transphobic way," Hiegert said.

Hiegert continued: "If folks are trying to use this legislation to ban all LGBTQ content, that is very clearly not what the bill does, and that would be an unconstitutional attempt to censor access to LGBTQ content."

Max Kautsch, the attorney cited in Wirestone's piece "vehemently disagreed with Hiegert's interpretation." Max also took the liberty of posting our email exchange on his website, which upon reflection, I don't think I've ever had anyone do to me before.

There was also this in the article...

Groups who advocate for LGBTQ+ rights said they are keeping a watchful eye on the bill but believe it would not prevent access to non-explicit content.

In a time when LGBTQ+ Kansans are facing real attacks from the Legislature, Taryn Jones, a lobbyist for Equality Kansas said it is important to avoid creating additional worry for legislation that is unlikely to affect the lives of everyday people.

"We need to be careful not to create more anxiety and more worry for people," she said. "That's always our concern when we look at bills like this – making sure we're being upfront and honest about what the bill does but not fear-mongering to make people worry more than they already are."

This was one of my central points - yelling fire when there is no fire, (or in this case pornography) when there isn't a fire is completely unhelpful in the bigger debate and discussion on legitimate attacks on the LGBTQ community.

There might be more people who want to carry on this conversation, but this will be my last comment on the matter.

I'm grateful to the Star for providing some neutral and in-depth examination of the issue. We need more thoughtful conversation about controversial topics. Knee-jerk or rhetorically -charged reactions are seldom helpful in advancing discussion.

This isn't the first time I've had to push back on an incorrect assumption from Wirestone. Back when we were legalizing fentanyl testing strips, he had this to say in a column where he dubbed it "Hell Week" in the Kansas Legislature...

"On Wednesday, the tomfoolery continues. At 1:30 p.m., the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee talks about legalizing fentanyl test strips. Also at 1:30 p.m., the House Health and Human Services Committee talks about legalizing fentanyl test strips. No, I didn't copy and paste accidentally. They're both doing the same thing at the same time."

I was highly annoyed by that, because in truth, the committee chairs (Republicans) worked with me and others so that conferees - including mothers who had lost their children to overdose - wouldn't have to travel more than once to Topeka and could condense the trauma of telling their story into a single day. One committee heard the test strip bill first, while the other committee heard another bill first to allow time for the transition from one committee to another.

To his credit, he wrote a statement correcting this after I pointed it out to him.

I want to be clear that I don't have any personal beef with Clay. He's doing his job, and I am doing mine.

With that said, I will address information I think is harmfully wrong. And, I'll admit when I've done that myself.

In this case, I'll entertain the possibility that my interpretation of SB394 could be faulty. I don't think it is, and I think the growing body of evidence supports my view. But I'll admit that I have made mistakes, that it's entirely possible I'm wrong today, and it's certain that I'll be wrong again.

To that end, I want to address something in my original post on this. I cited a source that upon further research, I wasn't happy about. The American College of Pediatricians is more of a political organization than a healthcare organization, and they seem to be decidedly conservative and support policies against the inclusion of LGBTQ members.

My citing of them was an error of haste. I had read several reports about the ill-effects of pornography on children and mistakenly pulled from that group's report without taking proper time

to explore them. I should've relied on the statement from UNICEF, which outlines many of the same concerns, but from a much more reliable source.

Being wrong isn't fun, but the ability to admit when you are is important.

(Source: Jason Probst Blog/That Guy In Hutch, April 11, 2024; https://thatguyinhutch.substack.com/p/clearing-the-air-on-that-pornography)

Post making fun of the concern about "able-boided adults" who might take advantage of government benefits.

About a month ago, both my shoulders started hurting - in particular my right shoulder. I couldn't really use it to lift weights, it would hurt when I was riding my bike or doing ordinary tasks around the house.

Normally, I just wait it out, hope it goes away, or heals up on its own. But I've been trying to be more active in managing my health. That means I've been forced to consume considerably more healthcare than I'd like.

~~*(Good thing I'm in the legislature and get that good state health insurance and I'm not one of those "able-bodied adults" who needs healthcare but can't get it because people who get their healthcare from being in the legislature or Medicare have decided they won't expand Medicaid or do anything to address the fact that real Kansans who are really working have real health issues and don't have any real way to access or pay for healthcare. But I digress. I wasn't going to veer off into the political. And that's too good a column for it's own.)*~~

So in between all my other health-related appointments, my doctor decided I should get some physical therapy for my shoulder. If, perhaps, we could work the shoulder back to health, we'd avoid the need for an expensive MRI and potential surgery.

(Source: Jason Probst Blog/That Guy In Hutch, November 10, 2023; https://thatguyinhutch.substack.com/p/what-physical-therapy-taught-me-about)

Talking about voting for a flat tax, claiming "enough good to outweigh the bad."

A few weeks ago I had to admit that disgruntled Republican Senator Mark Steffen and I agreed on something: The richest corporations in the state love getting what they want, and House and Senate Republicans love giving it to them.

He called it the dirty secret of Topeka, or something like that.

The other little secret when it comes to all this flat tax flap is this: The reason every single Kansas missed out on tax relief of any kind this year is because Republicans - particularly the self-proclaimed tax savants over the in the Senate - got too greedy for Kansans' good.

There was a flat tax bill, SB 169, that passed the House. A pretty OK one, too, as flat taxes go. It had a lot of meaningful tax reductions for Kansans. Income tax, sales tax, and property tax, a little something for everyone. It was a true example of what voters say they expect in their elected leaders - compromise to get something done that's good for the people. It passed out on a bipartisan vote of 94-30.

I voted for it - even though I think flat taxes are bad policy. In my view, there was enough good to outweigh the bad. And unlike some of my contemporaries, I'm willing to accept that I'll never get all the things I want. But more about that later.

(Source: Jason Probst Blog: That Guy In Hutch, September 25, 2023; https://thatguyinhutch.substack.com/p/name-that-taxtune-again)

Post where he states: "I want to say that we've not been good stewards of the Earth. I want to say that we've largely squandered what previous generations gave to us. And that we've not really held up our end of the bargain to future generations."

I'll write the columns I started - the pieces that show many of these jobs in the state aren't paying all that great and that far too many people are falling under the growing weight of medical debt and how all of that is actually degrading our economy and robbing economic capacity and that our anti-people policies turn out to also be anti-business. Even though I doubt the people who need to hear it, will.

I'll write those. But not today.

Today, I want to say that I'm not any more, or less, upset about the state of the world than any other day, really. I'm just less willing to not say it aloud.

I want to say that we've not been good stewards of the Earth.

I want to say that we've largely squandered what previous generations gave to us.

And that we've not really held up our end of the bargain to future generations.

I want to say that people should always matter more than money.

I want to say that I know we can do better.

And if we know we can do better, we should.

(Source: Jason Probst Blog: August 22, 2023; https://thatguyinhutch.substack.com/p/everything-everywhere-all-at-once)

Article where he defends the USD 308 Hutch school board for a school closing.

Note: For those not from Hutchinson, this column my be a little too local for your taste. But I'd encourage you to read it anyway, because what's happening here is likely coming your way soon, if it hasn't already.

Last night, the Hutchinson USD 308 Board of Education, voted to merge the boundaries of Lincoln and McCandless Elementary Schools. And if you think that school buildings, teachers, staff, and community don't matter, you clearly weren't at last night's meeting when the decision was made.

Despite all the rhetoric that surrounds our discussion around public education - and frankly it's been beyond absurd - for the people who live life in these buildings, this closure is an enormous loss. Students were sobbing. Parents were on the verge of it, but trying to hold it together for their children.

On May 4, the Lincoln School family learned there was a plan to merge the boundaries and find a new purpose for their school. Despite having higher attendance than other schools under the hatchet, the Lincoln building, it was said, wasn't very adaptable to future district needs. The other schools are bigger, the classrooms more suited for additional students and effective classroom management.

It took a mere three weeks to go from informing parents about a possible "solution" to pulling the rug out from these families. In my opinion, this decision was predestined, likely at the recommendation of some consulting firm that will quickly drive out of town to cash district patron's check.

As I sat in the room with scores of Lincoln parents and students, I found myself looking for someone to direct my anger. But there's no one, really, with whom to be angry. The path to closing Lincoln began ages ago. I've been around long enough to see the closing of other elementary schools - in particular Roosevelt and Avenue A (though I do have to say I was involved with Roosevelt's closing, and it took far longer than three weeks and included much more parent input. In fact, the closing of Roosevelt helped spawn the creation of Allen Magnet School - because the district blended its concerns with the concerns of parents).

I can't be terribly upset with the school board. This is a group of volunteers who are tasked with making district-wide decisions, and they have to make tough decisions as they arise. Many of which are created by external factors out of their control. Not a single board member felt good about the vote, and I know that in my heart. They, too, shed their own tears.

Every school that's closed in Hutchinson has happened in my part of town. And while I know there's no maliciousness in those decisions, I also know that it's part of a complete failure of our

institutions. At every level, our systems fail people in poverty and make decisions that exacerbate every barrier to growth and potential for folks without means. And if you think I'm wrong, just spend a couple minutes imagining what would unfold if we were talking about closing one of the north end schools over the course of three weeks. It would be wave after wave of soccer moms and khaki-clad dads demanding to be heard, and considered. Whether intentional or not, poor folks are seldom given this sort of consideration - and in part that's because poor folks are used to this treatment, and its frankly easier to never really get your hopes up too much.

So, what brought us to this place?

- *First and foremost, closures like this rest at the feet of the Kansas Legislature. The relentless attacks on teachers and education in general (including constant attacks on funding) has pushed teachers into retirement, to different careers, and it has a chilling effect on college students who want to make teaching a career. And that is what created a crisis situation in Hutchinson that forced this change at Lincoln. There simply aren't enough teachers to staff all the buildings.*
- *Across the state, we elect people on ginned-up issues and scare tactics. And that works for getting votes, particularly in primary elections, but once there these people deploy their weaponized rhetoric into policy and that results in children sobbing in the arms of parents because their lives are about the fundamentally change. I hope that we, as voters, will start asking the people we elect more questions about the things that will directly affect our lives. Because everything else is performative.*
- *Hutchinson and Reno County has a population problem, and that is to some degree outside or our control. Nationally, rural and cities adjacent to rural areas have experienced decline. I think we have some good things going on here, and I think we're trying to make sure people know about those. But we have to be very intentional about attracting families to our community. There are some things we can do locally, but I'll throw another barb here at the Kansas Legislature. Our rhetoric and many of our policies, particularly on social issues, is completely uninviting to most people under 40. With each legislative session, we give more people more reason to leave Kansas.*
- *Investment follows money, and that creates a perpetual cycle of disinvestment in already disenfranchised areas. While the decision to close Lincoln as an elementary school happened on May 15, the factors that led to that decision began more than a generation ago. And despite platitudes and kind words, the people on the south side of Hutchinson have watched the actions - and those have largely and consistently led to more strain for families who have remained to live south of the tracks. Many people who can leave the area do, and that gives our institutions more evidence to justify further disinvestment. Which leads to additional strain, which leads to more flight, and more disinvestment, and so on and so on.*

What next?

Next school year, Lincoln students will need to make their way to McCandless. I'm certain the district will go out of its way to make them all feel at home. I have to believe that there's genuine

sadness in this, and that there will be a loving effort to create a welcoming and warm environment for these students.

I hope it takes, but I'm skeptical. I desperately hope I'm wrong, but I expect we'll see a drop in educational outcomes for many of these students. I think we'll initially see more missed days - because transportation in this area is a very real concern. I think a lot of families who felt safe at Lincoln will struggle to feel safe anywhere else. People who haven't experienced sustained poverty do not understand the discomfort we often feel in blended spaces. And we're keenly aware of the way the world views us. We hear the sneers about the south end of town, and we internalize it.

Our institutions were never created to serve poor folks. Public education is perhaps the one that comes the closest, which is why it feels so visceral when it, too, follows the path of all institutions.

Now that the fate's been settled, I hope the USD 308 District will authentically work with the Lincoln community to address their concerns. They've had the last morsel of hope stripped from their hands; the least we can do is replace it with a crumb. When parents tell you kids have to walk to school, believe them. When they tell you the building is the anchor in the neighborhood, hear what they're saying. When they tell you working parents have to punch a clock at 6 or 7 in the morning, consider it truth. And then do something. The district will be better off in the long run for it.

For Lincoln parents and students, I'm sorry. And I hope that you'll keep trying. I know it's not easy to do. I've said it before - this part of town isn't wealthy, but it's the richest part of our city. The sense of family you've created can persist, it will just need to take a different form. Any good thing in your community has been created by you, and that will be true going forward. I hope you continue to organize, and to use this to advocate even more for the Lincoln area. This community will have to insert itself more forcefully into our institutions if it's to have a stronger voice in the future. Institutions are awful, but we're trapped in them so it's to our advantage to work to influence them. Your power lies in your resolve, and in your commitment to one another. The school board was right when it talked about the magic of the community. The building has been the place, but you have been the force.

Policymakers at every level will have to start asking themselves what sort of investments they want to make in the south side of town. Years ago I wrote an editorial about how remarkable this town can be when it decides to make an investment in something. We need a new sports venue, we organize and make it happen. A new jail. Money for roads or drainage systems. Whatever we want, we make real. But it seems we seldom see that level of interest in investing in the south side of town, or its people. Yet, Hutchinson is largely a land-locked city. If we're to grow at all, the bulk of our potential rests in the south side.

This sort of loss isn't easy to take, and it's the sort of thing that can create long-lasting anger and distrust. It's in all of our interests to resist that, despite the way it feels today. For too long there's been a sort of unspoken divide in this town, and with each loss, it grows worse. Someone, somewhere, sometime, has to take the off-ramp and try to find a way to pull these communities together. Community advocates have a duty to make their voices stronger, and policymakers have a duty to listen. And we all have a duty to care.

(Source: Jason Probst Blog/That Guy In Hutch, May 16, 2023; https://thatguyinhutch.substack.com/p/what-is-a-school-really)

Even though he has a history of voting for business incentives, yet he complains about them.

Business incentives

Every year the corporate world comes a knocking with their hands out. This year is no different - and with a big budget surplus it seems every company is at the hog trough looking for its extra ration of taxpayer money. In the Kansas legislature, we tend to act as if every good thing comes through business - and that any investment in people is a handout, entitlement, or a waste of good money. But we never apply the same hawkishness to business incentives, tax credits, exemptions, or other corporate charity.

Maybe the Cicero Institute out of Texas should come on up to Kansas with legislation to make corporate panhandling against the law instead of trying to kick homeless people around.

(Source: Jason Probst Blog/That Guy In Hutch, March 10, 2023; https://thatguyinhutch.substack.com/p/the-kansas-legislature-in-memes)

Complaining, yet voting for, the STAR Bond package to bring the Chiefs to Kansas.

The organization, which does not have to disclose its donors, hired 30 lobbyists to advocate for the STAR Bond expansion legislation. In a statement, former Kansas House Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr., a lobbyist for Scoop and Score and the Chiefs, said the Legislature "stepped up in a big way, paving the path to make sure the Chiefs stay right where they belong - in Kansas City with their loyal fans." "The votes show overwhelming bipartisan support because Kansas lawmakers know what the Chiefs mean to us and how big of an economic opportunity this is for Kansas," Ryckman said. Several lawmakers expressed skepticism about STAR Bonds or the deal in front of them but voted for it anyway. State Rep. ***Jason Probst****, a Democrat from Hutchinson, said the idea disgusts him and lamented that the legislature does not move as swiftly to pass bills on issues including homelessness, hunger or childhood poverty. But he still voted for the bill. "So I'm going to hold my nose and probably support this," he said, "but not without protesting the fact that we get sent here to do things for people, and we never move with this sort of urgency or with this sort of passion or the energy that we have around this." In a meeting of House Democrats before the vote, Probst said he thought the Chiefs were using Kansas to "get Missouri worked up" so the state would "sweeten the pot" and offer the team more incentives to stay put. Probst said he was bothered that the Chiefs were making an emotional appeal, invoking sports heroes, while being thin on details. Still, he said, it would be "catastrophic" if the Chiefs left the Kansas City metro area. "I do not like this. It feels gross," Probst said. "This whole show that's going on feels disgusting to me. And it's still the right thing to do. That's how I see it." Across the rotunda, state Sen. Molly Baumgardner, a Republican*

from Louisburg, argued STAR Bonds had generally not created anything new but rather subsidized development that likely would have occurred anyway. "I understand the excitement behind the prospect," she said. "It is like it's Christmas Eve and there's visions of sugar plums, only its royal blue and crimson and gold in this case."

(Source: Bethany Republican-Clipper, June 26, 2024)

A post claiming there is nothing Kansas can do about the southern border.

Here are the facts -

Our so-called "porous" border has been an issue for more than a generation. It was a political talking point in the 1970s and 80s, and continues today. This is not new.

There is nothing - zero - that the state of Kansas can do about the "southern" border. It is a federal issue, and all the campaign rhetoric in the world isn't going to change that fact.

Before fentanyl started coming to the country through Mexico, it came to the U.S. in packages shipped from China. It still gets to the U.S. in a variety of ways - what's really important, particularly for someone wanting to be governor of Kansas, is what we can do here, in our state, to help people. Talking about the border isn't going to solve one single problem.

(Source: Jason Probst Blog/That Guy In Hutch, October 6, 2022; https://thatguyinhutch.substack.com/p/i-agree-with-derek-schmidt

A post making excuses about inflation. And a quote from him: "I don't share in the general anger over student loan forgiveness."

Saturday's raucous gubernatorial debate at the Kansas State Fair made one thing very clear: This election cycle Kansas Republicans - led by the sometimes conservative, sometimes moderate, sometimes sue-happy Kris Kobach-esque candidate Derek Schmidt - are going to make the election about Joe Biden, inflation, and the oldest and most reliable political boogeyman - Socialism.

And why wouldn't they? Those Photoshopped sepia-toned images of your friendly neighborhood do-gooder alongside some scary national Democrat has long been an effective tool. It frees Republican candidates of the need to run their own campaigns, show up at public forums, or explain their policy positions. Thanks to the power of graphic design and misinformation, even good and reasonable Republicans have been vanquished by an engineered appearance with the sinister Washington Democrat de jour.

Now I don't blame them for the inflation bit - it's a legitimate concern for families in Kansas. But let's not allow ourselves to believe the lie that inflation is exclusively under the control of one party or another. What we're experiencing now is the result of global economic realities, breakdowns in supply systems (that were largely built around maximizing profit and less around ensuring a reliable supply of goods), and global monetary policies that artificially restrained natural inflation for a generation.

Federal funds effective interest rates over the years.

Way before Covid, and way before both Presidents Trump and Biden infused money into the economy, there were the "Too Big to Fail" handouts that bailed out large investment banks who had been grossly irresponsible and nearly trashed the world economy in 2007-08. Aside from putting taxpayers on the hook for banks and car manufacturers, it also saw the public propping up of the housing market - largely destabilized by irresponsible lending practices and large financial institutions deploying incredibly creative methods to make money from bad loans. And let's not forget that before that we had the eerily similar Savings & Loan bailout in the 1980s.

So let's not pretend that throwing a few bones at the working stiff has led to the downfall of our economy - especially when we've made a habit of socializing the cost of bad business decisions.

Which brings me to the most curious and interesting of this year's campaign rhetoric - the big, scary "S" word: Socialism.

When a Republican candidate can't figure out how to win an election, there's the ever reliable cry of Socialism and how it's ruining our country. The threat of Socialism has been an effective political tool since World War I, and only gained in power during the protracted "Cold War" in which anything that looked in the general direction of Russia sent waves of fear across the country.

There was even a movie to tell us how pervasive the threat was to the American way of life.

Is it just me that finds it amusingly weird that there was such a fascination with things being filmed behind locked doors in the 1940s and 50s?

The reality is that America has never come anywhere near the true definition of Socialism - a system in which industry is owned and managed by the state. But people like Schmidt hope repeated use of the "S" word - however inaccurate - will trigger fear in the hearts of voters.

Yet, one of the most curious truths about that loosely-defined interpretation of Socialism is that it's very much alive and well in America - it's just that not a whole lot of it actually benefits the average person.

What we've seen time and time again is that when companies act irresponsibly, or make bad choices, their loss is socialized by the taxpayer. Likewise when those companies have a business model that requires and bakes in taxpayer investment to make the numbers work - we call it economic development and pat ourselves on the back for being so good at business.

When we have conversations about reducing the cost of healthcare, forgiving student loan debt, ensuring children have access to food, housing, and good childcare, or generally finding ways to make life more affordable and navigable for working people, well, that's just Un-American. Those people ought to find a way to pull themselves up by the bootstraps - and it's surely not my responsibility to help others find success in life. They should do that all on their own. Otherwise, we're walking down the short path to Socialism.

*(**A relevant side note**: I don't share in the general anger over student loan forgiveness - despite the fact that I had to work my tail off gutting and remodeling an investment property that I sold to pay off my family's student loans. BUT - I do agree with the general idea that this sort of forgiveness does nothing to address the underlying and structural issues around student loan debt. Forgiving existing loans doesn't help all those future loans that will rack up, and I'm not sure we should just wipe the books clean every generation without exploring a more sustainable solution).*

What got me thinking about all of this was an article about "once in a lifetime" funds to plug abandoned gas wells.

It's good news! Kansas will get $25 million in federal money to plug about 2,300 of the state's roughly 11,000 abandoned gas wells left behind over years - wells that emit methane into the air and threaten to pollute nearby water sources. The money will supplement the $1.5 million that Kansas taxpayers annually allocate to plug between 200-400 wells.

(Source: Jason Probst Blog/That Guy In Hutch, Sep 13, 2022; https://thatguyinhutch.substack.com/p/lets-talk-about-the-s-word)

A post somewhat defending Biden's Vaccine Mandate.

For a moment, I'm going to ask you to suspend your instant, entrenched, or learned reactions to all things Covid-19.

Just for a moment - then we can all go back to accusing one another of destroying every good thing that ever existed, and in that process of aggravating divisions actually destroy every good thing that ever existed.

As soon as I read the stories about President Biden's broad action to use OSHA rules to require vaccinations for employees at companies with more than 100 employees, it was fairly predictable what would happen next. (It's important to note this is a 'soft' mandate - those who absolutely don't want to be vaccinated have the option of weekly Covid-19 testing instead).

Almost instantly came the critiques from Republican governors, lawmakers and attorneys general to block, sue, and do whatever must be done to stop this gross abuse of federal power.

Kansas' Republican Congressional Delegation launched its volley, then the state level elected officials and the party structure threw their efforts behind generating outrage. The government, the narrative went, cannot tell business what they must or must not do.

Missing, however, was the outrage of corporate America. That, coupled with what we already know about companies independently, on their own, mandating vaccinations, didn't make sense to me.

The whole thing started to smell like political B.S. And after just a few years in Topeka, political B.S. has become an all too familiar smell.

So I developed a theory - based on current reporting, what I've seen from the previous legislation sessions, and from years of watching state and national politics.

First, we all know that what the public sees in politics is the proverbial tip of the iceberg. By the time the announcements and counterpoints come out to the public, there have been a number of discussions between other people, somewhere else. Decisions of magnitude - such as mandating vaccines - aren't typically done without consultation of a broad range of stakeholders. In this case, one of those stakeholders would've definitely been the business lobbying groups.

It turns out that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Business Roundtable, and the National Association of Manufacturers generally support Biden's vaccination measure. Moreover, they all require vaccinations for their own employees - as do several of the organizations' largest members. Likewise in Kansas, we've seen more large employers mandate vaccinations of their employees, well before the federal shift in policy.

From Reuters -

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which opposes many of Biden's tax and spending proposals, said it would "carefully review" the vaccination mandate. The Business Roundtable, which represents chief executives, said it welcomed the move. The National Association of Manufacturers, which represents big and small employers, said it would work to make sure the rules don't hurt business operations.

So, let's think about this for a minute. The same business lobby that wails and gnashes its teeth if anyone attempts to do anything to change the status quo is largely silent and subdued on a broad and sweeping mandate that directly affects their member businesses.

What in the global pandemic is going on?

My suspicion - based on my experience in Topeka and some of the reporting on this - is that business welcomes a shift of the "bad guy" from employers to government. Large companies were increasingly mandating vaccines anyway - and in some cases angering and losing employees over it. With a sweeping federal mandate, the business community eliminates that problem, because they're all in the same boat.

Essentially - "I don't really want to make you get vaccinated, but I don't have a choice. Thanks Biden."

It turns out I'm not alone in my suspicion. This, from longtime political writer Noah Millman, on his blog Gideon's Substack about Biden's vaccine mandates:

So why impose them? Many Republicans are going to argue that it's a pure power grab, but I think that's almost completely backwards. What I suspect they're doing first and foremost is providing cover to other entities that want to impose mandates of their own, but have been reluctant to date to do so.

So the business community gets its cover and a scape goat. The Republican party and its candidates get another thing to scare voters about and use on the postcards we'll all enjoy in 2022 and 2024. And President Biden gets to boast that he's been aggressive in fighting the virus and has done everything in his ability to increase vaccination rates.

All that's left is for our industrialized political machine to ramp up the public outrage.

In fact just this Tuesday the self-proclaimed Truth Caucus and Kansas Republican House leadership sent out tandem statements condemning Biden's vaccine order. The latter - a letter from House Leadership addressed to Kansas' federal delegation is framed as an attempt to coordinate efforts to counter Biden's initiatives. Yet, that could be done with a phone call or email. It's not like a strongly-worded letter from Kansas is going to create any meaningful change. - but a public letter carries the added benefit of capturing the news cycle for a day and providing some swell content for social media. And we'll all help with our likes, shares, and clever memes.

For the purposes of this piece I don't want to get into a discussion about the rightness or wrongness of vaccine mandates. That's adjacent to the point I'm trying to make here.

We - voters, consumers of information, members of a community - have to do a better job of sniffing out when we're being played. We have to do a better job of making the distinction between when we should really be outraged, and when we're being fed outrage to advance political ends. We have to weigh who wins what in any policy decision. We have to do a better job of comparing information from different places. We have to be aware of things like the Social Media filter bubbles - and recognize that we're largely fed the information for which we've already shown a preference.

And we have to more critically examine whether we're upset with the right people, for the right reasons, and consider whether we want to follow the on-demand current of outrage, or try something different for a change.

(Source: Jason Probst's Blog/That Guy In Hutch; September 14, 2021 https://thatguyinhutch.substack.com/p/manufactured-outrage)

News Articles

Probst claiming he doesn't like "big giveaways" but yet supporting the STAR Bond.

Rep. Stephanie Sawyer Clayton arrived in the Kansas Legislature over a decade ago, but she's never seen her constituents as divided as they are over a plan to lure the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals away from Missouri.

"This is the first time in my legislative career that I have ever seen district opinion, constituent opinion, at a dead heat," the Overland Park Democrat said. Deciding how to vote, she said, "will be a difficult decision."

Top Republican lawmakers are expected to put forward a plan at a special session on Tuesday that would authorize potentially more than $1 billion in bonds to help finance stadiums for one or both teams. The effort comes after Jackson County voters rejected a 40-year sales tax in April that would have guaranteed the teams remain in Kansas City.

Whether supporters of the plan have the votes is another matter.

As the Legislature prepares to weigh the expansive proposal, lawmakers appear split. While some have voiced enthusiastic support over the past few days, others are apprehensive, concerned about corporate welfare and the politics of voting to aid wealthy business owners as they approve only a modest tax cut package for Kansans.

Lawmakers have also expressed wariness about advancing another massive incentive program targeted at one or two specific businesses. Just two years ago, the Legislature passed an incentive plan called APEX that led to more than $800 million in incentives with no job guarantees to secure the Panasonic battery plant near DeSoto currently under construction.

Views on the stadium proposal don't fall neatly along partisan lines. Organizations with influence among Republicans are divided: the Kansas Chamber of Commerce supports the effort, while Americans for Prosperity-Kansas, which has ties to the Wichita billionaire Charles Koch, opposes it.

On the Democratic side, some are excited by the prospect of one or both teams relocating. At the same time, the Hunt family, which owns the Chiefs, has given to Republican causes. Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly, who has cultivated an image as a Chiefs fan, hasn't said whether she supports the proposal.

"Fool me once with the Panasonic plant," said Rep. Ken Rahjes, a Republican from Agra, in northwest Kansas. Still, speaking earlier this month, he said he didn't know what position he would take and needed more information.

Under the Kansas plan, the state would issue hundreds of millions in Sales Tax and Revenue - STAR - bonds to help finance stadiums for one or both teams, with sales tax revenue from the stadiums and surrounding development pledged toward paying off the bonds. Officials could also issue bonds against sports gambling and lottery revenues, with some supporters of the plan estimating the revenues could support a bond of up to $1 billion.

Critics are highly skeptical that the stadiums and nearby development could generate enough tax revenue to pay off the STAR bonds on time. Numerous studies of sports stadiums have found they are not major drivers of new economic activity. And while Kansas can't be forced to repay the bonds with general revenue, a large default could risk the state's creditworthiness.

"I understand the fact that there will be additional revenue coming in, but it never offsets the lost revenue to the state," Rep. Adam Smith, a Weskan Republican who chairs the House Tax Committee, said.

Smith said he hadn't seen the latest proposal. At the end of the regular session, lawmakers briefly weighed taking up an earlier version of the plan, which would have allowed up to 100% STAR bond financing of a stadium. Smith said that plan was fairly "lucrative" for the teams.

Full STAR bond financing of a stadium appears off the table, and the Kansas Department of Commerce has ruled out such a scenario. A draft of the plan circulating in the Kansas Capitol over the weekend would limit financing at 75% of project costs.

Smith contrasted the effort to win over the Chiefs and Royals with the work lawmakers have put in to reach an agreement on tax cuts after Kelly vetoed previous plans over their size.

"Obligating that revenue to a project like this does take it out of the state coffers and that's been one of the things that's been frustrating to me trying to get a tax plan through," Smith said. "Seems like when we're trying to pass tax relief we're counting every single penny and trying to make the case that it's not sustainable."

"But then we're going to come in and pass some of these incentives that are committing I don't know how much revenue" toward a stadium project, he said.

A win, or picking winners and losers?

A cottage industry to promote the proposal has sprung up in Topeka over the past two weeks. Dozens of lobbyists have been enlisted by Scoop and Score, a new organization spearheaded by former House Speaker Ron Ryckman, an Olathe Republican.

Scoop and Score has launched a campaign in favor of the plan, sending texts to Kansas residents that claim "every city in America" is preparing an economic incentives package for the Chiefs. The Chiefs and Royals have also hired lobbyists, with Ryckman lobbying for the Chiefs.

Rep. Jesse Borjon, a Topeka Republican and vice chair of the House Commerce Committee, which will hold a hearing Monday on the plan, said it's a "win for Kansas." Echoing comments typical of supporters, Borjon said the stadium projects would bring in sales tax revenue that would not otherwise be generated. He also emphasized that the risk rests with bondholders, not taxpayers.

"There's a lot of opportunity upside for increased revenue, economic development dollars coming to Kansas," Borjon said. "That would be a game changer."

A 2022 review of 130 studies over 30 years found that nearly all empirical studies found "little to no tangible impacts of sports teams and facilities on local economic activity" and that the level of subsidies typically provided for stadiums "far exceeds any observed economic benefits."

While the review found that any identified economic effects typically occurred in the area immediately surrounding a stadium, those impacts weren't always present and "can not be generally applied to all stadium projects."

Whatever additional tax revenue may be generated inside the STAR bond district, the state share will be pledged toward paying off the bonds, which would likely have a 30-year term. Local governments are expected to be given the option to retain their local sales tax revenue, however. That makes the plan more attractive to cities and counties but potentially makes paying off the bonds more difficult.

Lawmakers supportive of the proposal point to the Kansas Speedway - the original STAR bonds project - and Children's Mercy Park as examples of the kind of success the program can achieve. The Speedway, in particular, helped spur development in western Wyandotte County that has now made the area near I-70 and I435 an epicenter of commerce.

For the Speedway, $24.3 million in bonds were issued in the late 1990s. About $10.6 million in bond debt remains, according to the Kansas Department of Commerce's 2023 annual STAR bonds report. More than $150 million in bonds were issued for Children's Mercy Park and all of it has been paid off.

Some other projects have stumbled. Heartland Motorsports Park in Topeka underperformed expectations and the property is now being put up for auction. Prairiefire in Overland Park defaulted last year on its STAR bonds. State auditors in 2021 estimated it would take Prairiefire until at least 2046 for the state to recoup the sales tax revenue given up by the district.

"I'm pretty well on record saying I don't like big giveaways to rich families, rich corporations," said Rep. Jason Probst, a Hutchinson Democrat.

But if Kansas is going to use STAR bonds, he said, a Chiefs or Royals stadium is the kind of project the program was intended to secure.

"They're designed for massive projects that are going to have a multi-generational impact on your community and on your state," Probst said.

Rep. Samantha Poetter Parshall, a Paola Republican, conducted a poll on her Facebook page in early June. Out of 90 votes, 85% of respondents urged her to oppose the STAR bonds proposal. Parshall wrote that she has always opposed STAR bonds.

"Having the Government pick winners and losers by giving incentives, tax breaks, or handouts at the core goes against the free market principles I believe in," she wrote.

Most discussion about the possible location of a stadium has centered on Wyandotte County. Johnson County officials have sounded skeptical about the possibility of the Chiefs or Royals relocating to their county.

Sen. David Haley, a Kansas City, Kansas, Democrat, said he is pushing northeast Wyandotte County as a potential location. He said the area makes sense given its proximity to downtown Kansas City, Missouri, and the Kansas City International Airport.

Haley said he has received assurances, he didn't say from whom, that eminent domain would not be used as part of any STAR bonds stadium project.

Still, he said some uncertainty remains about the proposal.

"There's nothing nefarious like some poaching or some border war," Haley said. "It's just like any other business, they're trying to evaluate what might be there. I get the impression no one really knows for sure."

David Haley Kansas state Sen. David Haley

'Are we negotiating against ourselves?'

The public campaign to attract the Chiefs - and later the Royals - began in earnest on June 4, when House Speaker Dan Hawkins, a Wichita Republican, and Senate President Ty Masterson, an Andover Republican, released a letter they had sent to the Chiefs inviting the team to offer feedback on the STAR bonds plan.

The Chiefs have since made positive comments about the proposal, although they have stopped well short of any kind of commitment to come to Kansas if the legislation becomes law.

Chiefs president Mark Donovan said Thursday that the team has been clear that it is going to look at all options. He expressed appreciation and support for those in Kansas working "to provide an option."

"The potential to be able to evaluate that versus other options is something that's really important to us," Donovan said. "And we're excited to hopefully get that passed on Tuesday, and then be able to look at that and evaluate that versus the other options we have to look at."

KCM_Photoselectionwatchpart (4)Mark Donovan, president of the Kansas City Chiefs, speaks after Jackson County voters rejected the 40-year, 3/8th-cent sales tax in April.

Missouri officials - including Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas - have said the Kansas STAR bonds plan isn't the end of the road. Lucas has suggested Missouri lawmakers could match a Kansas offer, although top legislators have cautioned that they aren't inclined to rush into a special session of their own.

One complicating factor on the Missouri side is that Sen. Bill Eigel, a Weldon Spring Republican who is running for governor, opposes public aid for stadiums and could filibuster any bill brought up in the Missouri Senate this year. His Senate term will end come 2025, however.

In Kansas, some lawmakers want reassurance that the state is not simply being used as a negotiating tactic for one or both teams to secure a better deal with Missouri.

"Are we negotiating against ourselves - AKA our Jackson county counterparts who are also trying to keep the Chiefs over there?" said Rep. Dan Osman, an Overland Park Democrat.

The Star's Sam McDowell contributed reporting to this story.

(Source: Kansas City Star, June 17, 2024)

Article where Probst complains about cutting regulations that are costly to businesses. "Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, reiterated his past concerns that the evaluation of regulations shouldn't be limited to the cost on business. He argued that the lack of regulation can also be costly, citing examples of businesses polluting the environment."

Kansas lawmakers have taken power away from bureaucrats to impose regulations that are costly to businesses.

House Bill 2648 became law as the House voted 87-38 and the Senate voted 27-12 to override the veto of Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly.

"Kansas is highly regulated when it comes to rules and regulations," House GOP leadership said in a statement. "Many of those rules and regulations, that are put in place by unelected agency bureaucrats, end up costing taxpayers big money. By overriding the governor's misguided veto today, we're putting an extra set of guardrails on the big government spending of the rules and regulations process and standing up for Kansas taxpayers."

House Speaker Dan Hawkins, R-Wichita, Majority Leader Chris Croft, R-Overland Park, and Speaker Pro Tempore Blake Carpenter, R-Derby, referred to it as the "REINS Act," though the new law wasn't formally named that.

Elizabeth Patton, the state director for Americans for Prosperity-Kansas, also referred to it as the REINS Act. She called the veto override "a triumph for common sense and accountability in government" and said it will stimulate economic growth and create jobs.

In her veto message, Kelly contended that the new law makes state government more bureaucratic.

"House Bill 2648 would insert bureaucratic red tape intended to legislatively interfere with the timely implementation of necessary and important rules and regulations," she said. "Many of these regulations are for the protection and safety of Kansans."

What does the new Kansas law on rules

and regulations do?

The law effectively prohibits the governor's administration from promulgating regulations that would cause $1 million or more in compliance costs over five years.

A state agency could only pursue such a regulation if the Legislature gave explicit approval by ratifying it through a bill that could only be introduced by a legislator. There are no provisions for doing such a ratification process outside of the legislative session.

Rep. Sean Tarwater, R-Stilwell, said the new law also requires "the director of the budget to take a second look at the economic impact statements that are being put forth by the agencies to make sure that they did their job correctly."

Tarwater said the bill is about helping businesses thrive and making it easier to start new businesses.

"We need to be cognizant of our business partners that pay the tax that we spend up here so easily," he said.

Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, reiterated his past concerns that the evaluation of regulations shouldn't be limited to the cost on business. He argued that the lack of regulation can also be costly, citing examples of businesses polluting the environment.

"The absence of regulations do in fact cost taxpayer money," he said. "We saw that with the purchase of two homes in Butler County because of oil wells that polluted water, which we'll probably be taking up as a line item."

Probst was referring to a budget proviso that Kelly line-item vetoed that would have compensated two homeowners whose groundwater was contaminated by oil wells.

During a previous debate, Probst pointed to Hutchinson's $35 million project to address a pollution plume affecting the city's water wells. He blamed the absence of regulation preventing industry from pouring chemicals on the ground.

Probst suggested legislators will "be in the unenviable position of having to take a vote on many more in-the-weeds regulations," but Tarwater said lawmakers looking at more regulations is "a good thing."

New law comes after failed

constitutional amendment

When vetoing the bill, Kelly reminded lawmakers that voters rejected a proposed constitutional amendment.

"Kansans voted no to giving the legislature veto power over rules and regulations in the November 2022 election," she said. "This is yet again another attempt by the legislature to undermine the will of the voters."

The new law is written in a way that supporters hope will avoid constitutional challenges.

The Legislature is barred from imposing a so-called legislative veto on administrative rules and regulations because of a 1984 Kansas Supreme Court decision that deemed such requirements an unconstitutional usurpation of separation of powers.

Republicans spearheaded a proposed amendment in 2022 to change the Kansas Constitution to allow legislative vetoes. Kansas voters narrowly rejected the constitutional amendment.

Top Republicans previously said they would try again, but no effort was made in 2023 or 2024.

Rep. Barb Wasinger, R-Hays, said 2025 may be the year, attributing the delay to the cost of elections.

"We have revamped that constitutional amendment," she said. "The problem with running it this year is there's so much money going towards elections and primaries, and we can't have the support of individuals and organizations that would help us get the word out."

Lawmaker discloses backroom deal to kill regulation to advance APEX

Current law requires economic impact statements, but lawmakers frequently are unimpressed with them.

Tarwater pointed to inadequate economic impact statements for substantial workers compensation regulations promulgated by the Kansas Department of Labor in 2021. Multiple legislators took issue with those proposals, and Wasinger told bureaucrats, "You will pay for this."

"We were able to kill that rule and regulation because there was a bill in play, and it was part of the negotiations," Tarwater said.

He disclosed in a House GOP caucus meeting that Kelly's administration stopped those regulations from going through as part of a deal with now-House Speaker Dan Hawkins, R-Wichita, to advance

the APEX megaproject law that created subsidies to attract Panasonic to build its electric vehicle battery plant in DeSoto.

"We were not going to move that APEX bill until we got those rules and regulations killed," Tarwater said.

How did Topeka legislators vote?

Here's how Topeka legislators voted on overriding the veto of the bill:

Yea: Republican Sens. Brenda Dietrich, Rick Kloos and Kristen O'Shea, and Republican Reps. Jesse Borjon, Ken Corbet and Kyle McNorton.

Nay: Democratic Reps. John Alcala, Kirk Haskins, Vic Miller, Tobias Schlingensiepen and Virgil Weigel.

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(Source: Salina Journal, May 5, 2024)

Another article where Probst complains about HB 2648 which cuts regulations.

Kansas legislators are seeking to effectively ban the executive branch from imposing government regulations that would cause $1 million or more in compliance costs for businesses and other entities.

House Bill 2648 would require state agencies to create more robust economic impact statements when promulgating regulations, and the budget director would have to conduct an independent analysis of them. If the estimated implementation and compliance cost for businesses, local governments or individuals would exceed $1 million over five years, the executive branch would be blocked from adopting it.

Such a regulation could only be imposed if the Legislature ratified it, which would have to be done through a legislator introducing a bill that is then enacted. There is no provision for authorizing such a regulation during the eight months of the year when the Legislature is not in session.

There would be three exceptions. It would not apply to temporary regulations, regulations proposed because of a federal mandate or regulations of the Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board.

"We need to be seeing how much we're costing the state of Kansas," said Rep. Barb Wasinger, R-Hays. "We are highly regulated in this state, and we need some transparency and accountability by the departments that want to spend our taxpayer dollars."

Wasinger said five agencies would be the most likely to be affected based on past regulatory actions:

Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Kansas Department of Transportation.

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Kansas State Board of Indigents' Defense Services.

Wasinger, who carried the bill on the House floor, pointed to an example from KDWP.

"Wildlife and Parks was going to completely eliminate hunting deer hunting season one year and had said there was absolutely no economic impact to the state of Kansas," she said. "In fact, there was would have been a lot. They would have gotten less licensing fees, hotels would suffer, restaurants would suffer, hunting lodges would suffer. convenience stores would suffer, gas stations would suffer - it would be a big problem. They chose not to do it."

The Division of the Budget told lawmakers that agencies could experience "operational issues" due to the delay in getting legislative approval, if legislators grant it.

Bill focuses on regulatory

cost to businesses, but not

cost of inaction

The bill has the backing of several business lobbyists.

Kansas Chamber lobbyist Eric Stafford told the House commerce committee last month that they worked with Wasinger and other interested parties to draft a bill that strengthens legislative oversight of regulations. He said the bill is largely based on laws in Florida and Wisconsin.

Americans for Prosperity-Kansas praised the bill's passage as "needed legislation to reign in agencies across Kansas who, while unelected, establish many policies that financially impact hardworking families."

Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, said the bill focuses on the regulatory cost to businesses while ignoring possible economic impact from the lack of regulation.

"When there is a regulation or an absence of a regulation, there is a potential cost to a bunch of other groups that I don't think we've taken into consideration," Probst said. "My belief is, in this building, we are far too heavily oriented towards business and we're always looking out for the interest of business. Sometimes, that comes at the expense of other groups of people."

He said that in the 1980s, a pollution plume was discovered that was migrating toward Hutchinson's water supply wells. The cost for the city to address the pollution was $35 million, which Probst blamed on "the absence of a regulation that allowed solvents to be poured into the ground, other chemicals, mostly from heavy industry."

The Kansas Rural Water Association reported in 2009 that the $35 million project included disposal wells, pipelines, remediation facilities and a reverse osmosis treatment plant. Funding came from several sources, including taxpayers and a doubling of local water rates. Yoder has faced similar issues and is now buying water from Hutchinson.

Probst said it is fair to have a conversation about the regulatory cost on businesses, but "we do ourselves a disservice when we pretend that a regulation doesn't also protect another group of people."

"If we're going to say that we don't want to unduly burden business," he said, "it's also fair to say we don't want to unduly burden taxpayers who then have to pay to clean up the mess of business when they operate in a loosely regulated environment."

Probst suggested that lawmakers could "just scrap the rulemaking process altogether and allow the Kansas Chamber of Commerce to do it, because ultimately that's what we're after here. Just let the Chamber write the rules and decide what they're going to do."

Balancing legislative

and executive branches

The move comes after Kansas voters narrowly rejected a proposed constitutional amendment that would have created a legislative veto over rules and regulations. That November 2022 vote was about 50.5% opposing the amendment to about 49.5% supporting it.

Republicans pursued the constitutional amendment because the Kansas Supreme Court ruled in 1984 that a legislative veto was an unconstitutional usurpation of separation of powers.

Legislators have lamented that their Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations acts as little more than a rubber stamp. Some members have wanted the Legislature to have more authority to stop regulations, while others have said they can already do so by rewriting the relevant law - which they rarely try to do.

Probst said lawmakers should write better laws instead of pointing the finger at bureaucrats.

"We don't always do great work in this building. We have to acknowledge that. We sometimes, and we all know it, send work through that is incomplete," he said. "We send work through that we don't fully understand. We send work through that we haven't actually had time to vet all the way. And in that process we cede part of our legislative authority to the administrative branch of government.

"If you're unhappy with the rules and regulation process, I would urge you to stop attacking the rules and regulation process and start demanding that we as a body do better work. Because that is the source of the problem. If we send out bad product, and the administrators of the legislation we produce are required to produce rules off of that legislation, it's our fault, not their fault.

"But we're pointing the finger at them when really we're the source of the problem."

The House passed the bill 82-36 on Wednesday after debating it on Tuesday, and it now goes to the Senate.

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(Source: Topeka Capitol Journal, March 11, 2024)

Soft on China Quote: "Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, said he wasn't convinced there was an immediate threat posed by foreign ownership of land in Kansas. He said he was uncomfortable with a provision opening a hotline to the attorney general to gather intelligence on suspected violators and a provision setting the stage for forced divesture of land, he said.
'A lot of bad things in our history have begun with fear,' Probst said. 'We don't have a great track record of behaving responsibly when we're afraid. We have to be cautious. We have to be respectful. We have to measure our words.'"

TOPEKA - The House plunged into national security affairs Tuesday to endorse legislation aimed at deterring China and five other 'countries of concern' in Kansas by limiting business and property ownership, grounding imported government and law enforcement drones and mandating divestment of state-managed investments.
House Republicans said the trifecta of bills was necessary to get the state out in front of threats emanating from Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Venezuela, and both China and Hong Kong. On the other side of the aisle, Democrats questioned GOP perceptions of the danger and the potential of Senate Bills 37, 172 and 271 to have a meaningful impact. All three were given first-round approval in the House, with final action likely Wednesday.
Rep. Bill Sutton, a Gardner Republican, encouraged representatives to support SB 271 to prohibit government agencies, including law enforcement agencies, from buying and operating unmanned aircraft with components or software produced in any of the six countries and Hong Kong.
'In a nutshell,' Sutton said, 'there are drones currently being used by law enforcement. Some of the best and and most economical are created by the CCP (Chinese Communist Party), with surveillance capabilities. That's kind of a worry for us.'
The bill would set aside $2.5 million to reimburse agencies for the cost of replacing drones during the next five years. Drones thought to be a threat would be turned into Attorney General Kris Kobach.
He would transfer the aircraft to Wichita State University and Kansas State University-Salina engineering programs, which would split $500,000 to conduct research into whether recording, processing or transmitting capabilities had been used for espionage. The universities could retrofit the drones with nonthreatening components in an effort to put them back into service.
'Threat is real'

Rep. John Carmichael, D-Wichita, said he was wary of legislation creating a government drone buy-back program without the universities having first confirmed foreign-manufactured drones were infected with spyware or had the marking of nefarious activities. Apparently, he said, Kansas insiders have known for several years about shortcomings of drones in hands of the Kansas Highway Patrol and other agencies.

'Really? Really?' Carmichael said during House debate. 'There's a reason that some people think people from Kansas are bumpkins. I think this is an example of it. Here's the bad news, my friends. This has turned into Asian-prejudice day in the Kansas Legislature and it's not a proud moment.'
Rep. Shawn Tarwater, the Stilwell Republican and chair of the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee, denounced the Democrat's speech trashing the committee's attempt to deal with threats.
'That doesn't deserve a response,' Tarwater said. 'I'm trying not to make the press this year in negative ways, so I'll pretend like I don't know that man. We need solutions, not arguments.'
Tarwater said he was convinced the Legislature had to implement the drone, investment and land ownership bills. He said Carmichael was right about one point. It shouldn't have taken lawmakers three years to respond to threats posed by drone tied to countries of concern, he said.
'We have to do something. If we sit idly by on this, and the previous two bills, we're going to be sorry. The threat is real. There are some people in this room who know exactly what will happen and how close we are to it happening, but they can't speak to it because it's top secret information,' Tarwater said.
Kobach's message

The House advanced SB 172 to implement a prohibition on citizens or residents of 'countries of concern' acquiring an interest in nonresidential real property located within 150 miles of the boundary of any military installation in Kansas or an adjacent state. In the case of Fort Riley, the exclusion zone would extend beyond Lincoln, Nebraska, to the north, Hays to the west, Winfield to the south and beyond Kauffman Stadium to the east.
The definition of military installation would include facilities under control of the U.S. Department of Defense, Kansas National Guard as well any federal or state agency 'critical to the safety and security of Kansas or the United States.'
Under the bill, a foreign principal who owned or acquired interest in real property within that 150-mile radius would be required to register ownership with the Kansas attorney general within 90 days assuming the law was imposed on July 1. Property of those individuals would have to be divested within one year. However, the person from one of the designated countries who owned land in Kansas would be exempt if the Committee of Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, determined the property didn't raise a national security concern.
The legislation would allow any person to report suspected violations to the attorney general.
In a statement following first-round approval of the bill, Kobach said he appreciated the House's attempt to address dangers posed by foreign land ownership in Kansas.
'In its current form, this bill will be very difficult to defend in court,' Kobach said. 'There are problems with the House bill that I hope will be addressed in conference committee.'
Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, said he wasn't convinced there was an immediate threat posed by foreign ownership of land in Kansas. He said he was uncomfortable with a provision opening a hotline to the attorney general to gather intelligence on suspected violators and a provision setting the stage for forced divesture of land, he said.
'A lot of bad things in our history have begun with fear,' Probst said. 'We don't have a great track record of behaving responsibly when we're afraid. We have to be cautious. We have to be respectful. We have to measure our words.'
Divestment program

Wichita GOP Rep. Nick Hoheisel, chairman of the House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee, urged colleagues to support SB 37 to require the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System and the state's Pooled Money Investment Portfolio to divest from 'countries of concern' within two years.

The legislation called on state-managed funds to remove 50% of investments from those countries by July 2025 and to completely withdraw by July 2026. The bill would prohibit investments or deposits in banks or companies located in a country of concern. In addition, state agencies wouldn't be permitted to procure finished goods or services from a foreign principal subject to the state's exclusion list.

If a new country was added to the list of undesirables, according to the bill, the state-controlled funds would have one year to transfer assets out of that newcomer. If a country took action to prohibit selling, divesting or withdrawing publicly traded securities, the bill would expect the state-managed fund in Kansas to remove 100% of holdings no later than one year from when that country's action ended.

'Navigating today's complex global landscape, it's critical our state's investments and contracts are aligned with our national security interests,' Hoheisel said.

He said the objective was to move Kansas resources away from investments that supported regimes damaging to human rights, international stability and U.S. national security.

(Source: Kansas Reflector, March 27, 2024)

Quote from Probst relating to bill that prevents China from buying land: "I know a lot of the people in this building. I don't know if they're fully qualified to handle the nuance and the complexity of international geopolitical disagreements.," said Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson. "So I wonder why in the Kansas Legislature we're having a conversation about doing just that, when I'm not sure we're particularly qualified for that."

The president of Cnano USA pushed back against claims from U.S. Rep. Jake LaTurner, R-Kansas, and Attorney General Kris Kobach that his company is a potential national security risk.

In January, LaTurner asked the U.S. Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to investigate Cnano USA over alleged ties to the Chinese Communist Party. Kobach cited the company as a potentially dangerous entity when he called for restricting the ability of noncitizens to purchase more than 10 acres of land in Senate Bill 446.

Cnano's parent company is based in China, but Cnano USA's president Shawn Montgomery said the U.S. branch is largely independent.

"The only obligation I have to the China parent entity is monthly financial reports to share with investors," said Montgomery, who was testifying before the Kansas House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee.

Montgomery's testimony didn't assuage LaTurner's concerns. He said there's still evidence the company is linked to top Chinese officials.

"Cnano USA's testimony failed to adequately address the overwhelming evidence that ties their parent company, Cnano Jiangsu, to President Xi, the CCP, and Chinese intelligence services," LaTurner said.

Rep. Patrick Penn, R-Wichita, brought up the ties to the CCP during the committee hearing, noting that the Chinese parent company employed more than 20 CCP members and that it participated in a CCP-backed initiative meant to stimulate growth in emerging technologies.

Montgomery said the participation in the program happened more than a decade ago and consisted of selling carbon nanotubes to a university in Shanghai. He also pointed out that Walmart and Ford have Chinese subsidiaries that employ CCP members.

Montgomery testified in a hearing on House Bill 2766, which bars individuals or companies from "countries of concern" from owning nonresidential land within 150 miles of a military installation. That buffer zone would make it impossible for a noncitizen to own land in most of Kansas.

The countries of concern in the bill are China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia and Venezuela.

The restriction in the bill is more stringent than what other states have enacted when restricting foreign land ownership. Florida and Missouri restrict foreign land acquisitions within 10 miles of military installations, and Montana doesn't allow it within a direct line of sight to a military installation.

Kobach gave neutral testimony to the bill, raising concerns about how limiting it to adversarial countries could open up the state for legal challenges, that shell companies could circumvent the regulation and that the bill wouldn't allow his office to target cartel-owned land.

Large agricultural lobbies opposed the bill, calling it an infringement on private property rights that doesn't address corporate consolidation of Kansas farmland. They also pointed to existing laws that bar corporate entities from owning agricultural land in the state.

"No. 1, the CCP is not actively buying farmland in Kansas. The data says that what we can find is half an acre that's owned in Kansas," said John Donley, a lobbyist with the Kansas Farm Bureau.

Rep. Rui Xu, D-Westwood, noted that the bill is broad enough that it could ban a Chinese immigrant from opening a restaurant in the state. Other committee members questioned whether Kansas should be tackling issues of national security.

"I know a lot of the people in this building. I don't know if they're fully qualified to handle the nuance and the complexity of international geopolitical disagreements.," said Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson. "So I wonder why in the Kansas Legislature we're having a conversation about doing just that, when I'm not sure we're particularly qualified for that."

Senate Bill 446 is also aimed at blocking foreign land ownership. That version only applies to parcels over 10 acres, applies to all foreign countries and creates a land council to approve purchases.

(Source: Salina Journal, March 10, 2024)

Probst was in favor of legislation that would take away the ability of Kansas Magistrate Judges to authorize search warrants.

A Kansas commission tasked with investigating judicial misconduct wants the judge who signed off on an extraordinary search of a newspaper to explain herself.

Magistrate Judge Laura Viar authorized a search of the Marion County Record in August. The search, led by Marion Police Chief Gideon Cody, has sparked international condemnation as an attack on press freedom. One of the paper's reporters has filed a federal lawsuit against Cody.

The search warrant approved by Viar allowed officers to seize computers and other electronics from the newspaper as part of an investigation into the alleged identity theft of a local restaurant owner. Viar also approved warrants to search the home of publisher Eric Meyer, whose 98-year-old mother, Joan Meyer, was home at the time of the raid and died the next day; and the home of Marion councilwoman Ruth Herbel.

The local prosecutor, Marion County Attorney Joel Ensey, revoked the warrants less than a week later after finding insufficient evidence linking the seized devices to the alleged crimes.

Viar now faces official scrutiny over her actions.

Keri Strahler, a Topeka resident, filed a complaint against the judge following the search with the Kansas Commission on Judicial Conduct, a panel overseen by the state Supreme Court that investigates allegations of wrongdoing by judges. A letter from the commission to Strahler, dated Tuesday, says the commission considered the complaint last Friday.

The commission decided "to request a response from the judge" -- a move that will require the commission to provide a copy of the complaint to Viar -- and placed the matter on the agenda for its Nov. 3 meeting, according to the letter. The Kansas Reflector first reported on the commission's decision.

"I'm happy they're looking into it," Strahler told The Star in a brief interview.

Viar was appointed on Jan. 1 to fill a vacant 8th Judicial District magistrate seat and has not commented publicly since the search. She was previously the Morris County prosecutor.

An investigation by The Wichita Eagle found that Viar had a hidden history of driving under the influence, with two arrests for DUI in two different Kansas counties in 2012. Only one of the arrests had been previously reported.

Viar's DUI history has drawn attention because the raid of the Record came after the paper had looked into the DUI history of Kari Newell, a Marion restaurant owner who is seeking a liquor license for her establishment.

Viar's approval of the search has already led to calls from Democratic lawmakers to take away the ability of magistrate judges to sign off on search warrants. Kansas House Minority Leader Vic Miller, a Topeka Democrat, and Rep. Jason Probst, a Hutchinson Democrat and former journalist, have said they plan to introduce legislation to require district judges to approve search warrants.

The commission considering the complaint against Viar maintains two panels - Panel A and Panel B. The letter to Strahler says two Panel B members - Allen Glendenning, a Great Bend attorney, and Iola resident Susan Lynn - recused themselves, indicating Panel B has been assigned the complaint.

The panel includes Kansas Court of Appeals Judge Thomas Malone and 26th Judicial District Chief Judge Bradley Ambrosier, among others.

In addition to asking for a response from Viar, the commission is allowed to obtain additional documents or information from other sources, but may not hold a public hearing. Panel B, an inquiry panel, is conducting the investigation. If the panel finds misconduct, it can offer an informal reprimand or initiate a formal complaint process that could lead to public hearings.

(Source: The Kansas City Star, September 6, 2023)

TOPEKA, Kan. (KWCH) - House Democratic Leader Vic Miller and State Representative Jason Probst on Tuesday introduced legislation to reform search warrant policy and discuss recent events involving the search of the Marion County Record.

The home of its publisher Eric and Joan Meyer, along with the home of Vice Mayor Ruth Herbel, led to national condemnation about it violating the first amendment.

"It's a very serious thing to issue a search warrant, not just to it relates to the media but individuals as well," said Rep. Miller.

Miller and Probst drafted legislation that would remove the ability of magistrate judges to authorize warrants and leave that only to district judges.

Magistrate judges in Kansas don't have as much power and authority as district court judges but can still oversee traffic and misdemeanor court cases. They can also approve search warrants in the judicial districts where they serve.

"In light of what we saw in Marion and now that we see the affidavit, that's come out on this, it's pretty thin, it's pretty flimsy. There wasn't a lot of evidence to support this search and certainly not the seizure," said Rep. Probst.

The search warrants Marion police executed at the three locations were signed by 8th Judicial District Magistrate Judge Laura Viar. The Marion County Attorney pulled that search warrants last week saying there was insufficient evidence to create a legal link between the alleged crimes and the places searched.

"We need to have a conversation about judicial review of search warrants," said Rep. Probst. "I know I spent 15 years working in journalism, and I saw firsthand that search warrants weren't accurately reviewed by judges whenever they were brought in."

Both Miller and Probst said the bill doesn't prevent a situation like what happened in Marion County, but it could help slow down the authorization process. The hope is to start the conversation before the next legislative session.

"I don't want this to fade away until we've addressed it," said Rep. Miller.

Even with the proposed legislation, lawmakers wouldn't take up a bill until the start of the session in January 2024.

(Source: KCWH, August 23, 2023)

Article where Probst is quoted about his opposition to requiring work training for welfare recipients: "It's punitive in nature," said Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson. "This will not solve a workforce shortage. There are many, many factors that play into what's going on in the workforce. ... We are going to harm people with this."

Kansas House Republicans on Thursday overrode Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly's veto of a bill that supporters claim will move unemployed people off of food stamps and into jobs.

The bill now heads to the Senate, which is expected to have enough votes for an override.

"This bill simply causes individuals that are able-bodied without dependents that work less than 30 hours a week to go to training in order to get a better job," said Rep. Sean Tarwater, R-Stilwell, who carried the bill on the House floor.

The bill, HB 2448, would mandate certain food stamp beneficiaries complete a work training program that is currently voluntary.

Democrats claimed the proposal was intended to kick the working poor off food stamps "to be mean to poor people." The training would be mandatory, even for some people who work part-time jobs, or who care for family members that aren't technically dependents.

Republicans saw it as a solution to a workforce shortage, but offered conflicting theories on how it would work.

Some contended that most beneficiaries would take advantage of the work training program and find a new job. Others suggested that relatively few would abide by the requirement and receive no training, which would lead to a loss of benefits.

Republicans did not have a supermajority when the bill first passed the House 70-46 last month, but enough legislators flipped to give the 86-36 override two more ayes than needed.

More: Food stamp recipients won't be required to complete work training program after Kansas governor veto

Maine man from Florida group pushed legislation

The bill would institute a new requirement for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly referred to as food stamps. Able-bodied adults without dependents who work less than 30 hours a week would have to complete an employment and training program to get SNAP benefits.

The sole proponent of the legislation during committee hearings was a conservative activist and former Maine government official who works for a Florida organization that also lobbied in Kansas for election security laws.

Sam Adolphsen, of Opportunity Solutions Project, told lawmakers that Kansas has a "workforce shortage crisis and "there are tens of thousands of able-bodied adults on your welfare programs that could fill those jobs." He later claimed there are 40,000 to 50,000 able-bodied adults on food stamps in the state.

Kansas does have a workforce shortage, but it is less pronounced than in most states, and the bill would affect far fewer people than he said it would.

The most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics reporting shows Kansas had about 90,000 open jobs in February. Kansas is tied for the second-lowest job opening rate nationwide, which is calculated by dividing the number of job openings by the sum of employment and job openings.

The Department for Children and Families in March reported a monthly average of about 14,000 able-bodied adults without dependents receiving SNAP benefits.

Adolphsen told lawmakers that the legislation "makes that obvious connection" between the number of open jobs and the number of abled-bodied adults on food stamps and will move "people on welfare into some of those open jobs in the state."

Adolphsen didn't say whether those potential workers would be qualified for the available jobs. The Kansas Chamber previously reported that a fall 2021 poll of business leaders found their top concern was the quality of the workforce, especially insufficient soft skills and technical skills.

The legislation sparked opponent testimony from dozens of advocacy organizations, including food banks that said it would put additional pressure food insecurity. It was originally packaged with Medicaid reforms targeting low-income parents, aged-out foster care youths and women who've been diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer.

"The goals of this bill are just common sense," Adolphsen testified in March. "The bill will protect welfare benefits for the truly needy, and it will help move able-bodied Kansans from welfare to work."

More: Kansas bill targets food stamps, Medicaid for poor parents, aged-out foster youths, women with cancer

Was the bill intended as workforce solution?

Despite the original backer of the bill claiming it was an answer to the workforce shortage, Republicans have grown divided over whether it really is a solution and whether that was ever the true intent.

"There are a ton of jobs open across the state just waiting for qualified individuals to fill," House Majority Leader Dan Hawkins, R-Wichita, said earlier this month. "This legislation can help make that happen."

Tarwater appeared to contradict that when he carried the override motion on the floor.

"This will not fix our workforce issues, but that's not the intent of this bill," he said. "The intent of this bill is to help these individuals. And with so many high-wage jobs available right now, I feel that it's our duty to train these people to help them better themselves."

But Tarwater previously said, "We think that people will most likely just go back to work for 30 hours rather than go to the class."

State officials have predicted, based on past evidence, that a mandatory training program would have a participation rate of about 9.3%.

Hawkins had predicted a Kelly veto because "it goes against her preferred governing strategy of giving out goodies at taxpayer expense."

After the Kelly veto, Senate President Ty Masterson, R-Andover, accused the governor of engaging in a "war on work."

"It is hard to comprehend that during a time in which Kansas is experiencing record unemployment, the governor would veto a bill aimed at getting able-bodied adults back into the workforce or on a pathway out of poverty, towards self-sufficiency and personal prosperity," he said.

However, data show Kansas has record-low unemployment.

Kansas Department of Labor statistics show last month's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 2.5%, the same as the previous month and tied for the lowest reported rate on record. The state has nearly 37,000 unemployed individuals

"It's not a perfect bill, it's not going to solve our workforce crisis," said Rep. Susan Humphries, R-Wichita. "But it gives hope and dignity to a vulnerable population."

More: With record-low unemployment amid 95K open jobs, lawmakers pass bill to move Kansans off food stamps

Is bill 'a gift' to SNAP beneficiaries?

While Democrats contend the bill is punitive by kicking the working poor off food stamps, Humphries claimed it will "show compassion by helping lift people up."

"I believe poverty and opportunity are moral issues," she said. "Human dignity has deeper roots than what is in our wallet. Human dignity and happiness are the result of faith, family, community and earned success through work.

"What is the central solution to poverty? It's work. It's not a punishment. It's a blessing. Helping someone move to a place of self-sufficiency is a gift to them. Work, not money, is a fundamental source of dignity, and getting that training that will move them there is a process to hope and self-respect."

"It's punitive in nature," said Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson. "This will not solve a workforce shortage. There are many, many factors that play into what's going on in the workforce. ... We are going to harm people with this."

He pointed to fiscal estimates of a $3 million annual cost to implement a mandatory work training program.

"We're increasing the size of government with this bill, and we're doing it just to prevent people from accessing federal funds that are already applied to the state," Probst said.

Rep. Mark Samsel, R-Wellsville, was one of the Republicans who switched their vote. Among his concerns was growing government, but "it looks like an absolutely good investment in the people of Kansas."

Rep. Charlotte Esau, R-Olathe, explained that while she "is not convinced it is right to pass this," she flipped her vote in-part because "I hope this bill accomplishes what the supporters state it will do."

More: 'Business is booming in Kansas,' Gov. Laura Kelly says, as economist remains optimistic despite concerns

Jason Tidd is a statehouse reporter for the Topeka Capital-Journal. He can be reached by email at jtidd@gannett.com Follow him on Twitter @Jason_Tidd.

(Source: Topeka Capitol Journal, April 28, 2022)

Article highlighting Probst once being on public assistance.

JP: My life. I grew up relatively poor. Neither of my parents graduated high school, so the idea of going to college was a foreign idea in our household. By 19, I was about to be a father. I worked in a restaurant and made very little money.

I didn't have health insurance. I worked like crazy to make enough money for my young family, and we often didn't have enough. I worked jobs I didn't like. I sometimes worked two jobs I didn't like.

In those early days, we relied on public assistance to get by, to provide food and health care for my child. But over time, things got better. I attended college in the evenings, and worked my way into a better career.
Over the years, I feel I've more than repaid the help I received early on – and that early investment in my family likely changed the course of my life, and the lives of my children in a positive way. All of those experiences shaped the way I see the world.

I know firsthand how difficult it can be to keep your head above water, and I know how hopeless it can feel when year after year all you're doing is working to survive. I'd like to help people have better opportunities to thrive, and create ways for more people to find more wealth.

(Source: http://hutchcollegian.com/2017/12/01/alumnus-of-hutchcc-now-in-kansas-house-of-representatives/)

Social Media

Jason Probst
February 20 ·

I published this before the House attempted to override the Governor's veto of a flat tax that was pretty flat for most voters. The House sustained the governor's veto.

Form follows Function - Kansas Legislature

In the worlds of architecture and design, there's an understanding of the direct relationship between the way a thing is designed and the way it works.

For example, the form of a minivan follows its function to provide seating for a bunch of children. The form of a pick-up truck likewise follows its function - which is less about hauling children to soccer practice and more about hauling and towing stuff.

It seems to reason that this idea would apply equally to institutions like the Kansas Legislature.

At a legislative forum a few weeks ago, I said that the legislature was comprised largely of men, who are retired, wealthy, or otherwise positioned to have enough money and time to allow them to serve. Relatively speaking, there are few women, few parents of young children, few young-ish people, few people of color, and I suspect almost no one who lives near or below the poverty line.

That is the form of the Kansas legislature - in 2020 it was 72 percent male, 92 percent white, 36 percent Baby Boomer (though there's some missing data in the 2020 survey. In 2015 it was 66 percent Baby Boomer, and I don't see evidence that's changed substantially toward a younger make up. Only 9 percent is listed as GenX, 2 percent as Millennial, and no Gen Z members. Recent reporting puts the median age of the House at 61).

So then, if this is its form, what does that say about the Kansas Legislature's function? I'll let you answer that for yourself, but we can draw conclusions not just from its form, but from the way it functions.

There's more, if you're interested in reading on. https://thatguyinhutch.substack.com/.../form-follows...

Jason Probst @thatguyinhutch · Oct 9, 2021

Cleared is not limited to Kansas.

1 1

Rep. Nick Hoheisel @RepHoheisel · Oct 7, 2021

I paid $2.99 a gallon this morning in Joe Biden's America. #ksleg

> **CNBC** @CNBC · Oct 6, 2021
>
> Americans are paying the most for gas in seven years cnb.cx/2ZVTaEh

8 3

Show more replies

Rep. Nick Hoheisel @RepHoheisel · Oct 8, 2021

No premise, just an observation. Joe Biden is president and I paid $2.99 a gallon yesterday. Nothing more nothing less.

1

Voting Record – Key Liberal Votes that the ACU Flags

HB 2717 — Ensuring Local Cooperating with Federal Immigration Enforcement and Clarifying Municipal ID Cards Don't Meet State Identity Requirements

2022 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

ACU supports efforts to assist the federal government in performing its constitutional role to enforce the nation's immigration laws, supports government and election integrity by clarifying ID requirements and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 23, 2022 by a vote of 84-38 and the bill was signed into law.

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT

PASSED

Policy Area

Immigration

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	83	1	3
Democrat	1	37	1

Probst Voted No

HB 2448 — Promoting Self Sufficiency Through Work and Training Requirements for Work-Ready Adults Ages 18-49 Seeking Food Stamps

2022 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

ACU supports efforts to help work-ready individuals live more prosperous lives by reducing government dependency, which oftentimes leads to intergenerational poverty and supported this bill. The Governor's veto was overridden by the House on April 28, 2022 by a vote of 86-36.

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT

PASSED

Policy Area

Welfare Fraud and Work Requirements

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	85	0	2
Democrat	1	36	2

Probst voted No

SB 493 — Protecting Consumer Choice by Prohibiting Localities from Banning Plastic Straws, Bags, and Containers

2022 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

ACU opposes unnecessary mandates which drive up business and consumer costs in order to advance a Leftist politicized environmental agenda and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 23, 2022 by a vote of 74-48 but the bill was vetoed by the Governor.

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT
PASSED

Policy Areas

Product Bans and Usage Limitations

Restrictions on Municipal Overreach

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	73	11	3
Democrat	1	37	1

Probst voted NO.

SB 160 — Protecting Women's Athletics from Competition with Men by Basing K-12 Sports on Biological Sex

2022 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

ACU believes all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect and have the same opportunities under the law. ACU also recognizes that there are numerous standard classifications in sports (such as age, weight, etc.) to ensure fair competition. Therefore, ACU supports ensuring fair competition among teams competing across the state and supported this bill. The House failed to override the Governor's veto on April 28, 2022 by a vote of 81-41

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT
PASSED

Policy Area

Students

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	81	4	2
Democrat	0	37	2

Probst voted No.

SB 150 — Reducing Lawsuit Abuse by Limiting Deceptive Legal Advertisements

2022 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

ACU supports free speech as protected under the First Amendment, including advertising: however, criminal fraud cannot be dressed up as free speech and must be prevented. Therefore, ACU supports efforts to prevent lawsuit abuse resulting from unsubstantiated and misleading legal advertisements which ultimately comes at the expense of consumers and taxpayers and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 23, 2022 by a vote of 75-47 and the bill was signed into law.

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT
PASSED

Policy Area

Tort Reform, Civil Law and Enforcement

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	74	10	3
Democrat	1	37	1

Probst voted no

SB 50 — Providing Tax Relief by Conforming the Kansas Tax Code to Federal Law

2021 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This bill would conform the state tax code to federal law to provide tax relief and is in response to federal tax code reforms under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Under the bill, individuals would be permitted to itemize deductions for state income taxes, even if they do not itemize deductions for federal income taxes. Additionally, the bill would decouple the state code from federal law in regard to "global intangible low-taxed income" (GILTI), thus ensuring income earned overseas is not also taxed at the state level. The bill also establishes an internet sales tax for large remote sellers such as Amazon, thereby removing a competitive advantage that was provided to select companies. To offset the new sales tax, the bill reduces the tax imposed on food by 1% (6.5% to 5.5%). ACU supports reducing tax burdens and applying taxes as broadly as possible to ensure the lowest possible rates for everyone and that no individual company or industry is provided with a competitive advantage and supported this bill. The House voted to override the governor's veto on May 3, 2021 by a vote of 84-39 and the bill became law.

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT
PASSED

Policy Area

Taxation Structure

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	84	2	0
Democrat	0	37	2

Probst voted no.

SB 63 — Improving Educational Outcomes by Requiring Schools to Return to In-Person Learning

2021 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This bill, known as the Back-to-School Act, requires school districts to provide a full-time, in-person attendance option for all students, from kindergarten through grade 12 for the 2020-2021 school year. This bill is in response to Gov. Kelly's disastrous shutdown policies during the onset of the Chinese coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. ACU supports providing families the option to send their students to in-person instruction, opposes exiling a generation of students to unproductive learning environments that obstruct academic achievement and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 23, 2021 by a vote of 77-46 and the bill was signed into law.

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT
PASSED

Policy Area

General Educational Standards, Curriculum & Mandates

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	77	8	1
Democrat	0	38	1

Probst voted no

HB 2196 — Increasing Hiring Costs by Hiking Unemployment Benefits

2021 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

The Clayton (ACUF Lifetime 19%) amendment to the unemployment system bill removes safeguards which prevent out of control unemployment spending, thus driving up payroll taxes and hiring costs. Specifically, the bill removes caps within the system that are based off the unemployment rate, and instead provides individuals 26 weeks of benefits regardless of the economic climate. ACU opposes removing this critical safeguard within the unemployment system which ultimately increases hiring costs and discourages individuals from reentering the workforce and opposed this amendment. The House failed to adopt the amendment on March 3, 2021 by a vote of 39-83.

CONSERVATIVES
OPPOSE
DEFEATED

Policy Area

Unemployment Insurance

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	0	83	3
Democrat	39	0	0

Probst voted yes.

HB 2416 — Providing a Legislative Check on the Governor's Emergency Power

2021 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This bill provides a legislative check on executive branch emergency power which Gov. Kelly has abused throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill modifies the procedure for declaring and extending a state of disaster emergency, while also providing the legislature greater oversight of the Governor's orders. Additionally, the bill prohibits the Governor and State Board of Education from closing private schools during an emergency. ACU supports protecting constitutional rights, supports the ability of Americans to manage their own risk related to illnesses, believes that many of government's reactions to COVID-19 have done more harm than good and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 4, 2021 by a vote of 81-40. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT
PASSED

Policy Area

Politician and Bureaucratic Power Expansion/Reduction

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	81	1	4
Democrat	0	39	0

Probst voted no.

HR 6015 — Combatting Gov. Kelly's Overreaching Statewide Mask Mandates

2021 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This resolution strengthens individual liberties by preventing Gov. Kelly from implementing excessive one-size-fits-all mask mandates. Instead, this resolution maintains that local governments maintain the legal authority to take any action related to face coverings deemed necessary to protect public safety. ACU supports protecting constitutional rights, supports the ability of Americans to manage their own risk related to illnesses, believes that many of government's reactions to COVID-19 have done more harm than good and supported this resolution. The House passed the resolution on March 30, 2021 by a vote of 84-39.

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT
PASSED

Policy Area

Politician and Bureaucratic Power Expansion/Reduction

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	84	0	2
Democrat	0	39	0

Probst voted no

HB 2016 — Infringing Property Rights by Imposing a Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures during COVID-19

2020 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

The Clayton (ACUF Lifetime 19%) amendment to the Chinese coronavirus (COVID-19) compromise response bill would infringe property rights by imposing a moratorium on most foreclosures and evictions during COVID-19. Specifically, the amendment would impose the moratorium due to vaguely defined "financial hardships" related to COVID-19. ACU opposes this attack on property rights, opposes exploiting government-imposed shutdowns to foist the costs of socialized housing onto landlords and lenders and opposed this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on June 3, 2020 by a vote of 40-76.

CONSERVATIVES OPPOSE
DEFEATED

Policy Areas

Real Estate Industry

Surface/Land Property Rights

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Democrat	38	1	3
Republican	2	75	7

Probst voted yes

HR 6031 — Blocking Governor Kelly's Abuse of Power and Planned Expansion of "Green" Energy Investment

2020 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This resolution blocks Governor Kelly's executive reorganization order 46 which would have replaced the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) with the Kansas Energy Office controlled by the Office of the Governor. This bureaucratic shakeup would enable the governor to exert greater control over the agency to advance a liberal energy agenda. To that end, the governor's announcement of her power-grab states that the new entity's duties would be expanded to include "renewable energy development" and "energy efficiency," two liberal buzzwords which indicate she plans to restrict consumer energy options, thus driving up costs and likely providing crony taxpayer-funded handouts to government-favored "renewable" energy developers. ACU supports all sources of energy, does not believes government should not support one source of energy over another and supported this resolution. The House passed the resolution on March 18, 2020 by a vote of 74-44.

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT
PASSED

Policy Areas

Renewable Energy (Solar, Wind, Nuclear)

Government Agency and Service Expansion/Reduction

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Democrat	0	34	8
Republican	74	10	0

Probst voted no

HB 2066 — Preventing Medicaid Expansion Funds from Being Provided to Individuals Residing in the Country Illegally

2019 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

The Owens (ACUF Lifetime 83%) amendment to a Medicaid expansion bill would prevent taxpayers from being forced to provide health insurance coverage for individuals who reside in the country illegally. Under the amendment, all new enrollee-applicants to the KanCare Bridge (Medicaid expansion) would be submitted to the e-verify system operated by the federal Department of Homeland Security to verify lawful presence in the country. ACU opposes reducing resources for American citizens by providing taxpayer-funded benefits to individuals who reside in the country illegally and supported this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on March 20, 2019 by a vote of 61-63. (The underlying bill failed to advance in the Senate.)

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT
DEFEATED

Policy Areas

Government-Provided Health Services

Immigration

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	60	23	2
Democrat	1	40	0

Probst voted no.

HB 2066 — Protecting Life by Prohibiting Medicaid Expansion Funds from Being Used for Abortion

2019 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

The Humphries (ACUF Lifetime 82%) amendment to a Medicaid expansion bill would protect life by preventing any funds for KanCare Bridge (Medicaid expansion) from being used to take the lives of unborn children through abortion. This amendment is designed to act as a state version of the federal Hyde Amendment which prohibits politicians from forcing taxpayers to pay for abortion with federal Medicaid funds. ACU believes abortion is a human tragedy, supports restrictions to end the practice and supported this amendment. The House passed the amendment on March 20, 2019 by a vote of 90-34. (The underlying bill failed to advance in the Senate.)

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT
PASSED

Policy Areas

Abortion

Health Care Industry

Tax/Spending

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	83	0	2
Democrat	7	34	0

Probst voted no

SB 22 — Preventing a $500 Million Tax Hike by Conforming the Kansas Tax Code to Federal Law

2019 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This bill would conform the state tax code to federal law to prevent an unintentional $500 million tax increase. The bill is in response to federal tax code reforms under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Under the bill, individuals would be permitted to itemize deductions for state income taxes, even if they do not itemize deductions for federal income taxes. Additionally, the bill would decouple the state code from federal law in regards to "global intangible low-taxed income" (GILTI), thus ensuring income earned overseas is not also taxed at the state level. The bill also establishes an internet sales tax for large remote sellers such as Amazon, thereby removing a competitive advantage that was provided to select companies. To offset the new sales tax, the bill reduces the tax imposed on food by 1% (6.5% to 5.5%). ACU supports reducing tax burdens and applying taxes as broadly as possible to ensure the lowest possible rates for everyone and that no individual company or industry is provided with a competitive advantage and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 8, 2019 by a vote of 76-43 but the bill was vetoed by the governor.

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT
PASSED

Policy Area

Income Tax (Personal)

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	76	4	5
Democrat	0	39	2

Probst voted no

HB 2197 — Threatening the Solvency of the State Pension System by Hiking Payouts

2019 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

The Benson (ACUF Lifetime 25%) amendment to a pension reform bill would jeopardize the solvency of the state pension fund, which has $7 billion in unfunded liabilities, by hiking payouts to certain retirees up to 5%. Under the amendment, taxpayers would be forced to provide additional "cost of living adjustments" to certain beneficiaries under the Kansas Public Employment Retirement System (KPRES), even though these additional benefits were never contracted. The amendment would provide beneficiaries who retired prior to 2009 with a 2.5% increase in benefits and those who retired prior to 1999 with a 5% increase in benefits. ACU opposes jeopardizing the solvency of the state pension system through fiscally irresponsible measures that may result in workers not receiving the benefits for which they contracted, opposes placing taxpayers at heightened risk of significant new burdens, especially at a time when the pension system faces nearly $7 billion in unfunded liabilities and opposed this bill. The House defeated the amendment on February 14, 2019 by a vote of 48-75.

CONSERVATIVES OPPOSE
DEFEATED

Policy Area

Government Pay, Pensions and Liabilities

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	9	74	2
Democrat	39	1	1

Probst voted yes

SB 331 — Increasing Government Land Ownership and Violating Property Rights

2018 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This bill expands government land ownership by designating the Flint Hills Nature Trail and the Little Jerusalem rock formations as state parks. The Flint Hills Nature Trail dates back to the 1870s and was a right-of-way grant provided to railroads, strictly for railroad purposes, and contained a clause reverting the use of the land back to the landowners once their property ceased to be used for railroad purposes. ACU Foundation's Center for 21st Century Property Rights is a leading voice on "Rails-to-Trails" and works to defend the property rights of all landowners. ACU opposes government land ownership and this blatant attack on property rights and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on April 6, 2018 by a vote of 96-23.

CONSERVATIVES OPPOSE
PASSED

Policy Areas

Land Conservation and Government Ownership

Surface/Land Property Rights

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	58	22	6
Democrat	38	1	1

Probst voted yes

HB 2773 — Applying an Additional Tax on Firearms and Ammunition

2018 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

The Helgerson (ACUF Lifetime 26%) amendment to the education bill imposes a new $1 fee on the retail sale of every firearm and 1 cent fee on each round of ammunition. These fees are on top of the state's nearly-10 percent sales tax on these products. ACU opposes singling out these select products for a new tax and placing additional burdens on those who wish to exercise their Second Amendment rights and opposed this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on March 27, 2018 by a vote of 35-88.

CONSERVATIVES OPPOSE
DEFEATED

Policy Areas

Firearm Background Checks

Sales Tax (General)

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	4	79	3
Democrat	31	9	0

Probst voted yes

HB 2118 — Socializing Student Loan Debt of State Employees

2019 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

The Alcala (ACUF Lifetime 23%) amendment to a tax credit bill would drive up taxpayer costs by socializing the student loan debt of state employees. Under the amendment, state employees who make payments on students loans would be eligible to receive tax credits against their state personal income tax liability. The amendment would provide credits up to 15% of the principal and interest a state employee pays against their loans. ACU recognizes Kansas state employees are already among the best-compensated workers in the state and that this lucrative new benefit would be extended to university administrators, many of whom receive hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars annually. ACU believes subsidizing the cost of higher education represents the largest transfer of wealth from lower-income individuals to higher-income individuals and believes instead society should reduce the exorbitant cost of higher education by eliminating wasteful programs and useless administrative positions and opposed this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on March 26, 2019 by a vote of 32-86.

CONSERVATIVES OPPOSE
DEFEATED

Policy Areas

Education Expansion, Spending and Taxation

Government Pay, Pensions and Liabilities

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	0	80	5
Democrat	32	6	3

Probst voted yes

HB 2209 — Reducing Health Care Costs by Expanding the Sale of Association Health Plans Exempt from Costly Obamacare Mandates

2019 — Kansas House of Representatives

Vote Description

This bill provides more businesses and their employees the option to obtain lower cost health care coverage through association health plans (AHPs). This option is made possible due to the fact AHPs are exempt from many of Obamacare's costly mandates such as prohibitions on basing premiums on health risk factors and requiring all policies to provide "essential health benefits." The bill eliminates previously enacted restrictions in order to allow more employers to form AHPs and more employees to join a single AHP (previously limited to 51 individuals). ACU has long opposed Obamacare and its draconian mandates which forced millions of Americans from their private insurance coverage and did not allow patients to "keep their doctor," supports measures to reduce health care costs and expand the ability of patients to select the coverages which best suit their needs and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 5, 2019 by a vote of 84-39 and the bill became law without the governor's signature.

CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT
PASSED

Policy Area

Insurance

Roll Call Vote

Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republican	82	1	2
Democrat	2	38	1

Probst voted No

2023/2024 KEY VOTES

Pro-Business

HB 2100, 2023 – Anti-ESG legislation (76-47)

- Protects investments by the state, only prioritize financial outcome

Probst voted No

HB 2446, 2023 – Blocks locals from banning plastic bags or other containers for groceries, food, and beverage (72-51)

- Pro consumer choice

Probst voted No

HB 2648, 2024: Requiring the director of the budget to independently determine costs of compliance and implementation for all proposed rules and regulations and authorizing the director of the budget to disapprove proposed rules and regulations (82-36)

- REINS Act to rein in the regulatory state
- Provides legislative oversight of high cost regulations
- Pushes back on the bureaucracy

Probst voted No

HB 2648, 2024: REINS Act Veto Override (87-38)

- Veto override of the REINS Act detailed earlier

Probst voted No

Education

HB 2236, 2023 – Parent's Bill of Rights (75-47)

- Reaffirms rights of parents to direct the upbringing of their children

Probst voted No

HB 2521, 2024: Requiring the state board of education to authorize teaching licenses for individuals who complete an alternative teacher certification program. (79-43)

- Republicans pursuing solutions to address teacher shortages

Probst voted No

HB 2105, 2024: DEI in Higher Education (81-40)

- Prohibits higher ed from taking certain actions concerning diversity, equity, or inclusion (DEI)
- Includes prohibiting diversity statements for employment, admission, or education aid.
- Requires all training materials to be posted for the public
- Sets out a process and penalties for non-compliance

Probst voted No

HB 2460, 2024: Prohibiting postsecondary educational institutions from taking certain actions regarding admission applicants, applicants for employment and faculty concerning diversity, equity or inclusion, exceptions, providing for civil remedies and penalties, submitting a report to the legislature and posting information on the board of regents website. (81-39)

- Prohibits higher ed from taking certain actions concerning diversity, equity, or inclusion (DEI)
- Includes prohibiting diversity statements for employment, admission, or education aid.
- Requires all training materials to be posted for the public
- Sets out a process and penalties for non-compliance

Probst voted No

Foreign

SB 172, 2024: Foreign Land (84-39)

- Kansas Land & Military Installation Act
- Prohibit foreign principals from countries of concern from acquiring an interest in non residential real property located within 150 miles of the boundary of any military installation located in Kansas or an adjacent state
- Standing up to China vote

Probst voted No

SB 172, 2024: Foreign Land (84-36)

- Conference report similar to above

Probst voted No

SB 172, 2024: Foreign Land (86-39)

- Conference report similar to above

Probst voted No

SB 233, 2024: Veto Override (82-43)

- Veto override vote of CCR above

Probst voted No

Family

HB 2238, 2023 – Creates the fairness in women's sports act (82-40)

- Keeps women's sports competitive and fair

Probst voted No

SB 26, 2023 – Creates civil penalties for doctors who transition minors (70-52)

- Pro child

Probst voted No

S sub for HB 2138, 2023 – Requires schools to require separate accommodations based on sex on overnight trips (84-39)

- Pro woman

Probst voted No

HB 2238, 2023 – Standardizing firearm safety in schools, opt-in (82-40)

- Age-appropriate firearm safety education for youth

Override Vote:

Probst voted No

SB 233, 2024: Forbidding abusive childhood transitions act (80-40)

- Prohibits sex changes for children

Probst voted No

SB 233, 2024: Forbidding abusive childhood transitions act (82-39)

- Conference report prohibiting sex changes for children

Probst voted No

SB 287, 2024: Prohibiting a healthcare provider from administering any drug or diagnostic test or conducting behavioral health treatment to a minor in a school facility without parental consent (85-37)

- Protecting parental rights and requiring their consent before medical treatments or test are performed on their children with exceptions for emergency situations.

Probst voted No

Crime/Immigration

HB 2350, 2023 – Creates the crime of human smuggling or knowingly transporting illegal immigrants or felons into the state of Kansas (117-4). (Vetoed) (Override vote 85-39)

- Tough on crime, fighting illegal immigration

Override Vote:

Probst voted No

SB 180, 2023 – Women's Bill of Rights (83-41)

- Reaffirms that single-sex spaces have the right to exist in Kansas

Probst voted No

HR 6035, 2024: Affirming state sovereignty and supporting Texas in its efforts to combat illegal immigration (80-40)

- Tough on the border, opposing the Biden administration.

Probst voted No

SB 28 Line Item 1, 2024: Texas border money (84-41)

- Veto override regarding sending support to the border to help Texas
- Tough on the border vote

Probst voted No

Voting Rights

HB 2056, 2023 – Requires mail ballots to be received by the voting deadline on election day (77-45)

- Ensures that all votes are in by the same deadline and elections can be counted promptly

Probst voted No

Taxes/Fees

HB 2284, 2024: Mega Tax Bill (81-37)

- Single rate income tax 5.25%
- Eliminate social security tax on income
- Eliminate food sales tax
- Increase property tax residential exemption to $100k

Probst voted No

HB 2097, 2024: Tax Conference Report (102-22)

- Kansas Film tax credit (Handouts for Hollywood?)
- National Guard Employment Credits (encourages Kansas businesses to employ members of the KS National Guard

Probst voted Yes

Spending

HB 2140, 2023 – Work requirements for food assistance for adults (82-42)

- Pro work, gives people opportunity for work and training while remaining on assistance while they need it

Probst voted No

HB 2273, 2024: Budget (91-32)

- First mega budget to pass the House this year
- If you voted No, you voted against funding everything in it.
- If you voted Yes, you voted to spend a lot of money

Probst voted Yes

HB 2551, 2024: Omnibus Budget (71-49)

- Similar to mega budget. No vote means you vote against all the funding inside it. Yes vote means you're spending a lot of money.

Probst voted No

SB 28, 2024: Mega budget conference report (78-44)

- Mega budget that became law

Probst voted No

Political Contributions

Took $500 from the Kansas Trial Lawyers in 2022.

09/28/22	KTLA Consumer Civil Justice PAC 719 SW Van Buren ST STE 222 Topeka KS 66603	Check		$500.00

(Source: http://ethics.ks.gov/CFAScanned/House/2022ElecCycle/202210/H102JP_202210.pdf)

2023/2024 Legislative Compensation

2023 Session (84 days)	Per Diem Salary $88.66/day	Per Diem Subsistence $157/day	Legislative Allowance $354.15/Biweekly for 20 pay periods	Leadership Pay	Travel Expense Reimbursements One R/T Per Week (14 trips)	Travel Expense Reimbursements Out of State Travel
Rep. Jason Probst	$7,447.44	$13,188.00	$7,083.00	$0.00	$2,915.64	$0.00

2024 Session (89 days, includes 1 day Special Session)	Per Diem Salary $88.66/day	Per Diem Subsistence $166/day	Legislative Allowance $354.15/Biweekly for 9 pay periods (through August 2, 2024)	Leadership Pay	Travel Expense Reimbursements One R/T Per Week (16 trips)	Travel Expense Reimbursements Out of State Travel
Rep. Jason Probst	$7.890.74	$14.608.00	$3.187.35	$0.00	$3.730.88	$0.00

Special Interest Money and Lobbyist Gifts

-Since 2017, Jason Probst has received over $101,000 in contributions from PACs, businesses or individuals associated with special interests. ***(Source: Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, Jason Probst Campaign Finance Reports)***

-Since 2018, Probst has received over $6,300 in lobbyist gifts and meals.

Jason Probst Lobbyist Gift/Meal Tally		
Year		Total
2018	$	716.27
2019	$	812.22
2020	$	538.65
2021	$	1,476.61
2022	$	942.75
2023	$	898.25
Jan -- 24	$	271.62
Feb -- 24	$	373.95
Apr -- 24	$	307.07
Lobbyist Gift Total =	$	6,337.39

(Source: Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, Lobbyist Expenditure Reports)

RESEARCH DOSSIER

JASON PROBST

(KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: HD-102)

Last Updated: March 31, 2022

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DOSSIER NOTES

In preparing this background report, we undertook an examination of all readily available and relevant electronic and online records, several hundred Nexis and news articles, dozens of active and archived web pages, and several dozen public records from Nexis and the resources of various federal, state, and municipal government offices. The results of our analysis are contained below.

Typographical Note: There are a number of articles quoted in this report that contain typographical errors. These are from the original text of the article and have not been corrected when being quoted directly.

MAIN NARRATIVES

Personal Financial Issues

As both an individual and a politician, Jason Probst has demonstrated financial profligacy. Probst appears to have filed for bankruptcy in the past.

In 1996, Probst and his wife filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection related to the failed operation of his erstwhile restaurant, Hesston Heritage Inn Restaurant (per his personal website). (Note: No record of the bankruptcy could be independently found in a search of PACER/ U.S. Bankruptcy Court.)

Probst and his wife have also been sued for failure to pay personal financial obligations. In 2017, Newton Anesthesia Services PA filed suit against Probst for $237 in unpaid bills. Newton Anesthesia Services received judgment against Probst and his wife, as well as an order of garnishment to satisfy the judgment, which was ultimately satisfied in April 2018.

As a current Kansas state legislator, Probst has received and enjoyed over $112,000 in compensation to go with tens of thousands in additional travel perks. Beyond his legislative allowance totaling $33,998.40 since 2017 (or $354.15 per pay period), Probst has netted $32,624.28 in per diem salary, $37,854 in per diem subsistence, and $8,267.70 in leadership pay for a total take-home of $112,744.38 from 2017 to 2022. Furthermore, Probst has submitted vouchers for travel reimbursements totaling $23,566.56 over that span. In addition to $11,168.98 in mileage reimbursements he enjoyed, Probst also received $10,463.40 in travel reimbursements, $4,005.77 of which was related to his leadership duties from 2020 onward.

Political And Ethical Issues

Despite serving in the Kansas House of Representatives as a Democrat since June 2017, Probst has a varied history of party affiliation. Probst is an actively-registered Democrat Party voter in Reno County, Kansas, an affiliation he has maintained continuously since June 2017. Yet, Probst has bounced back and forth between Democrat and Republican Party affiliation. In fact, Probst was an affiliated Republican from April 2016 to June 2017, spanning the 2016 general election period; Probst voted in a Republican Party primary as recently as August 2016. From March to April 2016, Probst aligned with the Democrats for the month-long period. For the longest duration, from August 2000 to March 2016, Probst voted as an affiliated Republican Party voter.

In 2018, the Kansas State Fair reported Probst as a subcontractor for agency marketing firm BowerComm Inc. to the Kansas Ethics Commission. Probst wrote promotional materials, including the fair's "educators' guide, website content, and press releases," and provided strategic planning, all while serving in the legislature. Probst also reported over $3,200 in miscellaneous consulting fees to BowerComm out of his campaign committee from 2020 to 2021 in the years subsequent to said disclosure.

In a similar vein, Probst has engaged in practices as a political vendor while serving in the Kansas Statehouse. From 2018 onward, Probst has declared ownership of a business ownership in Hutchinson, Kansas named "Kansas Matters." Since 2018, Kansas Matters has received at least $950 in reported political consulting fees from Kansas campaigns. In 2018, the business also contributed $100 to the gubernatorial campaign of Laura Kelly. Probst—as sole member of Kansas Matters—took out a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in April 2020 that accrued to over $6,600 that was ultimately forgiven.

In 2010, Probst praised Toyota's handling of its decision to recall cars related to accelerator pads. Probst wrote that Toyota had "handled the issue with class." Probst even asserted that concern over the Toyota safety defects "didn't warrant the end-of-the-world hysteria that took hold around the country." However, in 2014, Toyota "agreed to pay a staggering $1.2 billion to avoid prosecution for covering up severe safety problems with 'unintended acceleration,' according to court documents, and continuing to make cars with parts the FBI said Toyota 'knew were deadly.'"

Fiscal And Economic Issues

Probst was an early and then consistent opponent of Gov. Brownback's signature income tax cuts. As an editorial writer in 2012, Probst compared Brownback's tax reform plan to "driving a car with four flat tires." In 2015, Probst wrote that "eliminating the income tax on many businesses and lowering the tax rates for the state's top earners has not kick-started the state's economy." Probst supported the legislature's 2017 decision to roll back the income tax cuts.

In 2011, Probst called for increasing income taxes. Specifically, Probst wrote that he agreed with Warren Buffet's calls on increasing taxes on those making more than $1 million annually. Probst also criticized a 2013 proposal to redefine commercial and industrial machinery in an effort to make such property tax exempt. In 2017, Probst voiced support for Gov. Hutchinson's efforts to extend a local sales tax. Additionally, in 2015, Probst praised a recognition that sin taxes on cigarettes and alcohol would have to be raised. On the federal level, Probst has criticized Congressional Republicans for voting to repeal the estate tax.

While serving in the legislature, Probst has opposed efforts to reduce property taxes. In 2018, and 2019, Probst voted against legislation that conservatives contend was "designed to stop a tax increase by conforming the state's tax code with changes in federal tax law."

Probst has also supported efforts to impose fees on Kansas residents. In 2012, Probst praised a measure that would charge seniors for hunting and fishing licenses – the licenses had previously been free for seniors. Probst also backed the implementation of a new fee on the retail sale of firearms and on each round of ammunition.

Probst has publicly supported liberal opposition to efforts to reduce funding for both the Kansas Arts Commission and NPR. Probst has also opposed reforms to welfare programs, including food stamps.

Probst has indicated he is supportive of wage mandates and has been critical of 'right to work' laws. Just recently, in 2021, Probst argued that ending pandemic enhanced unemployment benefits would not ameliorate labor conditions in Kansas.

In 2012, Probst criticized a bill, passed by a 106-8 vote, that would allow large-scale swine farming operations with the approval of the county commission rather than a referendum of county voters. In 2013, Probst opposed proposals to expand the high-performance incentive program for farm operations and to lift Kansas' restrictions on corporate farming. In 2018, Probst voted against legislation "to allow large-scale poultry feeding operations" – a bill that "was a key one for the agriculture sector."

Support Of A Liberal Policy Agenda

In 2014, Probst criticized climate change deniers in the Kansas legislature and was critical of a resolution urging Congress to oppose Obama's climate action plan. Probst has expressed support for providing taxpayer funded assistance for alternative energy and has expressed support for maintaining renewable energy standards. In 2015, Probst wrote that fracking in Kansas was causing earthquakes. Probst also pushed for legislation that sought a moratorium on saltwater disposal wells and legislation creating a fee levied on oil companies to pay for earthquake damage. Moreover, in 2019, Probst introduced legislation that sought to levy fees on fracking activities. Additionally, in 2022, Probst voted against legislation that sought to prohibit cities and counties in Kansas from implementing bans on everyday items such as plastic straws and plastic and cardboard containers, among other commonly used products.

On healthcare, Probst previously called for accepting federal funds to implement Obamacare and has been an outspoken supporter of Medicaid expansion. Once joining the legislature, Probst underscored his commitment to Medicaid expansion and was recently the lead sponsor of a constitutional amendment to expand Medicaid.

In 2021, Probst derided a proposal to restore the legislature's power to revoke regulations issued by state agencies in light of covid-19 as a "power grab". Probst also joined liberals in voting against a resolution that sought to prevent Gov. Kelly "from implementing excessive one-size-fits-all mask mandates." In 2020, Probst supported an amendment that "would place unreasonable new liabilities on taxpayers pertaining to the contraction of [covid]…" by certain state employees. In January 2021, Probst announced his intention to participate in the expedited vaccination program for state legislators.

On education, Probst has opposed efforts to expand school choice. In 2014, Probst criticized vouchers for private schools and claimed that "such policies never will provide an adequate and equitable public education for all Kansas children." Probst also appears to be a defender of Obama-era Common Core standards. Additionally, Probst has criticized measures that sought to increase teacher accountability.

In March 2022, Probst voted against an anti-sanctuary city measure. Probst has also opposed other illegal immigration enforcement policies. Probst has been supportive of offering benefits to illegal immigrants. In 2012, Probst criticized repealing a law granting illegal immigrants in-state tuition rates. In 2022, Probst wrote that "it looks like 'qualified non-citizens' are generally eligible for coverage through Medicaid."

In 2015, Probst called for a reexamination of cash bail policies, implicitly criticizing holding people in jail on minor offenses. In 2010, Probst proposed restoring judicial discretion in sentencing for certain crimes rather than tying judges to a strict penalty matrix. Additionally, in 2018, Probst sponsored legislation that sought to abolish the death penalty.

Probst has used his writings to criticize law enforcement. In 2014, Probst voiced criticism of law enforcement noting "over time that appreciation [for police] morphed into a mistaken notion that every police officer is a hero who is above reproach or questioning…" Probst in 2014: "the public has allowed the country's law enforcement departments to shield themselves from legitimate scrutiny by hiding behind the need for safety, security or an ongoing investigation."

Social Issues

Probst appears to be pro-abortion and has cast several votes to substantiate that posture. Probst has been steadfast in his opposition to the concept of personhood. Probst has also sponsored legislation requiring health insurance plans to cover contraceptives. Probst has indicated at least some willingness to provide taxpayer backed funding for abortion. In 2019, Probst voted against an amendment that "would prevent funds from going to abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood." In 2021, Probst voted against "an amendment to the state constitution that would clarify that no one has the right to take the life of an unborn child and that taxpayers do not have an obligation to fund the practice."

Probst has backed efforts to expand anti-discrimination regulations often objected to by individual organizations based on religious grounds. Probst has been critical of efforts to promote religious expression and values.

In June 2020, Probst participated in a 'Black Lives Matter' rally and implicitly recognized that he benefitted from his privileges as a white man. In 2021, Probst used social media to describe concerns about 'critical race theory' as "the new boogeyman to scare voters."

On the Second Amendment, Probst has supported efforts to limit rights surrounding firearms. In 2015, Probst slammed constitutional carry laws contending "such a move is nothing short of irresponsible and unnecessary… and it does nothing to protect the aim of the constitutional right to own firearms." Probst has publicly criticized the NRA and has urged a review of Kansas' 'stand your ground' law. In 2018, Probst voted for an amendment that "imposes a new $1 fee on the retail sale of every firearm and 1 cent fee on each round of ammunition."

Probst has been dismissive of voter fraud, has criticized efforts to ensure election integrity, and has signaled an openness to radical voting reforms.

Probst appears to be a supporter of self-described Democratic-Socialist Bernie Sanders. In 2015, Probst urged his readers to learn about Sanders and his policies. Finally, Probst has been critical of Trump and at times has used social media to promote overly partisan content.

TOP-ISSUES

Financial

Personal

- In 1996, Probst and his wife filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection related to the failed operation of his restaurant, Hesston Heritage Inn Restaurant (per his personal website).
- In 2017, Newton Anesthesia Services PA filed suit against Probst for $237 in unpaid bills.
    - Newton Anesthesia Services received judgment against Probst and his wife, as well as an order of garnishment to satisfy the judgment, which was ultimately satisfied in April 2018.

Political

Compensation, Per Diems, Travel & Perks

- As a current Kansas state legislator, Probst has received and enjoyed over $112,000 in compensation to go with tens of thousands in additional travel perks.
    - Beyond his legislative allowance totaling $33,998.40 since 2017 (or $354.15 per pay period), Probst has netted $32,624.28 in per diem salary, $37,854 in per diem subsistence, and $8,267.70 in leadership pay for a total take-home of $112,744.38 from 2017 to 2022.
- Probst has submitted vouchers for travel reimbursements totaling $23,566.56 over that span.
    - In addition to $11,168.98 in mileage reimbursements he enjoyed, Probst also received $10,463.40 in travel reimbursements, $4,005.77 of which was related to his leadership duties from 2020 onward.

Civic

- Probst is an actively-registered Democrat Party voter in Reno County, Kansas, an affiliation he has maintained continuously since June 2017.
- Yet, Probst has bounced back and forth between Democrat and Republican Party affiliation.
    - Probst was an affiliated Republican from April 2016 to June 2017, spanning the 2016 general election period.
    - Probst voted in a Republican Party primary as recently as August 2016.
    - From March to April 2016, Probst aligned with the Democrats for the monthlong period.

- For the longest duration, from August 2000 to March 2016, Probst voted as an affiliated Republican Party voter.

- Probst once extolled centrism and was a registered Republican until a month before being appointed as a Democrat legislator.

Affiliations

- Probst had indicated positive notes toward Bernie Sanders.
- Probst has been critical of Trump and has promoted partisan content on social media.

Ethics

State Contracts

- In 2018, the Kansas State Fair reported Probst as a subcontractor for agency marketing firm BowerComm Inc. to the Kansas Ethics Commission.
    - Probst wrote promotional materials, including the fair's "educators' guide, website content, and press releases," and provided strategic planning, all while serving in the legislature.
- Probst has reported over $3,200 in miscellaneous consulting fees to BowerComm out of his campaign committee from 2020 to 2021 in the years subsequent to said disclosure.

Political Consulting

- From 2018 onward, Probst has declared ownership of a business ownership in Hutchinson, Kansas named "Kansas Matters."
    - Since 2018, Kansas Matters has received at least $950 in reported political consulting fees from Kansas campaigns.
    - In 2018, the business also contributed $100 to the gubernatorial campaign of Laura Kelly.
- Probst—as sole member of Kansas Matters—took out a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in April 2020 that accrued to over $6,600 that was ultimately forgiven.

Policy

Fiscal And Economic

- Probst opposed Brownback's income tax cuts and praised the repeal in 2017.
- Probst supported increasing taxes on high-income earners.
- Probst opposed efforts to cut business taxes.
- Probst supported extending a local sales tax.

- Probst opposed federal estate tax repeal.
- Probst indicated support for dramatic sin tax increases (but noted they were an effect of Brownback's income tax policies).
- Probst backed collecting hunting and fishing license fees from seniors.
- Probst opposed cutting funding for the Kansas Arts Commission.
- Probst opposed cutting federal funding for NPR.
- Probst opposed several social program/ welfare reforms and also indicated opposition to food stamp reforms.
- Probst has backed several labor friendly policies.
- Probst has supported several increased regulations and opposed measures to decreased agricultural regulations.

Energy & Environment

- Probst supports government assistance for alternative energy.
- Probst opposed repealing the renewable portfolio standard.
- Probst effectively opposes fracking.

Healthcare

- Probst called for accepting federal funds to implement Obamacare.
- Probst has been an outspoken supporter of Medicaid expansion.
- Probst opposes government accountability measures in light of COVID19.
- Probst participated in an advanced vaccination program.

Education

- Probst opposes school choice.
- Probst criticized common core opponents.
- Probst criticized measures undercutting teacher labor protections.

Immigration

- Probst opposed stricter illegal immigration enforcement policies.
- Probst has been supportive of offering benefits to illegal immigrants.

Law And Order

- Probst backs criminal justice reform policies like bail reform to death penalty abolition.

- Probst has criticized law enforcement, especially the use of military equipment.
- Probst calls for legalization of marijuana.
- Probst has broadly been open to the legalization of drugs.
- Probst criticized enhanced intelligence gathering.

Social Issues

- Probst opposes personhood and has signaled other prochoice leanings, including support for Planned Parenthood.
- Probst acknowledged implicitly his own white privilege.
- Probst has described critical race theory as “the new boogeyman to scare voters”.
- Probst has been critical of efforts to promote religious expression and values.
- Probst has supported 2A limitations.

Elections and Voting

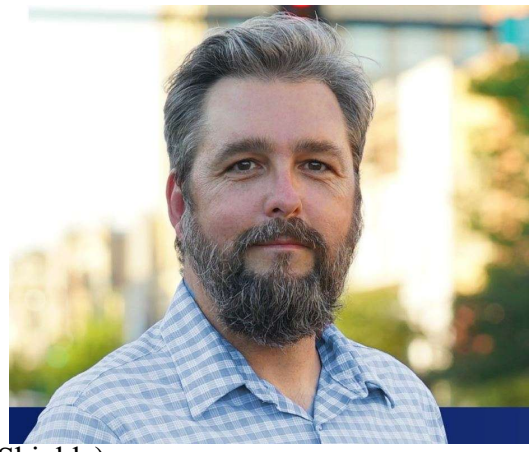
- Probst has been dismissive of voter fraud and criticized efforts to ensure election integrity.
- Probst signaled openness to radical voting reforms.
- Probst has echoed liberal rhetoric on campaign finance.

Questionable Positions

- Probst praised Toyota's controversial handling of its vehicle recall scandal.
- Probst has called for limiting major federal entitlements.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PERSONAL INFORMATION: JASON PROBST



Full Name:	Jason Paul Probst
DOB:	January 11, 1974 (48)
Primary Address:	205 W. 14th Avenue Hutchinson, KS 67501 Reno County (2016-Pres.)
Marital Status:	Divorced
Ex-Spouse:	Kimberly Renee Probst (née Shinkle) DOB: September 7, 1973 (48) Married: August 14, 1994 | Divorced: January 28, 2015
Children:	Daughter (28 years old) Son (24 years old)
Voter Registration:	Registered Voter – Reno County, Kansas
Education:	2000 – 2002 B.A., Management, Baker University (Baldwin City, KS) 1998 – 2000 A.A., Business, Hutchinson Community College (Hutchinson, KS)
Employment:	2021 – Pres. Assistant Minority Leader, Kansas House of Representatives (Topeka, KS) 2017 – Pres. State Representative, Kansas House of Representatives (HD-102) (Topeka, KS) 2007 – 2017 News Editor, *The Hutchinson News* (Hutchinson, KS) 2002 – 2012 Writer & Editor, *The Hutchinson News* (Hutchinson, KS) Unk. – Unk. Machinist, Mega Manufacturing
Associations:	Participant, Leadership Reno County Former Board Member, New Beginnings Participant, You. Lead. Now.
Business Interests:	N/A*
Military Service:	N/A

Election Results:	2020	Kansas House of Representatives (HD-102) (General, Won)
	2018	Kansas House of Representatives (HD-102) (General, Won)
	2017	Kansas House of Representatives (HD-102) (Appointed)

Web Sites:
https://probstforprogress.com/
http://www.kslegislature.org/
https://jasonprobst.com/
https://en.wikipedia.org/
https://ballotpedia.org/
https://justfacts.votesmart.org/
https://www.alignable.com/

Social Media:
Facebook (Personal)
Facebook (Campaign)
Twitter (Personal)
Twitter (Campaign)
Instagram (Campaign)
LinkedIn (Personal)
YouTube (Personal/Campaign)

* See 'Business Records' note for more information.

ELECTION RESULTS

Jason Probst has served in the Kansas House of Representatives representing House District 102 (HD-102) since his appointment by Democrat selection committee in June 2017 to fill Rep. Patsy Terrell's unexpired term. Though he was re-elected in an unopposed general election in 2018, Probst won re-election by 31 votes in 2020 against Republican challenger John Whitesel.

2020 General Election, Kansas House Of Representatives (HD-102)

General Election Results (November 3, 2020)

Candidate	Party	Vote Total
Jason Probst	DEM	3,368
John Whitesel	REP	3,337

(Official Election Results, Kansas Secretary Of State, 11/3/20)

2018 General Election, Kansas House Of Representatives (HD-102)

General Election Results (November 6, 2018)

Candidate	Party	Vote Total
Jason Probst	DEM	3,298

(Official Election Results, Kansas Secretary Of State, 11/6/18)

2017 Appointment, Kansas House Of Representatives (HD-102)

In June 2017, Probst Was Elected Six Votes To Three To Fill Rep. Patsy Terrell's Seat For Kansas House District 102 After She Passed Away From Natural Causes. "Patsy Terrell's replacement was selected after a vote Wednesday. Communication and Digital Director of the Kansas Democratic Party, Heather Scanlon, confirmed that Jason Probst has been elected by Reno County Democrats to fill Terrell's seat. There were nine votes cast in the election and Probst won six votes to three. Patsy Terrell passed away of natural causes in Topeka June 7." (Jess Vermeulen, "Jason Probst Selected As Rep. Patsy Terrell's Replacement," *KSN*, 6/22/17)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Jason Probst's campaign committee for Kansas House of Representatives, Probst for Progress, has just over $28,000 in cash on hand for his 2022 re-election campaign. Overall, from 2017 to 2022, Probst for Progress has raised approximately $95,000 in aggregate receipts; Probst has attracted contributions from a politically eclectic mix of organizational donors over the years, spanning organized labor and ideological groups (e.g., Humane Society, trial lawyers, pro-transgender), trade organizations, and leading large corporations (e.g., tobacco companies, beverage distributors, financial services, telecommunications, and healthcare providers). Equally as noteworthy are the committee's expenditures over the year, which include over $3,300 in reimbursements to Probst personally as well as over $3,200 in outlays to BowerComm, Inc., an organization with which Probst has reported subcontractor payments on public contracts in years prior (see narrative section below). Individually, Probst has never contributed at the federal level, but has exclusively contributed over $2,000 to his own Kansas House

campaign at the state level in Kansas. Interestingly, Probst's reported business entity, Kansas Matters, has operated as a recipient of and donor to Kansas political campaigns dating back to 2018. From 2018 to 2020, Kansas Matters received at least $950 in reported political consulting fees from Kansas campaigns. In 2018, the business also contributed $100 to the gubernatorial campaign of Laura Kelly.

Probst For Progress (2017-22)

Top-Line Numbers (2022)

As Of January 2022, Probst Has $28,037.94 In Cash On Hand. (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)

- **Probst Has Raised $37,578.74 In Total Receipts.** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst Has Disbursed $9,540.80 In Total Expenditures.** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)

Notable Receipts (2017-22)

According To The National Institute On Money In Politics, Probst's Principal Campaign Committee, Probst For Progress, Has Raised $94,482 In Aggregate Receipts From 2017 To 2022. (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)

- **Probst For Progress Has Received $2,291 From The Reno County Democratic Central Committee Of Kansas.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $1,750 From The Associated General Contractors Of Kansas.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $1,500 From The St. Louis-Kansas City Carpenters Regional Council.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $1,100 From The Kansas Optometric Association.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $1,000 From The Kansas Beer Wholesalers Association.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $1,000 From Construction & General Laborers Local 1290.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $1,000 From Evergy.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $1,000 From The Kansas Hospital Association.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $800 From The Kansas Automobile Dealers Association.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)

- **Probst For Progress Has Received $750 From Oneok Inc.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $750 From Cox Communications.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $750 From The Kansas Credit Union Association.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $750 From The Kansas Medical Society.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $750 From Kansas Rural Independent Telecommunications.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $700 From The Community Bankers Association.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $750 From The Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists Of Kansas.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $650 From The Kansas Beverage Association.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $600 From The Kansas AFL-CIO.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $600 From The Humane Society Of Kansas.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $500 From Anheuser-Busch Co.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $500 From Comcast Corporation & NBCUniversal.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $500 From Farmers Insurance.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $500 From Reynolds American.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $500 From The Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $500 From Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 45.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $500 From Kansas Association For Justice.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)

- **Probst For Progress Has Received $500 From Kansas New Energy Economy.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $500 From USW Local 307.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $500 From The National Democratic Redistricting Committee.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $500 From Kansas Power Alliance.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $500 From Kansas State Building & Construction Trades Council.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $400 From AT&T.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $400 From Kansas Wine & Spirits Wholesalers Association.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $350 From Wichita Area Transgender Community Network.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $300 From Altria Client Services.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $250 From Visa.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $250 From T-Mobile.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $250 From Westar Energy.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **Probst For Progress Has Received $250 From NAIFA Kansas.** (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)

Notable Expenditures (2017-22)

As Of January 2022, Probst For Progress Has Paid BowerComm $3,212.50. (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)

- **In December 2021, Probst For Progress Paid BowerComm $150 For "Miscellaneous Design."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In December 2020, Probst For Progress Paid SharpSpring-BowerComm $200 For "Miscellaneous Email Marketing Automation."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)

- **In November 2020, Probst For Progress Paid BowerComm $75 For "Miscellaneous Graphic Design."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In November 2020, Probst For Progress Paid SharpSpring-BowerComm $200 For "Miscellaneous Email Marketing Automation."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In October 2020, Probst For Progress Paid SharpSpring-BowerComm $200 For "Miscellaneous Email Marketing Automation."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In October 2020, Probst For Progress Paid BowerComm $1,893.75 For "Miscellaneous Graphic Design."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In October 2020, Probst For Progress Paid SharpSpring-BowerComm $200 For "Miscellaneous Email Marketing Automation."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In October 2020, Probst For Progress Paid BowerComm $93.75 For "Miscellaneous Graphic Design."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In September 2020, Probst For Progress Paid SharpSpring-BowerComm $200 For "Miscellaneous Email Marketing Automation."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)

As Of January 2022, Probst For Progress Has Reimbursed Probst $3,361.47. (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)

- **In December 2021, Probst For Progress Reimbursed Probst $701.12 For Hotel And Meals During Conference.** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In January 2021, Probst For Progress Reimbursed Probst $143.88 For Half Of Adobe Subscription For 5 Months.** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In July 2020, Probst For Progress Reimbursed Probst $933.65 For Office Furniture And Half Of An Adobe Subscription.** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In December 2019, Probst For Progress Reimbursed Probst $15.16 For A Voter List.** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In August 2019, Probst For Progress Reimbursed Probst $1,424.61 For PLI, KAPAC Poverty, And CSG Conference Reimbursements.** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In July 2019, Probst For Progress Reimbursed Probst $118.05 For Wayne's Printing Invitations.** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In May 2019, Probst For Progress Reimbursed Probst $25 For A Voter List.** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)

Individual Contributions

Federal Election Commission

NOTE: *No federal itemized contributions could be found for Probst.*

Kansas Secretary Of State

According To The Kansas Secretary Of State, Probst Has Contributed $2,105.66 To Campaign Committees In The State Of Kansas. (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/16/22)

- **From 2017 To 2021, Probst Contributed $2,105.66 To His Campaign For Kansas House Of Representatives.** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/16/22)

PROBST, JASON

09/25/2020	PROBST, DAVID	500.00	PROBST, JASON
06/24/2021	PROBST, JASON	50.00	PROBST, JASON
09/26/2020	PROBST, JASON	92.82	PROBST, JASON
12/13/2017	PROBST, JASON	82.95	PROBST, JASON
12/05/2017	PROBST, JASON	900.00	PROBST, JASON
10/11/2017	PROBST, JASON	500.00	PROBST, JASON
08/27/2017	PROBST, JASON	265.96	PROBST, JASON
06/27/2017	PROBST, JASON	210.93	PROBST, JASON

(Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/16/22)

NOTE: *Probst has not committed to other campaign committees in the State of Kansas.*

Business Transactions

Kansas Matters – Vendor Receipts

Since 2018, Kansas Matters Has Received $950 In Vendor/ Consulting Fees From Kansas Campaign Committees. (Kansas Ethics Commission, Accessed 3/22/22)

- **In October 2020, Kansas Matters Of Hutchinson, KS Received $250 For "Tech Support" From Lynn Grant For Kansans.** (Kansas Ethics Commission, Filed 1/9/21)

8/12/2020	US Post Office	702 N. Locust	Pittsburg	KS	66762	Postage	$ 140.00	x
8/12/2020	Kansas Matters	1202 Prairie	Hutchinson	KS	67501	Tech support	$ 250.00	x
8/17/2020	Norris Outdoor Adv	115 E. St. John	Girard	KS	66743	Billboard	$ 263.86	x
8/20/2020	US Post Office	204 E. McKay	Frontenac	KS	66763	Postage	$ 215.00	x

(Kansas Ethics Commission, Filed 1/9/21)

- **In September 2018, Kansas Matters Of Hutchinson, KS Received $700 For "Postcard Design" From Monica Murnan For Kansas House Of Representatives.** (Kansas Ethics Commission, Filed 10/28/18)

SCHEDULE C
EXPENDITURES AND OTHER DISBURSEMENTS

Monica Murnan
(Name of Candidate)

Date	Name and Address	Purpose of Expenditure or Disbursement	Amount
9/25/18	Kansas Matters 1202 Prairie Hutchinson, KS 67501	postcard design	$700.00

(Kansas Ethics Commission, Filed 10/28/18)

NOTE: *Kansas Matters' address corresponds to Probst's real property (see 'Real Property Records' and 'Personal Financial Disclosure' for more information).*

Kansas Matters – Contributions

According To The National Institute On Money In Politics, Kansas Matters Of Hutchinson, KS Contributed $100 To Laura Kelly For Governor In 2018. (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)

Candidate	Election Status	Status of Candidate	Specific Party	General Party	Election Jurisdiction	Election Year	Election Type	Office Sought	Incumbency Status	Contributor	Type of Contributor	City	State	Zip	# of Records	Total $
KELLY, LAURA J & ROGERS, LYNN	WON-GENERAL	WON	DEMOCRATIC	DEMOCRATIC	KS	2018	STANDARD	GOVERNOR / LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	OPEN	KANSAS MATTERS	NON-INDIVIDUAL	HUTCHINSON	KS	67501	1	$100

(National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)

VOTING RECORDS

Jason Probst is an actively-registered Democrat Party voter in Reno County, Kansas, an affiliation he has maintained continuously since June 2017. Otherwise, Probst has bounced back and forth between Democrat and Republican Party affiliation. Prior, Probst was an affiliated Republican from April 2016 to June 2017, spanning the 2016 general election period. From March to April 2016, Probst aligned with the Democrats for the monthlong period. For the longest duration, from August 2000 to March 2016, Probst voted as an affiliated Republican Party voter. (Note: Voter registration records prior to 2000 are not maintained with the Reno County Clerk's Office per its record retention schedule.) Since 1996, Probst has missed a smattering of mostly municipal elections, including the 1997 primary; 1999 primary; 2001 primary; 2007 primary; 2008 state primary; 2011 primary; 2015 primary & general; 2017 primary; and 2021 primary.

Reno County, KS

According To The Reno County Clerk's Office, Probst Is Actively-Registered Democratic Party Voter In Reno County, Kansas. (Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)

Voter Registration Card
Date: 9/1/2020
Jason Paul Probst
205 W. 14th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Democratic

Party Affiliation Card
Date: 6/9/2017
Jason Paul Probst
1202 Prairie St
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: From Republican to Democratic

Party Affiliation Card
Date: 4/26/2016
Jason Probst
1202 Prairie St
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: From Democratic to Republican

Voter Registration Card
Date: 3/5/2016
Jason P Probst
1202 Prairie St
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Democratic

Voter Registration Card
Date: 3/10/2015
Jason P Probst
1213 E 14th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Republican

Voter Registration Card
Date: 6/2/2014
Jason Paul Probst
214 E 12th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Republican

Voter Registration Card
Date: 8/22/2000
Jason Paul Probst
325 W 12th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Republican

(Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)

- **From At Least August 2000 To March 2016, Probst Affiliated With The Republican Party.** (Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)
- **From March 2016 To April 2016, Probst Affiliated With The Democrat Party.** (Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)
- **From April 2016 To June 2017, Probst Affiliated With The Republican Party.** (Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)
- **Since June 2017, Probst Has Affiliated With The Democrat Party.** (Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)

Since 1996, Probst Has Failed To Vote In The Following Elections: 1997 Primary; 1999 Primary; 2001 Primary; 2007 Primary; 2008 State Primary; 2011 Primary; 2015 Primary & General; 2017 Primary; And 2021 Primary. (Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)

Probst, Jason P
205 W 14th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501

Election Code	Election Name	Election Date	Party	Precinct Part	Voting Location	How Voted
CG2021	2021 City/School General	11/02/2021		HC00007.01	Reno County Annex	Early
GN2020	2020 General Election	11/03/2020		HC00007.01	Reno County Annex	Early
PR2020	2020 Primary Election	08/04/2020	D	HC00006.01	2 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6, 7 & 8	Polling Place
CG2019	2019 City/School General	11/05/2019		HC00006.01	Reno County Court House	Early
CP2019	2019 City/School Primary	08/06/2019		HC00006.01	Reno County Court House	Early
GN2018	2018 General Election	11/06/2018		HC00006.01	2 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6, 7 & 8	Polling Place
PR2018	2018 Primary Election	08/07/2018	D	HC00006.01	2 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6, 7 & 8	Polling Place
CG2017	2017 City/School General	11/07/2017		HC00006.01	2 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6, 7 & 8	Polling Place
GN2016	2016 General Election	11/08/2016		HC00006.01	3 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6	Polling Place
PR2016	2016 Primary Election	08/02/2016	R	HC00006.01	3 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6	Polling Place
GN2014	2014 General Election	11/04/2014		HC00014.01	9 Fairgrounds - Pct. 14	Polling Place
PR2014	2014 Primary Election	08/05/2014	R	HC00014.01	9 Fairgrounds - Pct. 14	Polling Place
CG2013	2013 City/School General	04/02/2013		HC00006.01	3 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6	Polling Place
CP2013	2013 City/School Primary	02/26/2013		HC00006.01	Reno County Court House	Early
GN2012	2012 General Election	11/06/2012		HC00006.01	3 Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
PR2012	2012 Primary Election	08/07/2012	R	HC00006.01	3 Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
CG2011	2011 City/School General	04/05/2011		HC00006.01	Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
GN2010	Kansas General Election	11/02/2010		HC00006.01	Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
PR2010	Kansas Primary Election	08/03/2010		HC00006.01	Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
GN2008	Kansas General Election	11/04/2008		HC00006.01	Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
CG2007	2007 City/School General	04/03/2007		HC00006.01		Advance
GN2006	Kansas General Election	11/07/2006		HC00006.01	Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
PR2006	Kansas Primary Election	08/01/2006	R	HC00006.01	Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
CG4505	City/School General Elect	04/05/2005	R	Hc00006.1		Polling Place

Probst, Jason P
205 W 14th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501

Election Code	Election Name	Election Date	Party	Precinct Part	Voting Location	How Voted
CG3105	City/School Primary Elect	03/01/2005	R	Hc00006.1		Polling Place
GN2004	General Election 2004	11/02/2004	R	Hc00006.1		Polling Place
PR2004	Primary Election 2004	08/03/2004	R	Hc00006.1		Advance
CG4103	City/School General Elect	04/01/2003	R	Hc00006.1		Polling Place
CG2250	City/School Primary Elect	02/25/2003	R	Hc00006.1		Polling Place
GN2002	General Election 2002	11/05/2002	R	Hc00006.1		Polling Place
PR2002	Primary Election 2002	08/06/2002	R	Hc00006.1		Polling Place
CG4301	City/School General Elect	04/03/2001		Hc00006.1		Polling Place
GN2000	General Election 2000	11/07/2000		Hc00006.1		Polling Place
PR2000	Primary Election 2000	08/01/2000		Hc00006.1		Polling Place
CG4699	City/School General Elect	04/06/1999		Hc00006.1		Polling Place
GN1998	General Election 1998	11/03/1998		Hc00006.1		Polling Place
PR1998	Primary Election 1998	08/04/1998		Hc00006.1		Polling Place
CG4197	City/School/Bond, General	04/01/1997		Hc00006.1		Polling Place
GN1996	General Election 1996	11/05/1996		Hc00006.1		Polling Place

(Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)

EDUCATION RECORDS

Jason Probst's postsecondary degree attainment claims have been independently verified by the National Student Clearinghouse. In May 2003, Probst received a Bachelor's degree in Management from Baker University.

Baker University (2000-2003)

In May 2003, Probst Received A Bachelor Of Science Degree In Management From Baker University. (National Student Clearinghouse, Received 5/21/03)

INFORMATION VERIFIED

Name On School's Records:	JASON PAUL PROBST
Date Awarded:	05/21/2003
Degree Title:	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
Official Name of School:	BAKER UNIVERSITY
Major Course(s) of Study:	MANAGEMENT

(National Student Clearinghouse, Received 5/21/03)

PUBLIC COMPENSATION RECORDS

Jason Probst has earned tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars beyond his base salary as public perks and privileges of a Kansas State Representative since mid-2017. Beyond his legislative allowance totaling $33,998.40 since 2017 (or $354.15 per pay period), Probst has netted $32,624.28 in per diem salary, $37,854 in per diem subsistence, and $8,267.70 in leadership pay for a total take-home of $112,744.38 from 2017 to 2022. Furthermore, Probst has submitted vouchers for travel reimbursements totaling $23,566.56 over that span. In addition to $11,168.98 in mileage reimbursements he enjoyed, Probst also received $10,463.40 in travel reimbursements, $4,005.77 of which was related to his leadership duties from 2020 onward.

Kansas House Of Representatives (2017-2022)

Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay

According To The State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Probst Has Received Total Public Compensation Of $112,744.38 Spanning Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, And Leadership Pay From 2017 To 2022. (Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)

Representative Jason Probst
Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay
2017-2022

2017

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	-	-	-
Per Diem Subsistence	-	-	-
Legislative Allowance	$354.15/pay period	16	$5,666.40

2018

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	91	$7,491.12
Per Diem Subsistence	$144.00	91	$8,330.00
Legislative Allowance	$354.15/pay period	20	$7,083

2019

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	73	$7,491.12
Per Diem Subsistence	$149.00	73	$8,330.00
Legislative Allowance	$354.15/pay period	20	$7,083.00

2020

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	63	$7,491.12
Per Diem Subsistence	$151.00	63	$8,330.00
Legislative Allowance	$354.15/pay period	20	$7,083.00

2020 Special Session

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	2	$177.32
Per Diem Subsistence	$151.00	2	$302.00

2021

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	85	$7,491.12
Per Diem Subsistence	$151.00	85	$8,330.00
Legislative Allowance	$354.15/pay period	20	$7,083.00
Leadership Pay	$275.59	26	7,165.34

2021 Special Session

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	1	$88.66
Per Diem Subsistence	$155.00	1	$155.00

2022 (January 10, 2022 through February 5, 2022)

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	27	$2393.82
Per Diem Subsistence	$155.00	27	$4,077.00
Legislative Allowance	$354.15/pay period	20	-
Leadership Pay	$275.59	4	$1,102.36

(Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)

- **From 2017 To 2022, Probst Has Received $33,998.40 In Legislative Allowance ($354.15 Per Pay Period).** (Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)
- **From 2017 To 2022, Probst Has Received $32,624.28 In Per Diem Salary ($88.66 Per Session Day).** (Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)
- **From 2017 To 2022, Probst Has Received $37,854 In Per Diem Subsistence ($144-155 Per Session Day).** (Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)
- **From 2020 To 2022, Probst Has Received $8,267.70 In Leadership Pay ($354.15 Per Session Day).** (Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)

Travel Expense Reimbursements

According To The State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Probst Has Received Total Travel Expense Reimbursement Of $23,566.56 From 2017 To 2022. (Travel Expense Reimbursements, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)

Date	Category	Purpose	Amount
4/26-5/5/18	Mileage	2018 Session	$380.92
3/5/18-4/6/18	Mileage	2018 Session	$952.30
2/5-3/2/18	Mileage	2018 Session	$761.84
1/8-2/2/18	Mileage	2018 Session	$761.84
5/1-5/4/19	Mileage	2019 Session	$194.02
3/3-4/5/19	Mileage	2019 Session	$970.10
2/4-3/1/19	Mileage	2019 Session	$776.08
1/13-2/1/19	Mileage	2019 Session	$582.06
5/29/19	Mileage	2019 Sine Die	$343.02
2/10-3/6/20	Mileage	2020 Session	$818.80
1/17-2/7/20	Mileage	2020 Session	$818.80
3/8-5/22/20	Mileage	2020 Session	$614.10
6/3-6/7/20	Mileage	2020 Special Session	$204.70
5/2-5/7/21	Mileage	2021 Session	$199.36
3/7-4/9/21	Mileage	2021 Session	$996.80
2/7-3/5/21	Mileage	2021 Session	$797.44
1/10-2/5/21	Mileage	2021 Session	$797.44
11/21-11/23/21	Mileage	2021 Special Session	$199.36
11/30/21	Postage	Postage Reimbursement – Franking	$1,934.18
6/26/17	Travel	2017 Sine Die	$237.23
5/26/21	Travel	2021 Sine Die	$350.36

2/21/18	Travel	Attendance Per LCC Approval	$144.00
7/11-7/14/21	Travel	CSG Midwest Annual Meeting (Rapid City, SD)	$1,124.03
9/30/19	Travel	Gov. Kelly on Medicaid Expansion	$355.48
12/12/19	Travel	Gov. Kelly on Medicaid Expansion	$357.48
10/29/19	Travel	Gov. Kelly on Medicaid Expansion	$357.48
11/16/21	Travel	House Agriculture & Natural Resources	$354.36
12/9/19	Travel	House Democratic Caucus	$206.48
1/13/19	Travel	House Democratic Caucus KSA	$194.02
10/8/19	Travel	Kansas Early Learning Forum-NCSL	$61.48
8/16/18	Travel	Kansas Geological Survey Tour	$567.16
8/4-8/6/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
7/8-7/9/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
7/1-7/2/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
5/25-5/27/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
4/27-4/28/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
4/21-4/22/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
4/14-4/16/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
11/23/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	-
11/15-11/21/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
10/20-10/21/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
10/12-10/14/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
9/28-9/30/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
9/19-9/20/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
9/8-9/10/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
8/22-8/25/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$201.91
8/20/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
4/5/21	Travel	Leadership Elect	$199.36
1/8/20	Travel	Leadership Elect	$199.36
12/29-12/31/20	Travel	Leadership Elect	$204.70
12/17-12/18/20	Travel	Leadership Elect	$204.70
12/8-12/10/20	Travel	Leadership Elect	$204.70

12/3/18	Travel	Pre-Organization Meeting	$343.02
12/7/20	Travel	Pre-Organization Meeting	$355.70
8/9-8/13/21	Travel	Redistricting Committee Listening Tour	$1,091.87
11/12/19	Travel	Special Committee on Natural Resources	$357.48

(Travel Expense Reimbursements, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)

- **From 2017 To 2022, Probst Received Mileage Reimbursements Totaling $11,168.98.** (Travel Expense Reimbursements, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)
- **From 2017 To 2022, Probst Received Postage/ Franking Reimbursements Totaling $1,934.18.** (Travel Expense Reimbursements, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)
- **From 2017 To 2022, Probst Received Travel Expense Reimbursements Totaling $10,463.40.** (Travel Expense Reimbursements, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)
    - **Of This Amount, Probst Received $4,005.77 In Reimbursements For Leadership-Related Duties & Travel.** (Travel Expense Reimbursements, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)

CRIMINAL RECORDS

NOTE: No criminal records could be found for Jason Probst.

POLICE RECORDS

NOTE: No immediately actionable information could be gleaned for Jason Probst from municipal and state law enforcement agency records requested in the State of Kansas.

REAL PROPERTY RECORDS

205 W. 14th Avenue, Hutchinson, KS, Reno County

This is the primary residence declared and owned by Jason Probst. This single-family residence comprises two bedrooms and one bathroom and has a 2022 market value of $43,100. In 2015, Probst was delinquent in paying his property taxes on time and paid $68.25 in interest.

(Reno County Assessor, Accessed 3/28/22)

Property Information

Full Address:	205 W. 14th Avenue, Hutchinson, KS 67501
County:	Reno County
Parcel Number:	1211202018002000
Property Type:	Single-Family Residential
Owner:	PROBST, JASON P
Sale Date:	-
Sale Price:	$27,000
Year Built:	1925
Total Bedrooms:	2
Total Bathrooms:	1
Total Square Footage:	1,032
2022 Market Value:	$43,100

(Reno County Assessor, Accessed 3/28/22)

Current Tax Information

In 2021, Probst Paid $853.62 In Total Municipal Taxes. (Reno County Assessor, Accessed 3/28/22)

Tax History

Columns

Tax Year	Assessed Valuation	Mill Levy	Ad Valorem	Special Assessments	Total Tax	Total Paid	Dlq
2021	$0	0.000	$0.00	$0.00	$757.62	$757.62	N
2021	$0	0.000	$0.00	$765,888.00	$96.00	$96.00	N

(Reno County Assessor, Accessed 3/28/22)

- **In 2015, Probst Was Delinquent In Paying His Property Taxes And Paid $68.25 In Interest.** (Reno County Assessor, Accessed 3/28/22)

Tax Statement Details

Type		CAMA Number		Tax Identification
RL		121 12 0 20 18 002 00 0 01		005-12944
Owner ID	PROB00005	PROBST, JASON P		
Taxpayer ID	PROB00005	PROBST, JASON P		
205 W 14TH				67501
Subdivision	H I COS 1ST	Block	Lot(s)	Section 12
Tract 1 12944				

Statement # 0100621
Details

Total Assessed Value:	$3,611.00
Total Mill Levy:	173.87500
General Tax:	$581.86
Specials:	$70.75
Total Tax:	$652.61
Received To Date:	$652.61
Balance:	$0.00
Interest To Date:	$0.00
Fees:	$0.00
Total Due:	$0.00

Receipt Information

Receipt #	Date	Tax Year	Tax	Int/Fee
65773	6/19/2017	2015	$652.61	$68.25

For delinquent tax pay off amount contact Reno County Treasurer 206 W 1st Ave, Hutchinson, KS 67501, (620) 694-2938.

(Reno County Assessor, Accessed 3/28/22)

1202 N. Prairie Avenue, Hutchinson, KS, Reno County

This is a secondary residence declared by Jason Probst. This single-family residence comprises two bedrooms and one bathroom and has a 2022 market value of $28,890. In 2015, Probst was delinquent in paying his property taxes on time and paid $54.16 in interest.

(Reno County Assessor, Accessed 3/28/22)

Property Information

Full Address:	1202 N. Prairie Avenue, Hutchinson, KS 67501
County:	Reno County
Parcel Number:	1211101025014000
Property Type:	Single-Family Residential
Owner:	PROBST, JASON P

Sale Date:	-
Sale Price:	$17,000
Year Built:	1942
Total Bedrooms:	2
Total Bathrooms:	1
Total Square Footage:	768
2021 Market Value:	$28,890

(Reno County Assessor, Accessed 3/28/22)

Current Tax Information

In 2022, Probst Paid $554.94 In Total Municipal Taxes. (Reno County Assessor, Accessed 3/28/22)

Tax Year	Assessed Valuation	Mill Levy	Ad Valorem	Special Assessments	Total Tax	Total Paid	Dlq
2021	$0	0.000	$0.00	$0.00	$458.94	$458.94	N
2021	$0	0.000	$0.00	$765,888.00	$96.00	$96.00	N

(Reno County Assessor, Accessed 3/28/22)

- **In 2015, Probst Was Delinquent In Paying His Property Taxes And Paid $54.16 In Interest.** (Reno County Assessor, Accessed 3/28/22)

Tax Statement Details

Type	CAMA Number				Tax Identification
RL	121 11 0 10 25 014 00 0 01				005-11278
Owner ID	PROB00005	PROBST, JASON P			
Taxpayer ID	PROB00005	PROBST, JASON P			
1202 N PRAIRIE					67501
Subdivision	ORCHARD PARK 1ST	Block	Lot(s)	Section	11
Tract 1 11278					

Statement # 0101371
Details

Total Assessed Value:	$2,599.00
Total Mill Levy:	173.87500
General Tax:	$405.90
Specials:	$70.75
Total Tax:	$476.65
Received To Date:	$476.65
Balance:	$0.00
Interest To Date:	$0.00
Fees:	$0.00
Total Due:	$0.00

Receipt Information

Receipt #	Date	Tax Year	Tax	Int/Fee
65772	6/19/2017	2015	$476.65	$54.16

For delinquent tax pay off amount contact Reno County Treasurer 206 W 1st Ave, Hutchinson, KS 67501, (620) 694-2938.

(Reno County Assessor, Accessed 3/28/22)

BANKRUPTCIES, JUDGEMENTS & LIENS RECORDS

Jason Probst has been beset by a series of financial difficulties over the years. In 1996, Probst and his wife filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection related to the failed operation of his erstwhile restaurant, Hesston Heritage Inn Restaurant (per his personal website). (Note: No record of the bankruptcy could be independently found in a search of PACER/ U.S. Bankruptcy

Court.) Probst and his wife have also been sued for failure to pay personal financial obligations. In 2017, Newton Anesthesia Services PA filed suit against Probst for $237 in unpaid bills. Newton Anesthesia Services received judgment against Probst and his wife, as well as an order of garnishment to satisfy the judgment, which was ultimately satisfied in April 2018.

Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

According To Nexis, Probst, His Wife, And Business Hesston Heritage Restaurant Filed For Chapter 7 Bankruptcy In Wichita, Kansas In June 1996. (Nexis Comprehensive Person Search, Accessed 3/28/22)

1: KANSAS - WICHITA

	Petitioner Information
	Petitioner 1
Name:	PROBST, JASON PAUL HESSTON HERITAGE RESTAURANT
Address:	724 W 11TH AVE HUTCHINSON, KS 67501-1632 724 W 11TH AVE HUTCHINSON, KS 67501-1632
SSN:	509-96-XXXX
Type:	INDIVIDUAL - JOINT
	Petitioner 2
Name:	PROBST, JASON PAUL HESSTON HERITAGE RESTAURANT
Address:	724 W 11TH AVE HUTCHINSON, KS 67501-1632 724 W 11TH AVE HUTCHINSON, KS 67501-1632
SSN:	509-96-XXXX
Type:	INDIVIDUAL - JOINT
	Petitioner 3
Name:	PROBST, KIMBERLY RENEE SHINKLE, KIMBERLY R SHINKLE, KIMBERLY RENEE
Address:	724 W 11TH AVE HUTCHINSON, KS 67501-1632
SSN:	511-88-XXXX
Type:	INDIVIDUAL - JOINT
	Bankruptcy Information
Case Number:	9612124
Court:	KANSAS - WICHITA
Filing Date:	06/19/1996
Filing Type:	CHAPTER 7
Meeting Date:	
Meeting Time:	1300
	Status Information
Status:	DISCHARGED
Status Date:	01/09/1997
	Trustee Information
Name:	NAZAR, EDWARD J
Address:	245 N WACO ST STE 402 WICHITA, KS 67202-1117
	Attorney Information
Name:	ENGLISH, JOSEPH G
Address:	440 S 6TH ST STERLING, KS 67579-2316

(Nexis Comprehensive Person Search, Accessed 3/28/22)

- **In January 1997, Probst And His Wife Were Discharged From The Petition.** (Nexis Comprehensive Person Search, Accessed 3/28/22)

According To His Personal Website, Probst Owned The Heston Heritage Inn Restaurant, But "Didn't Know A Whole Lot About Running A Business" And "Went Broke." "When I was 21 years old, I owned a restaurant, called the Hesston Heritage Inn restaurant. I'm a pretty good cook. But I didn't know a whole lot about running a business, so I went broke." ("Odds And Ends," Jason Probst, Accessed 3/22/22)

NOTE: *No record of the bankruptcy could be independently found in a search of PACER/ U.S. Bankruptcy Court.*

Newton Anesthesia Services PA V. Jason & Kimberly Probst

In October 2017, Newton Anesthesia Services PA Filed A Small Claims Suit Against Jason And Kimberly Probst For $278 In Harvey County District Court. (Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 10/10/17)

Case Year: 2017	Case UID: 2017-LM-001969
Case Type: LM	Filed: 2017-10-10
Case Sub-type: Seller Plaintiff (Debt Collection)	Last Updated: 2018-01-09 at 09:25:32
Advisement Date:	Remand Date:
Appealed: N	Appealed Date:
Status Code: 2	Status Date: 2018-01-09
Status Description: Disposed	

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Defendants

Party 1

Defendant Number: 1		
Last Name (or Business Name): Probst		
First Name: Jason	Middle: P	Suffix:

Party 2

Defendant Number: 2		
Last Name (or Business Name): Probst		
First Name: Kimberly	Middle:	Suffix:

Description

Sex: U	Race:
Height:	Weight:

top

Plaintiff

Party

Plaintiff Number: 1	Amount Claimed: 278.65	
Last Name (or Business Name): Newton Anesthesia Service		
First Name:	Middle:	Suffix:

(Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 10/10/17)

In January 2018, Newton Anesthesia Services PA Received Judgment Against Jason And Kimberly Probst. (Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 1/4/18)

Action 19

Action Date: 2018-01-09	Action Type: ORDJDG
Action Agent: Stephen A Hilgers	
Description: Journal Entry of Judgment ORD: Judgment	

(Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 1/4/18)

- **In March 2018, An Order Of Garnishment Was Entered Against Jason And Kimberly Probst.** (Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 3/9/18)

Action 22

Action Date: 2018-03-09	Action Type: POJGARM
Action Agent: Stephen A Hilgers	
Description: Request for Garnishment MOT: Garnishment	

Action 23

Action Date: 2018-03-09	Action Type: ORDGRN
Action Agent: Stephen A Hilgers	
Description: Order of Garnishment ORD: Garnishment	

(Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 4/16/18)

In April 2018, Jason And Kimberly Probst Satisfied The Judgment. (Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 4/16/18)

Action 26

Action Date: 2018-04-16	Action Type: INFSATJ
Action Agent: Stephen A Hilgers	
Description: Satisfaction of Judgment INF: Satisfaction of Judgment	

(Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 4/16/18)

LEGAL ISSUES

Jason Probst's primary lawsuit of note stems from the divorce initiated by his then-wife, Kimberly Probst, in October 2014 that was granted and finalized in January 2015. Though Probst challenged the need to pay spousal maintenance as desired by his wife, both parties agreed to both child support (for their one minor child) and spousal maintenance per the terms of their divorce. In 2020, Probst's obligation to pay spousal maintenance was terminated and the case was closed.

Kimberly R. Probst V. Jason P. Probst

In October 2014, Kimberly Probst Filed For Divorce From Probst In Reno County District Court. (Case No. 2014DM796, *Kimberly R. Probst V. Jason P. Probst*, Reno County District Court, Filed 10/22/14)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RENO COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF	)	
	)	
KIMBERLY R. PROBST,	)	2014DM 796
Petitioner,	)	
and	)	Case No.
	)	
JASON P. PROBST,	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapters 23 & 60)

PETITION

COMES NOW, the Petitioner, Kimberly R. Probst, and for her cause of action against the Respondent, alleges and states as follows:

1. That Petitioner is now and has been for more than sixty days preceding the filing of this action, a resident in good faith of the State of Kansas and presently resides in Hutchinson, Reno County, Kansas.

2. That Respondent can be served with summons at Hutchinson, Kansas.

3. That Petitioner and Respondent were married in Kansas on August 14, 1994.

4. The parties are incompatible and Petitioner is entitled to an absolute divorce from the Respondent.

(Case No. 2014DM796, *Kimberly R. Probst V. Jason P. Probst*, Reno County District Court, Filed 10/22/14)

- **The 2014 Child Support Worksheet Claimed That Probst Earned $50,400 In Gross Annual Income And Arrived At An Annual Child Support Total For Their Minor Son Of $674.** (Case No. 2014DM796, *Kimberly R. Probst V. Jason P. Probst*, Reno County District Court, Filed 10/22/14)

CHILD SUPPORT WORKSHEET
SUBMITTED BY MOTHER

	Mother	Father	Total
GROSS ANNUAL INCOMES:	35,064	50,400	85,464
A. INCOME COMPUTATION - WAGE EARNER			
1. Domestic Gross Income (Wages, interest, etc.)	2,922	4,200	7,122
B. INCOME COMPUTATION - SELF-EMPLOYED			
1. Self-Employment Gross Income	0	0	0
2. Reasonable Business Expenses (Incl. SE tax)	0	0	0
3. Domestic Gross Income (Self-Employed)	0	0	0

D. COMPUTATION OF CHILD SUPPORT (Cont.)	Mother	Father	TOTAL
4. Health and Dental Insurance Premium	93	0	93
5. Work-Related Child Care Costs	0	0	0
Less Federal Child Care Tax Credit	0	0	0
(Total of Line D.4 & D.5)	93	0	93
6. Parents' Total Child Support Obligation			1,236
7. Each Parent's Child Support Obligation	562	674	
(Percentage of Parent's Gross Income for Child Support)	*17.3%*	*17.4%*	
8. Adjustment for Insurance & Child Care	(93)	0	(93)
9. Net Parental Child Support Obligation	469	674	1,143

E. CHILD SUPPORT ADJUSTMENTS

	Applicable Yes	Applicable No	Category	Amount Allowed Mother	Amount Allowed Father	
1.		X	Long Distance Parenting Time Costs	0	0	
2.		X	Parenting Time Adjustment	0	0	
3.		X	Income Tax Considerations (See Tax Adjustments Detail)	0	0	
4.		X	Special Needs / Extraordinary Expenses	0	0	
5.		X	Support Past Minority	0	0	
6.		X	Overall Financial Condition	0	0	
7.	Total Adjustments			0	0	0

F. ADJUSTED CHILD SUPPORT SUMMARY (Deviations from rebuttable presumption amount)	Mother	Father	
1. Basic Parental Child Support Obligation	469	674	
2. Section E Adjustments (Line E.7)	0	0	
3. Adjusted Subtotal (Line F.1 +/- Line F.2)	469	674	1,143
4. Equal Time Adjustments None			674
(Parenting Time Not Equal)			0
Equal Time Adjustments Subtotal			674
5. Enforcement Fee Allowance			0
6. Child Support Payable by Father			**674**

(Case No. 2014DM796, *Kimberly R. Probst V. Jason P. Probst*, Reno County District Court, Filed 10/22/14)

In October 2014, Kimberly Probst Was Granted Residential Custody Of Their Minor Child And Probst Was Ordered To Temporarily Pay Her $674 In Child Support Plus $320 In Spousal Maintenance Per Month. (Case No. 2014DM796, *Kimberly R. Probst V. Jason P. Probst*, Reno County District Court, Filed 10/22/14)

TEMPORARY ORDERS

NOW, on this 22nd day of October, 2014, Petitioner's motion for temporary orders comes on for hearing. Petitioner appears by her attorney, R.J. Kleinherenbrink.

WHEREUPON, the Court, after being fully advised in the premises, finds the relief asked for should be granted and ORDERS as follows:

1. That the Petitioner is granted residential custody of the parties' minor child, namely: M A. P d/o/b XX-XX-1997, during the pendency of this action.

2. That the Respondent is granted reasonable temporary parenting time during the pendency of this action.

3. That the Respondent shall pay $ 674.00 a month in temporary

child support commencing November 1, 2014, and to continue on the 1st day of each month thereafter until further order of this Court.

4. That the Respondent shall pay $ 320.00 a month in temporary spousal maintenance commencing November 15, 2014, and to continue on the 15th day of each month thereafter until further order of this Court.

(Case No. 2014DM796, *Kimberly R. Probst V. Jason P. Probst*, Reno County District Court, Filed 10/22/14)

- **In November 2014, Probst Challenged The Need To Pay Spousal Maintenance.** (Case No. 2014DM796, *Kimberly R. Probst V. Jason P. Probst*, Reno County District Court, Filed 11/5/14)

ANSWER

COMES NOW the Respondent by his attorney, James S. Oswalt, and for his answer to the petition states as follows:

1. Allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 9 inclusive are admitted.

2. It is denied that the Respondent should be required to pay Petitioner spousal maintenance or her attorney fees.

WHEREFORE, Respondent requests that the Court grant Petitioner's request for divorce; make an equitable division of the parties' property and debt; grant the parties joint custody of their minor child including an order requiring the Respondent to pay a reasonable amount for support; in addition to such further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

(Case No. 2014DM796, *Kimberly R. Probst V. Jason P. Probst*, Reno County District Court, Filed 11/5/14)

In January 2015, The Divorce And Settlement Agreement Were Finalized, With Probst Paying $350 In Child Support And $250 In Spousal Maintenance Per Month (For 72 Months). (Case No. 2014DM796, *Kimberly R. Probst V. Jason P. Probst*, Reno County District Court, Filed 1/28/15)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RENO COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF	)	
	)	
KIMBERLY R. PROBST,	)	
Petitioner,	)	Case No. 14 DM 796
and	)	√ ***Real Estate Involved***
	)	
JASON P. PROBST,	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapters 23 & 60)

AGREED UPON
JOURNAL ENTRY / DECREE OF DIVORCE

NOW, on this 28th day of January, 2015, the above captioned matter comes on for hearing before the court. The Petitioner, Kimberly R. Probst, appears in person and with her attorney, R.J. Kleinherenbrink. The Respondent, Jason P. Probst, appears in person and with his attorney, James S. Oswalt.

THEREUPON, the parties announce to the Court that they have reached an agreement on all issues.

6. The Respondent shall have reasonable parenting time to be worked out between the parties.

7. The Respondent shall pay $350.00 a month in child support until M graduates from high school, commencing February 1, 2015, and to continue on the 1st day of each month thereafter until his graduation.

8. The Respondent shall pay $250.00 a month for spousal maintenance for a period of seventy-two (72) months, commencing February 1, 2015, and to continue on the 1st day of each month thereafter for seventy-two (72) months.

(Case No. 2014DM796, *Kimberly R. Probst V. Jason P. Probst*, Reno County District Court, Filed 1/28/15)

In July 2020, Spousal Maintenance Was Terminated And The Case Was Closed. (Case No. 2014DM796, *Kimberly R. Probst V. Jason P. Probst*, Reno County District Court, Filed 7/1/20)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF RENO COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Marriage of:

Kimberly Renee Probst

and Case No.: 14 DM 796

Jason Paul Probst

AGREED UPON ORDER TERMINATING SPOUSAL MAINTENANCE

NOW ON THIS date displayed on the above-affixed Electronically Filed stamp, the above-entitled matter comes on for hearing. Petitioner appears by and through counsel, R.J. Kleinherenbrink. Respondent appears *pro se* and by his execution of this agreement. There are no other appearances.

THEREUPON the parties announce to the Court that they have reached an agreement on spousal maintenance.

WHEREUPON the Court, upon hearing the statements and arguments of counsel, upon examining the evidence and file in this case and after being fully advised of the circumstances, accepts said agreement as its order and more specifically finds:

1. That Respondent has paid any and all spousal maintenance due and owing in this case.
2. That Respondent's current spousal maintenance obligation is terminated as of July 1, 2020.

IT IS BY THE COURT SO ORDERED.

###

(Case No. 2014DM796, *Kimberly R. Probst V. Jason P. Probst*, Reno County District Court, Filed 7/1/20)

NOTE: *Probst's obligation to pay child support terminated upon the conclusion of high school for their minor child in 2019.*

BUSINESS RECORDS

NOTE: No business records could be found for Jason Probst. No record could be found with the Kansas Secretary of State related to Probst's prior operation of Hesston Heritage Restaurant or claims of ownership of businesses 'Probst Investments' and 'Kansas Matters,' all of which yield negative results via official search with the Kansas Secretary of State, LexisNexis, and other online search tools. Follow-up may be conducted upon client request.

NON-PROFIT RECORDS

NOTE: No non-profit records could be found for Jason Probst.

PROFESSIONAL & RECREATIONAL LICENSES

NOTE: No professional or recreational licenses could be found for Jason Probst.

PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Jason Probst has filed five Statements of Substantial Interests with the Kansas Secretary of State as a member of the Kansas House of Representatives from 2017 to 2021. Over that span, Probst disclosed ownership interests in Probst Investments (owner of his rental property in Hutchinson, KS), a retirement 401k account comprised of mutual funds, and a Kansas Public Employee Retirement System (KPERS) account. In addition to employment with the State of Kansas as a state representative, Probst also disclosed various fees and commissions from clients, including Hutchinson Regional Medical Center, Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America, Native Digital, and BowerComm, among others. Interestingly, Probst disclosed The Hutchinson News as an employer through his 2019 disclosure, even though he ostensibly resigned upon his appointment to public office in 2017. Probst continuously disclosed business ownership of Probst Investments since 2017 and Kansas Matters since 2018 (see 'Business Records' for more information). Probst never disclosed gifts or honoraria received.

2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests (HD-102)

Ownership Interests

In 2021, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In Probst Investments, Rental Property At 1202 N. Prairie Avenue, Hutchinson, KS. (2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

In 2021, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In Probst Wealth Management LLC, Holder Of Mutual Funds In A Retirement 401K. (2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

In 2021, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In A KPERS Retirement Account. (2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

C. OWNERSHIP INTERESTS:
List any corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trust, joint venture and every other business interest, including land used for income, and specific stocks, mutual funds or retirement accounts in which either you or your spouse has owned within the preceding 12 months a legal or equitable interest exceeding $5,000 or 5%, whichever is less. If you or your spouse own more than 5% of a business, you must disclose the percentage held. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section C, check here ☐

BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS	TYPE OF BUSINESS	DESCRIPTION OF INTERESTS HELD	PERCENT OF OWNERSHIP INTERESTS	HELD BY WHOM
Probst Investments 1202 Prairie	rental	real estate	100.00	Self
Probitas Wealth Management LLC 517 E. 30th Ave. Suite B-2	retirement 401k	mutual funds	100.00	Self
KPERs 611 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS	Retirement Account	retirement	100.00	Self

(2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

Gifts & Honoraria

In 2021, Probst Declared No Gifts & Honoraria. (2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

D. GIFTS OR HONORARIA:
List any person or business from whom you or your spouse either individually or collectively, have received gifts or honoraria having an aggregate value of $500 or more in the preceding 12 months.

If you have nothing to report in Section D, check here ☑

NAME OF PERSON OR BUSINESS FROM WHOM GIFT RECEIVED:	ADDRESS	RECEIVED BY

(2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

Employment

In 2021, Probst Declared Employment With The State Of Kansas. (2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

In 2021, Probst Declared Employment With The Hutchinson Regional Medical Center. (2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

In 2021, Probst Declared Employment With The Presbyterian Manors Of Mid-America. (2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

1. YOUR PLACE(S) OF EMPLOYMENT OR OTHER BUSINESS IN THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR. IF SAME AS SECTION "B", CHECK HERE ☐

If you have nothing to report in Section "E"1, check here ☐

NAME OF BUSINESS	ADDRESS	TYPE OF BUSINESS
State of Kansas	100 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603	government
Hutchinson Regional Medical Center	1701 E. 23rd, Hutchinson, KS 67501	Medical
Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America	P.O. Box 20440, Wichita, KS 67208-1440	Long term care community

(2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

Officer Or Director Of An Organization Or Business

In 2021, Probst Declared Himself Officer Or Director Of Probst Investments. (2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

In 2021, Probst Declared Himself Officer Or Director Of Kansas Matters. (2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

F. OFFICER OR DIRECTOR OF AN ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS:
List any organization or business in which you or your spouse hold a position of officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor at the time of filing, irrespective of the amount of compensation received for holding such position. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section F, check here ☐

BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS	POSITION HELD	HELD BY WHOM
Probst Investments 1202 Prairie, Hutchinson, KS 67501	owner	Self
Kansas Matters 1202 Prairie, Hutchinson, KS 67501	owner	Self

(2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

Receipt Of Fees And Commissions

In 2021, Probst Declared Receipt Of Fees And Commissions From The Hutchinson Regional Medical Center. (2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

In 2021, Probst Declared Receipt Of Fees And Commissions From The Presbyterian Manors Of Mid-America. (2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

In 2021, Probst Declared Receipt Of Fees And Commissions From Native Digital. (2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

G. RECEIPT OF FEES AND COMMISSIONS:
List each client or customer who pays fees or commissions to a business or combination of businesses from which fees or commissions you or your spouse received an aggregate of $2,000 or more in the preceding calendar year. The phrase "client or customer" relates only to businesses or combination of businesses. In the case of a partnership, it is the partner's proportionate share of the business, and hence of the fee, which is significant, without regard to expenses of the partnership. An individual who receives a salary as opposed to portions of fees or commissions is generally not required to report under this provision. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section G, check here ☐

NAME OF CLIENT / CUSTOMER	ADDRESS	RECEIVED BY
Hutchinson Regional Medical Center	1701 E. 23rd Ave., Hutchinson, KS 67502	Self
Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America, Inc.	P.O. Box 20440, Wichita, KS 67208-1440	Self
Native Digital	3502 Gillham Road, Kansas City, MO 64111	Self

(2021 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/12/21)

2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests (HD-102)

Ownership Interests

In 2020, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In Probst Investments, Rental Property At 1202 N. Prairie Avenue, Hutchinson, KS. (2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

In 2020, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In Edward Jones, Holder Of Mutual Funds In A Retirement 401K. (2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

In 2020, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In A KPERS Retirement Account. (2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

C. OWNERSHIP INTERESTS:
List any corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trust, joint venture and every other business interest, including land used for income, and specific stocks, mutual funds or retirement accounts in which either you or your spouse has owned within the preceding 12 months a legal or equitable interest exceeding $5,000 or 5%, whichever is less. If you or your spouse own more than 5% of a business, you must disclose the percentage held. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section C, check here ☐

BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS	TYPE OF BUSINESS	DESCRIPTION OF INTERESTS HELD	PERCENT OF OWNERSHIP INTERESTS	HELD BY WHOM
Probst Investments 1202 Prairie	rental	real estate	100.00	Self
Edward Jones 2803 N. Lorraine, Suite D, Hutchinson, KS 67502	retirement 401k	mutual funds	100.00	Self
KPERs 611 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS	Retirement Account	retirement	100.00	Self

(2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

Gifts & Honoraria

In 2020, Probst Declared No Gifts & Honoraria. (2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

D. GIFTS OR HONORARIA:
List any person or business from whom you or your spouse either individually or collectively, have received gifts or honoraria having an aggregate value of $500 or more in the preceding 12 months.

If you have nothing to report in Section D, check here ☑

NAME OF PERSON OR BUSINESS FROM WHOM GIFT RECEIVED:	ADDRESS	RECEIVED BY

(2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

Employment

In 2020, Probst Declared Employment With The State Of Kansas. (2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

In 2020, Probst Declared Employment With Carl's Bar And Delicatessen, Inc. (2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

In 2020, Probst Declared Employment With The Hutchinson Regional Medical Center. (2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

In 2020, Probst Declared Employment With The Presbyterian Manors Of Mid-America. (2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

1. YOUR PLACE(S) OF EMPLOYMENT OR OTHER BUSINESS IN THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR. IF SAME AS SECTION "B", CHECK HERE ☐

If you have nothing to report in Section "E"1, check here ☐

NAME OF BUSINESS	ADDRESS	TYPE OF BUSINESS
State of Kansas	100 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603	government
Carl's Bar and Delicatessen, Inc	103 N. Main, Hutchinson, KS 67501	Restaurant
Hutchinson Regional Medical Center	1701 E. 23rd, Hutchinson, KS 67501	Medical
Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America	P.O. Box 20440, Wichita, KS 67208-1440	Long term care community

(2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

Officer Or Director Of An Organization Or Business

In 2020, Probst Declared Himself Officer Or Director Of Probst Investments. (2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

In 2020, Probst Declared Himself Officer Or Director Of Kansas Matters. (2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

F. OFFICER OR DIRECTOR OF AN ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS:
List any organization or business in which you or your spouse hold a position of officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor at the time of filing, irrespective of the amount of compensation received for holding such position. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section F, check here ☐

BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS	POSITION HELD	HELD BY WHOM
Probst Investments 1202 Prairie, Hutchinson, KS 67501	owner	Self
Kansas Matters 1202 Prairie, Hutchinson, KS 67501	owner	Self

(2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

Receipt Of Fees And Commissions

In 2020, Probst Declared Receipt Of Fees And Commissions From The Hutchinson Regional Medical Center. (2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

In 2020, Probst Declared Receipt Of Fees And Commissions From The Presbyterian Manors Of Mid-America. (2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

G. RECEIPT OF FEES AND COMMISSIONS:
List each client or customer who pays fees or commissions to a business or combination of businesses from which fees or commissions you or your spouse received an aggregate of $2,000 or more in the preceding calendar year. The phrase "client or customer" relates only to businesses or combination of businesses. In the case of a partnership, it is the partner's proportionate share of the business, and hence of the fee, which is significant, without regard to expenses of the partnership. An individual who receives a salary as opposed to portions of fees or commissions is generally not required to report under this provision. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section G, check here ☐

NAME OF CLIENT / CUSTOMER	ADDRESS	RECEIVED BY
Hutchinson Regional Medical Center	1701 E. 23rd Ave., Hutchinson, KS 67502	Self
Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America, Inc.	P.O. Box 20440, Wichita, KS 67208-1440	Self

(2020 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/20)

2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests (HD-102)

Ownership Interests

In 2019, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In Probst Investments, Rental Property At 1202 N. Prairie Avenue, Hutchinson, KS. (2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

In 2019, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In Edward Jones, Holder Of Mutual Funds In A Retirement 401K. (2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

In 2019, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In A KPERS Retirement Account. (2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

C. OWNERSHIP INTERESTS:
List any corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trust, joint venture and every other business interest, including land used for income, and specific stocks, mutual funds or retirement accounts in which either you or your spouse has owned within the preceding 12 months a legal or equitable interest exceeding $5,000 or 5%, whichever is less. If you or your spouse own more than 5% of a business, you must disclose the percentage held. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section C, check here ☐

BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS	TYPE OF BUSINESS	DESCRIPTION OF INTERESTS HELD	PERCENT OF OWNERSHIP INTERESTS	HELD BY WHOM
Probst Investments 1202 Prairie	rental	real estate	100.00	Self
Edward Jones 2803 N. Lorraine, Suite D, Hutchinson, KS 67502	retirement 401k	mutual funds	100.00	Self
KPERs 611 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS	Retirement Account	retirement	100.00	Self

(2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

Gifts & Honoraria

In 2019, Probst Declared No Gifts & Honoraria. (2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

D. GIFTS OR HONORARIA:
List any person or business from whom you or your spouse either individually or collectively, have received gifts or honoraria having an aggregate value of $500 or more in the preceding 12 months.

If you have nothing to report in Section D, check here ☑

NAME OF PERSON OR BUSINESS FROM WHOM GIFT RECEIVED:	ADDRESS	RECEIVED BY

(2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

Employment

In 2019, Probst Declared Employment With The State Of Kansas. (2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

In 2019, Probst Declared Employment With The Hutchinson News. (2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

E. RECEIPT OF COMPENSATION: (Part 1) List all places of employment in the last calendar year, and any other businesses from which you or your spouse received $2,000 or more in compensation (salary, thing of value, or economic benefit conferred on in return for services rendered, or to be rendered), which was reportable as taxable income on your federal income tax returns.

1. YOUR PLACE(S) OF EMPLOYMENT OR OTHER BUSINESS IN THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR. IF SAME AS SECTION "B", CHECK HERE ☐

If you have nothing to report in Section "E"1, check here ☐

NAME OF BUSINESS	ADDRESS	TYPE OF BUSINESS
The Hutchinson News	300 W. 2nd	newspaper
State of Kansas	100 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603	government

(2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

Officer Or Director Of An Organization Or Business

In 2019, Probst Declared Himself Officer Or Director Of Probst Investments. (2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

In 2019, Probst Declared Himself Officer Or Director Of Kansas Matters. (2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

F. OFFICER OR DIRECTOR OF AN ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS:
List any organization or business in which you or your spouse hold a position of officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor at the time of filing, irrespective of the amount of compensation received for holding such position. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section F, check here ☐

BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS	POSITION HELD	HELD BY WHOM
Probst Investments 1202 Prairie, Hutchinson, KS 67501	owner	Self
Kansas Matters 1202 Prairie, Hutchinson, KS 67501	owner	Self

(2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

Receipt Of Fees And Commissions

In 2019, Probst Declared Receipt Of Fees And Commissions From Hutchinson Regional Medical Center. (2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

In 2019, Probst Declared Receipt Of Fees And Commissions From Erica LaForce. (2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

In 2019, Probst Declared Receipt Of Fees And Commissions From BowerComm. (2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

G. RECEIPT OF FEES AND COMMISSIONS:
List each client or customer who pays fees or commissions to a business or combination of businesses from which fees or commissions you or your spouse received an aggregate of $2,000 or more in the preceding calendar year. The phrase "client or customer" relates only to businesses or combination of businesses. In the case of a partnership, it is the partner's proportionate share of the business, and hence of the fee, which is significant, without regard to expenses of the partnership. An individual who receives a salary as opposed to portions of fees or commissions is generally not required to report under this provision. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section G, check here ☐

NAME OF CLIENT / CUSTOMER	ADDRESS	RECEIVED BY
Erica LaForce	205 w 14th	Self
Hutchinson Regional Medical Center	1701 E. 23rd Ave., Hutchinson, KS 67502	Self
BowerComm	210 E. 30th Hutchinson, KS 67502	Self

(2019 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 4/30/19)

2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests (HD-102)

Ownership Interests

In 2018, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In Probst Investments, Rental Property At 1202 N. Prairie Avenue, Hutchinson, KS. (2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

In 2018, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In T. Rowe Price, Holder Of Mutual Funds In A Retirement 401K (64 Percent Ownership). (2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

In 2018, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In T. Rowe Price, Holder Of Mutual Funds In An ESOP. (2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

In 2018, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In A KPERS Retirement Account. (2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

C. OWNERSHIP INTERESTS:
List any corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trust, joint venture and every other business interest, including land used for income, and specific stocks, mutual funds or retirement accounts in which either you or your spouse has owned within the preceding 12 months a legal or equitable interest exceeding $5,000 or 5%, whichever is less. If you or your spouse own more than 5% of a business, you must disclose the percentage held. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section C, check here ☐

BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS	TYPE OF BUSINESS	DESCRIPTION OF INTERESTS HELD	PERCENT OF OWNERSHIP INTERESTS	HELD BY WHOM
Probst Investments 1202 Prairie	rental	real estate	100.00	Self
T. Rowe Price P.O. Box 17349, Baltimore MD 21297-1349	retirement 401k	mutual funds	64.00	Self
T. Rowe Price P.O. Box 17349, Baltimore, MD 21297-1349	ESOP	mutual funds	100.00	Self
KPERs 611 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS	Retirement Account	retirement	100.00	Self

(2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

Gifts & Honoraria

In 2018, Probst Declared No Gifts & Honoraria. (2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

D. GIFTS OR HONORARIA:
List any person or business from whom you or your spouse either individually or collectively, have received gifts or honoraria having an aggregate value of $500 or more in the preceding 12 months.

If you have nothing to report in Section D, check here ☑

NAME OF PERSON OR BUSINESS FROM WHOM GIFT RECEIVED:	ADDRESS	RECEIVED BY

(2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

Employment

In 2018, Probst Declared Employment With The State Of Kansas. (2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

In 2018, Probst Declared Employment With The Hutchinson News. (2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

E. RECEIPT OF COMPENSATION: (Part 1) List all places of employment in the last calendar year, and any other businesses from which you or your spouse received $2,000 or more in compensation (salary, thing of value, or economic benefit conferred on in return for services rendered, or to be rendered), which was reportable as taxable income on your federal income tax returns.

1. YOUR PLACE(S) OF EMPLOYMENT OR OTHER BUSINESS IN THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR. IF SAME AS SECTION "B", CHECK HERE ☐

If you have nothing to report in Section "E"1, check here ☐

NAME OF BUSINESS	ADDRESS	TYPE OF BUSINESS
The Hutchinson News	300 W. 2nd	newspaper
State of Kansas	100 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603	government

(2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

Officer Or Director Of An Organization Or Business

In 2018, Probst Declared Himself Officer Or Director Of Probst Investments. (2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

In 2018, Probst Declared Himself Officer Or Director Of Kansas Matters. (2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

F. OFFICER OR DIRECTOR OF AN ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS:
List any organization or business in which you or your spouse hold a position of officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor at the time of filing, irrespective of the amount of compensation received for holding such position. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section F, check here ☐

BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS	POSITION HELD	HELD BY WHOM
Probst Investments 1202 Prairie, Hutchinson, KS 67501	owner	Self
Kansas Matters 1202 Prairie, Hutchinson, KS 67501	owner	Self

(2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

Receipt Of Fees And Commissions

In 2018, Probst Declared Receipt Of Fees And Commissions From Hutchinson Regional Medical Center. (2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

In 2018, Probst Declared Receipt Of Fees And Commissions From Erica LaForce. (2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

G. RECEIPT OF FEES AND COMMISSIONS:
List each client or customer who pays fees or commissions to a business or combination of businesses from which fees or commissions you or your spouse received an aggregate of $2,000 or more in the preceding calendar year. The phrase "client or customer" relates only to businesses or combination of businesses. In the case of a partnership, it is the partner's proportionate share of the business, and hence of the fee, which is significant, without regard to expenses of the partnership. An individual who receives a salary as opposed to portions of fees or commissions is generally not required to report under this provision. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section G, check here ☐

NAME OF CLIENT / CUSTOMER	ADDRESS	RECEIVED BY
Erica LaForce	205 w 14th	Self
Hutchinson Regional Medical Center	1701 E. 23rd Ave., Hutchinson, KS 67502	Self

(2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

2017 Statement Of Substantial Interests (HD-102)

Ownership Interests

In 2017, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In Probst Investments, Rental Property At 1202 N. Prairie Avenue, Hutchinson, KS. (2017 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 7/10/17)

In 2017, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In T. Rowe Price, Holder Of Mutual Funds In A Retirement 401K (64 Percent Ownership). (2017 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 7/10/17)

In 2017, Probst Declared Ownership Interest In T. Rowe Price, Holder Of Mutual Funds In An ESOP. (2017 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 7/10/17)

C. OWNERSHIP INTERESTS:
List any corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trust, joint venture and every other business interest, including land used for income, and specific stocks, mutual funds or retirement accounts in which either you or your spouse has owned within the preceding 12 months a legal or equitable interest exceeding $5,000 or 5%, whichever is less. If you or your spouse own more than 5% of a business, you must disclose the percentage held. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section C, check here ☐

BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS	TYPE OF BUSINESS	DESCRIPTION OF INTERESTS HELD	PERCENT OF OWNERSHIP INTERESTS	HELD BY WHOM
Probst Investments 1202 Prairie	rental	real estate	100.00	Self
T. Rowe Price P.O. Box 17349, Baltimore MD 21297-1349	retirement 401k	mutual funds	64.00	Self
T. Rowe Price P.O. Box 17349, Baltimore, MD 21297-1349	ESOP	mutual funds	100.00	Self

(2017 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 7/10/17)

Gifts & Honoraria

In 2017, Probst Declared No Gifts & Honoraria. (2017 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 7/10/17)

D. GIFTS OR HONORARIA:
List any person or business from whom you or your spouse either individually or collectively, have received gifts or honoraria having an aggregate value of $500 or more in the preceding 12 months.

If you have nothing to report in Section D, check here ☑

NAME OF PERSON OR BUSINESS FROM WHOM GIFT RECEIVED:	ADDRESS	RECEIVED BY

(2017 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 7/10/17)

Employment

In 2017, Probst Declared Employment With The Hutchinson News. (2017 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 7/10/17)

1. YOUR PLACE(S) OF EMPLOYMENT OR OTHER BUSINESS IN THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR. IF SAME AS SECTION "B", CHECK HERE ☐

If you have nothing to report in Section "E"1, check here ☐

NAME OF BUSINESS	ADDRESS	TYPE OF BUSINESS
The Hutchinson News	300 W. 2nd	newspaper

(2017 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 7/10/17)

Officer Or Director Of An Organization Or Business

In 2017, Probst Declared Himself Officer Or Director Of Probst Investments. (2017 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 7/10/17)

F. OFFICER OR DIRECTOR OF AN ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS:
List any organization or business in which you or your spouse hold a position of officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor at the time of filing, irrespective of the amount of compensation received for holding such position. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section F, check here ☐

BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS	POSITION HELD	HELD BY WHOM
Probst Investments 1202 Prairie, Hutchinson, KS 67501	owner	Self

(2017 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 7/10/17)

Receipt Of Fees And Commissions

In 2017, Probst Declared Receipt Of Fees And Commissions From Erica LaForce. (2017 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 7/10/17)

G. RECEIPT OF FEES AND COMMISSIONS:
List each client or customer who pays fees or commissions to a business or combination of businesses from which fees or commissions you or your spouse received an aggregate of $2,000 or more in the preceding calendar year. The phrase "client or customer" relates only to businesses or combination of businesses. In the case of a partnership, it is the partner's proportionate share of the business, and hence of the fee, which is significant, without regard to expenses of the partnership. An individual who receives a salary as opposed to portions of fees or commissions is generally not required to report under this provision. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section G, check here ☐

NAME OF CLIENT / CUSTOMER	ADDRESS	RECEIVED BY
Erica LaForce	205 w 14th	Self

(2017 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 7/10/17)

PROBST'S FINANCIAL RECKLESSNESS

In 1996, Probst and his wife filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection related to the failed operation of his erstwhile restaurant, Hesston Heritage Inn Restaurant (per his personal website). (Note: No record of the bankruptcy could be independently found in a search of PACER/ U.S. Bankruptcy Court.)

Probst and his wife have also been sued for failure to pay personal financial obligations. In 2017, Newton Anesthesia Services PA filed suit against Probst for $237 in unpaid bills. Newton Anesthesia Services received judgment against Probst and his wife, as well as an order of garnishment to satisfy the judgment, which was ultimately satisfied in April 2018.

As a current Kansas state legislator, Probst has received and enjoyed over $112,000 in compensation to go with tens of thousands in additional travel perks. Beyond his legislative allowance totaling $33,998.40 since 2017 (or $354.15 per pay period), Probst has netted $32,624.28 in per diem salary, $37,854 in per diem subsistence, and $8,267.70 in leadership pay for a total take-home of $112,744.38 from 2017 to 2022. Furthermore, Probst has submitted vouchers for travel reimbursements totaling $23,566.56 over that span. In addition to $11,168.98 in mileage reimbursements he enjoyed, Probst also received $10,463.40 in travel reimbursements, $4,005.77 of which was related to his leadership duties from 2020 onward.

PROBST HAS FILED FOR BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION

In 1996, Probst Appears To Have Filed For Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

According To Nexis, Probst, His Wife, And Business Hesston Heritage Restaurant Filed For Chapter 7 Bankruptcy In Wichita, Kansas In June 1996. (Nexis Comprehensive Person Search, Accessed 3/28/22)

1: KANSAS - WICHITA

	Petitioner Information
	Petitioner 1
Name:	PROBST, JASON PAUL HESSTON HERITAGE RESTAURANT
Address:	724 W 11TH AVE HUTCHINSON, KS 67501-1632 724 W 11TH AVE HUTCHINSON, KS 67501-1632
SSN:	509-96-XXXX
Type:	INDIVIDUAL - JOINT
	Petitioner 2
Name:	PROBST, JASON PAUL HESSTON HERITAGE RESTAURANT
Address:	724 W 11TH AVE HUTCHINSON, KS 67501-1632 724 W 11TH AVE HUTCHINSON, KS 67501-1632
SSN:	509-96-XXXX
Type:	INDIVIDUAL - JOINT
	Petitioner 3
Name:	PROBST, KIMBERLY RENEE SHINKLE, KIMBERLY R SHINKLE, KIMBERLY RENEE
Address:	724 W 11TH AVE HUTCHINSON, KS 67501-1632
SSN:	511-88-XXXX
Type:	INDIVIDUAL - JOINT
	Bankruptcy Information
Case Number:	9612124
Court:	KANSAS - WICHITA
Filing Date:	06/19/1996
Filing Type:	CHAPTER 7
Meeting Date:	
Meeting Time:	1300
	Status Information
Status:	DISCHARGED
Status Date:	01/09/1997
	Trustee Information
Name:	NAZAR, EDWARD J
Address:	245 N WACO ST STE 402 WICHITA, KS 67202-1117
	Attorney Information
Name:	ENGLISH, JOSEPH G
Address:	440 S 6TH ST STERLING, KS 67579-2316

(Nexis Comprehensive Person Search, Accessed 3/28/22)

- **In January 1997, Probst And His Wife Were Discharged From The Petition.** (Nexis Comprehensive Person Search, Accessed 3/28/22)

Probst Has Written That He Once Owned The Heston Heritage Inn Restaurant At 21 Years Old, But "Went Broke"

According To His Personal Website, Probst Owned The Heston Heritage Inn Restaurant, But "Didn't Know A Whole Lot About Running A Business" And "Went Broke." "When I was 21 years old, I owned a restaurant, called the Hesston Heritage Inn restaurant. I'm a pretty good cook. But I didn't know a whole lot about running a business, so I went broke." ("Odds And Ends," Jason Probst, Accessed 3/22/22)

NOTE: *No record of the bankruptcy could be independently found in a search of PACER/ U.S. Bankruptcy Court.*

PROBST HAS HAD HIS WAGES GARNISHED FOR FAILURE TO PAY MEDICAL BILLS

In 2017, Newton Anesthesia Services PA Sued Probst And His Wife For Nearly $300 In Unpaid Medical Bills

In October 2017, Newton Anesthesia Services PA Filed A Small Claims Suit Against Jason And Kimberly Probst For $278 In Harvey County District Court. (Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 10/10/17)

Case Year: 2017	Case UID: 2017-LM-001969
Case Type: LM	Filed: 2017-10-10
Case Sub-type: Seller Plaintiff (Debt Collection)	Last Updated: 2018-01-09 at 09:25:32
Advisement Date:	Remand Date:
Appealed: N	Appealed Date:
Status Code: 2	Status Date: 2018-01-09
Status Description: Disposed	

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Defendants

Party 1

Defendant Number: 1		
Last Name (or Business Name): Probst		
First Name: Jason	Middle: P	Suffix:

Party 2

Defendant Number: 2

Last Name (or Business Name): Probst

First Name: Kimberly | Middle: | Suffix:

Description

Sex: U | Race:

Height: | Weight:

top

Plaintiff

Party

Plaintiff Number: 1 | Amount Claimed: 278.65

Last Name (or Business Name): Newton Anesthesia Service

First Name: | Middle: | Suffix:

(Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 10/10/17)

Newton Anesthesia Services Received Judgment And An Order Of Garnishment Against Probst

In January 2018, Newton Anesthesia Services PA Received Judgment Against Jason And Kimberly Probst. (Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 1/4/18)

Action 19

Action Date: 2018-01-09 | Action Type: ORDJDG

Action Agent: Stephen A Hilgers

Description: Journal Entry of Judgment ORD: Judgment

(Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 1/4/18)

- **In March 2018, An Order Of Garnishment Was Entered Against Jason And Kimberly Probst.** (Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 3/9/18)

Action 22

Action Date: 2018-03-09 | Action Type: POJGARM

Action Agent: Stephen A Hilgers

Description: Request for Garnishment MOT: Garnishment

Action 23

Action Date: 2018-03-09 | Action Type: ORDGRN

Action Agent: Stephen A Hilgers

Description: Order of Garnishment ORD: Garnishment

(Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 4/16/18)

The Judgment Was Satisfied In April 2018

In April 2018, Jason And Kimberly Probst Satisfied The Judgment. (Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 4/16/18)

Action 26

Action Date: 2018-04-16	Action Type: INFSATJ
Action Agent: Stephen A Hilgers	
Description: Satisfaction of Judgment INF: Satisfaction of Judgment	

(Case No. 2017-LM-001969, *Newton Anesthesia Services Pa V. Jason & Kimberly Probst*, Harvey County District Court, Filed 4/16/18)

PROBST HAS NETTED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN TAXPAYER SALARY, PER DIEMS, TRAVEL, AND OTHER LEADERSHIP PERKS

As A Kansas Legislator Since 2017, Probst Has Taken Home Over $112,000 In Total Pay, Nearly $80,000 Of Which Subsisted Of Per Diems And Leadership Pay

According To The State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Probst Has Received Total Public Compensation Of $112,744.38 Spanning Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, And Leadership Pay From 2017 To 2022. (Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)

Representative Jason Probst
Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay
2017-2022

2017

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	-	-	-
Per Diem Subsistence	-	-	-
Legislative Allowance	$354.15/pay period	16	$5,666.40

2018

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	91	$7,491.12
Per Diem Subsistence	$144.00	91	$8,330.00
Legislative Allowance	$354.15/pay period	20	$7,083

2019

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	73	$7,491.12
Per Diem Subsistence	$149.00	73	$8,330.00
Legislative Allowance	$354.15/pay period	20	$7,083.00

2020

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	63	$7,491.12
Per Diem Subsistence	$151.00	63	$8,330.00
Legislative Allowance	$354.15/pay period	20	$7,083.00

2020 Special Session

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	2	$177.32
Per Diem Subsistence	$151.00	2	$302.00

2021

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	85	$7,491.12
Per Diem Subsistence	$151.00	85	$8,330.00
Legislative Allowance	$354.15/pay period	20	$7,083.00
Leadership Pay	$275.59	26	7,165.34

2021 Special Session

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	1	$88.66
Per Diem Subsistence	$155.00	1	$155.00

2022 (January 10, 2022 through February 5, 2022)

Type of Pay	Amount	Length of Session or Number of Pay Periods	Total
Per Diem Salary	$88.66	27	$2393.82
Per Diem Subsistence	$155.00	27	$4,077.00
Legislative Allowance	$354.15/pay period	20	-
Leadership Pay	$275.59	4	$1,102.36

(Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)

- **From 2017 To 2022, Probst Has Received $33,998.40 In Legislative Allowance ($354.15 Per Pay Period).** (Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)

- **From 2017 To 2022, Probst Has Received $32,624.28 In Per Diem Salary ($88.66 Per Session Day).** (Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)
- **From 2017 To 2022, Probst Has Received $37,854 In Per Diem Subsistence ($144-155 Per Session Day).** (Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)
- **From 2020 To 2022, Probst Has Received $8,267.70 In Leadership Pay ($354.15 Per Session Day).** (Salary, Subsistence, Legislative Allowance, Leadership Pay, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)

Probst Enjoyed Additional Travel Reimbursement Pay Of Nearly $24,000 As A Kansas State Legislator Since 2017

According To The State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Probst Has Received Total Travel Expense Reimbursement Of $23,566.56 From 2017 To 2022. (Travel Expense Reimbursements, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)

Date	Category	Purpose	Amount
4/26-5/5/18	Mileage	2018 Session	$380.92
3/5/18-4/6/18	Mileage	2018 Session	$952.30
2/5-3/2/18	Mileage	2018 Session	$761.84
1/8-2/2/18	Mileage	2018 Session	$761.84
5/1-5/4/19	Mileage	2019 Session	$194.02
3/3-4/5/19	Mileage	2019 Session	$970.10
2/4-3/1/19	Mileage	2019 Session	$776.08
1/13-2/1/19	Mileage	2019 Session	$582.06
5/29/19	Mileage	2019 Sine Die	$343.02
2/10-3/6/20	Mileage	2020 Session	$818.80
1/17-2/7/20	Mileage	2020 Session	$818.80
3/8-5/22/20	Mileage	2020 Session	$614.10
6/3-6/7/20	Mileage	2020 Special Session	$204.70
5/2-5/7/21	Mileage	2021 Session	$199.36
3/7-4/9/21	Mileage	2021 Session	$996.80
2/7-3/5/21	Mileage	2021 Session	$797.44
1/10-2/5/21	Mileage	2021 Session	$797.44
11/21-11/23/21	Mileage	2021 Special Session	$199.36
11/30/21	Postage	Postage Reimbursement – Franking	$1,934.18
6/26/17	Travel	2017 Sine Die	$237.23
5/26/21	Travel	2021 Sine Die	$350.36
2/21/18	Travel	Attendance Per LCC Approval	$144.00

7/11-7/14/21	Travel	CSG Midwest Annual Meeting (Rapid City, SD)	$1,124.03
9/30/19	Travel	Gov. Kelly on Medicaid Expansion	$355.48
12/12/19	Travel	Gov. Kelly on Medicaid Expansion	$357.48
10/29/19	Travel	Gov. Kelly on Medicaid Expansion	$357.48
11/16/21	Travel	House Agriculture & Natural Resources	$354.36
12/9/19	Travel	House Democratic Caucus	$206.48
1/13/19	Travel	House Democratic Caucus KSA	$194.02
10/8/19	Travel	Kansas Early Learning Forum-NCSL	$61.48
8/16/18	Travel	Kansas Geological Survey Tour	$567.16
8/4-8/6/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
7/8-7/9/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
7/1-7/2/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
5/25-5/27/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
4/27-4/28/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
4/21-4/22/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
4/14-4/16/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
11/23/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	-
11/15-11/21/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
10/20-10/21/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
10/12-10/14/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
9/28-9/30/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
9/19-9/20/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
9/8-9/10/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
8/22-8/25/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$201.91
8/20/21	Travel	Leadership Duties	$199.36
4/5/21	Travel	Leadership Elect	$199.36
1/8/20	Travel	Leadership Elect	$199.36
12/29-12/31/20	Travel	Leadership Elect	$204.70
12/17-12/18/20	Travel	Leadership Elect	$204.70
12/8-12/10/20	Travel	Leadership Elect	$204.70
12/3/18	Travel	Pre-Organization Meeting	$343.02

12/7/20	Travel	Pre-Organization Meeting	$355.70
8/9-8/13/21	Travel	Redistricting Committee Listening Tour	$1,091.87
11/12/19	Travel	Special Committee on Natural Resources	$357.48

(Travel Expense Reimbursements, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)

- **From 2017 To 2022, Probst Received Mileage Reimbursements Totaling $11,168.98.** (Travel Expense Reimbursements, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)
- **From 2017 To 2022, Probst Received Postage/ Franking Reimbursements Totaling $1,934.18.** (Travel Expense Reimbursements, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)
- **From 2017 To 2022, Probst Received Travel Expense Reimbursements Totaling $10,463.40.** (Travel Expense Reimbursements, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)
    - **Of This Amount, Probst Received $4,005.77 In Reimbursements For Leadership-Related Duties & Travel.** (Travel Expense Reimbursements, State Of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/15/22)

PROBST'S POLITICAL FOIBLES AND QUESTIONABLE DECISIONS

Despite serving in the Kansas House of Representatives as a Democrat since June 2017, Probst's true political allegiances deserve parsing. Probst is an actively-registered Democrat Party voter in Reno County, Kansas, an affiliation he has maintained continuously since June 2017. Yet, Probst has bounced back and forth between Democrat and Republican Party affiliation. In fact, Probst was an affiliated Republican from April 2016 to June 2017, spanning the 2016 general election period; Probst voted in a Republican Party primary as recently as August 2016. From March to April 2016, Probst aligned with the Democrats for the monthlong period. For the longest duration, from August 2000 to March 2016, Probst voted as an affiliated Republican Party voter.

Probst has faced ethical questions. In 2018, the Kansas State Fair reported Probst as a subcontractor for agency marketing firm BowerComm Inc. to the Kansas Ethics Commission. Probst wrote promotional materials, including the fair's "educators' guide, website content, and press releases," and provided strategic planning, all while serving in the legislature. Probst has reported over $3,200 in miscellaneous consulting fees to BowerComm out of his campaign committee from 2020 to 2021 in the years subsequent to said disclosure.

From 2018 onward, Probst has declared ownership of a business ownership in Hutchinson, Kansas named "Kansas Matters." Since 2018, Kansas Matters has received at least $950 in reported political consulting fees from Kansas campaigns. In 2018, the business also contributed $100 to the gubernatorial campaign of Laura Kelly. Perhaps most egregiously, Probst—as sole member of Kansas Matters—took out a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in April 2020 that accrued to over $6,600 that was ultimately forgiven.

In 2010, Probst praised Toyota's handling of its decision to recall calls related to accelerator pads. Probst wrote that Toyota had "handled the issue with class." Probst even asserted that concern over the Toyota safety defects "didn't warrant the end-of-the-world hysteria that took hold around the country." However, in 2014, Toyota "agreed to pay a staggering $1.2 billion to avoid prosecution for covering up severe safety problems with 'unintended acceleration,' according to court documents, and continuing to make cars with parts the FBI said Toyota 'knew were deadly.'"

Probst has signaled supported for expanding the U.S. Supreme Court.

PROBST WAS AN AFFILIATED REPUBLICAN PARTY VOTER DURING THE 2016 GENERAL ELECTION

Though A Democrat In The Kansas Legislature Since 2017, Probst Was A Republican-Affiliated Voter From April 2016 Until Formally Becoming A Democrat In June 2017, And Voted In A Republican Party Primary As Recently As August 2016

According To The Reno County Clerk's Office, Probst Is Actively-Registered Democratic Party Voter In Reno County, Kansas. (Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)

Voter Registration Card
Date: 9/1/2020
Jason Paul Probst
205 W. 14th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Democratic

Party Affiliation Card
Date: 6/9/2017
Jason Paul Probst
1202 Prairie St
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: From Republican to Democratic

Party Affiliation Card
Date: 4/26/2016
Jason Probst
1202 Prairie St
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: From Democratic to Republican

Voter Registration Card
Date: 3/5/2016
Jason P Probst
1202 Prairie St
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Democratic

Voter Registration Card
Date: 3/10/2015
Jason P Probst
1213 E 14th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Republican

Voter Registration Card
Date: 6/2/2014
Jason Paul Probst
214 E 12th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Republican

Voter Registration Card
Date: 8/22/2000
Jason Paul Probst
325 W 12th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Republican

(Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)

From April 2016 To June 2017, Probst Affiliated With The Republican Party. (Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)

Probst, Jason P
205 W 14th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501

Election Code	Election Name	Election Date	Party	Precinct Part	Voting Location	How Voted
CG2021	2021 City/School General	11/02/2021		HC00007.01	Reno County Annex	Early
GN2020	2020 General Election	11/03/2020		HC00007.01	Reno County Annex	Early
PR2020	2020 Primary Election	08/04/2020	D	HC00006.01	2 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6, 7 & 8	Polling Place
CG2019	2019 City/School General	11/05/2019		HC00006.01	Reno County Court House	Early
CP2019	2019 City/School Primary	08/06/2019		HC00006.01	Reno County Court House	Early
GN2018	2018 General Election	11/06/2018		HC00006.01	2 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6, 7 & 8	Polling Place
PR2018	2018 Primary Election	08/07/2018	D	HC00006.01	2 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6, 7 & 8	Polling Place
CG2017	2017 City/School General	11/07/2017		HC00006.01	2 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6, 7 & 8	Polling Place
GN2016	2016 General Election	11/08/2016		HC00006.01	3 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6	Polling Place
PR2016	2016 Primary Election	08/02/2016	R	HC00006.01	3 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6	Polling Place
GN2014	2014 General Election	11/04/2014		HC00014.01	9 Fairgrounds - Pct. 14	Polling Place
PR2014	2014 Primary Election	08/05/2014	R	HC00014.01	9 Fairgrounds - Pct. 14	Polling Place
CG2013	2013 City/School General	04/02/2013		HC00006.01	3 Fairgrounds - Pct. 6	Polling Place
CP2013	2013 City/School Primary	02/26/2013		HC00006.01	Reno County Court House	Early
GN2012	2012 General Election	11/06/2012		HC00006.01	3 Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
PR2012	2012 Primary Election	08/07/2012	R	HC00006.01	3 Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
CG2011	2011 City/School General	04/05/2011		HC00006.01	Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
GN2010	Kansas General Election	11/02/2010		HC00006.01	Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
PR2010	Kansas Primary Election	08/03/2010		HC00006.01	Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
GN2008	Kansas General Election	11/04/2008		HC00006.01	Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
CG2007	2007 City/School General	04/03/2007		HC00006.01		Advance
GN2006	Kansas General Election	11/07/2006		HC00006.01	Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
PR2006	Kansas Primary Election	08/01/2006	R	HC00006.01	Kansas State Fairgrounds	Polling Place
CG4505	City/School General Elect	04/05/2005	R	Hc00006.1		Polling Place

(Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)

- **Since June 2017, Probst Has Affiliated With The Democrat Party.** (Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)

Prior, From 2000 To 2016, Probst Was A Republican Voter

From At Least August 2000 To March 2016, Probst Affiliated With The Republican Party. (Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)

Voter Registration Card
Date: 9/1/2020
Jason Paul Probst
205 W. 14th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Democratic

Party Affiliation Card
Date: 6/9/2017
Jason Paul Probst
1202 Prairie St
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: From Republican to Democratic

Party Affiliation Card
Date: 4/26/2016
Jason Probst
1202 Prairie St
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: From Democratic to Republican

Voter Registration Card
Date: 3/5/2016
Jason P Probst
1202 Prairie St
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Democratic

Voter Registration Card
Date: 3/10/2015
Jason P Probst
1213 E 14th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Republican

Voter Registration Card
Date: 6/2/2014
Jason Paul Probst
214 E 12th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Republican

Voter Registration Card
Date: 8/22/2000
Jason Paul Probst
325 W 12th Ave
Hutchinson, KS 67501
Party: Republican

(Voter Profile Report: Jason P. Probst, Reno County Clerk's Office, Kansas Open Records Act Request, Filled 2/18/22)

PROBST ONCE EXTOLLED CENTRISM AND WAS A REGISTERED REPUBLICAN UNTIL A MONTH BEFORE BEING APPOINTED AS A DEMOCRAT LEGISLATOR

The Hutchinson News In June 2017: "… Probst Has Been Largely A Registered Republican Before Becoming A Democrat This Month…"

"Although He Has Been Largely A Registered Republican Before Becoming A Democrat This Month, Probst Has Written Critically About Republicans Governor Sam Brownback And Secretary Of State Kris Kobach And Their Policies." "An opinionated watchdog will enter the Kansas House of Representatives. Nine Reno County Democratic precinct committee members chose Jason Probst in a 6-3 vote Wednesday evening to fill the vacancy created by the recent death of Rep. Patsy Terrell, D-Hutchinson. Jim Clark, 65, a former union steward who knocked on 2,500 doors during Terrell's 2016 campaign, received three votes. Attorney Luann Trummel Wellborn, 59, drew no votes. Probst said he will resign Thursday morning as Opinion/Sunday editor at The Hutchinson News. Although he has been largely a registered Republican before becoming a Democrat this month, Probst has written critically about Republicans Governor Sam Brownback and Secretary of State Kris Kobach and their policies. "Tough decisions require leadership, but the state won't find it in the governor's office," Probst wrote less than a month ago." (*The Hutchinson News*, 6/22/17)

In 2010, Probst Wrote That "To Cast A Vote For Someone For No Other Reason Than Party Affiliation Is A Poor Policy For Democrats, Republicans And Kansans"

Probst: "To Cast A Vote For Someone For No Other Reason Than Party Affiliation Is A Poor Policy For Democrats, Republicans And Kansans." "That's unfortunate -- not because Democrats are better officeholders than Republicans or any of the other ridiculous nonsense that falls to one side or the other of a party line. It's unfortunate because the latest polling shows, more than anything else, that party affiliation matters a lot more than experience, ability or a proven track record in office. Take the treasurer's office, for instance. Dennis McKinney is a popular Democrat from Greensburg who had no trouble winning re-election in that very Republican district. He's done as good of a job in the treasurer's office as anyone, and earlier this year he returned a portion of his unused budget to the state general fund. Or how about Steve Six, who took over an Attorney General's office that had been embroiled in controversy for the past decade -- first for Phill Kline's aggressive politics, and later for the questionable behavior of Paul Morrison. Six came in, cleaned house, kept his nose clean and worked to execute the duties of the office effectively. He hasn't used the office to further his own political career or personal agenda and he has made the office more efficient and responsive to the concerns of Kansans. And then there's Kris Kobach and Chris Biggs, both of whom are running for Secretary of State. One, however, currently holds the job, has a long, distinguished career in public office and is realistic about how much power the Secretary of State truly possesses. The other is known for his legal work to limit illegal immigration to the United States -- an issue for which the Secretary of State has no control or authority whatsoever. But Kobach has an (R) behind his name and has become somewhat of a Republican icon across the country -- and therefore he holds a 17 percentage point lead over Biggs. Is that to say that Ron Estes, Derek Schmitt or Kris Kobach couldn't be capable officeholders? Not at all, and those candidates undoubtedly bring their own qualifications and expertise to the table. But that's the basis on which any decision about a political candidate ought to be made. To cast a vote for someone for no other reason than party affiliation is a poor policy for Democrats, Republicans and Kansans." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Voting "R" Or "D,'" *The Hutchinson News*, 9/24/10)

In 2013, Probst Wrote: "It Might Be That A Viable Third Party Is Just The Medicine Kansas Needs"

Probst: "It Might Be That A Viable Third Party Is Just The Medicine Kansas Needs." "Today, it might be that a viable third party is just the medicine Kansas needs. We have a Republican Party that is full of swagger and arrogance and filled with the false idea that its electoral successes grant it a God-given right to reshape the state to its will and extract revenge from those who dissent. And we have a Democratic Party that works so fiercely to satisfy its most ardent and fringe members that its central message fails to resonate with most Kansas voters, leaving the party impotent as a challenger to the state's Republican establishment. Additionally, thanks to the perversion of the country's campaign finance laws, lawmakers are largely beholden to the corporate donors that secured their elections. And when it comes time to write, consider and vote on legislation, those same investors fill the halls of the state Capitol with their paid lobbyists, who are eager to hand out advice, voting suggestions and good seats at Allen Fieldhouse. Third parties are hard to create, harder to build and even more difficult to hold. But

if a political party is designed with the idea of moderating the extremism in both parties, and representing the interests of most Kansans, it just might have a fighting chance." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: In Moderation," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/17/13)

PROBST HAS BLURRED ETHICAL LINES IN HIS PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS WHILE IN PUBLIC OFFICE

While Serving In The Kansas Statehouse, Probst Has Received Public Contracts As A Subcontractor For The Marketing Agency Of The Kansas State Fair

In November 2018, The Kansas State Fair Disclosed Probst's Involvement As A Sub-Contractor Of BowerComm Inc., The Marketing Agency Of The Agency. (State Agency Statement Of Contractual Services With A Current Legislator Or Legislator's Firm, Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, Filed 11/20/18)

KANSAS GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION

FILED NOV 20 2018 KRIS W. KOBACH SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE AGENCY STATEMENT OF CONTRACTUAL SERVICES WITH A CURRENT LEGISLATOR OR LEGISLATOR'S FIRM

This statement must be completed by each state agency that enters into a contract with any legislator or any member of a firm of which such legislator is a member under which the legislator or the member of such firm is to perform services for the state agency for compensation (K.S.A. 46-239(c)).

DATE REPORT DUE AND PERIOD COVERED, CHECK ONE	
☐ March 30th (Jan, Feb, March)	☑ Sept. 30th (July, Aug, Sept)
☐ June 30th (April, May, June)	☐ Dec. 31st (Oct, Nov, Dec)
CONTRACTING STATE AGENCY INFORMATION	
Name of Agency Kansas State Fair	Business Phone: (620) 669-3600
Address (Street, City, State, ZIP Code) 2000 N Poplar St., Hutchinson, KS 67502	
Purpose of Contract or Employment Jason Probst is a sub-contractor for BowerComm Inc, our marketing agency. He is writing promotional materials, including our Educators' Guide, website content, and press releases. He also assists them with strategic planning.	
Date of Agency Contract or Employment Jason began subcontracting with BowerComm on April 20, 2018.	
Method of Determining and Computing Compensation He is billed to us at the same hourly rate as other people of his experience and tenure who are employed by BowerComm.	
IDENTIFICATION OF LEGISLATOR OR LEGISLATOR'S FIRM	
Name Jason Probst	Business Phone (620) 664-4772
Address (Street, City, State, ZIP Code) 1202 Prairie, Hutchinson KS 67501	
SIGNATURE	
I understand that the intentional failure to file this statement as required by law or to intentionally make any false material statement herein is a class B misdemeanor.	
11/15/2018 Date	Signature of Agency Head

(State Agency Statement Of Contractual Services With A Current Legislator Or Legislator's Firm, Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, Filed 11/20/18)

- **Probst Wrote Promotional Materials, Including The Fair's "Educators' Guide, Website Content, And Press Releases," And Provided Strategic Planning, While Serving In The Legislature.** (State Agency Statement Of Contractual Services With A Current Legislator Or Legislator's Firm, Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, Filed 11/20/18)

NOTE: *Researcher continues to await receipt of original records about the contractual arrangement between the Kansas State Fair, BowerComm, and Probst.*

In Years Subsequent, Probst's Campaign Committee Paid BowerComm Over $3,000 In Miscellaneous Consulting Fees

As Of January 2022, Probst For Progress Has Paid BowerComm $3,212.50. (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)

- **In December 2021, Probst For Progress Paid BowerComm $150 For "Miscellaneous Design."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In December 2020, Probst For Progress Paid SharpSpring-BowerComm $200 For "Miscellaneous Email Marketing Automation."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In November 2020, Probst For Progress Paid BowerComm $75 For "Miscellaneous Graphic Design."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In November 2020, Probst For Progress Paid SharpSpring-BowerComm $200 For "Miscellaneous Email Marketing Automation."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In October 2020, Probst For Progress Paid SharpSpring-BowerComm $200 For "Miscellaneous Email Marketing Automation."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In October 2020, Probst For Progress Paid BowerComm $1,893.75 For "Miscellaneous Graphic Design."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In October 2020, Probst For Progress Paid SharpSpring-BowerComm $200 For "Miscellaneous Email Marketing Automation."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In October 2020, Probst For Progress Paid BowerComm $93.75 For "Miscellaneous Graphic Design."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)
- **In September 2020, Probst For Progress Paid SharpSpring-BowerComm $200 For "Miscellaneous Email Marketing Automation."** (Kansas Secretary Of State, Accessed 3/22/22)

WHILE IN OFFICE, PROBST HAS LEVERAGED A BUSINESS ENTITY TO CONSULT AND CONTRIBUTE TO POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS IN KANSAS

In 2018, Probst Declared Whole Ownership Of An Entity Named "Kansas Matters"

In 2018, Probst Declared Himself Officer Or Director Of Kansas Matters. (2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

F. OFFICER OR DIRECTOR OF AN ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS:
List any organization or business in which you or your spouse hold a position of officer, director, associate, partner or proprietor at the time of filing, irrespective of the amount of compensation received for holding such position. Please insert additional page if necessary to complete this section.

If you have nothing to report in Section F, check here ☐

BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS	POSITION HELD	HELD BY WHOM
Probst Investments 1202 Prairie, Hutchinson, KS 67501	owner	Self
Kansas Matters 1202 Prairie, Hutchinson, KS 67501	owner	Self

(2018 Statement Of Substantial Interests, Kansas Secretary Of State, Filed 5/1/18)

Since 2018, Probst Has Received Nearly $1,000 In Political Consulting Fees Through A Business Entity He Owns

Since 2018, Kansas Matters Has Received $950 In Vendor/ Consulting Fees From Kansas Campaign Committees. (Kansas Ethics Commission, Accessed 3/22/22)

- **In October 2020, Kansas Matters Of Hutchinson, KS Received $250 For "Tech Support" From Lynn Grant For Kansans.** (Kansas Ethics Commission, Filed 1/9/21)

8/12/2020	US Post Office	702 N. Locust	Pittsburg	KS	66762	Postage	$ 140.00	x
8/12/2020	Kansas Matters	1202 Prairie	Hutchinson	KS	67501	Tech support	$ 250.00	x
8/17/2020	Norris Outdoor Adv	115 E. St. John	Girard	KS	66743	Billboard	$ 263.86	x
8/20/2020	US Post Office	204 E. McKay	Frontenac	KS	66763	Postage	$ 215.00	x

(Kansas Ethics Commission, Filed 1/9/21)

- **In September 2018, Kansas Matters Of Hutchinson, KS Received $700 For "Postcard Design" From Monica Murnan For Kansas House Of Representatives.** (Kansas Ethics Commission, Filed 10/28/18)

SCHEDULE C
EXPENDITURES AND OTHER DISBURSEMENTS

Monica Murnan
(Name of Candidate)

Date	Name and Address	Purpose of Expenditure or Disbursement	Amount
9/25/18	Kansas Matters 1202 Prairie Hutchinson, KS 67501	postcard design	$700.00

(Kansas Ethics Commission, Filed 10/28/18)

NOTE: *Kansas Matters' address corresponds to Probst's real property (see 'Real Property Records' and 'Personal Financial Disclosure' for more information).*

In 2018, Kansas Matters Contributed $100 To The Gubernatorial Campaign Of Democrat Laura Kelly

According To The National Institute On Money In Politics, Kansas Matters Of Hutchinson, KS Contributed $100 To Laura Kelly For Governor In 2018. (National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)

Candidate	Election Status	Status of Candidate	Specific Party	General Party	Election Jurisdiction	Election Year	Election Type	Office Sought	Incumbency Status	Contributor	Type of Contributor	City	State	Zip	# of Records	Total $
KELLY, LAURA J & ROGERS, LYNN	WON-GENERAL	WON	DEMOCRATIC	DEMOCRATIC	KS	2018	STANDARD	GOVERNOR / LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	OPEN	KANSAS MATTERS	NON-INDIVIDUAL	HUTCHINSON	KS	67501	1	$100

(National Institute On Money In Politics, Accessed 3/22/22)

Moreover, Probst Received A Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan In 2020 For Over $6,600 For The Sole Proprietorship, Which Was Ultimately Forgiven

In April 2020, Kansas Matters Of Hutchinson, KS Received A Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan For Over $6,600 For 1 Reported Job (Probst's). (ProPublica, Accessed 3/22/22)

Home ›

KANSAS MATTERS

Why is my loan information here?

Loan Amount
$6,600

Amount Forgiven
$6,663
Includes any accrued interest

Location
Hutchinson, KS
Rural

Industry
Other Management Consulting Services

Date Approved
April 8, 2020 (First Round)

Where applicants said the money will go

Payroll	$5,200
Utilities	$300
Mortgage Interest	$0
Health Care	$0
Rent	$400
Refinance EIDL	$0
Debt Interest	$700

Lender
Peoples Bank and Trust Company

Jobs Reported
1

Business Type
Sole Proprietorship

Business Age
Existing or more than 2 years old

Loan Status
Forgiven

(ProPublica, Accessed 3/22/22)

- **The Loan Was Forgiven.** (ProPublica, Accessed 3/22/22)

PROBST PRAISED TOYOTA'S CONTROVERSIAL HANDLING OF ITS VEHICLE RECALL SCANDAL

In January 2010, Probst Praised Toyota's Handling Of Car Recalls Related To Accelerator Pads Claiming "Toyota Has Handled This Issue With Class"

In January 2010, Probst Praised Toyota's Handling Of Car Recalls Related To Accelerator Pads Claiming "Toyota Has Handled This Issue With Class." "Much has been made recently about Toyota's decision to recall some of its most popular and best-selling models after discovering a potential problem with the vehicles' accelerator pedals. "Toyota recall shows how lean manufacturing can backfire," read one headline from the Wall Street Journal. A columnist for the Toronto Star opined that Toyota's legacy of quality disappeared years before the most recent recall, and numerous stories and news broadcasts from around the country pointed out what seems to be obvious -- that the recall hurt Toyota's image. The stock market also bashed the Japanese automaker. The company's stock plunged in the week after the recall announcement, from $91 on Jan. 19, to $79 Thursday. Congress, never a group to miss out on a chance to win favor with the masses, wants to hold its own inquiry. Despite the rabble, the plummeting stock price and the public uproar, the truth of the matter is that Toyota has handled this issue with

class. The recall was voluntary, rather than a one initiated by the National Highway Transportation Safety Board. Toyota has been relatively upfront about the issues it has uncovered with the accelerator pedals. Other automakers have had design flaws in the past, and some haven't been as forthcoming as Toyota has been on this issue." (Jason Probst, Editorial, "Turning On Toyota, 1/29/10)

- **Probst: "Rather Than Asking Whether Toyota Ought To Fear The Future, Or Whether The Company's Image Will Be Irrevocably Tarnished, The Real Question Should Be, Why Don't Other Automakers Handle Safety Issues As Aggressively As Toyota?"** "The people at Toyota weren't told to do it, and they weren't subject to any fine if they sat silent. They recognized a potential problem and took steps to alleviate it. Furthermore, Liker reports that in his 25 years of research on the company, Toyota puts more effort into examining and re-examining engineering issues to reduce flaws. During this recession, Toyota repurposed its staff for additional training and to focus on quality and possible improvements, rather than laying off the 40 percent of its production workforce that it didn't need. Rather than asking whether Toyota ought to fear the future, or whether the company's image will be irrevocably tarnished, the real question should be, why don't other automakers handle safety issues as aggressively as Toyota?" (Jason Probst, Editorial, "Turning On Toyota, 1/29/10)

Probst: Concern Over The Toyota Safety Defects "Didn't Warrant The End-Of-The-World Hysteria That Took Hold Around The Country"

Probst: Concern Over The Toyota Safety Defects "Didn't Warrant The End-Of-The-World Hysteria That Took Hold Around The Country." "As it turns out, investigators with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration have spent the past five months investigating all those runaway Toyotas. What they found, according to an article this week in The Wall Street Journal, was that in more than half of the 58 vehicles involved in "sudden acceleration reports" driver error seems to be the likely cause. By reviewing data from the cars' "black box" recorders, investigators learned that in 35 of the cars, the drivers never applied the brakes. In another nine cases, the brakes were only applied just before impact. In only one case was it clear that the brake had been consistently applied, and the investigators suspect a floor mat lodged the gas pedal to the floor. In its early report, the NHTSA investigators said there was no indication of safety defects, other than the sticking gas pedals for which Toyota had already launched its recall. There's no doubt that Toyota could've handled the recall with more urgency, and it is a massive recall, though it's not the largest automotive recall in the U.S. -- that belongs to Ford's fire-prone cruise control switches that affected more than 14 million vehicles. But it didn't warrant the end-of-the-world hysteria that took hold around the country. One might be able to understand why cable news networks and blogs would latch onto the recall story and half-wittedly repeat it over and over -- it's the type of story that excites viewers and keeps them glued to a television set or a computer monitor. It's less understandable why the U.S. government would shoot from the hip and launch a congressional hearing while its own investigators were still collecting data that in the end placed some of the blame on drivers." (Jason Probst, "Editorial: Recalling Toyota," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/13/10)

In 2014, Toyota "Agreed To Pay A Staggering $1.2 Billion To Avoid Prosecution For Covering Up Severe Safety Problems With 'Unintended Acceleration,' According To Court Documents, And Continuing To Make Cars With Parts The FBI Said Toyota 'Knew Were Deadly'"

In March 2014, "Car Manufacturer Toyota Has Agreed To Pay A Staggering $1.2 Billion To Avoid Prosecution For Covering Up Severe Safety Problems With "Unintended Acceleration," According To Court Documents, And Continuing To Make Cars With Parts The FBI Said Toyota "Knew Were Deadly.'" "Car manufacturer Toyota has agreed to pay a staggering $1.2 billion to avoid prosecution for covering up severe safety problems with "unintended acceleration," according to court documents, and continuing to make cars with parts the FBI said Toyota "knew were deadly." A deferred prosecution agreement, filed today, forced Toyota to "admit" that it "misled U.S. consumers by concealing and making deceptive statements about two safety related issues affecting its vehicles, each of which caused a type of unintended acceleration.'" ("Toyota To Pay $1.2B For Hiding Deadly 'Unintended Acceleration,'" ABC News, 3/29/14)

- **"Toyota "Put Sales Over Safety And Profit Over Principle," According To FBI Assistant Director George Venizelos."** "Toyota "put sales over safety and profit over principle," according to FBI Assistant Director George Venizelos. "The disregard Toyota had for the safety of the public is outrageous," Venizelos said. "Not only did Toyota fail to recall cars with problem parts, they continued to manufacture new cars with the same parts they already knew were deadly. When media reports arose of Toyota hiding defects, they emphatically denied what they knew was true, assuring consumers that their cars were safe and reliable… More than speeding cars or a major fine, the ultimate tragedy has been the unwitting consumers who died behind the wheel of Toyota vehicles.'" ("Toyota To Pay $1.2B For Hiding Deadly 'Unintended Acceleration,'" ABC News, 3/29/14)
- **"A Senior Justice Official Added That Toyota Made "Blatant Misrepresentations" In What He Called A Classic Case Of Corporate Culture That Favored The Seemingly Easy Way Out Instead Of Paying The Cost And Doing The Right Thing."** "A senior Justice official added that Toyota made "blatant misrepresentations" in what he called a classic case of corporate culture that favored the seemingly easy way out instead of paying the cost and doing the right thing. "The cover up is always going to be worse than the original sin," the official said. In a statement posted on its website, Toyota said that at the time of the recalls the company "took full responsibility for any concerns our actions may have caused customers, and we rededicated ourselves to earning their trust.'" ("Toyota To Pay $1.2B For Hiding Deadly 'Unintended Acceleration,'" ABC News, 3/29/14)

PROBST HAS SIGNALED A WILLINGNESS TO EXPAND THE SUPREME COURT

In 2021, Probst Voted Against Urges Congress To Propose The "Keep Nine" Amendment To The U.S. Constitution"

The Concurrent Resolution Specifies That The Amendment Shall State "The Supreme Court Of The United States Shall Be Composed Of Nine Justices"

In 2021, Probst Voted Nay On HCR 5013, "A Concurrent Resolution Urging The United States Congress To Propose The 'Keep Nine' Amendment To The United States Constitution." (HCR 5013, Passed (84 - 38), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/18/21, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "States that the State of Kansas urges Congress to propose the "Keep Nine" amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The concurrent resolution specifies that the amendment shall state "The Supreme Court of the United States shall be composed of nine justices." (HCR 5013)
- NOTE: "The resolution requires the Kansas Secretary of State to send an enrolled copy of the resolution to each member of the Kansas Congressional delegation, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate and the leader of each legislative chamber for the other 49 states." (HCR 5013)

ACU: HCR 5013 "Calls On Congress To Prevent Court Packing And Fundamental Changes To America's Court System By Proposing A 'Keep Nine Amendment' To The United States Constitution." "This resolution calls on congress to prevent court packing and fundamental changes to America's court system by proposing a "Keep Nine Amendment" to the United States Constitution." (American Conservative Union, 2021)

The American Conservative Union "Opposes The Regressive Left's Calls To Pack The Supreme Court In Order To 'Legislate From The Bench' And Supported This Resolution." "ACU opposes the regressive Left's calls to pack the Supreme Court in order to "legislate from the bench" and supported this resolution. The House passed the resolution on March 18, 2021 by a vote of 84-38. (The resolution failed to advance in the Senate.)" (American Conservative Union, 2021)

PROBST'S FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IRRESPONSIBILITY

Probst was an early and then consistent opponent of Gov. Brownback's signature income tax cuts. As an editorial writer in 2012, Probst compared Brownback's tax reform plan to "driving a car with four flat tires." In 2015, Probst wrote that "eliminating the income tax on many businesses and lowering the tax rates for the state's top earners has not kick-started the state's economy." Probst supported the legislature's 2017 decision to rollback several income tax cuts.

In 2011, Probst called for increasing income taxes. Probst wrote that he agreed with Warren Buffet's calls on increasing taxes on those making more than $1 million annually. Probst has also opposed efforts to cut taxes for Kansas businesses by criticizing a 2013 proposal to redefine commercial and industrial machinery in an effort to make such property tax exempt. In 2017, Probst voiced support for Gov. Hutchinson's efforts to extend a local sales tax. In 2015, Probst praised a recognition that sin taxes on cigarettes and alcohol would have to be raised. On the federal level, Probst has criticized Congressional Republicans for voting to repeal the estate tax.

While serving in the legislature, Probst has opposed efforts to reduce property taxes. In 2018, and 2019, Probst voted against legislation that conservatives contend was "designed to stop a tax increase by conforming the state's tax code with changes in federal tax law."

Probst has also supported efforts to impose fees on Kansas residents. In 2012, Probst praised a measure that would charge seniors for hunting and fishing licenses – the licenses had previously been free for seniors. Probst also backed the implementation of a new fee on the retail sale of every firearm and on each round of ammunition.

Probst has publicly supported opposition to efforts to reduce funding for both the Kansas Arts Commission and NPR. Probst has also opposed reforms to welfare programs, including food stamps.

Probst has indicated he is supportive of wage mandates and has been critical of 'right to work' laws. Just recently, in 2021, Probst argued that ending pandemic enhanced unemployment benefits would not ameliorate labor conditions in Kansas.

Probst has opposed measures that have sought to decrease the regulatory burden on the agricultural sector. In 2012, Probst criticized a bill, passed by a 106-8 vote, that would allow large-scale swine farming operations with the approval of the county commission rather than a referendum of county voters. In 2013, Probst opposed proposals to expand the high-performance incentive program for farm operations and to lift Kansas' restrictions on corporate farming. In 2018, Probst voted against legislation "to allow large-scale poultry feeding operations" – a bill that "was a key one for the agriculture sector."

PROBST OPPOSED BROWNBACK'S INCOME TAX CUTS AND PRAISED THE REPEAL IN 2017

In September 2012, Probst Criticized Gov. Brownback's Tax Reform Plan, "Which Collapses And Lowers Kansas' Individual Income Tax Brackets And Exempts Approximately 191,000 Businesses From Any Income Tax Liability"

In September 2012, Probst Criticized Gov. Sam Brownback's Tax Reform Plan, "Which Collapses And Lowers Kansas' Individual Income Tax Brackets And Exempts Approximately 191,000 Businesses From Any Income Tax Liability," And Argued Its Benefits Were Overblown. "This week, Gov. Sam Brownback has touted his aggressive tax reform plan as an important economic development tool that will create jobs and increase Kansas' population. According to Brownback's staff, the tax plan -- which collapses and lowers Kansas' individual income tax brackets and exempts approximately 191,000 businesses from any income tax liability -- will unleash the Kansas economy, increasing employment, residency and revenue in the state. Thursday at the Kansas State Fair, Brownback employed a slideshow outlining the ways his tax cuts will affect the state's employment, population and tax receipts. Two slides in particular reveal some telling facts about the Brownback tax plan. First, even without tax reform, Kansas was poised for phenomenal growth in the next seven years, according to data by the Kansas Department of Revenue. The department projects Kansas would add approximately 150,000 new jobs between now and 2020 without tax cuts of any kind, compared to 170,000 new jobs over the same period of time with Brownback's tax plan in place. Likewise for population growth, from 2012 to 2020, the Department of Revenue anticipates 200,000 new residents in the state without the tax cuts, while projections that factor in the tax cuts anticipate 240,000 new residents. Despite the administration's claims that tax reform will light a fire under the economy, the Department of Revenue's own projections show less than amazing results -- 20,000 additional jobs and 40,000 additional residents more than the state would've seen without any tax-code tinkering whatsoever. Meanwhile, the Kansas Legislative Research Department projects the Brownback tax plan almost immediately will create a budget shortfall that will, over five years, accumulate to $2.5 billion. Assuming that the Department of Revenue's projections are valid, the state would've grown beyond our wildest imagination just by letting time pass. Each of those 20,000 additional jobs projected under the governor's tax plan, however, will cost over $200,000 in state revenue that together are expected to create a $2.5 billion budget deficit in just five years. Yet the true cost of the governor's tax plan won't be known for years, as the taxation burden will shift to local governments that simultaneously will be forced to increase property and/or sales taxes -- which generally are steeper and more severely felt by taxpayers -- to fill the gaps left by state government. The governor might claim that his tax plan will lead to accelerated growth and massive economic activity, but his own data shows that such claims are overblown and ignore the truth that grossly altering the tax code provides, at best, marginal increases in employment and population." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Taxing Math," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/14/12)

Probst, In 2012: "A House Republican Tax Plan That Would Pull Money From Kansas Highway Projects To Pay For A Reduction In The State Income Tax Makes About As Much Sense As Driving A Car With Four Flat Tires"

Probst, In 2012: "A House Republican Tax Plan That Would Pull Money From Kansas Highway Projects To Pay For A Reduction In The State Income Tax Makes About As Much Sense As Driving A Car With Four Flat Tires." "A House Republican tax plan that would pull money from Kansas highway projects to pay for a reduction in the state income tax makes about as much sense as driving a car with four flat tires. State highway projects throughout the state, some already in the planning and design stages, would be shuttered or set aside to make this plan a reality. Also flattened would be the 175,000 jobs and $6.4 billion in economic activity those projects would create or sustain. Kansas' T-Works program is designed to keep regular investment in Kansas highways. These roadways advance Kansas business by connecting cities and improving routes that move goods and people. Reno County has benefited greatly from previous projects, including the expansion of K-96 to Wichita and the ongoing expansion of K-61 to I-135 in McPherson. The most recent projects include improvements at U.S. 50 and Airport Road, which will connect Siemens Wind Power to its suppliers and customers, and improvements to K-96 northwest to Rice County. Despite the proven success of the state's comprehensive transportation plan, some lawmakers are willing to throw out a proven formula that creates jobs and contributes to local economies for many decades, all in the hope of achieving some pipe dream that Kansas, without a state income tax, will become the new Promised Land for industry and business. Part of Kansas' advantage in attracting new business is the heavy investment in infrastructure. Kansas roads are easy to travel, in good shape, safe and well-maintained. Kansans know the program employs people and boosts local economies throughout the state. Trading that known formula for success for an untested tax plan is shortsighted, irresponsible and doesn't serve the interests of the state or its people." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A Flat Idea," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/17/12)

In 2013, Probst Criticized Proposals For Additional Income Tax Cuts In Kansas

In 2013, Probst Criticized Proposals For Additional Income Tax Cuts In Kansas. "Yet, critical analysis of Kansas' finances has done little to curb the appetite of tax-cut enthusiasts in Topeka. Not satisfied with last year's tax coup, Gov. Sam Brownback and much of the Kansas Senate has moved to cut income taxes further, while desperately attempting to fill budget holes created by last year's tax plan. Only the Kansas House has stood in the way, rejecting more income tax cuts that would be paid for by maintaining an elevated sales tax and raiding state agency funds. When the Legislature returns in May, the tax and budget plans will top its agenda. While the governor and his supporters argue such tax cuts would make Kansas a utopia of growth and prosperity, the evidence suggests that tax policy alone isn't necessarily enough to drive people to or from a state. In fact, this week, with a tax-free Kansas just on the horizon, Alco Stores announced plans to relocate its headquarters near Dallas. The move isn't becasue of that state's low tax rate that Brownback hopes to imitate but rather because the company hopes to "attract and retain executive level personnel" and gain access to vendors by locating near a large city. A tax-free Kansas sounds mighty nice on the campaign trail or on a list of talking points. But in practice it alone will neither spur the sort of dreamy job growth the governor projects nor

create the dynamic environment required for robust population growth." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Scraping Bottom," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/12/13)

- **Probst, On Brownback's Desire To Cut Income Taxes While Raising Sales Taxes: "A Tax Cut That Requires A Tax Increase Elsewhere Isn't A Tax Cut At All; It Simply Shifts The Burden To Another Group Of People."** "Here's what Kansans know about the effects of Gov. Sam Brownback's "glide path to zero" income tax cut plan: 1. It will require an effective sales tax increase on every man, woman and child in Kansas. 2. It will require the raiding of other department budgets to fill gaping holes left by sawing off one leg of the state's three-legged approach to taxation. 3. Based on the governor's public appearances, legislators seemingly have two bad choices this session -- break a promise to voters and keep the state sales tax high or cut spending to higher education. 4. It is such a dubious plan that even like-minded lawmakers are nervous about its implications and uneasy about gambling the state's future on a theoretical and untested formula. 5. And now we know that the tax plan is so toxic that legislative leaders are at a stalemate -- a stalemate that is costing Kansans more than $30,000 each day so lawmakers can wait and see what comes out of closed-door arm-twisting meetings in Topeka. The governor has touted his tax plan as an accelerant for growth, but based on the stalemate it has created, Kansans and their elected representatives are realizing the plan isn't a prudent or responsible way to move Kansas forward. A tax cut that requires a tax increase elsewhere isn't a tax cut at all; it simply shifts the burden to another group of people. Already, the tax plan is extracting a cost on Kansas taxpayers -- to the tune of $30,000 every day the Legislature is idled as the governor and his allies try to force Kansans to take a dose of bad-tasting medicine for an illness that needn't exist." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Costly Delay," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/13/13)

Probst, On Brownback's Tax And Economic Program In December 2013: "It's Starting To Look Like This Map Was Poorly Drawn And Is Sending Us Down A Dark And Scary Dead-End Road…"

Probst, On Brownback's Tax And Economic Program In December 2013: "It's Starting To Look Like This Map Was Poorly Drawn And Is Sending Us Down A Dark And Scary Dead-End Road That Is Littered With Impoverished Children, Higher Property Taxes, Lower-Than-Average Earnings And Lackluster Job Growth." "And we also know that the number of children living in poverty today is higher than the number in poverty when he took office. Recent data compiled by Kansas Action for Children showed that nearly a quarter of the state's children lived in poverty in 2012, up two percent from 2011 and five percent from 2008. And while that number grows, this administration has found creative ways to leverage the state's safety net programs to finance a tax cut that largely benefits the state's most financially secure businesses. Brownback's Roadmap for Kansas was polished and presented with the idea that we'd all see more money in our pockets, our pick of a multitude of high-paying jobs, lower overall tax burdens and children who live in prosperity. But we're not just looking at a map anymore -- we're driving down the road -- and it's starting to look like this map was poorly drawn and is sending us down a dark and scary dead-end road that is littered with impoverished children, higher property taxes, lower-than-average earnings and lackluster job growth." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A Bad Map," *The Hutchinson News*, 12/13/13)

Probst, In 2014: "Kansans Clearly Should See That Brownback's Aggressive Alteration Of The State's Income Tax Was An Error-Plagued Plan…"

Probst, In 2014: "Kansans Clearly Should See That Brownback's Aggressive Alteration Of The State's Income Tax Was An Error-Plagued Plan That Is Eroding The State's Ability To Provide Any Decent Level Of Service, While Also Failing To Provide Any Tangible Tax Relief To The Middle Class Families That Need It The Most." "Yet, despite the governor's promise that his tax plan would be a shot of adrenaline, it really is that bad. Middle class families aren't paying less in income taxes, and most are paying more in local property taxes, a direct result of this ill-conceived fiscal plan. Though there have been some job gains because of an improving economy across the country, a deeper examination of the unemployment rate shows that the drop in unemployment rate is partly attributable to a declining workforce, as people move out of the state or retire. And whatever job growth there might be fails to live up to the governor's overstated expectations. Kansas is trailing the country and its neighboring states in economic growth, and those numbers come from the governor's own people tasked with measuring the state's economic health. Kansans clearly should see that Brownback's aggressive alteration of the state's income tax was an error-plagued plan that is eroding the state's ability to provide any decent level of service, while also failing to provide any tangible tax relief to the middle class families that need it the most." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Error By Design," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/11/14)

Probst, In 2015: "Eliminating The Income Tax On Many Businesses And Lowering The Tax Rates For The State's Top Earners Has Not Kick-Started The State's Economy…"

Probst, In 2015: "Eliminating The Income Tax On Many Businesses And Lowering The Tax Rates For The State's Top Earners Has Not Kick-Started The State's Economy, Nor Has It Resulted In More People With More Money To Spend." "But that's not the case here in Kansas, and that's because the state's leaders won't admit the fundamental error in their economic recovery formula: Eliminating the income tax on many businesses and lowering the tax rates for the state's top earners has not kick-started the state's economy, nor has it resulted in more people with more money to spend. Conversely, what Kansans have found is that their local taxes have increased to maintain a local infrastructure, while wages have remained stagnant and the market for good jobs remains weak. Don't hold your breath waiting for an admission of guilt from Topeka, however. Because any admission that doing away with income taxes was a mistake erodes the foundation of many conservatives' economic belief system. Cutting taxes on the wealthiest does not equal more jobs and more money for the average working person, and it doesn't mean increased economic activity or better tax collections for the state. It equals exactly what we've seen for the past several years in Kansas -- lowered expectations, higher local taxes, reduced quality of life and a bitter realization that a system run by and for the wealthy works exactly as designed." ("EDITORIAL: A Long Slump," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/4/15)

Probst Supported The Kansas Legislature's Decision In 2017 To Roll Back The Brownback Income Tax Cuts

Probst Supported The Kansas Legislature's Decision In 2017 To Roll Back The Brownback Income Tax Cuts. "In 2017, the Kansas Legislature rolled back Gov. Sam Brownback's unfair tax policy that allowed more than 330,000 businesses to evade income taxes. While it was billed as a tax cut, it was really nothing more than a shift in the tax burden. Working families across the state saw sales and income taxes, as well as fees for state services, increase to make up the difference. Additionally, the state was forced to cut services in a variety of areas that are now producing real struggles for Kansans. And to make up for immediate budget shortfalls, the state had to borrow money from the transportation fund and bond long term debt – which will cost far more in the long run. This was an irresponsible way to run state government. Jason believes the state should be prudent in how it spends taxpayer dollars, but tax policy must be fair and widely spread across the state's residents. Those dollars must be spent on important services to the state's residents that create a true environment for prosperity." (Probst For Progress, Accessed 3/29/22)

PROBST SUPPORTED INCREASING TAXES ON HIGH-INCOME EARNERS

In 2011, Probst Agreed With Warren Buffet's Calls On Increasing Taxes On Those Making More Than $1 Million Annually

In 2011, Probst Agreed With Warren Buffet's Calls On Increasing Taxes On Those Making More Than $1 Million Annually In Taxable Income. "When one of the richest people in the world steps forward to support a tax increase on the wealthy -- those making more than $1 million a year in taxable income -- it is hard to understand why members of Congress continue to dig in their heels on the matter. Warren Buffett, a man whose story perhaps more than any other showcases the possibilities that exist in the American capitalist system, wrote an opinion piece that appeared in last Sunday's New York Times. In it, he pointed out that he paid income and payroll taxes on 17.4 percent of his taxable income, a much lower rate than most in the middle class. In fact, Buffett explained, that rate was less than the people who work for him. In a separate television interview, Buffett said that his cleaning lady pays a higher marginal tax rate than he does. Buffett also highlights some other interesting anecdotes: --Rich investors don't pass up the chance to make money, no matter the tax rate. Even in 1976-77, when capital gains taxes were as high as 39.9 percent, investors still invested. --Between 1980 and 2000 when the marginal tax rate was higher on the wealthy, more jobs were created than in the last decade, when the rate was lower. --The top 400 earners in 1992 had taxable income of $16.9 billion and a tax rate of 29.2 percent. In 2008, the top 400 collectively earned $90.9 billion, with a lower tax rate of 21.5 percent." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Coddled Class," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/19/11)

- **Probst: "While The Tea Party-Backed Members Of Congress Argue That Raising Even Slightly The Marginal Income Tax Rate On The Wealthy Would Result In Cataclysmic Gyrations In The Economy, That Idea Is Simply A Lie."** (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Coddled Class," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/19/11)

PROBST OPPOSED EFFORTS TO CUT BUSINESS TAXES

In 2013, Probst Criticized Redefining Commercial And Industrial Machinery In An Effort To Make Such Property Tax Exempt As Shifting More Of The State's Revenue Burden To Working Class Families

In March 2013, Probst Criticized Redefining Commercial And Industrial Machinery In An Effort To Make Such Property Tax Exempt As Shifting More Of The State's Revenue Burden To Working Class Families. "There seems to be no limit to how hard this Kansas Legislature, under the guiding hand of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, will work to reduce taxes for large corporate interests, even if it means shifting the state's revenue burden to the average working family. Among the ongoing tax discussion in Topeka is a bill that would redefine commercial and industrial machinery and equipment in an effort to make such property tax-exempt. Under the bill, "trade fixtures" and equipment permanently attached to a property would avoid property tax assessment. The Kansas Division of the Budget estimates the bill would reduce the assessed valuation of grain elevators by 25 percent, railroads by 32 percent and some manufacturing and processing facilities by as much as 75 percent. Oil refineries, such as McPherson's NCRA facility, would be among the biggest beneficiaries of the bill. In McPherson County, the bill would strip 24 percent of the county's total assessed valuation; Montgomery County, one of the poorest counties in the state, would lose 54 percent of its entire tax base, largely for the benefit of a single company, CVR Energy, which owns a refinery and nitrogen plant there. While those companies would save money on their taxes, the burden to support local government and schools once again would be shifted to the average homeowner. In McPherson, residents could see a 9.9-mill increase to make up the difference, and in Montgomery County offsetting the exemption would raise the property tax levy on homeowners by more than 51 mills. Naturally, the Kansas of Chamber of Commerce has its fingerprints all over this legislation and undoubtedly will go on at length about how such legislation would create jobs and increase investment in the state. But by now, most Kansans should recognize that's an illusion. What this legislation really does is throw average taxpayers under the proverbial bus -- taxpayers who without the power of a well-heeled lobby in Topeka have little choice but to pay more of their wealth to support the basic services and functions that benefit both business and people." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A Taxing Fixture," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/1/13)

PROBST SUPPORTED EXTENDING A LOCAL SALES TAX

In 2017, Probst Supported Gov. Hutchinson's "Sales Tax Ballot Seeking Continuation Of A Quarter-Cent Tax For Streets, Sidewalks, The Cosmosphere And Strataca"

In 2017, "People Expressing Frustration With Taxes Had A Sympathetic Listener. Probst Said He Supports Hutchinson's Nov. 7 Sales Tax Ballot Seeking Continuation Of A Quarter-Cent Tax For Streets, Sidewalks, The Cosmosphere And Strataca." "People expressing frustration with taxes had a sympathetic listener. Probst said he supports Hutchinson's Nov. 7 sales tax ballot seeking continuation of a quarter-cent tax for streets, sidewalks, the Cosmosphere and Strataca. "I like dedicated taxes," he said. But, he also said, "We have absolutely hit the ceiling for sales tax in this community." Probst also understand complaints

about the property tax. "I dislike property tax," he said, because if you don't make money or you don't spend money, you still pay it. The challenge of adding affordable housing to expand the property tax base led to audience members discussing the good and the bad of tiny houses." ("Probst Hears The Changes Desired," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/31/17)

PROBST OPPOSED FEDERAL ESTATE TAX REPEAL

In 2015, Probst Criticized Congressional Republicans For Voting To Repeal The Estate Tax

Probst Criticized Congressional Republicans For Voting To Repeal The Estate Tax In 2015. "While it seems to be a popular talking point for lawmakers to yell about, the truth is that the estate tax affects very few people, and those affected are only the richest of the rich. To attempt to turn the estate tax into a populist issue with disingenuous claims of unfairness ignores the fact that working families carry the country's tax burden throughout their lives, while others can shield their wealth from taxes both in life and in death." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Until Death," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/17/15)

PROBST HAS OPPOSED EFFORTS TO REDUCE PROPERTY TAXES

In 2021, Probst Voted Against Legislation That "Protects Taxpayers By Prohibiting Either The Board Of Tax Appeals, Or The County Commission, From Increasing The Appraised Valuation Of Property As A Result Of An Appeal Or An Informal Meeting"

In 2021, Probst Voted Nay On HB 2104, "An Act Concerning Property Taxation; Relating To School District Levies, Authorizing Continuation Of The Statewide Levy For Schools And The Exemption Of A Portion Of Residential Property From Such Levy." (HB 2104, Passed (77 - 42), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 4/6/21, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Amends law related to the list of eligible county appraisers, the qualifications of county and district appraisers, appraisal standards, Board of Tax Appeals (BOTA) administration and membership, property valuation appeals, judicial review of property tax disputes, and school district budget certification." (HB 2104)

ACU: HB 2104 "Protects Taxpayers By Prohibiting Either The Board Of Tax Appeals, Or The County Commission, From Increasing The Appraised Valuation Of Property As A Result Of An Appeal Or An Informal Meeting." "This bill protects taxpayers by prohibiting either the Board of Tax Appeals, or the county commission, from increasing the appraised valuation of property as a result of an appeal or an informal meeting. Additionally, this bill provides reforms of the appraisal process by requiring new standards and training for appraisers and members of the Board of Tax Appeals (BOTA)." (American Conservative Union, 2021)

PROBST INDICATED SUPPORT FOR DRAMATIC SIN TAX INCREASES (BUT NOTED THEY WERE AN EFFECT OF BROWNBACK'S INCOME TAX POLICIES)

In 2015, Probst Praised A Recognition That Sin Taxes On Cigarettes And Alcohol Would Have To Be Raised; The Increase Was Expected To Raise $394 Million Over Two Years

In 2015, Probst Praised A Recognition That Sin Taxes On Cigarettes And Alcohol Would Have To Be Raised; The Increase Was Expected To Raise $394 Million Over Two Years. "Much can be criticized in Gov. Sam Brownback's budget proposal -- one that proposes a variety of cuts and budget shifts to accommodate a reckless reduction in income taxes that has left the state strapped for cash. But some good news can be found in there as well -- namely, making more gradual the governor's ambitious plan to further reduce income taxes and a recognition that some taxes must be raised, in this case on cigarettes and alcohol. The new taxes would raise about $394 million over two years, and the slowing of the income tax reduction would preserve some much needed income for the state. And the surest way to know that Brownback's proposals have some common sense is the fact that Americans for Prosperity and the Kansas Policy Institute expressed disappointment with it. If those groups aren't happy, Kansans can be certain it contains something worthwhile for the average person. While there could be a complaint about raising taxes on "sin" is unfair and tilted toward a specific group of people, it's a reasonable way to raise income for the state in a way that taxes people's choices instead of their productivity or property and while also working as a potential deterrent to poor health choices." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Healthy Option," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/23/15)

PROBST HAS OPPOSED EFFORTS TO PROTECT TAXPAYERS BY CONFORMING STATE TAX CODE WITH CHANGES TO FEDERAL LAW

In 2018, Probst Voted Against Legislation "Designed To Stop A Tax Increase By Conforming The State's Tax Code With Changes In Federal Tax Law"

In 2018, Probst Voted Nay On HB 2228, "An Act Concerning Income Taxation; Relating To Deductions, Kansas Itemized Deduction And Standard Deduction, Expensing Deduction." (HB 2228, Failed (59 - 59), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 5/4/18, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Would expand a list of certain types of tax-exempt property whose owners are not required to seek approval from the State Board of Tax Appeals (SBOTA) to include property acquired by a land bank, recreational vehicles owned by full-time members of the military, and most property belonging to the federal government (other than any such federal property otherwise expressly declared by Congress to be subject to state and local taxation)." (HB 2228)

ACU: HB 2228 "Is Designed To Stop A Tax Increase By Conforming The State's Tax Code With Changes In Federal Tax Law." "This bill is designed to stop a tax increase by

conforming the state's tax code with changes in federal tax law. Under the bill, the Kansas standard deduction is increased by 25 percent, and caps on itemized deductions are phased in more rapidly. Additionally, taxpayers may itemize deductions on their state tax returns, even if they use the standard deduction on their federal return." (American Conservative Union, 2018)

The American Conservative Union "Supports Protecting Taxpayers From Unnecessary Tax Hikes And Providing The Greatest Possible Tax Relief And Supported The Bill." "ACU supports protecting taxpayers from unnecessary tax hikes and providing the greatest possible tax relief and supported the bill. The House defeated the bill on May 4, 2018 by a vote of 59-59." (American Conservative Union, 2018)

In 2019, Probst Voted Against Legislation That "Would Conform The State Tax Code To Federal Law To Prevent An Unintentional $500 Million Tax Increase"

In 2019, Probst Voted Nay On SB 22, "An Act Concerning Taxation; Relating To Income Tax, Addition And Subtraction Modifications, Treatment Of Deferred Foreign Income." (SB 22, Passed (76 - 43), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/8/19, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Makes several changes to Kansas income tax provisions in response to federal income tax changes enacted in late 2017, reduces the state sales tax rate by 1.0 percent on certain purchases of food, and enacts a number of provisions in response to a U.S. Supreme Court decision authorizing states and local units to collect sales and compensating use taxes on certain transactions made through out-of-state retailers and marketplace facilitators that have an economic presence (nexus) in Kansas." (SB 22)

ACU: SB 22 "Would Conform The State Tax Code To Federal Law To Prevent An Unintentional $500 Million Tax Increase." "This bill would conform the state tax code to federal law to prevent an unintentional $500 million tax increase. The bill is in response to federal tax code reforms under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Under the bill, individuals would be permitted to itemize deductions for state income taxes, even if they do not itemize deductions for federal income taxes. Additionally, the bill would decouple the state code from federal law in regards to "global intangible low-taxed income" (GILTI), thus ensuring income earned overseas is not also taxed at the state level. The bill also establishes an internet sales tax for large remote sellers such as Amazon, thereby removing a competitive advantage that was provided to select companies. To offset the new sales tax, the bill reduces the tax imposed on food by 1% (6.5% to 5.5%)." (American Conservative Union, 2019)

PROBST HAS SUPPORTED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INVESTOR TAX CREDITS

In 2020, Probst Supported Legislation That "Would Further Expand Cronyism By Extending And Expanding The Angel Investor Tax Credit Program Which Provides Tax Credits To Select Investors And Companies Favored By Government Bureaucrats"

The American Conservative Union "Opposes This Cronyism Which Provides Select Businesses With Competitive Advantages And Shifts Tax Burdens To Other Individuals Not Favored By Government And Opposed This Bill"

In 2020, Probst Voted Yea On HB 2689, "An Act Concerning Income Taxation; Relating To Angel Investor Tax Credits; Qualified Securities; Credit Limitations And Amounts; Investor Requirements." (HB 2689, Passed (103 - 12), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/13/20, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "The bill would extend the sunset on the angel investor tax credit from tax year 2021 to tax year 2026. The annual cap on tax credits would increase in $0.5 million increments annually, from $6.0 million in tax year 2021 to $8.0 million in tax year 2025 and thereafter. The balance of unissued tax credits, as allowed by continuing law, may be carried over in future tax years. The bill would increase the amount of tax credits claimed on a qualified business investment from $50,000 to $100,000. The total amount of tax credits an investor could claim in any one tax year would increase from $250,000 to $350,000." (HB 2689)

ACU: HB 2689 "Would Further Expand Cronyism By Extending And Expanding The Angel Investor Tax Credit Program Which Provides Tax Credits To Select Investors And Companies Favored By Government Bureaucrats." "This bill would further expand cronyism by extending and expanding the angel investor tax credit program which provides tax credits to select investors and companies favored by government bureaucrats. Under the program, "angel investors" (i.e., investors in start-up businesses) are provided with tax credits based on their investment in select companies favored by government. The program is scheduled to expire in 2021, while this bill would extend it to 2026. Additionally, the bill would increase the maximum allowable tax credit by 40% (from $250,000 to $350,000) while gradually increasing the total cap on credits from $6 million to $8 million by 2025." (American Conservative Union, 2020)

The American Conservative Union "Opposes This Cronyism Which Provides Select Businesses With Competitive Advantages And Shifts Tax Burdens To Other Individuals Not Favored By Government And Opposed This Bill." "ACU supports a broadly applied tax code with the lowest possible rates for everyone. ACU opposes this cronyism which provides select businesses with competitive advantages and shifts tax burdens to other individuals not favored by government and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on March 13, 2020 by a vote of 103-12. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)" (American Conservative Union, 2020)

Probst Supported Similar Legislation In 2021

In 2021, Probst Voted Yea On SB 66, "An Act Concerning Income Taxation; Relating To The Kansas Angel Investor Tax Credit Act; Qualified Securities; Tax Credit Limitations And Amounts." (SB 66, Passed (109 - 12), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/25/21, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "Increases single-year tax credit amounts: From $50,000 to $100,000 for a single Kansas business; and From $250,000 to $350,000 for a single qualified investor." (SB 66)

PROBST BACKED COLLECTING HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEES FROM SENIORS

In 2012, Probst Praised A Compromise Measure Proposed By Democrat Allen Schmidt That Would Charge Seniors For Hunting And Fishing Licenses But At A Reduced Rate; The Licenses Had Previously Been Free For Seniors

In March 2012, Probst Praised A Compromise Measure Proposed By Democrat Allen Schmidt That Would Charge Seniors For Hunting And Fishing Licenses But At A Reduced Rate; The Licenses Had Previously Been Free For Seniors. "Kansas seniors are understandably upset with the idea that they'd have to pay full price for hunting and fishing licenses after enjoying the benefit of free licenses for many years. Yet, if Kansans are to continue to enjoy great hunting and fishing opportunities, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has to find a way to capture matching federal dollars for fisheries and wildlife programs. Sen. Allen Schmidt, D-Hays, produced a compromise solution that benefits senior hunters and anglers and their younger counterparts. Rather than simply doing away with the exemption, Schmidt's amendment would drastically reduce the cost of a license for seniors while still allowing the state to capture matching federal funds. The federal government collects money through an excise tax on the sale of hunting and fishing equipment purchased by outdoors enthusiasts. That money is then returned to individual states, based on the number of hunting and fishing licenses sold in that state. Meanwhile, Kansas -- and the rest of the country -- is on the cusp of an era that will see exponential growth in the number of residents over 65. When the exemption was extended in 1971 to those over 65, life expectancy was 71 years. Today, life expectancy is 78.5 years. Under Schmidt's plan, which passed the Senate Thursday, seniors 65 to 74 could purchase an annual license for $9 or buy a lifetime license for $40 -- allowing the state to receive federal money paid by Kansans who purchase firearms, fishing poles, tackle and ammunition. Seniors 75 and older would retain an exemption on license purchases. True, Kansas retirees, with a mean annual income of $18,381, can't absorb too many price increases. But it takes money to preserve the state's natural resources and keep them available for later generations. Schmidt's amendment is a spectacular compromise that would help preserve fishing and hunting opportunities for today's children while giving Kansas seniors a break on fees." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Hunting For A Solution," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/16/12)

Probst: "I Supported The Final Law That Came Out Of Topeka -- Which Created A Reduced-Price Annual License Or A $42.50 Lifetime License For Resident Between 65 And 74"

Probst: "I Supported The Final Law That Came Out Of Topeka -- Which Created A Reduced-Price Annual License Or A $42.50 Lifetime License For Resident Between 65 And 74." "If I was a hunter or an angler over the age of 65, I'd feel pretty duped about now. Baited, hooked and tossed on a stringer, if you will. If you'll remember back to around this time last year, there was a lot of talk about ending a longstanding exemption for hunters and anglers over the age of 65. After a lot of cussing and fussing over the issue, the Kansas legislature voted to begin charging those over 65 for hunting and fishing licenses. I never liked the idea that older folks had to start buying their licenses after so many years of getting them for free, but I supported the final law that came out of Topeka -- which created a reduced-price annual license or a $42.50 lifetime license for resident between 65 and 74." (Jason Probst, "Seniors, Others Misled On Need For License Fees," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/23/13)

PROBST OPPOSED CUTTING FUNDING FOR THE KANSAS ARTS COMMISSION

In 2011, Probst Criticized Brownback For Cutting $700,000 In Funding For The Kansas Arts Commission

In 2011, Probst Criticized Brownback For Cutting $700,000 In Funding For The Kansas Arts Commission. 'To save $700,000 from the state's budget, Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback used his line item veto power to eliminate state financing for the Kansas Arts Commission -- despite a rejection of the cut from the Legislature. Now, after seeing the ripple effects of that cut -- $2 million in lost arts money for Kansas -- it is time for the governor to admit his error and restore the budget for the Kansas Arts Commission in the fiscal year, if not this one. After Kansas' funding cut, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Mid-America Arts Alliance pulled their matching grants for a state that decided not to finance its own arts programs. This isn't money for some obscure artist in a basement poking a brush in the air. This money is used to help Hutchinson's Fox Theatre bring quality entertainment to town. It is money that is used to help the Hutchinson Art Center bring art exhibits to Hutchinson for its residents' enjoyment. State Democratic party leaders and arts advocates have asked that the budget be restored in the next state budget. Based on an anticipated $180 million budget surplus at the end of the fiscal year, and an increase in sales tax collections, there is little reason to argue otherwise." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Smart Money," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/2/11)

PROBST OPPOSED CUTTING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR NPR

In 2011, Probst Wrote That "Fixing The Deficit Long Term, However, Will Require Strong Leadership To Contain Some Of The Popular Programs That Even Budget Hawks Don't Want To Touch -- Like Medicare, Social Security And Defense Spending"

Probst: "Fixing The Deficit Long Term, However, Will Require Strong Leadership To Contain Some Of The Popular Programs That Even Budget Hawks Don't Want To Touch -

- Like Medicare, Social Security And Defense Spending." "According to an article by The Associated Press, the Social Security Administration made $6.5 billion in overpayments to people who shouldn't have received any money from the agency in 2009. Most of the money was misspent under the supplemental income program, to people who didn't report all the property and assets they owned. Along with overpayments from other federal agencies, the government let $125 billion fall through the cracks in 2010, and $110 billion in 2009. While the overpayments won't make a dent in an effort to trim approximately $2 trillion from federal spending, it represents a significant source of government waste -- one that should be examined and remedied first, before entire programs land on the chopping block. The need to trim federal spending is legitimate, and the U.S. cannot continue to outspend its revenue. Fixing the deficit long term, however, will require strong leadership to contain some of the popular programs that even budget hawks don't want to touch -- like Medicare, Social Security and defense spending. First, however, it's worth identifying gross inefficiencies in existing programs -- such as issuing payments to people who shouldn't receive them -- and taking steps to make those systems more responsive and effective." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Budget Gaps," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/15/11)

However, In March 2011, Probst Criticized Congressional Republicans For Cutting $5 Million In Federal Funding For NPR

In March 2011, Probst Criticized Congressional Republicans For Cutting $5 Million In Federal Funding For NPR. "The need to ensure that news can reach the hinter parts of the country isn't what it once was, and without federal subsidy NPR is likely to survive. However, those areas most in need of public radio -- the sparsely populated rural areas -- are most likely to suffer should the Senate side with the House in killing support for NPR. Those rural areas would include the territories of Radio Kansas of Hutchinson and High Plains Public Radio based in Garden City. In Hutchinson, the local NPR affiliate also serves as the radio station for Hutchinson Community College -- a partnership that has flourished for a number of years. Yet, every Kansas House member voted to end NPR's budget. The vote to kill money for NPR seemingly has little to do with a principled stand against wasteful spending or with government intervention where it doesn't belong. NPR gets approximately $5 million each year from the federal budget -- a pittance in the government's projected $1.5 trillion budget deficit. If trimming the deficit was truly the aim of House Republicans, they'd have started at the top of a long list of potential cutbacks and savings -- albeit savings that couldn't be as effectively used during the campaign season." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Future Of NPR," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/18/11)

PROBST OPPOSED SEVERAL SOCIAL PROGRAM/ WELFARE REFORMS AND ALSO INDICATED OPPOSITION TO FOOD STAMP REFORMS

In 2010, Probst Wrote That He Supported "Reasonable Limitations" For Food Benefit Programs

Probst: "That's The Approach I Think Should Be Taken With Other Food Benefit Programs -- Education And Reasonable Limitations." "Under the WIC program, recipients (at least at the time) had to take a class on nutrition before they could qualify. We had to show

that we knew an apple was a better choice than a cupcake, and with the WIC vouchers, choices are limited to healthy foods -- largely milk, cheese and whole grains. That's the approach I think should be taken with other food benefit programs -- education and reasonable limitations. Do I think that people who receive assistance should be publicly shamed? Absolutely not -- no one benefits from that. Should they be told that they can't ever buy something sweet and delicious for their kids? I wouldn't wish that on any kid, or parent. But I think it's time for a little honesty and frankness on this issue. Allowing the regular purchase of pre-made sandwiches and soft drinks at corner-store prices isn't a cost-effective way to provide food to those who need it. Instead, it worsens our rampant obesity problem, sets the stage for a bigger problem in the next generation and exacerbates our health care dilemma. Poverty and obesity are problems that need a real solution -- and while we might not ever be able to solve them, the least we can do is stop purposely making them worse." (Jason Probst, "OPINION: Time For New Approach To Government Assistance," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/24/10)

However, In 2013, Probst Urged Scrutiny Of A Proposal To Require Drug Testing For Recipients Of Cash Assistance And Unemployment Benefits

In January 2013, Probst Urged Scrutiny Of A Proposal To Require Drug Testing For Recipients Of Cash Assistance And Unemployment Benefits. "Kansas Sen. Jeff King, R-Independence, has put forward a bill to require drug testing for recipients of cash assistance and unemployment benefits, and require employers to report to the state when a job applicant on the unemployment rolls fails a drug test. The legislation is modeled after similar laws in Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Mississippi and Florida. Such legislation has met with varied success, drawing the ire of privacy advocates and launching legal challenges to "random" drug testing among a specific group of people. Yet there is logic to the notion that those receiving help from the community shouldn't be allowed to abuse drugs on the taxpayer's dime. Nevertheless, the central concern should be less about drug testing and more about the legislation's intent, and that's where the debate is less than straightforward. If the Legislature's intent is to trim government spending, such legislation likely would be a bust. The cost of administering, processing and tracking test results likely would cost more than the state might save. And if the intent is to abruptly shuttle people off of welfare and unemployment rolls, the social costs most likely would devour any savings in state-financed programs. Despite the sins of a parent, it does a community little good to take food out of children's mouths or to make an entire family homeless. If, as King stated, the goal is to identify the needs of drug abusers on assistance in order to get them the help they need to become successful, such a program might prove beneficial -- although most certainly costly. Without substance abuse treatment and job skills training, many drug abusers who need assistance likely would struggle much of their lives to break free from such public dependency. Drug testing those on welfare and unemployment isn't a straightforward endeavor. It would bear expense and would include the "expansion" of a government agency. Likewise, a punitive system designed to reduce the number of people on assistance would create costs in other areas, such as an increase in crime or a demand on local service agencies, already struggling to meet local needs. King's plan isn't without merit, but it does require judicious consideration from lawmakers rather than the easy -- and politically popular -- thoughtless acceptance." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Testing A Plan," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/22/13)

In 2013, Probst Was Critical Of A Proposal To Increase The Co-Pays For Subsidized Child Care

In July 2013, Probst Was Critical Of A Proposal To Increase The Co-Pays For Subsidized Child Care. "Gov. Sam Brownback's top officials with the Department of Children and Family Services have a revolutionary idea on how to reduce the number of children in poverty: Make parents more for child care. As reported by the Kansas Health Institute, DCF Secretary Phyllis Gilmore, who also is chair of the Governor's Task Force on Reducing Childhood Poverty, suggested that increasing the co-pays for subsidized child care would encourage parents to work longer hours and pursue workplace promotions. Parents who make less than 180 percent of the federal poverty level -- about $2,900 a month for a single mother with two children -- receive the subsidy to help offset the expensive cost of child care while the parent works. Some parents also can receive a child care subsidy to attend school -- a benefit that also was questioned by some top DCF brass and task force member Joyce Crumpton of Kansas City. Crumpton said that single mothers need to realize that the cost of public assistance programs is "unsustainable" and that the government is not responsible for rectifying single parents' poor choices. "She might have to postpone her education," Crumpton responded to an example of a single mother working several low-paying jobs and trying to attend school. So the logic of top DCF officials and some task force members apparently flows like this: Working parents who aren't making enough money to pay child care costs should pay more for their child care, which effectively will lower their hourly wage. That, in turn, will encourage those parents to work more hours or pick up an extra job to make ends meet." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Questionable 'Help'," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/5/13)

Probst Criticized A 2015 Proposal That Would Have Restricted TANF (Food Stamps) Recipients' Daily Cash Withdrawals From The Fund To $25 A Day

Probst Criticized A 2015 Proposal That Would Have Restricted TANF Recipients' Daily Cash Withdrawals From The Fund To $25 A Day. "It turns out that when a state is holding out its hand for federal money, it has to follow the giver's rules about how that money is used -- even a state such as Kansas, which never seems to miss an opportunity to penalize people for their financial poverty. The Kansas Legislature, crazed with unchecked power during the last session, moved to alter and limit poor Kansans' access to social service and welfare programs. Among the most absurd was a measure that would restrict daily ATM withdrawals for cash assistance from the federal Temporary Aid for Needy Families fund to $25 a day. Some lawmakers were happy with themselves and didn't mind that ATMs only dole out cash in $10 increments, effectively limiting such withdrawals to $20 a day. An email from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, however, threatened to pull $100 million in federal money from Kansas, which apparently found the soft spot in Kansas government's heart. Some of the changes in the reform package weren't all bad, such as some of the restrictions on where and for what the money could be spent. When lawmakers crossed into the realm of micromanaging the lives of the impoverished, they undid much of the good they originally may have sought to accomplish." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Insufficient Funds," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/5/15)

In 2013, Probst Was Sharply Critical Of House Republicans For Cutting $40 Billion From The Food Stamp Program And Described The Action As "Thoughtless"

In 2013, Probst Was Sharply Critical Of House Republicans For Cutting $40 Billion From The Food Stamp Program And Described The Action As "Thoughtless." "The U.S. House on Thursday voted along party lines to cut spending for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps, by $40 billion over the next 10 years and potentially remove more than 4 million people from eligibility in the coming year, a move praised by Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Hutchinson. "I am glad that Congress has taken steps to reign in this out-of-control entitlement, and I believe this bill does that," Huelskamp said in a news release. While Republicans in Congress have no shortage of talking points about SNAP, strangely absent is any talk of making actual reforms to the program that would make it more effective, efficient and healthy. The conversation simply focuses on the program's recent growth -- largely because of the recession, according to the National Review -- and on reducing its costs. But much can be learned from what's not being said. If members of Congress seriously hoped to reform SNAP, they would be talking about developing ways to better monitor and restrict the way in which those benefits are being administered and spent. Not that fraud is an enormous problem: SNAP helps lift more than 47 million people out of poverty while suffering a relatively modest overpayment rate of 3 percent, according to an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. And a report issued by Moody's -- and cited in a joint letter by former Sens. Bob Dole and Tom Daschle that pleaded for Congress to stop playing politics with hunger -- revealed that every $1 of SNAP spending generates $1.70 in related economic activity. While retailers across the country can record and track every item a consumer purchases, Congress has made no effort to deploy similar technology to track individuals' SNAP spending. Likewise, it has made no effort to curb some of the unhealthy purchases that are available through SNAP, such as high calorie candy and junk food, or ½-gallon size bottles of sugary soft drinks at the Kwik Shop. Such measures can, and should, be done to curb the misuse in the program and stretch its dollars to help a higher number of qualified families. The fact that making technological improvements to SNAP isn't being discussed indicates that Congress lacks creativity and empathy and the work ethic to develop real solutions for real problems. Likewise, for every example of someone abusing SNAP benefits, someone else, largely unseen and unheard from, is sneaking into the supermarket in the middle of the night to use those benefits to buy food for his or her family, with the hope that no one will learn the true depth of his poverty. The people who abuse the system are by-and-large shameless and are easy to spot, and they generally lack any shame about their behavior; the people who truly need the help require more effort to see. Congressional Republicans might well be patting themselves on the back for the work they have done to decouple the farm bill from the food program and their subsequent effort to reduce social safety net spending. But there is no reason to celebrate. Congress hasn't solved problems in SNAP, developed a way to improve it or help it better serve its purpose. They simply have cut it, and that's the simplest and most thoughtless path they could have taken." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Bad Food," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/20/13)

PROBST HAS BACKED SEVERAL LABOR-FRIENDLY POLICIES

In 2021, Probst Argued That Ending Pandemic Enhanced Unemployment Benefits Would Not Ameliorate Labor Conditions In Kansas

In May 2021, Probst Argued That Ending Pandemic Enhanced Unemployment Benefits Would Not Ameliorate Labor Conditions In Kansas. 'And the April unemployment rate is 3.5 percent - only .3 percent higher than it was in March of 2020, before Kansas was in full pandemic mode. The data is clear that whatever workforce issues Kansas currently faces doesn't have its origin in a post-pandemic world or because there are too many people making too much money from the extra $300 a week the feds are providing. It's also clear that ending the enhanced benefit would barely make a dent in filling those job vacancies. What we're facing right now in our labor market is a return to what existed well before the pandemic began - back when we were seeing ample reporting that Kansas was struggling to find enough people to fill the available jobs in the state." (Jason Probst Substack, 5/23/21)

In 2013, Probst Criticized Legislation That "Would Ban Local Communities From Requiring Contractors Who Win Government Jobs To Pay The Prevailing Local Wage To Its Workers As Part Of The Contract," As An Erosion Of Local Control

In 2013, Probst Criticized HB 2069, Which "Would Ban Local Communities From Requiring Contractors Who Win Government Jobs To Pay The Prevailing Local Wage To Its Workers As Part Of The Contract," As An Erosion Of Local Control. "House Bill 2069 would ban local communities from requiring contractors who win government jobs to pay the prevailing local wage to its workers as part of the contract. Crossland -- one of the top contractors in the country with offices in six states, including Kansas -- supports House Bill 2069, saying the bill would "restore integrity" to the contracting process. Sen. Wagle pointed out that the current prevailing wage allowance has been around since 1891 -- in fact Kansas was the first state to pass a prevailing wage requirement for public works projects, which set a precedent for a similar federal requirement in 1931. Now, Wagle says, a law that doesn't require but allows local communities to set wage requirements for locally financed projects are terribly damaging to the Kansas economy. Strangely, throughout this session, anything deemed bad for the Kansas economy has been quickly remedied by either reducing employee pay and protections or creating new tax exemptions for industry. Judging by the legislation coming out of Topeka, it seems the only problem with the Kansas economy is that its workers have been getting paid far too well and enjoyed too many lucrative benefits. Perhaps more interesting is the doubletalk from this crop of legislators. While they go on ad nauseam about the beauty of small government, the evils of oversight and regulation and the ability of small government to better handle its own needs, they've drafted pages of legislation that take away local rights and transfer them to the hands of the Governor and members of the legislature. There may be some small things in Topeka this year, but it's certainly not a government that has worked so tirelessly to wrest away local control from the voters and taxpayers of Kansas counties and cities." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Power Grab," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/3/13)

In 2021, Probst Was Implicitly Critical Of Right To Work Laws In Kansas

In November 2021, Probst Was Implicitly Critical Of Right To Work Laws In Kansas. "If you don't like vaccine mandates, you really shouldn't like our right to work laws - which would be more accurately called right to fire laws. In Kansas, an employer can fire an employee for any reason, or without reason, so long as that employee isn't a member of a protected group and the firing isn't found to be based on that discrimination. But I could literally walk up to an employee on a Tuesday morning, say I'm grumpy and today I don't like the way your hair looks - and that would be good enough for Kansas law. Sure, I might get dinged on my unemployment rating - but I can still do that. So, while you might bring an employer a vaccine exemption, it's very possible your boss could accept that, and then find a completely different reason to fire you. Also, and again, the courts will play this out, but if a company is taking federal money, it's pretty well established that they have to play by federal rules. I expect the courts will support that notion. The OSHA rules were always suspect, and likely unenforceable. But when all is said and done, I think most people expect that the state law won't hold up in court, or have much bite to it. And to further support that idea - some of the legislators who originally called for a special session were not happy with this product - and felt it didn't do nearly enough. And they warned us throughout the special session that they will be bringing more bills in 2022 session." (Jason Probst Substack, 11/30/21)

In 2013, Probst Was Critical Of The Kansas Legislature For Seeking To Undo Civil Service Protections For Public Employees

In 2013, Probst Was Critical Of The Kansas Legislature For Seeking To Undo Civil Service Protections For Public Employees. "A tax cut, who doesn't like the idea of a nice big tax cut? But already Kansans are biting down on the pit in that bill and realizing the pain might well come in higher taxes elsewhere or reduced services in their communities. As for unions, Kansans have never much liked them anyway -- especially those unions that represent teachers and government workers who earn their livings from taxpayer dollars. Another shotgun blast brought a flurry of bills designed to erode union power and membership. Yet, in the process, lawmakers have sought to undo civil service protections, which would allow public employees to be hired or fired based on their political affiliation and the changing winds of each election season." (Jason Probst, "Editorial: Shotgun Legislature," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/22/13)

In 2012, Probst Criticized Kansas Legislators For Weakening Workers Compensation Laws To Improve The State's Favorability For Business

In 2012, Probst Criticized Kansas Legislators For Weakening Workers Compensation Laws To Improve The State's Favorability For Business. "Workers' compensation laws are designed to provide a safety net to workers who become injured or disabled during the course of their work, by covering the cost of medical care and ensuring that a family doesn't fall flat during recovery. The Kansas of 2011, however, looked at workers' compensation laws as a tool that could be leveraged to improve the state's favorability for business. With that twisted view of the purpose of workers' compensation, the Legislature altered the program, significantly weakening protections for workers and easing liability for companies. Meanwhile, Kansas already ranked near the bottom of the country on workers' compensation spending and failed to provide

coverage that rivals our bordering neighbors, such as Missouri. Nevertheless, workers' compensation was eyed as an economic development tool that could be tweaked to make Kansas a more attractive business location. Such arguments don't add up: According to a study by the National Academy of Social Insurance, the cost of workers' comp benefits and the cost of the insurance dropped 68 cents and 80 cents, respectively. Furthermore, there is little solid evidence to support the idea that companies, when looking for places to expand or relocate, consider workers' compensation laws among their chief worries. And there is even less reason to believe that a state that already allowed relatively little on workers' comp would become more attractive by lowering benefits even more. Workers' compensation is exactly what the name implies -- compensation for workers who are injured or permanently disabled because of a workplace accident. It should not be a tool for economic development that is adjusted and manipulated to create a more favorable environment for business." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Workers' Compensation," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/6/12)

PROBST HAS SUPPORTED SEVERAL INCREASED REGULATIONS

Probst Called For Additional Regulatory Oversight Of The Financial Sector

Probst Called For Additional Regulatory Oversight Of The Financial Sector. "In the aftermath of the MF Global bankruptcy, more than $1 billion of customer money was discovered "missing" and potentially lost in the firm's $6 billion bet on European debt, which proved unstable. Corzine, also a former executive of Goldman Sachs, made many appearances on television and on the lecture circuit in the aftermath of the 2008 financial meltdown to talk about the loose regulations governing banks. Yet at the helm of his own firm, MF Global dismissed regulations regarding the proper way to handle clients' protected funds. While the political debate about regulation, over-regulation and updated, modern regulation will rage on, what is certain is that enforcement of the current regulations governing investment houses has virtually no oversight. As in 2008, the MF Global debacle reveals that investment houses are more than willing to tap into customers' protected funds to maximize their profits or as a way to cover investment losses. Until financial regulators are given the authority and the resources to effectively enforce regulations designed to protect investors, the investments of ordinary Americans will continue to be misused and we'll only know it once the money is "missing.'" (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Global Failure," *The Hutchinson News*, 12/15/11)

In 2019, Probst Supported Legislation That "Further Restricts Competition On Behalf Of Well-Established, Government-Favored Individuals By Imposing Additional Licensing Requirements On Aspiring Real Estate Brokers"

The American Conservative Union "Opposes The Proliferation Of Licensing Requirements That Reduce Available Goods And Services, Raise Consumer Costs And Are Primarily Designed To Restrict Competition And Opposed This Bill"

In 2019, Probst Voted Yea On SB 60, "An Act Concerning Real Estate; Relating To Licensing Of Brokers And Salespersons; Application, Temporary Licenses, Education Requirements." (SB 60, Passed (107 - 17), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/26/19, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "Increasing the pre-license education course from 24 hours to 30 hours, and no more than 45 hours, and renaming the course the "Kansas Real Estate Fundamentals Course." (SB 60)
- NOTE: "Reducing from five years to three years preceding the date of application for the license the time for which an applicant for a broker's license may satisfy the requirement of two years' experience as a resident salesperson or a licensee in another state. The Commission is authorized to adopt rules and regulations to implement this provision." (SB 60)
- NOTE: "Creating a new course titled "Kansas Real Estate Management Course," which is 30 hours to 45 hours in length and is required for original broker's license applicants beginning January 1, 2020" (SB 60)

ACU: SB 60 "Further Restricts Competition On Behalf Of Well-Established, Government-Favored Individuals By Imposing Additional Licensing Requirements On Aspiring Real Estate Brokers." "This bill further restricts competition on behalf of well-established, government-favored individuals by imposing additional licensing requirements on aspiring real estate brokers. Under the bill, individuals who wish to become brokers must complete up to 45 hours of education (previously 24 hours) prior to taking a state exam. Additionally, previous law required an applicant for a broker's license to have two years of experience as a resident real estate salesperson. This bill requires that experience to have been gained within only the last three years (previously five years). Finally, under previous law, individuals working in counties with populations of 20,000 or fewer were eligible for exemptions from these stringent mandates, but this bill eliminates those exemptions, thus forcing small county brokers to fully comply with all licensing provisions." (American Conservative Union, 2019)

The American Conservative Union "Opposes The Proliferation Of Licensing Requirements That Reduce Available Goods And Services, Raise Consumer Costs And Are Primarily Designed To Restrict Competition And Opposed This Bill." "ACU opposes the proliferation of licensing requirements that reduce available goods and services, raise consumer costs and are primarily designed to restrict competition and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on March 26, 2019 by a vote of 107-17 and the bill was signed into law." (American Conservative Union, 2019)

PROBST HAS OPPOSED MEASURES TO DECREASE AGRICULTURAL REGULATIONS

In 2012, Probst Criticized A Bill, Passed By A 106-8 Vote, That Would Allow Large-Scale Swine Farming Operations With The Approval Of The County Commission Rather Than A Referendum Of County Voters

In 2012, Probst Criticized A Bill, Passed By A 106-8 Vote, That Would Allow Large-Scale Swine Farming Operations With The Approval Of The County Commission Rather Than A Referendum Of County Voters. "Among a basketful of bills designed to make the world easier for big business, at least one has a bad smell. Last week, the Kansas House of

Representatives passed a measure, by a 106-8 vote, to change the law on corporate swine farms. Currently, establishing a large-scale swine operation requires approval by county voters. The new proposal would allow such operations with only the approval of the county commission. If residents are unhappy with the commission's decision, residents would have 60 days to draft an approved protest petition and collect enough signatures -- 5 percent of voters in the previous secretary of state contest -- to force the issue to a vote. The legislation apparently is being "fast-tracked," with little standing in its way to slow it down. Corporate swine operations previously have been forced to go to a public vote for good reason. The smell can ruin neighborhoods and potentially cause significant pollution of waterways. More concerning, however, is that this legislation places the burden on voters to undo a bad decision, while relieving the corporate swine operators of their duty to assure the public that they will take steps to mitigate the negative consequences of a large-scale hog farm. The swine operators, not the public, stand to gain the most from such operations and therefore should carry the burden of proof that the proposed facility would do no harm. Transferring that obligation to the people -- who have little to gain directly but nevertheless must take action to protect their interests -- is simply another example of how our democratically elected government is placing corporate rights above the rights of individuals." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Smelly Legislation," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/7/12)

In 2013, Probst Opposed Proposals To Expand The High Performance Incentive Program For Farm Operations And To Lift Kansas' Restrictions On Corporate Farming

In March 2013, Probst Opposed Proposals To Expand The High Performance Incentive Program For Farm Operations And To Lift Kansas' Restrictions On Corporate Farming. "The High Performance Incentive Program, or HPIP, traditionally has given tax breaks for companies that provide above average wages in the state, with a requirement that companies document their planned investments before qualifying under HPIP. The breaks include a 10-percent income tax credit for capital investment, a training tax credit and a sales tax exemption for capital investment costs. Under the new proposal, the tax relief would be retroactive to the 2012 tax year and would be extended to chicken egg production, sheep and goat farming, cattle feedlots, dairy cattle and milk production, and hog farming. Inconceivably, the Kansas Farm Bureau, the Kansas Pork Association and the Kansas Livestock Association have supported both the HPIP expansion and the move to lift Kansas' restrictions on corporate farming -- two measures certain to hurt those organizations' members and, eventually, their own ability to help shape farm policy. Such measures, and their aggressive support by the governor, show that Kansas now is governed under a corporate-political complex in which state policy is a joint venture between politicians who literally give away the farm to large multinational corporations, who, in exchange, help finance those politicians' continued success at election time. While this symbiotic relationship between governance and business might be good for both host and parasite, it is bad for everyone else who calls Kansas home." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Bad Seeds," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/7/13)

- **Probst, On Loosening Restrictions On Foreign Farm Ownership: "It's Also The Truth That Doing Away With Kansas Longstanding Laws Against Corporate Agriculture Ownership Will Require Local Elected Officials To Cede To The State**

Their Guaranteed Home Rule Authority." "The truth is that Kansas is a business-friendly state -- something the Kansas Department of Commerce proudly proclaims on its website by highlighting business publications that have identified Kansas as a "premier" state for businesses. It's also the truth that doing away with Kansas longstanding laws against corporate agriculture ownership will require local elected officials to cede to the state their guaranteed home rule authority. That means the case against Kansas' laws on corporate farming are not as clear-cut as supporters would have us believe, and we do not know the full extent of what changing the law might mean to the family farmer in Kansas. While the KFB and the KDA undoubtedly will push again this session the idea that the history of the state's agriculture laws don't matter and that it's time for Kansas to welcome international corporate agribusiness, people who live and work in Kansas should watch this issue closely -- and take steps now to protect their futures, just like those forward thinking Kansans did more than 80 years ago." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Ag Watch," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/29/13)

In 2018, Probst Voted Against Legislation "To Allow Large-Scale Poultry Feeding Operations" – A Bill That "Was A Key One For The Agriculture Sector"

The American Conservative Union "Supports Easing Burdensome Regulations And Expanding Business Growth While Ensuring The Property Rights Of All Landowners Are Properly Protected And Supported This Bill"

"Probst Voted Against A Bill To Allow Large-Scale Poultry Feeding Operations, And That Bill Was A Key One For The Agriculture Sector, Flickner Said." "Many Kansas House of Representatives incumbents picked up the Kansas Farm Bureau's backing. In Reno County, the PAC endorsed State Reps. Steven Becker, R-Buhler; Joe Seiwert, R-Pretty Prairie; and Jack Thimesch, R-Spivey. State Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, was not endorsed. He is running unopposed. Probst voted against a bill to allow large-scale poultry feeding operations, and that bill was a key one for the agriculture sector, Flickner said. The feedback at the county level was that Probst was not strong on agricultural issues, according to Flickner, and his voting record reflected that." (*The Hutchinson News*, 6/30/18)

In 2018, Probst Voted Nay On SB 405, "An Act Concerning The Department Of Health And Environment; Relating To Animal Conversion Units; Poultry Facilities; Confined Feeding Facilities." (SB 405, Passed (84 - 37), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/12/18, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Amends the law that establishes the number of animals permitted in a confined animal feeding facility (CAFO) for the purpose of determining permitting requirements for new construction or expansion of a CAFO. Under continuing law, a CAFO is required to register with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment if the CAFO has an animal unit capacity of 300 or more. A permit is required for a CAFO with a capacity of 1,000 or more and may be required for a CAFO if the facility poses a significant water pollution potential." (SB 405)

- NOTE: "Establishes the animal unit measurement calculation for chicken facilities that use a dry manure waste system as the number of laying hens or broilers multiplied by 0.003. In addition, the bill requires a confined chicken facility to obtain a federal permit if the facility uses a dry manure system and confines 125,000 or more broilers or 82,000 or more laying hens." (SB 405)

ACU: SB 405 "Allows Farmers To Offer More Poultry To The Market By Permitting A Greater Number Of Chickens To Be Housed On A Farmer's Property." "This bill allows farmers to offer more poultry to the market by permitting a greater number of chickens to be housed on a farmer's property. The bill eases regulations governing confined animal feeding facilities, such as concentration and setback requirements." (American Conservative Union, 2018)

The American Conservative Union "Supports Easing Burdensome Regulations And Expanding Business Growth While Ensuring The Property Rights Of All Landowners Are Properly Protected And Supported This Bill." "ACU supports easing burdensome regulations and expanding business growth while ensuring the property rights of all landowners are properly protected and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 12, 2018 by a vote of 84-37" (American Conservative Union, 2018)

PROBST UTILIZES DIVISIVE RHETORIC ON INEQUALITY

Probst: "We Can Pretend That Income Inequality Isn't Anything To Be Concerned About, And We Can Wrap The Gospel Of Wealth In An American Flag And Pretend That It's Good For The Rich And Poor Alike. But The Evidence Shows Us That's A Lie"

Probst: "We Can Pretend That Income Inequality Isn't Anything To Be Concerned About, And We Can Wrap The Gospel Of Wealth In An American Flag And Pretend That It's Good For The Rich And Poor Alike. But The Evidence Shows Us That's A Lie." "We can pretend that income inequality isn't anything to be concerned about, and we can wrap the gospel of wealth in an American flag and pretend that it's good for the rich and poor alike. But the evidence shows us that's a lie. This upward concentration of wealth is hurting the economy, damaging families and dissolving the American middle class. A CEO who earns what it would take a worker 257 years to make isn't creating many jobs with that money, nor is he stimulating the economy beyond his private, gilded world. That obscene CEO income paid out instead to average middle class families would go much further in boosting the economy. And unlike the "job creator" rhetoric that's all the rage today, the money those families spend on housing, food, entertainment, dining and various other items has a proven track record of creating jobs." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Top Pay," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/30/14)

Probst: "So Long As Those Who Benefit From Aggregated Wealth Draft Economic And Tax Policy, The Gap Between Those Who Have Much And Those Who Have Little Will Continue To Widen…"

Probst: "So Long As Those Who Benefit From Aggregated Wealth Draft Economic And Tax Policy, The Gap Between Those Who Have Much And Those Who Have Little Will

Continue To Widen, Poverty Will Climb And The Middle Class Backbone Of The U.S. Economy Will Further Weaken -- Even As 1 Percent Of The Population Assures Us It's All For Our Own Good." "While some might find it easy to point the finger at the current administration for weakness in the economy, the truth is that concentration of wealth is a centerpiece of the U.S. economy. For more than 30 years -- across different parties and presidents -- the highest earners in the country have gathered more of the nation's wealth at the expense of the country's middle class families. And the study suggests little reason to expect any changes in the future. A recovery that only restores the income of the wealthy and adds to the reserves of the already wealthy isn't a recovery at all. It's a recipe for depression. An economy that reduces the purchasing power of the vast majority of Americans erodes opportunity for everyone -- the poor, the middle class and the wealthy. Yet in many states, including Kansas, economic policy is being crafted by those organizations that seemingly hope to secure their wealth by strangling the prosperity out of the average working family, all while making the false claim that more wealth in fewer hands means more jobs and more wealth for all of us. History and the data show that concentrated wealth isn't the path to creating jobs. So long as those who benefit from aggregated wealth draft economic and tax policy, the gap between those who have much and those who have little will continue to widen, poverty will climb and the middle class backbone of the U.S. economy will further weaken -- even as 1 percent of the population assures us it's all for our own good." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Economic Indicator," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/11/13)

In 2015, Probst Criticized The Wealthy And Corporate Interests As "Freeloaders" Who Took Advantage Of Tax Breaks

In 2015, Probst Criticized The Wealthy And Corporate Interests As "Freeloaders" Who Took Advantage Of Tax Breaks. "The idea that the poor are a bunch of freeloaders on the taxpayer dole seems to be a popular thought in Kansas today, but the plain truth is that those on the upper end of the income scale enjoy a lower overall tax rate than those who work for minimum wage. The only measure in which the poor pay less than the rich is income taxes -- based on 2014 figures; in every other measure, lower income families pay substantially more to their local and state taxing entities. And while the report clearly shows the disparity in tax rates, it doesn't touch the issue of corporate tax credits and incentives that, in effect, serve as welfare programs for high-dollar companies. At the federal, state and local level, companies across a variety of industries indulge in taxpayer-financed benefit programs -- yet there's never a word from lawmakers about curbing those firms' reliance on programs funded by middle class and poor taxpayers. There's a difference between the rhetoric and the reality in Kansas when it comes to the poor. The rhetoric is that the poor are costing taxpayers vast amounts of cash through their poor decisions about how to spend the paltry benefits they receive in the way of a safety net. The reality, however, is much more grim: The freeloaders are those who have the money to buy the tax breaks they want, while forcing the middle class and poor to finance the welfare upon which they increase their wealth." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Tax Poor," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/16/15)

PROBST IS AN OPPONENT OF THE KANSAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Probst Has Criticized The Kansas Chamber Of Commerce's Electioneering And Lobbying Efforts

Probst: "There's A Certain Irony In The Fact That The Kansas Chamber Plays The Role Of Victim At The Hands Of The Government, While It's Working Diligently To Not Limit Government, But To Create The Government That It Wants"

Probst Criticized The Kansas Chamber Of Commerce's Electioneering And Lobbying Efforts Noting "There's A Certain Irony In The Fact That The Kansas Chamber Plays The Role Of Victim At The Hands Of The Government, While It's Working Diligently To Not Limit Government, But To Create The Government That It Wants." "The Chamber's political action committee has raised more than $163,000 to help finance the defeat of eight incumbent Kansas state senators -- all moderates who nonetheless have been targeted as opponents of the business community. Targeted senators include: Pete Brungardt, Salina; Terrie Huntington, Fairway; Carolyn McGinn, Sedgwick; Tim Owens, Overland Park; Vicki Schmidt, Topeka; Jean Schodorf, Wichita; and John Vratil, Leawood. Each of the senators' opponents has received maximum contributions from the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, the Chamber has spent upwards of $960,000 in the past five years, lobbying the legislature on behalf of its membership, which includes corporations that hardly seem down on their luck, such as Koch Industries, AT&T, Westar Energy and Cox Communications. The Chamber says its involvement in Kansas politics stems from weak job growth in the private sector -- the blame for which it says lies squarely at the feet of these eight senators. There's a certain irony in the fact that the Kansas Chamber plays the role of victim at the hands of the government, while it's working diligently to not limit government, but to create the government that it wants. The Chamber's true intent isn't to create a government that doesn't interfere in business -- it hopes to install a government that actively works to grease the wheels for large companies that, despite the weak economy, have consistently made millions of dollars in quarterly and annual profits." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Senate Business," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/13/12)

Probst: "The Kansas Chamber Of Commerce Is The Single Best Example Of Lobbying-Run-Amuck…"

Probst: "The Kansas Chamber Of Commerce Is The Single Best Example Of Lobbying-Run-Amuck: Instead Of An Organization Hoping To Bend A Lawmaker's Ear And Provide Useful Information Regarding Policy Decisions, The Chamber Holds The Power, Influence And Money To Effectively Blackmail Legislators Who Don't March In Lockstep With The Chamber's Positions." "The Kansas Chamber of Commerce is the single best example of lobbying-run-amuck: Instead of an organization hoping to bend a lawmaker's ear and provide useful information regarding policy decisions, the Chamber holds the power, influence and money to effectively blackmail legislators who don't march in lockstep with the Chamber's positions. Today's Kansas Chamber is less about business development and more about making an investment -- using its influence, money and near-constant lobbying -- that will pay a

dividend by turning elected leaders into good followers. The Chamber's list of pro-job legislators is a meaningless list that does little more than punish those lawmakers who dare hold to independent thought -- proven by its omission of Rep. John Doll, R-Garden City, who voted with the Chamber 75 percent of the time. Voters who really want to know about their legislator's pro-job credentials will be better served contacting their local chambers rather than accepting a list manufactured by an organization that seems determined to run the state by proxy." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A shallow list," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/1/13)

Probst: "Voters Should Recognize That The Kansas Chamber Isn't Some Quaint Group That Aims To Help Mom-And-Pop Businesses Thrive"

Probst: "Voters Should Recognize That The Kansas Chamber Isn't Some Quaint Group That Aims To Help Mom-And-Pop Businesses Thrive. The Chamber Cares Only About Itself And The Large Corporate Members That Support It." "Voters should recognize that the Kansas Chamber isn't some quaint group that aims to help mom-and-pop businesses thrive. The Chamber cares only about itself and the large corporate members that support it. Politicians who have received a nod from the Kansas Chamber ought to do some internal examination and self-reflection, because the Chamber's support isn't a sign that you're a quality candidate; it's a sign that the Chamber believes it can bend you to its will. And those politicians who have been targeted by the Chamber should feel a sense of relief, because the Chamber's wrath is a true sign that you've shown the courage to put Kansans above a nameless, faceless organization whose only real "work" in Kansas is an unyielding effort to extract as much as possible from the state's residents." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Conditional Endorsement," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/13/14)

PROBST HIMSELF ONCE USED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

In 2010, Probst Acknowledged That He And His Family Once Relied On Medicaid And Used The WIC Program While He Was Starting Out In His 20s

In October 2010, Probst Acknowledged That He And His Family Once Relied On Medicaid And Used The WIC Program While He Was Starting Out In His 20s. "What's the solution? I don't know for certain, but I have some ideas that come from my own experience with public assistance. At the age of 20, I was a soon-to-be father earning a salary of $250 a week. My family didn't have health insurance. We had a car that broke down a lot, and we didn't have much money for anything. My pregnant wife, and later my infant child, relied on Medicaid for health care during that period. We didn't get food stamps, but we used the Women, Infants and Children program, which provides food assistance to pregnant and nursing mothers and their children in the first years of life. So I'm a believer in what public assistance can do for people. Had it not been available when our family was starting out, we'd have been saddled with debt, hungry, and poor and angry with life. Besides, in the years since, I'll bet I've paid a lot more in for taxes than I ever took out in assistance." (Jason Probst, "OPINION: Time For New Approach To Government Assistance," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/24/10)

PROBST'S SUPPORT OF A LIBERAL POLICY AGENDA

On energy and the environment, Probst has used his writings to criticize climate change deniers and promote efforts to address climate change. In 2014, Probst criticized climate change deniers in the Kansas legislature and was critical of a resolution urging Congress to oppose Obama's climate action plan. Probst has been known to express support for providing taxpayer funded assistance for alternative energy and has expressed support for maintaining renewable energy standards. In 2015, Probst wrote that fracking in Kansas was causing earthquakes. Probst also pushed for legislation that sought a moratorium on saltwater disposal wells and legislation creating a fee levied on oil companies to pay for earthquake damage. In 2019, Probst introduced legislation that sought to levy fees on fracking activities. Additionally, in 2022, Probst voted against legislation that sought to prohibit cities and counties in Kansas from implementing bans on everyday items such as plastic straws and plastic and cardboard containers, among other commonly used products.

On healthcare, Probst previously called for accepting federal funds to implement Obamacare and has been an outspoken supporter of Medicaid expansion. Once joining the legislature, Probst underscored his commitment to Medicaid expansion and was recently the lead sponsor of a constitutional amendment to expand Medicaid.

In 2021, Probst derided a proposal to restore the legislature's power to revoke regulations issued by state agencies in light of covid-19 as a "power grab". Probst also joined liberals in voting against a resolution that sought to prevent Gov. Kelly "from implementing excessive one-size-fits-all mask mandates." In 2020, Probst supported an amendment that "would place unreasonable new liabilities on taxpayers pertaining to the contraction of [covid]…" by certain state employees. In January 2021, Probst announced his intention to participate in the expedited vaccination program for state legislators.

On education, Probst has opposed efforts to expand school choice. In 2014, Probst criticized vouchers for private schools and claimed that "such policies never will provide an adequate and equitable public education for all Kansas children." Probst also appears to be a defender of Obama-era Common Core standards. Additionally, Probst has criticized measures that sought to increase teacher accountability.

In March 2022, Probst voted against an anti-sanctuary city measure. Probst has also opposed other illegal immigration enforcement policies. Probst has been supportive of offering benefits to illegal immigrants. In 2012, Probst criticized repealing a law granting illegal immigrants in-state tuition rates. In 2022, Probst appears to have written that "it looks like 'qualified non-citizens' are generally eligible for coverage through Medicaid." Probst has opposed ending birthright citizenship.

In 2015, Probst called for a reexamination of cash bail policies, implicitly criticizing holding people in jail on minor offenses. In 2010, Probst proposed restoring judicial discretion in sentencing for certain crimes rather than tying judges to a strict penalty matrix. In 2018, Probst sponsored legislation that sought to abolish the death penalty.

Probst has used his writings to criticize law enforcement, including the use of militarized equipment. In 2014, Probst voiced criticism of law enforcement noting "over time that appreciation [for police] morphed into a mistaken notion that every police officer is a hero who is above reproach or questioning…" Probst in 2014: "the public has allowed the country's law enforcement departments to shield themselves from legitimate scrutiny by hiding behind the need for safety, security or an ongoing investigation."

Probst has pushed for the legalization of marijuana and appears to have been supportive of the legalization of other drugs.

PROBST CRITICIZES CLIMATE CHANGE DENIERS AND CALLS FOR EFFORTS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2014, Probst Criticized Climate Change Deniers In The Kansas Legislature And Was Critical Of A Resolution Urging Congress To Oppose Obama's Climate Action Plan

In 2014, Probst Criticized Climate Change Deniers In The Kansas Legislature And Was Critical Of A Resolution Urging Congress To Oppose Obama's Climate Action Plan. "House Resolution No. 6043 urges the United States Congress to oppose President Obama's climate action plan, which calls for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and encourages development of renewable forms of energy. The resolution, introduced by the Committee on Energy and Environment, states: --The climate of planet earth is somewhat predictable over hundreds, even thousands of years. --The president's plan is based on multiple erroneous assumptions that have been refuted by a preponderance of scientific evidence. --CO2 produces desirable effects upon plant life and is essential to the earth's atmosphere. --Evidence shows there's a disconnect between humans and CO2 emissions --Oceans are rising, but that's not the fault of mankind -- glaciers have been melting for hundreds of years. --There's record ice in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions. --There's no increase in the number of significant tornadoes -- in fact the trend line has been down since 1974. --The worst droughts came between 1930-1942 and 1953-1960. The United States has been "materially wetter" in the past five decades. Anyone who has lived in Kansas the past few years knows that these "facts" are somewhat questionable. Just this year, much of the state emerged -- barely -- from a prolonged, severe drought that left fields scorched. We've had exceptional storms, massive rainfall in August and summer temperatures in the spring. Moreover, data from the National Climatic Data Center tells a different story: 2013 tied as the fourth hottest year on record since record keeping began in 1880; the global land temperature was nearly 2 degrees hotter than the 20th Century average, and nine of the 10 hottest years occurred after 2002. The past two years have seen fewer tornadoes, but since 1950, the trend line is decidedly upward, as is the number of severe storms, and much of North America has experienced more frequent extreme temperatures. The scientific community has nearly universally accepted that the world's climate is changing and that it is the result of human activity. The deniers -- like those behind this resolution in the Kansas House -- will argue that's simply part of the a natural earthly cycle. Yet that belief defies even the simplest logic. Even if there was merit to the deniers' claims -- and there is not -- what's the harm in efforts to reduce pollution and prepare for the future by developing today renewable energies that one day

might be necessary? Continued efforts to deny easily discernible facts damage our ability to address a real issue, and handicap our capacity to examine those issues and develop practical solutions." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Resolved To Deny," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/7/14)

Probst: "Now That Both Skeptics And Supporters Can Agree That The Earth Is Heating Up, Maybe The Idea That Global Warming Is A Myth Can Be Put To Rest, And Scientists And Policy Makers Can Work In Earnest To Figure Out How To Reverse The Trend"

Probst: "Now That Both Skeptics And Supporters Can Agree That The Earth Is Heating Up, Maybe The Idea That Global Warming Is A Myth Can Be Put To Rest, And Scientists And Policy Makers Can Work In Earnest To Figure Out How To Reverse The Trend." "Nevertheless, both Muller and Watts agree that the earth's surface temperature is increasing; they simply disagree on how much, and on whom to blame. "I believe global warming is real. No doubt about it. Not a bit of doubt," Watts told FoxNews.com. "However, I don't think it's catastrophic, or as bad as it's been portrayed." Muller released his paper before a yearlong peer review -- a standard practice in the scientific community -- in the hope that critics would review his data without any delay, with the added hope of moving the discussion beyond politics. Now that both skeptics and supporters can agree that the earth is heating up, maybe the idea that global warming is a myth can be put to rest, and scientists and policy makers can work in earnest to figure out how to reverse the trend." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Heated Debate," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/31/12)

In 2014, Probst Criticized Climate Change Deniers And Compared Groups That Undermined Climate Science To Tobacco Companies

In 2014, Probst Criticized Climate Change Deniers And Compared Groups That Undermined Climate Science To Tobacco Companies. "Two reports released this week revealed that parts of the giant western Antarctic ice sheet are melting and that such melting is likely irreversible and ultimately will lead to a dramatic increase in sea levels. It might happen in as little as 200 years, or it could take much longer, but somewhere down the road the earth is going to look much different than it does today. Research conducted in 2012 indicated that cities such as Miami, New Orleans, New York and Boston would be vulnerable to a sea level increase of four feet. NASA's report puts the future potential sea level increase as high as 10 feet. Despite years of growing scientific evidence and increasing physical evidence of climate change, skeptics continue to bury their heads in the sand and pretend that nothing is wrong, that we simply can carry on as we always have with no concern for the future. That devil-may-care attitude dooms future generations to a world that is fundamentally altered by the evidence of damage by our actions. All the while, groups tied to legacy energy sources spend mind-boggling amounts of money to convince the public that climate change isn't so bad, is part of the earth's natural cycle or is a hoax perpetuated by environmentalists. Such action is akin to the tobacco companies a generation ago advertising the health benefits of smoking despite growing and conclusive evidence to the contrary. For more than 100 years, we've mined, drilled and burned fossil fuels to our hearts' content with little consideration for the long-term dangers. In the past 30 years, scientists have sounded the alarm that such indulgence came with a price, and we now can see first-hand the cost of our immature approach to energy and consumption. The proof is

here, and the evidence is no longer a theory or a scientific hypothesis; it is the clear melting of ice in the north pole, Greenland and in the Antarctic. It is happening now, and it will continue to happen well into the future. The time for denial is long past. The time for political games is over. We have no more time to fabricate lies, excuses or alternate theories about the cause. All that is left to debate is what steps we should take to mitigate the damage and what we can do to preserve the world as we know it for the generations that will follow us." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Melting Proof," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/13/14)

PROBST SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

In 2012, Probst Defended Government Programs To Encourage The Development Of Alternative Energy Industries

In 2012, Probst Defended Government Programs To Encourage The Development Of Alternative Energy Industries. "Pioneers in the shale oil industry credit the cooperation between business and government as key to today's current success in extracting oil and gas from previously unreachable reserves. And that is why those same pioneers in the oil and gas industry have thrown their support behind similar efforts to foster and grow renewable energy sources such as wind energy. While ther is much bravado and chest-pounding in Kansas and Washington, D.C., about the role of government in business, when it comes to energy -- its security, reliability and affordability -- it is a public security issue that affects every resident of this country. It is disingenuous for elected officials -- such as U.S. Reps. Tim Huelskamp and Mike Pompeo of Kansas -- to gloss over the fact that for 100 years the government has used policy to support the oil and gas industry, which has given today's drillers the knowledge and technology to extract resources from previously unreachable reserves. Today's oil and gas boom can be traced back to the government's early investment and assistance, and that is not unusual. This country always has directed investment in a way that brought the most good for the most people and helped prepare the nation to grow and adapt to changing times." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Oil's Rally For Wind," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/27/12)

In 2012, Probst Was Critical Of Rep. Tim Huelskamp's Objection To Wind Energy Production Tax Credits

In 2012, Probst Was Critical Of Rep. Tim Huelskamp's Objection To Wind Energy Production Tax Credits. "What's particularly ironic about Huelskamp's video production is that while he's talking about uncertainty standing in the way of job creation, he could've traveled across town to record a much more harrowing story of a congressman whose blind ideology will send Reno County families to the unemployment line. Thanks to Huelskamp's obstinate resistance to extension of the Wind Energy Production Tax Credit, Siemens Wind Energy's plant in Hutchinson is preparing to lay off a portion of its workforce. Wind industry officials have plainly said that without the tax credit, wind development will decline, leading to a reduction in the wind-related workforce and a reduction of investment in wind-rich states like Kansas. That will mean job losses in Huelskamp's district, including Hutchinson, less money spent on wind farms and infrastructure, and it will allow other countries to develop new technologies that better harness our natural resources -- while people like Huelskamp bind this country to antiquity. In

the meantime, we can expect to see more heavily-edited videos and releases from Team Huelskamp explaining how bad Obama is for Kansas, yet fail to utter a word about a U.S. congressman who is convinced that his constituents need to learn what's good for them." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Full Of Wind," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/30/12)

PROBST OPPOSED REPEALING THE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD

In 2014, Probst Criticized A Bill To Repeal The 2009 Renewable Portfolio Standard

In March 2014, Probst Criticized A Bill To Repeal The 2009 Renewable Portfolio Standard. "When it comes to the debate over wind, conservatives in the Kansas Legislature aren't about to let facts get in the way of their agenda. Last week, the Senate Utilities Committee passed a bill to repeal the 2009 Renewable Portfolio Standard, which requires 20 percent of the state's electricity come from renewable sources by 2020. During discussion on the bill, several legislators regurgitated talking points straight from an Americans for Prosperity television commercial that has been proven to be completely false. Sen. Rob Olson, R-Olathe, blamed the RPS for higher utility rates, even though only a fraction of a cent per kilowatt hour (.16) can be attributed to wind. Sen. Forrest Knox, R-Altoona, echoed the tired refrain that we should "let the market do its thing." Knox's comment is almost laughable considering that the state has several provisions that reduce or reduce or exempt property and severance taxes for oil and gas producers. Olson's comment is head shakingly wrong to anyone who doesn't rely on AFP for his talking points. Wind energy isn't to blame for higher utility prices; it's a compliant Kansas Corporation Commission that has granted nearly every rate increase request that crossed its desk -- and at one point considered shifting corporate utility expenses onto residential customers. What's more, nearly every utility in the state has met, or is very close to meeting, the RPS requirement. Passing a bill to undo the standard won't lead to the dis-assembly of wind farms and it won't lead to lower utility rates for Kansans. This unending passion to undo the RPS has nothing to do with Kansans, it's simply another effort by do-as-they're-told lawmakers to please the real power brokers in Topeka -- the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Americans for Prosperity. Yet, this desire by some Kansas lawmakers to show off their conservative bonafides and demonstrate their loyalty to those groups is undermining what could be a lucrative industry in Kansas." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Blind To Truth," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/24/14)

Probst Praised The Courage Of House Lawmakers Who Rejected Repeal Of The Renewable Portfolio Standard

Probst Praised The Courage Of House Lawmakers Who Rejected Repeal Of The Renewable Portfolio Standard. 'The Kansas House of Representatives, however, showed it isn't so easily controlled. House members refuted erroneous claims that the mandate has led to increases in utility rates across the state and that it creates an unfair economic advantage for wind energy. During the debate, one lawmaker pointed to a standing tax exemption for oil and gas wells, while other rural legislators, including Reps. Steve Becker, John Doll, Russ Jennings, John Ewy and Bud Estes, talked about the importance of the wind industry to their local economies. Meanwhile, other lawmakers, like Newton's Rep. Marc Rhoades, countered by repeating the mistruths that have been spread by groups like AFP and the Kansas Chamber and leveled a threat

against lawmakers who didn't support the repeal. "Folks be advised," Rhoades said. "If you vote this down, people will be hearing about the fact that you allowed their rates to rise." Rhoades' statement is baseless, and documentation by the Kansas Corporation Commission, the Citizen Utility Ratepayer Board and individual utilities all have shown that wind energy isn't responsible for increases in utility rates and accounts for a fraction of a penny per kilowatt hour. Kansas House members, particularly Republicans, who voted against the repeal showed extraordinary courage in the face of hard lobbying by two of the state's most powerful lobbies and by threats from party leadership. That's the sort of courage Kansans expect from their lawmakers, who are sent to Topeka to work for their districts -- not to become faithful, dutiful and unquestioning servants of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Americans for Prosperity." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A Courageous Wind," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/27/14)

PROBST EFFECTIVELY OPPOSES FRACKING AND HAS PROPOSED ADDITIONAL FEES ON FRACKING

Probst: "The Evidence Now Seems Undeniable Of A Direct Link Between Deep Disposal Wells That Hold Waste Product Used In The Process Of Hydraulic Fracturing Process For Oil -- Known As Fracking -- And The Concerning Rise In Kansas Earthquakes"

Probst: "The Evidence Now Seems Undeniable Of A Direct Link Between Deep Disposal Wells That Hold Waste Product Used In The Process Of Hydraulic Fracturing Process For Oil -- Known As Fracking -- And The Concerning Rise In Kansas Earthquakes." "The evidence now seems undeniable of a direct link between deep disposal wells that hold waste product used in the process of hydraulic fracturing process for oil -- known as fracking -- and the concerning rise in Kansas earthquakes. After studying the issue for several months, the Kansas Corporation Commission told the Harper County Commission that it plans to extend recent restrictions on deep disposal wells for at least another six months, citing a significant reduction in the number of earthquakes greater than 2.5 magnitude. In March, the KCC put limits on wastewater disposal amounts in five areas of Sumner and Harper Counties that had displayed the most seismic activity. The restriction lowered the amount of underground wastewater in wells in those areas by 60 percent. The order came despite a continued, and somewhat mind boggling, effort by the oil industry and its supporters to deny, or at least minimize, the connection between the process of fracking for oil and increased earthquakes in South Central Kansas and Northern Oklahoma." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Solid Evidence," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/11/15)

In 2015, Probst Contended That Two Bills (A Bill That Sought A Moratorium On Saltwater Disposal Wells And A Bill Creating A Fee Levied On Oil Companies To Pay For Earthquake Damage) At Least Deserved A Hearing

In March 2015, Probst Contended That Two Bills (A Bill That Sought A Moratorium On Salt Water Disposal Wells And A Bill Creating A Fee Levied On Oil Companies To Pay For Earthquake Damage) At Least Deserved A Hearing. "Clearly, the best approach is for the Legislature to do nothing and not trouble itself with listening to Kansans' concerns. The two bills from the Sierra Club -- one to the House Energy and Environment Committee and the other to the House Standing Committee on Vision 2020 -- likely never had much chance of passage, but

they deserved at least a hearing to give lawmakers a chance to hear about earthquakes' affect on area residents One bill sought a moratorium on saltwater disposal wells -- part of the "fracking" process and now believed to contribute to earthquake activity. The other bill would've created an earthquake "risk pool" that would require oil companies to set aside some money -- in the form of a fee -- to pay for damages caused by earthquakes in areas of intense drilling. Kansas has done an abysmal job in managing the increase in hydraulic fracturing in the state, and an even worse job in taking steps to protect anyone who's not part of an oil company. We've not required drillers to share their seismic studies with regulatory agencies, or taken any real steps to slow or stop drillers if their drive for profit clashes with the rights of property owners. Other states -- even some that have welcomed drillers and the economic activity they bring -- have taken common sense measures to both protect residents and attract investment. By contrast, Kansas has largely sat on the sidelines as earthquake activity has ramped up, and as evidence increasingly points to practices related to fracking as the cause of those quakes. The time for voluntary ignorance on this issue has long since passed. What we need now are lawmakers and leaders who will address this problem squarely, rather than actively avoid any effort to learn, understand or take action on what is becoming the biggest concern for those who live in South Central Kansas." (Jason Probst, "Editorial: Splitting Kansas," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/5/15)

In 2019, Probst Introduced Legislation To Levy A Fee Of 10 Cents Per Barrell Of Wastewater From Fracking Wells

In 2019, Probst Introduced Legislation To Levy A Fee Of 10 Cents Per Barrell Of Wastewater From Fracking Wells. "'Oil production is the source of a lot of money and jobs in Kansas," he said, and the state can't ban fracking, he said. He does want to change the pattern of wastewater disposal. The Kansas Geological Survey has evidence that wastewater injected into Class II wells migrated and caused earthquakes in Reno County, he said. To discourage high-volume wastewater disposal in those wells, Probst is eyeing a fee of a dime per barrel. "There are other methods of dealing with this water," he said, and the fee could press large operators to look for alternatives, such as recycling for irrigation purposes. "I don't want to ding family farms that have a well," he said, and the bill would provide exemptions for operators that contribute small amounts of the over 1 billion barrels of wastewater disposed of in Class II wells in a recent year. Probst's bill also is expected to spell out how the state will spend the revenue." ("Probst Spearheading Four Bills In The New Kansas House Session," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/7/19)

In 2019, Probst Introduced Legislation To Fund Testing For Seismic Activity Through New Fees

The Bill Would Have Put A One-Time $100 Fee On Each Operator Of A Class II Disposal Well In The State And A One-Time $100 Fee On Each Operator Of A Class I Well In The State

"State Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, Introduced House Bill 2224 To Fund Testing For Seismic Activity. It Grew Out Of Earthquakes Felt In Reno County And Other Counties. The Bill Would Have Put A One-Time $100 Fee On Each Operator Of A Class II Disposal Well In The State And A One-Time $100 Fee On Each Operator Of A Class I Well In The State." "Feb. 24--A bill introduced by one Reno County legislator is stuck in a committee led by

another Reno County legislator. On Feb.11, State Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, introduced House Bill 2224 to fund testing for seismic activity. It grew out of earthquakes felt in Reno County and other counties. The bill would have put a one-time $100 fee on each operator of a Class II disposal well in the state and a one-time $100 fee on each operator of a Class I well in the state. The fees would be collected in 2020 and would generate an estimated $500,000. The proceeds would be diverted to the bill's proposed State Geological Survey Monitoring Well Fund, for the drilling of approximately ten monitoring wells in the Arbuckle formation "for purpose of measuring underground pressure in the formation and for the purpose of monitoring the effectiveness of confining beds in the injection zone of the formation," the bill states. The bill was assigned to the House Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Committee, and State Rep. Joe Seiwert, R-Pretty Prairie, is chairman. The committee meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and next week, Monday is the last day for all but key committees to meet. Since Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications meets Tuesdays, it has had its last meeting before the "turnaround," according to committee staff. House and Senate bills must move out of their originating chamber by the turnaround point in the session, which is at the end of Thursday, Feb. 28. After the turnaround, the bodies take up bills that passed the other chamber. Probst said Friday morning he didn't have much hope for movement on the bill. However, it is not dead." ("Probst's Earthquake Bill Standing Still," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/24/19)

PROBST VOTED IN MANNER SIGNALING SUPPORT FOR BANNING PLASTIC STRAWS AND BAGS

In March 2022, Probst Voted Against SB 493: Prohibiting Cities And Counties From Regulating Plastic And Other Containers Designed For The Consumption, Transportation Or Protection Of Merchandise, Food Or Beverages

In March 2022, Probst Voted Nay On SB 493, "An Act Concerning Cities And Counties; Prohibiting The Regulation Of Plastic And Other Containers Designed For The Consumption, Transportation Or Protection Of Merchandise, Food Or Beverages." (SB 493, Passed (74 - 48), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/23/22, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Would prohibit municipalities from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, resolution, or regulation that restricts, taxes, prohibits, or regulates the use of auxiliary containers." (SB 493)
- NOTE: "Would define "auxiliary container" as a plastic straw or a bag, cup, package, container, bottle, device, or other packaging, without limitation. Such auxiliary containers could be made out of cloth, paper, plastic, foamed plastic, expanded plastic, cardboard, corrugated material, aluminum, glass, postconsumer recycled material, or any similarly coated or laminated material." (SB 493)

PROBST CALLED FOR ACCEPTING FEDERAL FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT OBAMACARE

In 2011, Probst Criticized Gov. Brownback For Rejecting A $31.5 Million Early Innovator Grant To Help Kansas Develop Insurance Exchanges Mandated By The Affordable Care Act

In August 2011, Probst Criticized Gov. Sam Brownback For Rejecting A $31.5 Million Early Innovator Grant To Help Kansas Develop Insurance Exchanges Mandated By The Affordable Care Act. 'Gov. Sam Brownback this week decided to reject a $31.5 million "Early Innovator" grant Kansas had received in February from the Department of Health and Human Services to help the state set up its own health insurance exchange under the federal Affordable Care Act. Brownback's office, in rejecting the money from Health and Human Services, said that Kansas needs to maintain "maximum flexibility" in the face of falling federal resources. Yet this decision to turn down money already given to the state only ensures that Kansas will have no flexibility as it cedes implementation of the Affordable Care Act to the federal government -- leaving Kansans voiceless in the process. This is the sort of backward thinking that comes from politicians who put platforms and rhetoric above what's actually good for the state and its residents. Kansas' decision to reject the money has no bearing on whether the Affordable Care Act will be implemented. It won't do a thing to change the law, nor will it somehow make Kansas exempt from its provisions. It simply means that the federal government will dictate to Kansas how the law will be enacted in our state -- with no input from the people who understand some of the unique challenges Kansas faces in the delivery of health care. Additionally, the health care exchanges that will be used to deliver insurance to residents are the same system that will be used to enroll Medicaid recipients, and the grant money also would've been used to fund an ongoing program to update that system. Now, however, that function also will be turned over to the feds. With his decision to turn down federal money, Brownback has relinquished control of the future of Kansas health care to Washington, D.C., something one would think a conservative governor would avoid. Yet, even the most conservative of governors can't seem to resist the urge to bolster the appearance of being a small government advocate, even if it means making a decidedly big government decision." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: An Unhealthy Choice," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/10/11)

PROBST HAS BEEN AN OUTSPOKEN SUPPORTER OF MEDICAID EXPANSION

Probst: "The Refusal Of The Brownback Administration And Previous Legislatures To Accept Medicaid Expansion Is Morally Repugnant"

Probst: "The Refusal Of The Brownback Administration And Previous Legislatures To Accept Medicaid Expansion Is Morally Repugnant." "In 2017, the Kansas Legislature passed a measure to accept a federal expansion of Medicaid that would've provided health coverage to more than 150,000 Kansans. It was vetoed by Gov. Sam Brownback, and fell just five votes shy of being overridden by lawmakers. The refusal of the Brownback administration and previous legislatures to accept Medicaid expansion is morally repugnant. Kansans already pay into the

federal Medicaid system with their tax dollars, which are being spent in other states. Yet, because of political ideology, Kansas working families have gone without available health care coverage, and our local hospitals have borne the costs associated with providing emergency care to those who can't afford health insurance. As a Representative, Jason will do everything he can to see that Kansas expands Medicaid. It's far past time we do what's right for the people of Kansas – and that begins with not standing in the way of healthcare for working families who simply can't afford the cost or whose employers don't offer coverage." (Probst For Progress, Accessed 3/29/22)

Probst, In 2014: "Kansas Leaders Have A Moral And Ethical Obligation To Accept The Federal Expansion Of Medicaid"

Probst, In 2014: "Kansas Leaders Have A Moral And Ethical Obligation To Accept The Federal Expansion Of Medicaid." "It's true that Medicaid might cover able-bodied adults, including those who work for a living but have the misfortune of earning between roughly $8,000 and $23,000 for a family of four. Contrary to Brownback's oft-recited message, expansion of Medicaid wouldn't simply provide coverage for shiftless bums, it also would provide coverage for poor families that struggle to make ends meet. Kansas leaders have a moral and ethical obligation to accept the federal expansion of Medicaid. Not doing so leaves empty their rhetoric about compassion, the value of life, their Christian values and the importance of listening to business community. But if the governor and his allies in the Legislature won't listen to Miller and others in the business world, there's little reason to think that they'll suddenly develop a sense of compassion for the state's working poor families." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Medicaid As Investment," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/7/14)

Probst, In 2013: "Beyond The Rhetoric And Fear, However, Lies A Very Simple Truth: Rejecting The Medicaid Expansion Will Hurt Kansas Residents, Hospitals And Ultimately Our Ability To Compete With Other States For Business And Talented Employees"

Probst, In 2013: "Beyond The Rhetoric And Fear, However, Lies A Very Simple Truth: Rejecting The Medicaid Expansion Will Hurt Kansas Residents, Hospitals And Ultimately Our Ability To Compete With Other States For Business And Talented Employees." "Beyond the rhetoric and fear, however, lies a very simple truth: Rejecting the Medicaid expansion will hurt Kansas residents, hospitals and ultimately our ability to compete with other states for business and talented employees. If the expansion is rejected, rural hospitals will miss out on payments for patients they treat -- instead, they'll continue to treat the uninsured at their emergency rooms and write off the expensive care. Eventually, they may not be able to operate in the face of continued cuts to Medicare and a state that refused to accept a program to insure more people. At some point, Kansas will be labeled as a state that doesn't care for its residents, and a place where people don't want to -- or won't live. Our neighbors will get sicker, and their care will cost more than it would have if the state's leaders had possessed the courage to do what is right, instead of what is popular. A resolution waits for the House, which expresses opposition to the Medicaid expansion and instructs the Governor to reject the federal government's offer. When the matter is discussed and voted on, Kansans will learn whether politics and spite mean more than the general welfare of its residents." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Medicaid Pain," *The Hutchinson News,* 3/26/13)

Probst Criticized Refusal To Expand Medicaid As "Inhumane" And Claimed It Would Effectively Cost Kansans More In The Long Run

Probst Criticized Refusal To Expand Medicaid As "Inhumane" And Claimed It Would Effectively Cost Kansans More In The Long Run. "With the Medicaid expansion, the federal government would pay 100 percent of the cost for the first three years, with a 90-percent cost coverage in succeeding years. Currently, Kansas Medicaid coverage is reserved only for children, pregnant women, the elderly or the impoverished disabled population. What's more is that this inhumane refusal to provide coverage for the state's poorest residents doesn't save the Kansas taxpayer a single dime. Instead, Medicare and federal tax dollars will be collected from every wage earner in Kansas only to be routed and spent in other states that have chosen to accept the Medicaid expansion. In fact, there is reason to suspect that this politically-motivated act of stubbornness will cost Kansans even more through "uncompensated care" that hospitals will provide to uninsured Kansans. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, expanding Medicaid in Kansas would cost the state about $525 million over 10 years; declining the expansion, however, will cost the state $5.3 billion in federal money and $2.3 billion that would have been paid to the state's hospitals for providing unpaid care. While those lawmakers who have dug in their heels against Obamacare can spend the off-season talking up their roles as spending watchdogs, they also should be honest about what their decisions will cost Kansas -- in both money and morality -- and consider making common sense and compassion part of the 2014 legislative session." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Medicaid Malpractice," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/13/13)

- **Probst: "As A Public Official Legitimately Concerned About Cost, Colyer Should've Led The Charge To Accept Medicaid Expansion; As A Physician Legitimately Concerned About The Health And Well-Being Of The State's Residents He Should Have Insisted On A Medicaid Expansion That Would Ensure Better Health For More Kansans."** "At the time Brownback said his office rejected the money because Kansas needed to "maintain flexibility" in the face of falling federal resources. Now it appears Colyer isn't happy with the inflexibility his boss' steadfast opposition to the Affordable Care Act has meant for Kansas. Later, as it became clear that the ACA was going to become a reality, the Kansas legislature and the Governor's office made another costly, and seemingly purely punitive, decision to reject a largely federally funded expansion of Medicaid for some of the state's poorest residents. That decision has resulted in the unconscionable reality that someone could make too much money to qualify for Medicaid, yet too little to qualify for a federal tax subsidy to offset insurance costs. As a public official legitimately concerned about cost, Colyer should've led the charge to accept Medicaid expansion; as a physician legitimately concerned about the health and well-being of the state's residents he should have insisted on a Medicaid expansion that would ensure better health for more Kansans. As to the lack of competitiveness and higher-than-average costs for health plans on the exchange, Colyer could've stood with Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger, who argued that the state would do well to accept the grant and develop a marketplace that better served the needs of Kansans." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Colyer's Criticisms Contain Memory Flaw," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/26/13)

Probst, In 2015: "There Is No Sound Reason To Continue The Obstinate Refusal Of The Federal Expansion Of Medicaid"

Probst: "There Is No Sound Reason To Continue The Obstinate Refusal Of The Federal Expansion Of Medicaid." "If logic determined the outcome, Kansas would embrace the federal Medicaid expansion and immediately begin to reap the benefits. There is no sound reason to continue the obstinate refusal of the federal expansion of Medicaid. We've known since the beginning that it would be good for Kansans who work and support their families on meager wages. We've seen that it is essential to the financial viability of small hospitals and would secure access to quality health care in less populated areas of the state. Now we have evidence that, contrary to the partisan talking points, accepting the Medicaid expansion would save Kansas taxpayers money while also providing tangible benefits for the state's businesses and its workers. Kansans should not accept "no" as an acceptable policy position from its lawmakers, and the governor or any state legislator who remains firmly against Medicaid expansion should be challenged to explain -- in detail -- how a refusal to accept this program makes Kansas better or stronger in the future." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Medical Evidence," *The Hutchinson News*, 12/10/15)

In 2019, Probst Underscored His Commitment To Medicaid Expansion

In 2019, Probst Underscored His Commitment To Medicaid Expansion. 'State Sen. Ed Berger, R-Hutchinson, and State Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, support it, saying it would affect 150,000 Kansans and would help hospitals. State Reps. Joe Seiwert, R-Pretty Prairie, and Jack Thimesch, R-Spivey, previously voted against it, and State Rep. Paul Waggoner, R-Hutchinson, opposes it. Waggoner said it's "falsely sold" as a panacea for rural hospitals, and Seiwert also questioned who would benefit from it. Thimesch said he wanted to see a Medicaid expansion bill come out of a committee, and Berger said that had occurred previously. Probst said leadership has put up hurdles for the movement of Medicaid expansion legislation through the Legislature." ("Reno Legislators Regard Wind Turbine Sites Local Decision," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/3/19)

In 2019, Probst Praised A Compromise Measure To Expand Medicaid

In March 2019, Probst Praised A Compromise Measure To Expand Medicaid. "I've used a fair amount of ink throughout the years criticizing the often dysfunctional Kansas Legislature. I've expressed frustration with its processes, concern about too much power concentrated in the hands of too few people, and worry that hyper-partisan rhetoric can serve as a barrier to sound policy. It's equally important, I think, to highlight when the Kansas Legislature gets it right. This week, the Kansas House of Representatives did something that was, to me, a beautiful display of government working precisely as I believe it is designed to work. On Wednesday, a strong coalition of Moderate Republicans and Democrats came together to support a bill to expand Medicaid in Kansas. The bill that emerged from the House was a true compromise. Republicans supportive of expansion had concerns about the cost, and about making sure participants had some investment in their healthcare. The result was an amendment to collect a small monthly premium of $25. This fee wasn't enthusiastically supported by Democrats, but it was supported with the understanding this was necessary to win, and keep, the support of Moderate Republicans. The fee, while modest, could generate upwards of $40 million a year to help offset the cost of expansion. Similarly, an escape clause was inserted into the bill -- ensuring that if

fears of a reduction in the federal match become reality, Kansas can get out of the program. Again, not something that won eager support from Democrats, but a measure for which support was necessary to honor the spirit of compromise, and collaborative governance." (Jason Probst, "OPINION: What The Legislature Is Getting Right," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/24/19)

In 2019, Probst Was Appointed To A Governor's Council To Explore Medicaid Expansion Options

In September 2019, Probst Was Appointed To A Governor's Council To Explore Medicaid Expansion Options. "Rep. Jason Probst, a Democrat from Hutchinson who was appointed to the council, said the council was designed to try to avoid problems with the implementation of a Medicaid expansion plan by looking at the best and worst experiences of other states. A majority of Kansas legislators in both chambers support Medicaid expansion, but there is widespread disagreement over key policy provisions, such as possible work requirements. Arkansas, Kentucky and New Hampshire had work mandates in their Medicaid laws struck down by the courts. Other states have attempted to require participants to pay a premium to participate, but those have been controversial because not everyone can afford the fee. The council's goal, Probst said, is "to arm ourselves with the knowledge needed to swat down really bad ideas that will come out of any other competing plans." Sheldon Weisgrau, a policy adviser with the 100-organization Alliance for a Healthy Kansas that has endorsed Medicaid expansion, said he was supportive of the council formed by Kelly. "Anything that can move this forward is a positive," he said." ("Gov. Laura Kelly Directs Council To Explore Medicaid Expansion Options," *Topeka Capital Journal*, 9/4/19)

In 2020, Probst Reiterated His Support For Medicaid Expansion

In January 2020, Probst Reiterated His Support For Medicaid Expansion. "Just days before the start of the 2020 legislative session, Gov. Laura Kelly and Sen. Jim Denning announced a bipartisan agreement to accept a federal expansion of Medicaid and bring health care coverage to roughly 150,000 Kansans. The announcement was an encouraging start to the session. After six years of debate, a 2017 veto by then-Gov. Sam Brownback of a bipartisan Medicaid expansion bill, and procedural blockades that bottled up another bill that passed the House in 2019, it now appears Kansas is ready to join 36 other states in opening up access to healthcare for poor families. There will, of course, be challenges to get this compromise to the finish line. Some lawmakers in both chambers hold an intractable ideological objection to Medicaid. Others wring their hands in worry that the federal government might some day run out of money, while using those same hands to grab federal money for causes they personally support. But the majority of both chambers have time and time again demonstrated broad support for bringing our federal tax dollars home, strengthening our local hospitals and medical delivery systems, and providing much-needed healthcare to the state's working poor. This fall, I had the pleasure of serving on the Governor's Council on Medicaid Expansion. I have long supported Medicaid Expansion, but what I learned in those meetings -- particularly testimony from Montana and Ohio -- convinced me further. Montana saw substantial job growth, household incomes rise, and improved health outcomes for its state. Moreover, the vast majority of the expansion population remained on the program for less than two years -- citing better employment with benefits as the primary reason

for leaving. To me, this demonstrates that Medicaid Expansion serves as a stabilizing force in times of crisis." (Jason Probst, "OPINION: Opening Access For Kansans," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/11/20)

In 2022, Probst Was The Lead Sponsor Of A Constitutional Amendment To Expand Medicaid

In January 2022, Probst Was The Lead Sponsor Of A Constitutional Amendment To Expand Medicaid. "Kansans could see two new issues on the ballot in November 2022: marijuana legalization and Medicaid expansion. On Thursday, Jan. 6, Kansas House Democrats announced their introduction of three amendments to the Kansas Constitution which would expand Medicaid and legalize medical marijuana as well as recreational marijuana. According to House Democrats, Kansans want legalized marijuana and need easy access to affordable health care. They said the amendments instruct the legislature to enact new laws for the legalization and expansion by July 1, 2023. "The legislature fails to expand Medicaid, and in the meantime, tens of thousands of Kansans suffer from inaction. It's time for Kansas to catch up. It's past time for us to listen to our constituents," said House Democratic Leader Tom Sawyer. "Passing these constitutional amendments puts them up for adoption on the November ballot. Every voting Kansan will have their voice heard." House Dems said renewed hospital funding and access to care will revitalize western and rural Kansans. Those looking for medical relief will no longer have to travel across state lines to purchase marijuana, which they said would keep more taxpayer dollars in the state's economy. The party also said corporations and businesses would see greater success in recruiting employees if marijuana were to be legalized in the state. House Dems said it's simple - Medicaid expansion and legalized marijuana are pro-business and pro-growth policies. "House and Senate Republicans have gone on and on for years about how crucial it is for Kansans to have a direct say on important matters in our state. When it comes to violating the Constitutional rights of women, they couldn't put their question to voters fast enough. Despite the longstanding and overwhelming support from Kansans for Medicaid expansion and reform of our marijuana laws, Republicans have done everything in their power to block any meaningful discussion on these policies," said Assistant Democratic Leader Jason Probst, lead sponsor of the amendments. "During the upcoming legislative session, House and Senate Republicans will have an opportunity to demonstrate that they honestly value and trust the voters of Kansas to decide what's best for the state, or if they simply support public votes when it's politically advantageous to their re-election campaigns." If passed in the Kansas Legislature, the amendments to legalize recreational and medicinal marijuana as well as expand Medicaid would be put to a vote on the November 2022 ballot." (CBS-12 KWCH, 1/6/22)

PROBST OPPOSES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

In February 2021, Probst Derided A Proposal To Restore The Legislature's Power To Revoke Regulations Issued By State Agencies In Light Of COVID-19 As A "Power Grab"

In February 2021, Probst Derided A Proposal To Restore The Legislature's Power To Revoke Regulations Issued By State Agencies In Light Of COVID-19 As A "Power Grab."

"GOP Attorney General Derek Schmidt and top Republican lawmakers outlined a proposal that would amend the state constitution to restore the GOP-controlled Legislature's power to revoke regulations issued by state agencies. A state law once gave lawmakers that power, but the Kansas Supreme Court struck it down in 1984, declaring that it overstepped the Legislature's authority under the state constitution. The proposal is the latest in a series of measures aimed at curbing the governor's power, as Republicans also try to build a case against Kelly's reelection in 2022, with Schmidt widely considered a potential candidate for governor. GOP lawmakers have intensified their criticism of Kelly in recent weeks over what they view as the state's flawed distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and over the Department of Labor's struggle to deliver benefits to jobless workers and combat fraudulent unemployment claims. "Kansans are tried of excuses, and that's all we're getting," House Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr., an Olathe Republican, said after a Statehouse news conference unveiling the latest proposal. "Oversight seems to be the solution." Other Democratic governors, particularly in North Carolina and Wisconsin, also have faced curbs on their power by Republican legislatures. Kelly was forced last year to accept local control over pandemic restrictions to keep a state of emergency in place. "The pandemic has really, I think, ratcheted up these party warfare tensions over government power in your divided-government states like Kansas," said University of Kansas political scientist Patrick Miller. A Kansas House committee hopes to vote Thursday on a bill that would give lawmakers more control over upgrades of the state Department of Labor's computer system. Lawmakers also are pursuing bills that would create an office to monitor the state's foster care system and report to them, and would strip the governor of the power to fill vacancies in the state treasurer's and insurance commissioner's offices. The latest proposal would go on the ballot for voters' potential approval in November 2022 if both chambers approve it by two-thirds majorities. Republicans have supermajorities in both the House and Senate. "This is a complete power grab and a complete overreach," said Democratic state Rep. Jason Probst, of Hutchinson. Kelly spokesperson Sam Coleman said the new proposal "is further proof that Republican leaders have no interest in doing the serious work" of helping Kansas recover from the pandemic." ("GOP Officials Launch New Effort To Rein In Kansas Governor," *The Associated Press*, 2/23/21)

In 2021, Probst Voted Against A Resolution That "Strengthens Individual Liberties By Preventing Gov. Kelly From Implementing Excessive One-Size-Fits-All Mask Mandates"

The American Conservative Union "Supports Protecting Constitutional Rights, Supports The Ability Of Americans To Manage Their Own Risk Related To Illnesses… And Supported This Resolution"

In 2021, Probst Voted Nay On HR 6015, "Urging The Legislative Coordinating Council To Revoke Any Executive Order Issued By The Governor Mandating Face Coverings If Such An Executive Order Is Issued While The Legislature Is Adjourned." (HR 6015, Passed (84 - 39), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/30/21, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Urge the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) to revoke any executive order issued by the Governor pursuant to the Kansas Emergency Management Act establishing a face coverings protocol, if such executive order is issued by the Governor while the

Legislature is not in Session or is adjourned for three or more days during the Legislative Session. The resolution directs the Chief Clerk of the House to send an enrolled copy of the resolution to the chairperson of the LCC." (HR 6015)

ACU: HR 6015 "Strengthens Individual Liberties By Preventing Gov. Kelly From Implementing Excessive One-Size-Fits-All Mask Mandates." "This resolution strengthens individual liberties by preventing Gov. Kelly from implementing excessive one-size-fits-all mask mandates. Instead, this resolution maintains that local governments maintain the legal authority to take any action related to face coverings deemed necessary to protect public safety." (American Conservative Union, 2021)

The American Conservative Union "Supports Protecting Constitutional Rights, Supports The Ability Of Americans To Manage Their Own Risk Related To Illnesses… And Supported This Resolution." "ACU supports protecting constitutional rights, supports the ability of Americans to manage their own risk related to illnesses, believes that many of government's reactions to COVID-19 have done more harm than good and supported this resolution. The House passed the resolution on March 30, 2021 by a vote of 84-39." (American Conservative Union, 2021)

In 2021, Probst Voted Against Legislation That Modifies The Procedure For Declaring And Extending A State Of Emergency, Provides The Legislature Greater Oversight Of The Governor's Orders, And "Prohibits The Governor And State Board Of Education From Closing Private Schools During An Emergency"

In 2021, Probst Voted Nay On HB 2416, "An Act Concerning Public Health; Requiring Compensation For The Use, Restriction On Use, Damage, Loss Or Destruction Of Property As A Result Of Certain Governmental Actions." (HB 2416, Passed (81 - 40), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/4/21, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Would create law regarding compensation for the use, restriction of use, loss, or destruction of property as a result of governmental actions related to the prevention of or response to contagious or infectious disease. The bill also would amend law related to property tax relief for businesses affected by governmental shutdowns or restrictions related to certain emergencies and would enact the COVID-19 Retail Storefront Property Tax Relief Act." (HB 2416)

ACU: HB 2416 "Provides A Legislative Check On Executive Branch Emergency Power Which Gov. Kelly Has Abused Throughout The COVID-19 Pandemic." "This bill provides a legislative check on executive branch emergency power which Gov. Kelly has abused throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill modifies the procedure for declaring and extending a state of disaster emergency, while also providing the legislature greater oversight of the Governor's orders. Additionally, the bill prohibits the Governor and State Board of Education from closing private schools during an emergency." (American Conservative Union, 2021)

The American Conservative Union "Supports Protecting Constitutional Rights, Supports The Ability Of Americans To Manage Their Own Risk Related To Illnesses… And Supported This Bill." "ACU supports protecting constitutional rights, supports the ability of

Americans to manage their own risk related to illnesses, believes that many of government's reactions to COVID-19 have done more harm than good and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 4, 2021 by a vote of 81-40. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)" (American Conservative Union, 2021)

Notably, In 2020, Probst Supported An Amendment That "Would Place Unreasonable New Liabilities On Taxpayers Pertaining To The Contraction Of [Covid] And Death Of State Department Of Corrections Employees"

In 2020, Probst Voted Yea On H Amdt 9150 To HB 2016, "An Act Concerning Governmental Response To The 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic In Kansas." (H Amdt 9150 To HB 2016, Failed (57 - 63), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 6/3/20, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "Where the employer and employee or ~~workman~~ worker are subject by law or election to the provisions of the ~~workmen's~~ workers compensation act, the disablement or death of an employee or ~~workman~~ worker resulting from an occupational disease as defined in this section shall be treated as the happening of an injury by accident, and the employee or ~~workman~~ worker or, in case of death, ~~his~~ the employee's or worker's dependents shall be entitled to compensation for such disablement or death resulting from an occupational disease, in accordance with the provisions of the ~~workmen's~~ workers compensation act as in cases of injuries by accident ~~which~~ that are compensable thereunder, except as specifically provided otherwise for occupational diseases, including as provided for the occupational disease of COVID-19 pursuant to subsection (g)." (H Amdt 9150 To HB 2016)

ACU: The Pittman Amendment To HB 2016 "Would Place Unreasonable New Liabilities On Taxpayers Pertaining To The Contraction Of The Virus And Death Of State Department Of Corrections Employees." "The Pittman (ACUF Lifetime 40%) amendment (9150) to the Chinese coronavirus (COVID-19) compromise response bill would place unreasonable new liabilities on taxpayers pertaining to the contraction of the virus and death of state Department of Corrections employees. Specifically, the amendment would amend the Workers Compensation Act to create a "rebuttable presumption" that a correctional employee who dies from COVID-19 contracted the virus due to their employment. As a result, taxpayers would face the difficult burden of proof to show that the contraction was not due to employment but from another aspect of an employee's public or private life." (American Conservative Union, 2020)

PROBST PARTICIPATED IN AN ADVANCED VACCINATION PROGRAM

In January 2021, Probst Announced His Intention To Participate In The Expedited Vaccination Program For State Legislators

In January 2021, Probst Announced His Intention To Participate In The Expedited Vaccination Program For State Legislators. "Sen. J.R. Claeys appreciates urgency of a plan to offer COVID-19 vaccine to the Kansas Legislature's members and staff, but won't likely take advantage of the expedited distribution program. "I don't anticipate cutting in line. I don't think

it's that long I will have to wait anyway," said Claeys, a 42-year-old Salina lawmaker willing to await the phased delivery of vaccine. "I certainly wouldn't begrudge anyone who did, especially those in high-risk categories." Under an initiative authorized by Gov. Laura Kelly and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the 165 state legislators and the array of statehouse staff will be eligible for vaccination against the coronavirus. A clinic at the Nickell Armory Gym in Topeka will be used Feb. 2-4 to handle appointments for most individuals working daily at the Capitol. Rep. Jason Probst, a Hutchinson Democrat, said conversations with statehouse employees fearful of catching COVID-19 while at the Capitol convinced him to be part of the vaccination program. He said several staff members had indicated they were wary of legislators who refused to wear masks or social distance while conducting legislative activities. "I had conversations with staff members in this building who are terribly concerned," said Probst, the assistant minority leader in the House. "More concerned that I've ever seen them about anything before. We have in this building some people who are obstinate and refuse to wear a mask or take any safety precautions. It's completely unfair to staff in this building who are just trying to do their jobs, just trying to make a living, and get through this year healthy.'" ("Vaccine Program For State Legislators: Savvy Maneuver Or Line-Jumping?; Members, Staff Of Kansas Legislature Eligible For Shots In Early February," *Parsons Sun*, 1/26/21)

PROBST OPPOSES SCHOOL CHOICE

In 2014, Probst Criticized Vouchers For Private Schools And Claimed "Such Policies Never Will Provide An Adequate And Equitable Public Education For All Kansas Children"

In May 2014, Probst Criticized Vouchers For Private Schools And Claimed "Such Policies Never Will Provide An Adequate And Equitable Public Education For All Kansas Children." "Furthermore, the world is changing, and the education system must change with it if we're to properly prepare students for the challenges of adult life. We need a handful of districts to experiment, to try new teaching methods and escape this harmful cycle of teaching to a test that neither advances a student's education nor proves that the student has learned anything. Experimentation helps us learn how to teach, eliminates wasteful practices and helps uncover effective alternatives. More of the same will get us more of the same, and we've made scant progress toward reinventing the way we teach our children. The answer to the education issue isn't to keep the status quo. And it's not vouchers for private schools or corporate tax credits supported by big special interest groups, because such policies never will provide an adequate and equitable public education for all Kansas children. Innovative school districts might not hold the end solution for improving education, but they certainly are places where we can begin to solve the equation." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Innovative Education," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/15/14)

In 2014, Probst Regarded A Measure Attached To Kansas' Education Funding Bill To Allow A 70-Percent State Tax Credit If They Offer Scholarships To At-Risk Students Who Move To Private Schools To Be "Particularly Troubling"

In April 2014, Probst Regarded A Measure Attached To Kansas' Education Funding Bill To Allow A 70-Percent State Tax Credit If They Offer Scholarships To At-Risk Students Who Move To Private Schools To Be "Particularly Troubling." "Had it not been for that

stalwart coalition of moderate House Republicans and Democrats, and the hundreds of teachers and education supporters who filled the Statehouse over the weekend, Kansas public education would look much different going forward. Those moderates, who are almost certain to be attacked with primary opponents in August, showed the courage and commitment to stand up to the Kansas Chamber, Americans for Prosperity and the Kansas Policy Institute and their desire to dismantle public education. Nevertheless, under intense pressure from those special interests and legislative leadership, several members changed their votes late Sunday night, and the bill passed the House by a vote of 63-57. It now awaits the governor's signature. Two elements of the bill are particularly troubling. One creates a $10 million-a-year corporate welfare program in support of private education. It allows large companies to enjoy a 70-percent credit against their state tax liability if they offer scholarships to at-risk students who move to private schools. This has nothing at all to do with public education equity; rather it creates a mechanism to damage the finance structure for public schools." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Selling Education," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/7/14)

PROBST CRITICIZED COMMON CORE OPPONENTS

In 2013, Probst Criticized Opponents Of Common Core For Wasting Time On "Mythical Problems"

In August 2013, Probst Criticized Opponents Of Common Core For Wasting Time On "Mythical Problems." "Some political groups and Kansas lawmakers who are pushing against the adoption of Common Core Standards in public schools could use a dose of education, and perhaps something to refresh their memories. Common Core standards have been adopted as a way to measure student progress and achievement in English language arts and math in 45 states. They are, more or less, the new and improved version of No Child Left Behind, which was one of the signature initiatives of former President George W. Bush. It is a state-led effort, developed by the National Governor's Association, along with education experts throughout the nation. Its aim is to establish benchmarks that states can use to ensure students have the necessary skills to enter college or the work force. It was not developed by the federal government and is not a sinister plot to nationalize the country's public education system. It's an effort, much like NCLB, to improve educational outcomes for U.S. students -- and like NCLB, federal education dollars have been tied to adoption of the Common Core standards, which is not a new practice by the federal government. Yet, that didn't stop some lawmakers from attempting to derail Common Core at the end of the regular legislative session in Topeka. It didn't stop the creation of a group, Kansans Against Common Core, which hopes to remove Kansas as a participating state. And it didn't stop the local TEA Party group -- the Patriot Freedom Alliance -- from flying in a speaker from the Koch-funded Heartland Institute to provide misinformation about how Common Core is akin to Soviet-style Communism. Such groups might do the country's future a favor by working to find solutions to the country's education issues rather than drumming up an apocalyptic warning that serves no purpose beyond creating fear and distrust. The country's education system is in dire straits -- of that there is no doubt. American students are falling behind students from other modernized countries, and there's little evidence that trend will soon change. Some argue that it's a lack of funding, while others argue that public, taxpayer funded education has outlived its effectiveness. Yet the underlying problem is that teachers -- who simply want to help students

learn and prepare for the future -- often find themselves caught in a whirlpool of competing ideologies and the accompanying measurements, matrices and quality control tests that develop around the latest in teaching standards. Under NCLB, teachers spent far too much time and effort proving to state officials -- and eventually federal education officials -- that they were teaching and their students were learning. Common Core likely will come with its own load of unnecessary paperwork -- but it is no more a federal takeover of education than Bush's less vilified attempts at education reform. As long as groups like the Heartland Institute, Kansans Against Common Core and the local Patriot Freedom Alliance waste time on mythical problems, they fail to contribute anything meaningful to the real discussion that needs to happen about how to improve public education." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A Core Concern," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/9/13)

PROBST CRITICIZED MEASURES UNDERCUTTING TEACHER LABOR PROTECTIONS

In 2014, Probst Regarded A Measure Attached To Kansas' Education Funding Bill To Redefine "Teacher" So As To Reform Due Process Protections As "Particularly Troubling"

In April 2014, Probst Regarded A Measure Attached To Kansas' Education Funding Bill To Redefine "Teacher" So As To Reform Due Process Protections As "Particularly Troubling." "Two elements of the bill are particularly troubling. One creates a $10 million-a-year corporate welfare program in support of private education. It allows large companies to enjoy a 70-percent credit against their state tax liability if they offer scholarships to at-risk students who move to private schools. This has nothing at all to do with public education equity; rather it creates a mechanism to damage the finance structure for public schools. The second concerning component redefines "teacher" as a way to eliminate due process protections. And the concept of teacher tenure is a myth. The current due process for teachers simply ensures a written termination notice and the right to challenge the decision through review by a hearing officer. In fact the Kansas Association of School Boards reported that the state sees about 10 due process claims each year -- hardly a number that indicates a systemic problem that requires legislative action. The measure is little more than a way to break the teachers' union and silence those teachers who honestly educate and advocate for their students. Naturally, the lawmakers and their proxies who pushed this legislation will talk about how it increases educational choice, fully funds schools, offers property tax relief and gets rid of all those bad teachers that only conservative lawmakers can seem to find.." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Selling Education," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/7/14)

PROBST VOTED AGAINST AN ANTI-SANCTUARY CITY MEASURE

In March 2022, Probst Voted Against "HB 2717: Prohibiting Any Municipality From Preventing The Enforcement Of Federal Immigration Laws…"

In March 2022, Probst Voted Nay On HB 2717, "An Act Concerning Municipalities; Relating To Law Enforcement Agencies And Cooperation With Federal Officials Regarding Citizenship." (HB 2717, Passed (84 - 38), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/23/22, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Would prohibit municipalities from restricting law enforcement cooperation with federal authorities and would prohibit the use of municipal identification cards from being used to satisfy state proof of identity requirements, including for voter identification. The bill would also make technical changes." (HB 2717)

PROBST OPPOSED STRICTER ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT POLICIES

In 2012, Probst Criticized Arizona's Immigration Enforcement Law SB 10 Noting "An Arizona-Style Paper Checking Law Adds Another Level Of Divisiveness To Public Policy And Lawmaking"

In 2012, Probst Criticized Arizona's Immigration Enforcement Law SB 10 Noting "An Arizona-Style Paper Checking Law Adds Another Level Of Divisiveness To Public Policy And Lawmaking." "On the immigration front, Kobach has gained national attention for his work on "check your papers" laws in Arizona and Alabama, and as an adviser to former Presidential contender Mitt Romney. Lawmakers expect to review similar laws during the upcoming legislative session, as well as an E-verify system and a repeal of a 2004 law that grants Kansas immigrants in-state tuition rates at Kansas universities. Repeal of the tuition law would do little more than open a long-closed scar, while an Arizona-style paper checking law adds another level of divisiveness to public policy and lawmaking. On both fronts, however, Kobach has a receptive audience in the Kansas legislature, and will likely have little trouble realizing his agenda. That might be good for Kobach's larger political ambitions and his contract work for other states and cities, but it's uncertain how much good it will do Kansans." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Ambitious Agenda," *Hutchinson News*, 12/28/12)

PROBST HAS BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF OFFERING BENEFITS TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

In 2012, Probst Criticized Repealing A Law Granting Illegal Immigrants In-State Tuition Rates

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In A January 2022 Reddit AMA, Probst Noted "From The Research I've Done, It Looks Like 'Qualified Non-Citizens' Are Generally Eligible For Coverage Through Medicaid"

In A January 2022 Reddit AMA, Probst Noted "From The Research I've Done, It Looks Like "Qualified Non-Citizens" Are Generally Eligible For Coverage Through Medicaid." (Reddit, 1/12/22)

ixamnis · 3 mo. ago

I work for a FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) in Topeka, providing Health care to lower income Kansans (primarily). It always amazes me how many people fall through the cracks and who don't have any form of health care coverage. A few questions along these lines:

Do you have any data on the number of residents without health care coverage?

A number of my patients are immigrants (mostly from Mexico, but also other places). If we could expand Medicaid, could non-Citizen residents qualify for coverage? If not, what solutions do you have for these people? Kansas has a LOT of residents who are working and providing for their families who are not US Citizens, many who are here legally, but don't have health care coverage of any kind.

What do you think your chances are to get Medicaid expansion on the ballot (or through the legislature)? This has been an important issue for us for many years and it seems every time we make a few steps in that direction, it always gets torpedoed.

Thank you for the work you do.

7 Reply Give Award Share Report Save Follow

thatguyinhutch · 3 mo. ago

We commonly hear that between 145,000 to 160,000 people would qualify for Medicaid expansion. KHI reports that 9.1 percent of Kansans are uninsured. https://www.khi.org/assets/uploads/news/15012/annual_insurance_update_2021_(december_2021)_2.pdf

But I think those numbers don't tell the whole story. There are a lot of people working who don't have coverage. There are a lot of people who pay for insurance that they never use, because they can't afford the copays and deductibles, or the prescriptions they need.

I think the Medicaid amendment has a harder path than the marijuana provisions, because so many Rs are opposed to the idea of health coverage for working families who don't make much money. The resistance to getting this done has been one of the most frustrating things to me in my time here. It's inhumane. It doesn't make financial sense. And it doesn't support our healthcare infrastructure.

8 Reply Give Award Share Report Save Follow

thatguyinhutch · 3 mo. ago

Also, from the research I've done, it looks like "qualified non-citizens" are generally eligible for coverage through Medicaid.

5 Reply Give Award Share Report Save Follow

(Reddit, 1/12/22)

PROBST OPPOSED ENDING BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

In 2010, Probst Opposed Doing Away With Birthright Citizenship Contending It Set A "Dangerous Precedent"

In September 2010, Probst Opposed Doing Away With Birthright Citizenship Contending It Set A "Dangerous Precedent." "There's a big push underway in some circles to undo the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, claiming that it's an antiquated idea that has outlived its usefulness. That's the clause that ensures due process and equal protection of the law -- not to every citizen of the United States, but to every person who lives within the jurisdictional boundaries of the country -- and grants citizenship rights to any person born in the United States. The amendment was ratified in 1868, three years after the end of the Civil War. As the debate on immigration continues to take a front seat in the United States, serious talk is emerging about the need to do away with the 14th amendment. The clause pertained to recently freed slaves, some are arguing, and it's no longer needed in 2010. Today its benefits are extended to those who enter the United States illegally, and then have "anchor babies" to remain here, the argument goes. Proponents of such a change suggest that at least one parent should be a citizen in good standing before citizenship will be extended to any baby born in the United States. There is some degree of irony in the fact that those who want to change the 14th amendment generally fall in the ranks of those who repeatedly shout about the purity of the Constitution -- and how it should be viewed in its true, original form. Opening the door to change the Constitution on the whims of the current political environment is a dangerous precedent to set. What other amendments might seem outdated and useless at some point in the future -- the right to bear arms? The right against unlawful search and seizure, or a trial by a jury of one's peers? Depending on the time, and the political landscape, any one of those rights might be deemed unnecessary and an argument could be made that they, too, should be changed. Riling up the masses to change the Constitution for the popular political issue of the day is a policy that could backfire down the road. There are no doubt problems with U.S. immigration policy, as well as a foreign policy that has allowed drug cartels and rampant poverty to thrive in Mexico and Central America. Large U.S. corporations, too, exploit the cheap labor of illegal immigrants, and somehow manage to dodge any criticism while the citizenry's anger remains directed at immigrants, who most likely just want to raise their families in a safer, more prosperous environment. Those are problems that need to be addressed, and for which policy ought to be explored. Undoing a clause that allowed for the immigration of Kansas' large population of industrious Mennonites -- who brought with them a variety of wheat that helped increase wheat production in the state -- is a clear political maneuver that shouldn't result in a change to a document as deliberate as the U.S. Constitution." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Politically Driven Policy," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/17/10)

PROBST BACKS SEVERAL QUESTIONABLE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM POLICIES, FROM BAIL REFORM TO DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION

In 2015, Probst Called For A Reexamination Of Cash Bail Policies, Implicitly Criticizing Holding People In Jail On Minor Offenses If They Could Not Meet Bail

In October 2015, Probst Called For A Reexamination Of Cash Bail Policies, Implicitly Criticizing Holding People In Jail On Minor Offenses If They Could Not Meet Bail. "Ford County and Dodge City have become a target in a nationwide effort to end the practice of pauper's prisons -- those where people are held in jail on minor offenses if they can't come up with the money to post bail. But the city and county are by no means alone in the practice. Throughout Kansas, and the nation, cities arrest and detain people for violation of city ordinances, unless they have the means to pay their way out of jail. The practice has become far too common, and it has become far too accepted. The group Equal Justice Under Law has initiated a number of legal actions across the country, including the suit in Dodge City, with a hope of bringing the country's municipal courts and jails more in line with the ideals of the U.S. Constitution. No American's freedom should be determined solely on his or her ability to pay a fine, yet that is essentially what is happening in thousands of American cities. People are arrested, sometimes for nothing more serious than violation of a city ordinance. Those with means go free, while those without lose their freedoms, at least temporarily. This isn't how American justice is supposed to work. The iconic image of a blind Lady Justice loses all meaning when money is the primary element that determines a person's liberty. Largely in cases across the country, the courts are siding with attorneys for Equal Justice Under Law. While the suit has been lodged against Dodge City and Ford County, other municipal courts and county jails would do well to examine their policies before being challenged in court. The rulings from other courts tend to show that the practice of charging people for their freedom in such instances runs counter to the country's laws. And it certainly runs counter to the spirit of the U.S. Constitution and the idea that all men and women are viewed equally under the law, regardless of their station in life or their financial limitations." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Price Of Freedom," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/29/15)

In 2010, Probst Proposed Restoring Judicial Discretion In Sentencing For Certain Crimes, Such As Shoplifting, Rather Than Tying Judges To A Strict Penalty Matrix

In May 2010, Probst Proposed Restoring Judicial Discretion In Sentencing For Certain Crimes, Such As Shoplifting, Rather Than Tying Judges To A Strict Penalty Matrix. "The other side of the coin, however, is that some people who one day might walk the straight-and-narrow could be doomed to a pitiful existence thanks to an overly aggressive prosecution of a youthful indiscretion. Furthermore, aggressively prosecuting a shoplifter is a cost to taxpayers, taking time from the district attorney's office and likely requiring a taxpayer-paid defense attorney for the accused shoplifter. Should the case be taken to trial -- and the prospect of prison time almost assures that it will -- the District Court would spend resources hearing a case that might have been handled more efficiently. If the sentence is time in prison, then the cost to taxpayers rises dramatically. According to the 2009 annual report from the Kansas Department

of Corrections, it costs $24,745 a year to house an inmate. A three-year sentence for aggravated burglary means Kansas taxpayers will pay more than $74,000 to lock up a person who stole less than $1,000 in merchandise on several different occasions. That makes as little sense as allowing a thief to land 50 criminal convictions, yet still roam the grocery store aisles looking for five-finger discounts. Another factor is that Kansas prisons are nearly full, more laws are being drafted that carry longer prison terms, and our budget has no money to expand or build a new prison. Sending shoplifters to prison would only exacerbate that problem and force Kansas either to release other, potentially more dangerous criminals, or pay for a new facility. So what's the solution? Who really knows? Thievery is as old as mankind. But maybe Kansas should consider returning to local judges some of the power it removed in the 1990s. Currently, judges are bound by a sentencing grid from which they can't deviate much at all. A conviction for an aggravated burglary, factored by the defendant's criminal history, equals a predetermined amount of time in prison or probation, with little room for the judge to issue a sentence appropriate for each individual case. A little more latitude for judges to make the punishment fit the crime likely would be a better approach, because what we have now are two bad options -- either allowing shoplifters to roam relatively free from punishment or asking taxpayers to pay almost $25,000 a year for what amounts to petty thievery." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Cost Of Shoplifting," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/13/10)

Probst, In 2013: "Expanding The Diversion Program To Offenders Of Low-Level, Nonviolent Crimes Likewise Makes Good Sense"

Probst, In 2013: "Expanding The Diversion Program To Offenders Of Low-Level, Nonviolent Crimes Likewise Makes Good Sense. By Allowing "Small" Crimes -- Like Possession Of Marijuana -- To Go Through Diversion, The County Avoids The Trouble Of Prosecuting A Crime That Likely Will End With Fines, And Possibly Probation."
"Expanding the diversion program to offenders of low-level, nonviolent crimes likewise makes good sense. By allowing "small" crimes -- like possession of marijuana -- to go through diversion, the county avoids the trouble of prosecuting a crime that likely will end with fines, and possibly probation. The offender can resolve the case quickly, pay the diversion fee and move on with his or her life. In the process, the county raises money and realizes a savings when it avoids prosecution for a relatively minor offense. Schroeder suggested the additional revenue could be used to fund another full-time position in his office -- with duties split between diversion duties and processing/editing digital information that will be used in criminal trials. While staff additions in any county department typically raise concern among taxpayers, positions that are effectively self-funded tend to hold up better under scrutiny. Through the use of additional diversion funds, it's possible the district attorney's office could finance the additional position and still leave money in the county coffers. Perhaps more importantly, expanding the diversion program is a good tool to give good people -- who might find themselves in a temporary spot of trouble -- a way to avoid the trouble, expense and potentially long-lasting repercussions of a full-blown criminal proceeding. Instead, those who run afoul of the law in a minor way get a chance to clean up their act, while both the county and offender save money." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A Good Diversion," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/10/13)

In 2010, Probst Praised The Implementation Of Drug Courts For Defendants Facing Drug Possession Charges As An Alternative To The Criminal Court System

In July 2010, Probst Praised The Implementation Of Drug Courts For Defendants Facing Drug Possession Charges As An Alternative To The Criminal Court System. "A contingent of Reno County representatives has been visiting drug courts in other counties to learn more about the program and how to implement those ideas here. The drug court, while operating as part of the court system, focuses more on treatment and education than on punishment and prosecution. National statistics show that defendants who graduate from drug court are less likely to commit another offense and are more successful at managing their addiction to controlled substances. Rather than sending drug addicts to a near-capacity prison, drug court offers additional oversight for those who seek treatment. Additionally, the program won't cost the state or the county any more money. Since the introduction of SB 123, a law that requires treatment on a first offense for drug possession, the state has paid for offenders' treatment anyway. However, that treatment largely has been on the shoulders of the defendant, with only marginal oversight or help from the court. Taking a more active approach to treatment will increase the odds that the state's money is being well spent. Sending an addict out on his or her own to handle treatment isn't likely to be as successful as regularly following up with an addict to ensure that treatment is progressing as it should. A large number of criminal cases in Reno County stem from drug use, and many property crimes are committed in an effort to purchase drugs, which expands illegal drugs' reach into the community. It is a community problem that warrants a community response. Drug court provides that response. Those who simply have made an error in judgment and want to clean up and lead a productive and meaningful life will have the opportunity and help they need to reach that goal. Those who choose to spiral further down the path of drug addiction and crime will disregard the benefits of drug court and find their solution in the criminal courtroom and eventually prison." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Drug Court," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/9/10)

Probst: "Reno County Drug Court Is One Of The Real Success Stories To Surface In The Criminal Justice System Recently"

Probst: "Reno County Drug Court Is One Of The Real Success Stories To Surface In The Criminal Justice System Recently." "Reno County Drug Court is one of the real success stories to surface in the criminal justice system recently. With little more than a desire and a model to follow, a handful of dedicated people -- including judges, prosecutors and community corrections officials -- launched a program aimed at addressing drug addiction as an alternative to the cycle of incarceration and repeated offenses. This week, the upstart program received a boost with the announcement of a $106,987 grant from the U.S. Office of Justice Programs. The money will help the drug court handle up to 30 offenders at a time. Reno County also can qualify for two additional years of grants for the program. In drug court, offenders face more intense and frequent oversight and drug testing and appear in court every other week in an effort to keep them off of drugs, reduce imprisonment rates and help them establish a productive role in society. Over the long term, drug court holds the potential to reduce the local cost associated with drug cases, which often involve repeat offenses and eventual imprisonment. The infusion of grant money will help drug court hire a full-time coordinator and potentially another probation

officer to oversee participants. The money also will pay for recovery services, such as drug treatment, education and housing for offenders. Those who threw their support behind drug court deserve recognition for their efforts to address a critical need in Reno County and for looking beyond the traditional methods for solutions. Their success in securing resources is a testament both to their dedication and the validity of the program." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Money Well Spent," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/21/12)

In 2018, Probst Sponsored Legislation Abolishing The Death Penalty

In February 2018, Probst Sponsored Legislation Abolishing The Death Penalty. 'Topeka: Kansas Legislature has issued the following bill status: Status Spectrum: Bipartisan Bill Status: Introduced on February 12 2019 - 25% progression Action: 2019-02-19 - House Hearing: Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 1:30 PM Room 152-S Summary Abolishing the death penalty and creating the crime of aggravated murder. Sponsors Rep. Mark Schreiber [R] Rep. Barbara Ballard [D] Rep. John Carmichael [D] Rep. Lonnie Clark [R] Rep. Susan Concannon [R] Rep. Tom Cox [R] Rep. Pam Curtis [D] Rep. Diana Dierks [R] Rep. Brenda Dietrich [R] Rep. John Eplee [R] Rep. Broderick Henderson [D] Rep. Larry Hibbard [R] Rep. Dennis Highberger [D] Rep. Tim Hodge [D] Rep. Eileen Horn [D] Rep. Michael Houser [R] Rep. Jan Kessinger [R] Rep. Annie Kuether [D] Rep. Martin Long [R] Rep. J.C. Moore [R] Rep. Monica Murnan [D] Rep. Cindy Neighbor [D] Rep. KC Ohaebosim [D] Rep. Brett Parker [D] Rep. Jason Probst [D] Rep. Adam Smith [R] Rep. Jerry Stogsdill [D] Rep. Bill Sutton [R] Rep. Barbara Wasinger [R] Rep. Valdenia Winn [D] Rep. Kathy Wolfe Moore [D] Rep. Rui Xu [D]." (Kansas Legislature, 2/18/19)

PROBST HAS CRITICIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT, ESPECIALLY THE USE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT

In 2014, Probst Voiced Criticism Of Law Enforcement Noting "Over Time That Appreciation [For Police] Morphed Into A Mistaken Notion That Every Police Officer Is A Hero Who Is Above Reproach Or Questioning…"

Probst: "The Public Has Allowed The Country's Law Enforcement Departments To Shield Themselves From Legitimate Scrutiny By Hiding Behind The Need For Safety, Security Or An Ongoing Investigation"

Probst Voiced Criticism Of Law Enforcement Noting "Over Time That Appreciation [For Police] Morphed Into A Mistaken Notion That Every Police Officer Is A Hero Who Is Above Reproach Or Questioning. And The Public Has Allowed The Country's Law Enforcement Departments To Shield Themselves From Legitimate Scrutiny By Hiding Behind The Need For Safety, Security Or An Ongoing Investigation." "The events in Ferguson, Mo., should make everyone pause and ask what is going on today in America. Why does a police department for a suburb of 21,000 people lack in-car cameras for its police department yet possess enough riot gear, high-powered assault rifles and armored personnel vehicles to launch a small war? Why does this police department find it necessary to launch canisters of tear gas and rubber bullets at citizens who are exercising their right to assemble? Why has the Federal Aviation Administration declared a no-fly zone over the area, and why are

they arresting journalists who are covering the unfolding events and writing their stories from the local McDonald's? At least part of the answer can be found by examining our post 9-11 America. Since the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, several collective shifts have occurred in the nation that have given root to what's happening in Ferguson, Mo. First, much of this country developed a sense of appreciation for the police, firefighters and first responders who rushed toward the World Trade Center while everyone else was running away. Such respect and admiration was and is justified. But over time that appreciation morphed into a mistaken notion that every police officer is a hero who is above reproach or questioning. And the public has allowed the country's law enforcement departments to shield themselves from legitimate scrutiny by hiding behind the need for safety, security or an ongoing investigation." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: False Security," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/14/14)

Probst Criticized The Purchase Of Military Gear By Police Departments And Argued "Equipment Designed To Repel Terrorists, Used Against Ordinary Americans, Is Nothing Short Of Obscene"

Probst Criticized The Purchase Of Military Gear By Police Departments And Argued "Equipment Designed To Repel Terrorists, Used Against Ordinary Americans, Is Nothing Short Of Obscene." "Secondly, we created the Department of Homeland Security, which during the past decade has funneled billions of dollars to local police departments, which have in turn used the money to purchase military gear with the idea that it might be needed if ever some small town in middle America falls under a terrorist attack. But equipment designed to repel terrorists, used against ordinary Americans, is nothing short of obscene. In the case of Ferguson, money to purchase the armored vehicles and riot gear would have been better spent on cameras for the department's cruisers, because video evidence of the altercation between an unnamed officer and Michael Brown might have provided some answers that could have stemmed the public's anger over the young man's death. Instead, that federal tax money was used to purchase war zone gear that today is being used to keep people in line." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: False Security," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/14/14)

- **Probst: "Our Reaction Has Been To Spend Money We Didn't Have On Military Equipment For Police Departments That Didn't Need It. Then, When Something Bad Happens And The Citizens Rise Up In Protest, We Use That Equipment To Assuage Our Fears By Squashing Anything That Smacks Of Dissent."** "The America of today seems to be terrified, and of what we're not entirely sure. But 9-11 seemingly ripped our innocence from us as a nation and made us realize that we are vulnerable. And our reaction has been to spend money we didn't have on military equipment for police departments that didn't need it. Then, when something bad happens and the citizens rise up in protest, we use that equipment to assuage our fears by squashing anything that smacks of dissent. That cannot be the answer, because it will only lead to more latent anger from the oppressed and more unjustified fear from those who have little reason to be so fearful. And right now there's no better example of how fear and anger collide to create an unmitigated disaster than in Ferguson, Mo." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: False Security," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/14/14)

- **Probst: "We Have Militarized Police Forces Across The Country, Because We Are Afraid That An Islamist Jihadist Might Decide To Wage War On A Small Country Town In The Middle Of Nowhere."** "This is how the corrosive nature of fear decays all that is good about America. Instead of recognizing a student who seemingly wanted nothing more than to make a good impression on his teacher, fear brought out the worst, and a promising, bright and innocent kid was treated like a terrorist. Unfortunately, this is part and parcel of American life today. We have abandoned the hope of a bright future and replaced it with an angry brand of fear that has made America much less safe today than it was in the days before 9/11. We have granted the government the authority to spy on its citizens, in violation of the U.S. Constitution, because we were afraid and thought it might make us safe. We have militarized police forces across the country, because we are afraid that an Islamist jihadist might decide to wage war on a small country town in the middle of nowhere. We see terror everywhere we look, and, as a result, we have allowed that view to erode our freedom, our passion and our advancement." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Feeding Fear," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/19/15)

In 2013, Probst Noted That Measures To Allow Law Enforcement To Secure Warrants Ahead Of A Crime Were "Concerning"

In May 2013, Probst Noted That Measures To Allow Law Enforcement To Secure Warrants Ahead Of A Crime Were "Concerning." "More concerning are changes that loosen the requirements for securing warrants. Now, instead of proving that a crime has been committed, law enforcement officials will be allowed to secure a warrant in advance of a crime. While law enforcement says the measure is a time saver that will allow them to better fight criminal activity and that it's not a significant change to current protocol, it's a change that will require oversight by the public. Likewise, another change allows local prosecutors to more easily seat a grand jury to hear evidence in criminal cases. In some parts of the state, active use of a grand jury could be an effective tool to bring to court cases that languish under the ordinary process. Yet, thanks to the secretive nature of the grand jury, there is legitimate concern the legal mechanism could be used to keep secret -- even from the defendant -- otherwise public information." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Keeping Watch," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/2/13)

PROBST CALLS FOR LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

In 2011, Probst Argued In Favor Of Legalizing Marijuana

In 2011, Probst Argued In Favor Of Legalizing Marijuana. "That fact highlights the other side of the argument about illegal drugs -- the need to legalize marijuana. Most of the drugs that legislators have been attempting to ban derive their demand from the desire to circumvent the criminalization of marijuana. Were "pot" legalized, the demand for synthetic forms of the drug would dry up, and the need to chase the next synthetic form of "pot" would end. Legislators could stop spending time each session writing new laws against new drugs, and police could quit investing time and resources keeping up with new synthetic drugs. Instead, the state could heavily tax marijuana, like it does tobacco and alcohol, and generated much-needed new revenue. As long as people want to smoke marijuana, and as long as it is illegal, lawmakers, police and prosecutors will have to run to stay ahead of the curve. Legalizing a substance that

arguably isn't any more dangerous than alcohol would end a losing battle and allow for tougher laws on the more harmful synthetic varieties." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Banning Potpourri," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/25/11)

Probst: "It Is Well Past Time That Kansas Stop Treating Possession Of Marijuana As A Serious Offense. Our Prisons Are Bulging At The Seams, And The Arrest, Prosecution And Incarceration Of Those In Possession Of Marijuana Is A Drain On Every Taxpayer In The State"

Probst: "It Is Well Past Time That Kansas Stop Treating Possession Of Marijuana As A Serious Offense. Our Prisons Are Bulging At The Seams, And The Arrest, Prosecution And Incarceration Of Those In Possession Of Marijuana Is A Drain On Every Taxpayer In The State." "In the midst of a legislative session filled with questionable bills, proposed tax increases and fundamental changes to the way Kansas finances public schools, there's a piece of common sense wafting down from Topeka. House Bill 2049 would lessen the penalties for marijuana offenses to misdemeanors for the first two offenses, before reaching a felony on the third offense. Current law offers a break on the first offense but turns the second offense to a serious crime with the potential for a prison sentence. The bill also would legalize the medicinal use of hemp oil in certain cases and authorizes research on industrial use of hemp. The measure passed the House 81-36. It is well past time that Kansas stop treating possession of marijuana as a serious offense. Our prisons are bulging at the seams, and the arrest, prosecution and incarceration of those in possession of marijuana is a drain on every taxpayer in the state. Furthermore, there is no reason to deny a reasonable and well-researched treatment method for seizures simply because some people's sensibilities are offended." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Light In Topeka," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/8/15)

In 2022, Probst Was The Lead Sponsor Of Constitutional Amendments To Legalize Recreational And Medical Marijuana

In January 2022, Probst Was The Lead Sponsor Of Constitutional Amendments To Legalize Recreational And Medical Marijuana. "Kansans could see two new issues on the ballot in November 2022: marijuana legalization and Medicaid expansion. On Thursday, Jan. 6, Kansas House Democrats announced their introduction of three amendments to the Kansas Constitution which would expand Medicaid and legalize medical marijuana as well as recreational marijuana. According to House Democrats, Kansans want legalized marijuana and need easy access to affordable health care. They said the amendments instruct the legislature to enact new laws for the legalization and expansion by July 1, 2023. "The legislature fails to expand Medicaid, and in the meantime, tens of thousands of Kansans suffer from inaction. It's time for Kansas to catch up. It's past time for us to listen to our constituents," said House Democratic Leader Tom Sawyer. "Passing these constitutional amendments puts them up for adoption on the November ballot. Every voting Kansan will have their voice heard." House Dems said renewed hospital funding and access to care will revitalize western and rural Kansans. Those looking for medical relief will no longer have to travel across state lines to purchase marijuana, which they said would keep more taxpayer dollars in the state's economy. The party also said corporations and businesses would see greater success in recruiting employees if marijuana were to be legalized in the state. House Dems said it's simple - Medicaid expansion

and legalized marijuana are pro-business and pro-growth policies. "House and Senate Republicans have gone on and on for years about how crucial it is for Kansans to have a direct say on important matters in our state. When it comes to violating the Constitutional rights of women, they couldn't put their question to voters fast enough. Despite the longstanding and overwhelming support from Kansans for Medicaid expansion and reform of our marijuana laws, Republicans have done everything in their power to block any meaningful discussion on these policies," said Assistant Democratic Leader Jason Probst, lead sponsor of the amendments. "During the upcoming legislative session, House and Senate Republicans will have an opportunity to demonstrate that they honestly value and trust the voters of Kansas to decide what's best for the state, or if they simply support public votes when it's politically advantageous to their re-election campaigns." If passed in the Kansas Legislature, the amendments to legalize recreational and medicinal marijuana as well as expand Medicaid would be put to a vote on the November 2022 ballot." (CBS-12 KWCH, 1/6/22)

PROBST HAS BROADLY BEEN OPEN TO THE LEGALIZATION OF DRUGS

In 2015, Probst Urged That Legalization Of Drugs Be Considered As Part Of The Conversation

In October 2015, Probst Urged That Legalization Of Drugs Be Considered As Part Of The Conversation. "It is time to acknowledge all the signs of failure; it is time to try a different approach to the drug epidemic that plagues our communities, our state and our country. Drugs haven't always been illegal. There was a time in American history when drug use and addiction were treated as a health concern. Addicts received medical care and, in some cases, prescriptions for low doses of drugs to control their addictions. Much like the "functioning alcoholics" many of us know, those addicts held down jobs, maintained households and healthy relationships. Making drugs illegal didn't stop drug use. It created a lucrative black market, where violence reigns, and it turned addiction or youthful experimentation into a crime. A teenager convicted of a drug crime is ineligible for financial aid for higher education -- altering the future of what might have been a bright student headed toward a prosperous future. Drug prohibition is cost-prohibitive. It consumes the resources of police, prosecutors and our judicial system. Yet, the biggest price of prohibition can be found in the trail of lives ruined by a criminal conviction that leads to prison, probation, continued drug abuse, ostracism and ongoing criminal behavior. We've seen this problem before. Prohibition of alcohol began in 1919, but problems with enforcement and the lure of liquor-related economic activity led to its repeal by 1933. Today, the industry is legal but heavily taxed and regulated. It now provides revenue, must meet quality standards, and alcohol is difficult for minors to purchase. The logic around drug prohibition is faulty. In other areas -- such as gun control -- we generally reject the idea that prohibition of any sort would curb gun-related violence. We accept that most people obey the law and use their firearms responsibly. All efforts to curb access to guns are met with fierce resistance, yet that logic doesn't extend to other areas of law that are likewise questionable or have outlived their usefulness. Heitschmidt is right. Prohibition might not be the only answer, but it must be part of the conversation. He's also right that drug prohibition isn't a law enforcement problem. It is a

political problem because prohibition and incarceration are politically popular. Meanwhile, communities such as Hutchinson have little flexibility to draft alternative approaches to the unique issues locally -- restricted in their approach to the laws drafted by people in Topeka who want to tell voters they are tough on crime, even if their toughness has proved to be a failure. And it has been an absolute failure. The antidrug campaigns ring hollow. Incarceration has swollen our prisons and consumed our tax dollars. The black market has given rise to violent criminals and forced police to respond with an alarming military approach. All the while, drug use -- and all its associated crime and pain -- continues unabated and undeterred by generations of prohibition." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: LEAP Of Faith," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/23/15)

PROBST CRITICIZED ENHANCED INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

In 2016, Probst Cautioned That Mike Pompeo's Selection As CIA Director Merited Some Skepticism Due To His Support For Enhanced Surveillance Practices

In November 2016, Probst Cautioned That Mike Pompeo's Selection As CIA Director Merited Some Skepticism Due To His Support For Enhanced Surveillance Practices. "Pompeo also has a strong record in support of measures designed to thwart and prevent planned terrorist attacks around the globe. He's defended Bush-era policies, including the use of "advanced interrogation techniques," including waterboarding. And while such methods raised criticism, the intelligence community largely has supported such measures, claiming they produced good information that prevented additional attacks on American soil. However, there are spots worthy of caution. Pompeo supports enhanced surveillance of American citizens, abroad and at home. He opposed the USA Freedom Act, which prevented the U.S. government from collected massive amounts of metadata from citizens and instead required a court order to gather information on Americans." (Jason Probst, "Mike Pompeo Encouraging Choice For CIA," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/26/16)

PROBST'S ON SOCIAL ISSUES AND PARTISAN POLITICS

Probst appears to be unapologetically pro-abortion and has cast several votes to substantiate that posture. Probst has been steadfast in his opposition to the concept of personhood. Probst has also sponsored legislation requiring health insurance plans to cover contraceptives. Probst has indicated at least some willingness to provide taxpayer backed funding for abortion. In 2019, Probst voted against an amendment that "would prevent funds from going to abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood." In 2021, Probst voted against "an amendment to the state constitution that would clarify that no one has the right to take the life of an unborn child and that taxpayers do not have an obligation to fund the practice."

Probst has backed efforts to expand anti-discrimination regulations often objected to by individual organizations based on religious grounds. Probst has been critical of efforts to promote religious expression and values.

In June 2020, Probst participated in a 'Black Lives Matter' rally and implicitly recognized that he benefitted from his privileges as a white man. In 2021, Probst used social media to describe concerns about 'critical race theory' as "the new boogeyman to scare voters."

On the Second Amendment, Probst has supported efforts to limit rights surrounding firearms. In 2015, Probst slammed constitutional carry laws contending "such a move is nothing short of irresponsible and unnecessary… and it does nothing to protect the aim of the constitutional right to own firearms." Probst has publicly criticized the NRA and has urged a review of Kansas' 'stand your ground' law. In 2018, Probst voted for an amendment that "imposes a new $1 fee on the retail sale of every firearm and 1 cent fee on each round of ammunition."

Probst has been dismissive of voter fraud, has criticized efforts to ensure election integrity, and has signaled an openness to radical voting reforms.

Probst appears to be a supporter of self-described Democratic Socialist Bernie Sanders. In 2015, Probst urged his readers to learn about Sanders and his policies. Finally, Probst has been critical of Trump and at times has used social media to promote overly partisan content.

PROBST OPPOSES PERSONHOOD, HAS SIGNALED PRO-CHOICE LEANINGS, AND HAS DEFENDED PLANNED PARENTHOOD

In 2014, Probst Criticized An Amendment Adding Personhood Concepts To A Bill Issuing A Certificate Of Birth Resulting In Still Birth

In March 2014, Probst Criticized An Amendment Adding Personhood Concepts To A Bill Issuing A Certificate Of Birth Resulting In Still Birth. "Where Doll's bill sought to issue a certificate of stillborn birth for pregnancies beyond 20 weeks, the Senate committee expanded that to include issuance of a certificate at any stage of pregnancy. And the committee's amendments changed some language to align more closely with personhood definitions commonly supported by the anti-abortion community. The amendment also included a mandatory reporting requirement for all miscarried pregnancies in the state. Suspend for a moment individual ideas about abortion and consider Doll's legislation absent the emotionally-

charged discussion surrounding that debate. The bill was a simple and apolitical effort to do some good for a constituent. There is honor and decency in such an attempt, and it shows a sadly unfamiliar effort to use a seat of power to help the common Kansan. There might be debate about whether such a bill is needed, but there can be no debate that the bill, in its original form, was drafted and submitted with the best of intentions. Those good intentions, however, have been muddied by Pilcher-Cook's ceaseless efforts to force her worldview on the entire state of Kansas. In this case, she converted a noncontroversial bill designed to offer solace to grieving couples into a highly political piece of legislation that carries the weight and disagreement of a decades-old debate." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Political Alteration," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/25/14)

In 2019, Probst Noted He Would Not Support A Personhood Amendment

In February 2019, Probst Noted He Would Not Support A Personhood Amendment. "Seiwert and Waggoner want the Legislature, not the court, to determine adequate funding levels for K-12 schools. Berger thinks without a definition of "suitable" funding, the issue is prone to litigation. Probst does not want to prevent the courts from having a role, because legislators could make school funding decisions based on their re-election, he said. "By and large, lawmakers don't tend to see beyond their own election," Probst said. Thimesch doubts Gov. Kelly will get as much additional school funding as she wants." ("Reno Legislators Regard Wind Turbine Sites Local Decision," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/3/19)

In 2019, Probst Is Known To Have Sponsored Legislation Requiring Health Insurance Plans To Cover Contraceptives

In 2019, Probst Is Known To Have Sponsored Legislation Requiring Health Insurance Plans To Cover Contraceptives. "Topeka: Kansas Legislature has issued the following bill status: Status Spectrum: Strong Partisan Bill (Democrat 12-1) Status: Introduced on February 4 2019 - 25% progression Action: 2019-02-04 - House Referred to Committee on Insurance Summary Requiring health insurance plans to cover contraceptives. Sponsors Rep. Brett Parker [D] Rep. David Benson [D] Rep. Sydney Carlin [D] Rep. Stephanie Clayton [R] Rep. Eileen Horn [D] Rep. Annie Kuether [D] Rep. Jeff Pittman [D] Rep. Jason Probst [D] Rep. Susan Ruiz [D] Rep. Jerry Stogsdill [D] Rep. Freda Warfield [D] Rep. Brandon Woodard [D] Rep. Rui Xu [D]." (Kansas Legislature, 2/5/19)

In 2013, Probst Criticized A Bill To Prevent Public Schools For Using Sex Ed Materials Provided By Planned Parenthood And Claimed Descriptions Of The Organizations As "Some Sort Of Abortion Pusher" Were "Factually Flawed"

In March 2013, Probst Criticized A Bill To Prevent Public Schools For Using Sex Ed Materials Provided By Planned Parenthood And Claimed Descriptions Of The Organizations As "Some Sort Of Abortion Pusher" Were "Factually Flawed." "A bill moved forward this week that would prohibit public schools from using sex education materials provided by Planned Parenthood. Though the bill's central premise -- that Planned Parenthood is some sort of abortion pusher -- is factually flawed, at least the legislation was toned down some before the overzealous conservatives in the House had their way with it. Initially, the bill would've gone so far as to prohibit anyone with Planned Parenthood, or any employee with any

abortion provider, from volunteering in the classroom -- even in their own child's classroom. The overbroad wording wasn't a mistake or oversight. "If we're going to have people in our education system, I don't want them involved in any way, shape or form or manner in killing children, killing babies," Rep. Allan Rothlisberg, a Grandview Plaza Republican said of the original language. "We should have people of integrity and morality teaching our children." Additionally, Mary Kay Culp, executive director of Kansans for Life, said groups such as Planned Parenthood in schools is "like if you let the driver's ed come from the local Buick dealer down the street." Never mind that while Culp and Rothlisberg don't want the Buick dealer teaching driver's ed, they're more than happy to open the doors for the local Ford dealer." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Moral Authority," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/8/13)

PROBST PREVIOUSLY INDICATED AT LEAST SOME WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE TAXPAYER BACKED FUNDING FOR ABORTION

In 2019, Probst Voted Against An Amendment That "Would Prevent Funds From Going To Abortion Providers Such As Planned Parenthood"

The American Conservative Union "Believes Abortion Is A Human Tragedy, Supports Restrictions To End The Practice And Supported This Amendment"

In 2019, Probst Voted Nay On H Amdt 1470 To HB 2066, "An Act Concerning The Department Of Health And Environment; Establishing The KanCare Bridge To A Healthy Kansas Program." (H Amdt 1470 To HB 2066, Failed (55 - 69), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/20/19, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no state moneys or matching federal moneys allocated for state Medicaid services under the Kansas program of medical assistance shall be expended for reimbursement to any non-public entity provider that provides family planning services but does not provide comprehensive primary and preventative care services." (H Amdt 1470 To HB 2066)

ACU: The Landwehr Amendment To HB 2066 "Would Prevent Funds From Going To Abortion Providers Such As Planned Parenthood." "The Landwehr (ACUF Lifetime 76%) amendment to a Medicaid expansion bill would prohibit funds for KanCare Bridge (Medicaid expansion) from funding abortion providers. Specifically, the amendment would prevent funds from going to abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood which are "nonpublic entity providers" which provide "family planning services" (i.e., including abortion) but do not provide comprehensive primary and preventative care services." (American Conservative Union, 2019)

The American Conservative Union "Believes Abortion Is A Human Tragedy, Supports Restrictions To End The Practice And Supported This Amendment." "ACU believes abortion is a human tragedy, supports restrictions to end the practice and supported this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on March 20, 2019 by a vote of 55-69. (The underlying bill failed to advance in the Senate.)" (American Conservative Union, 2019)

In 2021, Probst Voted Against "An Amendment To The State Constitution That Would Clarify That No One Has The Right To Take The Life Of An Unborn Child And That Taxpayers Do Not Have An Obligation To Fund The Practice"

In 2021, Probst Voted Nay On HCR 5003, "A Proposition To Amend The Bill Of Rights Of The Constitution Of The State Of Kansas By Adding A New Section Thereto Stating That There Is No Constitutional Right To Abortion." (HCR 5003, Passed (86 - 38), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 1/22/21, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Proposes an amendment to the Kansas Constitution for consideration at a special election called on August 2, 2022, to be held in conjunction with the primary election held on that date. That amendment, if approved by a majority of Kansas voters, would create a new section in the Kansas Bill of Rights concerning the regulation of abortion. The resolution states the amendment may be cited as the Value Them Both Amendment." (HCR 5003)

ACU: HCR 5003 "Would Propose An Amendment To The State Constitution That Would Clarify That No One Has The Right To Take The Life Of An Unborn Child And That Taxpayers Do Not Have An Obligation To Fund The Practice." "This resolution would propose an amendment to the state constitution that would clarify that no one has the right to take the life of an unborn child and that taxpayers do not have an obligation to fund the practice. This bill is in response to the 2019 Kansas Supreme Court decision in Hodes & Nauser v. Schmidt & Howe in which the court declared unconstitutional SB 95 of 2015 (which ACUF scored) that banned dismemberment abortion, a gruesome practice which involves cutting apart the unborn child for extraction." (American Conservative Union, 2021)

The American Conservative Union "Believes Abortion Is A Human Tragedy, Supports Restrictions To End The Practice And Supported This Resolution." "ACU recognizes, as noted by Kansans for Life, that the "Kansas Supreme Court took power from Kansas voters and created a nearly unlimited 'right to abortion in our 1859 State Constitution," and that this has left "women and their preborn babies…abandoned to an unregulated abortion industry." ACU believes abortion is a human tragedy, supports restrictions to end the practice and supported this resolution. The House passed the resolution on January 22, 2021 by a vote of 86-38. (The measure will appear on the 2022 primary ballot for voter approval.)" (American Conservative Union, 2021)

PROBST ON LGBTQ ISSUES

Probst: "The Supreme Court's Ruling Striking Down Parts Of The Defense Of Marriage Act Is Welcome News"

Probst: "The Supreme Court's Ruling Striking Down Parts Of The Defense Of Marriage Act Is Welcome News To Anyone Who Believes A Group Of People Shouldn't Be Denied Common Rights And Benefits Simply Because The Majority Doesn't Like Or Approve Of Them." "The Supreme Court's ruling striking down parts of the Defense of Marriage Act is welcome news to anyone who believes a group of people shouldn't be denied common rights and benefits simply because the majority doesn't like or approve of them. In the 5-4 majority opinion

released Wednesday, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy outlined the primary reason the court found the law unconstitutional. "By seeking to displace this protection and treating those persons as living in marriages less respected than others, the federal statute" violates the Constitution, he said. Despite all the noise the decision will create, the meaning of the ruling is quite simple: Same sex couples, legally married in a state that recognizes same-sex unions, will be able to enjoy the federal benefits -- such as joint taxes, pensions and estate transfers -- enjoyed by traditional married couples. The court left alone a provision of the law that allows individual states to set their own legal definitions of marriage, so there's no substance to claims that this ruling suddenly will require states to license gay marriages or churches to hold gay weddings." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Fair Ruling," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/27/13)

In 2011, Probst Celebrated The End OF The Military's DADT (Don't Ask, Don't Tell) Policy

In September 2011, Probst Celebrated The End OF The Military's DADT Policy Noting "Ultimately, Those Who Want To Serve The United States, And Who Possess The Character And Skill To Do So, Should Be Given That Opportunity Without Being Forced To Lie About Who They Are." "Tuesday marked the end of a compromise policy -- Don't Ask, Don't Tell -- that allowed gay people to serve in the U.S. military, so long as they kept their sexual orientation under lock and key. Before the Clinton-era policy, the military specifically asked about sexual orientation, and gays and lesbians were prohibited from serving in the military. The new policy allows gays to serve their country proudly while granting them the dignity to be open and honest about themselves. When it comes to the armed forces -- and the workforce in general -- the only question that should matter is can the person do the job that is required of him or her? A person's economic status, religious affiliation, skin color and sexual orientation shouldn't matter at all. Unfortunately, that hasn't always been the case. Ultimately, those who want to serve the United States, and who possess the character and skill to do so, should be given that opportunity without being forced to lie about who they are. Before DADT, and undoubtedly years before that policy, many servicemen and servicewomen valiantly served this country during peacetime and war, risking their lives to uphold the values and principles that make our country unique. That people want to take on that risk for their country warrants the respect of their countrymen; that they serve daily in the trenches already has earned them the respect of their peers. And being gay never made those soldiers less heroic, patriotic or committed to protecting the Constitution than anyone else." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: End Of An Era," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/22/11)

In 2012, Probst Supported Expanding "A Local Ordinance Banning Discrimination To Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual And Transgender People"

In March 2012, Probst Supported Expanding "A Local Ordinance Banning Discrimination To Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual And Transgender People." "This week, the Hutchinson Human Relations Commission is holding three public comment sessions to help determine whether Hutchinson should expand a local ordinance banning discrimination to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. The issue largely appears to be one of personal liberty versus religious liberty. Those in favor of expanding the protected classes cite a need for protection from

discrimination in employment and housing; opponents argue that they hold a moral conviction against a gay lifestyle and that governmental interference on the issue violates their freedom of religion. Despite the strongly held convictions of some, the city should move forward to ban discrimination against gays and lesbians. The idea that protecting a group from discrimination somehow alters one's religious beliefs is little more than theatrics and fear mongering. A local ordinance offering such protection -- a protection currently enjoyed by anyone of any religious belief -- has no bearing on nor does it weaken one's faith. It doesn't require anyone to participate in what he considers a sinful act, and it doesn't force anyone to accept or condone something that is contrary to his faith." (Jason Probst. "EDITORIAL: Better Protection," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/30/12)

Probst Derided A Fox News Piece Critically Covering The Ordinance As Misinformation

Probst Derided A Fox News Piece Critically Covering The Ordinance As Misinformation. "It started with the headline, "Proposed Law Would Force Churches to Host Gay Weddings." And it continued to a lead paragraph stating that the "law would force churches to host gay parties." That is simply untrue. The next step in the process is for city staff to draft an ordinance for debate. At that point, council members are free to insert an exemption for religious institutions or take other measures to protect the interests of local churches. To present a news story as if the issue is settled and that churches soon will be forced to play host to gay parties, is completely irresponsible and misleading. The issue will endure debate before the city council, and should it pass, it is not likely to be in a raw or unrefined form. The purpose of the Fox News story was made clear by what wasn't included inside it -- any reference to Lawrence, where a similar measure has been law for more than a year. While local ministers cited their fears about what the law might mean to their churches, no effort was made to see if those fears were realized in Lawrence after the ordinance took effect. That's because in Lawrence -- a city far less conservative than Hutchinson -- local leaders included a provision that exempts from the public accommodations requirement "a religious or nonprofit fraternal or social organization or corporation." A phone call or a quick look at the City of Lawrence website could have either affirmed the premise of the story -- that a comprehensive anti-discrimination law forces churches to violate their own beliefs -- or revealed that gays and lesbians taking over church buildings is little more than a red herring. But that would've removed the indignant anger and overwhelming fear that has become the cornerstone of much of Fox News' reporting." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Pesky Facts," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/30/12)

Probst Wrote In Praise Of The Proponents Of The Ordinance Despite Their Nominal Loss At The Ballot Box

In November 2012, Probst Wrote In Praise Of The Proponents Of The Ordinance Despite Their Nominal Loss At The Ballot Box. "Sure, there remains no ordinance on the books to protect gays and lesbians against discrimination -- and thanks to state statute it will remain that way in Hutchinson and Salina for at least the next 10 years. For the next decade, the gay community will continue to have no recourse in the face of discrimination. That, however, is nothing new. The ordinance's supporters are winners because the vote brought to the surface an issue that previously had remained hidden, and unspoken, in the heart of one of the most conservative states in the Union. They're winners because nearly 42 percent of Hutchinson voters sided with them, in the face of an active and vocal resistance from the juggernaut of Hutchinson's religious community, which included scores of Hutchinson churches handing out or displaying "Vote No" literature for their congregants. They're winners because even though national

estimates put the adult gay population at between 2 and 8 percent, they managed to win the support of more than 40 percent of Hutchinson voters. The victors of this election were the losers, because they resorted to outright lies about the nature of the ordinance. Throughout months of debate, they never let go of the clearly misleading statements that an expanded anti-discrimination ordinance would force churches to hold gay weddings or that they'd be forced to allow gay parties at their facilities. Additionally, opponents resorted to a "bathroom" argument that preyed on residents' fears but was patently untrue. The anti-discrimination ordinance's opponents can take satisfaction in Tuesday night's victory and feel good about protecting the advance of something they genuinely believe threatens their way of life. In the long run, however, the night belonged to the ordinance's supporters. They used the legislative process to spark a dialogue and raise awareness about gays in Hutchinson. And with the odds stacked against them in what easily could be considered hostile territory, they managed to win far more voter support than could've been expected a year ago, when discussion first began." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Winners And Losers," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/8/12)

PROBST ACKNOWLEDGED IMPLICITLY HIS OWN WHITE PRIVILEGE

In June 2020, Probst Participated In A BLM Rally In Reno County And Implicitly Recognized That He Benefitted From His Privileges As A White Man

In June 2020, Probst Participated In A BLM Rally In Reno County And Implicitly Recognized That He Benefitted From His Privileges As A White Man. "Kansas Rep. Jason Probst noted that he and other white men have an unfair advantage because they "never held the fear that I could meet my end by simply living my life." Instead of ignoring that advantage, Probst said that recognizing it, using it to support others, and listening to the experiences of people of color is an important step for white individuals. Probst asked the crowd to tell him what he can do to help. Datjaeda Moore, Hutchinson's Human Relations Officer, spoke next and answered him. "What can you do? Use your whiteness. Use your whiteness to destroy racism in where you exist. No more racist jokes or attitudes. Call them out in public, private, take away their ability to sustain by not doing business with them," Moore said. "Take away their ability to disregard human life," she said." ("'No Justice, No Peace': Protesters Share Frustration, Hope In Peaceful Sunday Event," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/1/20)

PROBST HAS DESCRIBED CRITICAL RACE THEORY AS "THE NEW BOOGEYMAN TO SCARE VOTERS"

In 2021, Probst Shared A Tweet Describing Critical Race Theory (CRT) As "The New Boogeyman To Scare Voters"

In July 2021, Probst Shared A Tweet Describing Critical Race Theory (CRT) As "The New Boogeyman To Scare Voters". (Probst Profile, Twitter, 7/19/21)

(Probst Profile, Twitter, 7/19/21)

PROBST HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF EFFORTS TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION AND VALUES

In 2012, Probst Praised The Buehler City Council For Changing Its City Seal And Sign, Which Contained A Large Cross, Following A Complaint From The Freedom From Religion Foundation

In 2012, Probst Praised The Buehler City Council For Changing Its City Seal And Sign, Which Contained A Large Cross, Following A Complaint From The Freedom From Religion Foundation. "Many residents of Buhler undoubtedly will disagree, but the city council made the right decision to change the city seal and sign -- which contain a large cross -- after a complaint from the Freedom from Religion Foundation. For the last 24 years, the city had violated the law with a city sign that contained a smaller cross. When the city recently took another step to make the cross a more dominant part of the city seal, it drew attention and at least one complaint. After securing legal opinions from the city attorney and two outside agencies -- American Center for Law and Justice and the Christian Law Association -- the council recognized that inclusion of the cross wouldn't pass a legal challenge. The First Amendment's "Establishment Clause" specifically prohibits the government from establishing a default religion. The legal opinions provided to Buhler city officials clearly spell out that a cross dominating the city's seal shows the city's preference toward Christianity as the town's established religion. The First Amendment is designed to protect people of all faiths, including Christians, from a religious-based government that would try to restrict or mute in any way religious freedom. One can't support the blending of government and religion simply because the

religion happens to be his own. The day could come when a different religion dominates the landscape, and today's Christians would rightly be offended and angry if a city seal contained Islam's crescent moon and star, the Jewish star of David or the Wicca Pentacle. While Christians might be disappointed today that a cross will be removed from Buhler's city seal, they also should feel relief in the knowledge that another religion never will be able to use local government to dictate how they practice their faith. Furthermore, the decision to remove religious symbolism from the city's seal does not amount a violation of religious liberty. Residents are free, on their own properties or at their churches, to express their religious beliefs. Nothing in the city's decision limits the ability of Buhler residents to display on their own land their support of Buhler as a Christian community. A Christian community isn't determined by the religious symbolism on its signage but by the actions and beliefs of the people who live there. Buhler was a Christian community for 100 years before it voted to put a cross on the city sign in 1988, and because of its residents' strong convictions, it will remain that way long after that cross is removed." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Religious Liberty," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/26/12)

In 2013, Probst Was Critical Of Kansas Law Makers For Drafting A Military Religious Freedom Resolution, Which Detailed Attacks On The Free Expression Of Religion Within The Military

In 2013, Probst Was Critical Of Kansas Law Makers For Drafting A Military Religious Freedom Resolution, Which Detailed Attacks On The Free Expression Of Religion Within The Military. "What do Kansas lawmakers do when they run into an overtime legislative session and can't come to an agreement on the one thing they have left to do? They start crafting legislation and resolutions on imaginary issues about which state legislatures have absolutely no control, input or relevance. This week, members of the Kansas Senate and House began drafting a resolution referred to as the Military Religious Freedom Resolution. And while the resolution says it supports religious freedom, the only religion ever mentioned is the Judeo-Christian faith -- so it's not really a resolution about religious freedom, but a resolution about the "right" religion. The resolution goes on at length about the important role the Judeo-Christian faith has played in American history and reports an unspecified list of attacks in the U.S. military on the free expression of service members' faith." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Off Topic," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/31/13)

- **Probst Argued The Effort Was A Distraction And Ultimately Had No Real Effect.** "Such a resolution presents a number of issues with which Kansans could find fault -- including legitimate questions about why the Legislature is debating a resolution that has no legal teeth or power when lawmakers haven't hammered out a tax plan. The state of Kansas has no authority or power over the operations of the U.S. military, the Pentagon or even the state's U.S. representatives or senators. Taking time to draft and consider a resolution on Military Religious Freedom might make lawmakers feel warm and fuzzy inside -- and perhaps raise their stock with some voters -- but it is an absolute waste of time and money. The House needs to complete the legitimately difficult task of reaching a tax compromise with a Senate and governor that seem content to wait it out to get their way. The Senate and the governor need to listen to the demands of the people's House and move away from their rigid and unyielding positions on the state's tax structure and demands for a higher-than-promised sales tax. And they all need to focus on this singular

task, close up shop and get out of Topeka." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Off Topic," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/31/13)

In 2015, Probst Criticized Gov. Brownback's Executive Order On Religious Freedom In Anticipation Of A Favorable Ruling On Gay Marriage From The Supreme Court As "Worthless"

In 2015, Probst Criticized Brownback's Executive Order On Religious Freedom In Anticipation Of A Favorable Ruling On Gay Marriage From The Supreme Court As "Worthless." "Brownback's executive order effectively does nothing to further protections for religious organizations that wasn't already covered by the U.S. Constitution and affirmed by the Supreme Court's ruling. It does, however, throw up a red herring designed to incite fear and worry in the hearts of those who feel slighted or somehow offended by the court's ruling. As a bonus, it will serve as a nice talking point for Brownback when he finally loosens his grip on Kansas and moves on to another arena. Beyond that, his executive order is a worthless string of words that has no tangible value. This isn't the first time the Supreme Court has made a ruling that some thought would threaten their religious freedoms, and it's unlikely to be the last. Nevertheless, God and the country's strong religious protections endure, just as they have throughout all the changes in American history." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Out Of Order," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/9/15)

PROBST HAS SUPPORTED SECOND AMENDMENT LIMITATIONS

In 2015, Probst Slammed Constitutional Carry Laws Contending "Such A Move Is Nothing Short Of Irresponsible And Unnecessary… And It Does Nothing To Protect The Aim Of The Constitutional Right To Own Firearms"

Probst Slammed Constitutional Carry Laws In 2015 Contending "Such A Move Is Nothing Short Of Irresponsible And Unnecessary. It Does Nothing To Protect The Public, And It Does Nothing To Protect The Aim Of The Constitutional Right To Own Firearms." "The Kansas Legislature is close to passing Senate Bill 45, more politically known as the "Constitutional Carry" law. Apparently, we live in a time when we can slap the word "Constitution" in front of anything and it suddenly becomes a good idea. No matter how bad the legislation, exploiting the U.S. Constitution ensures it plays well during the election season. This bill, if passed, would allow anyone over the age of 21 to carry a concealed weapon without the requirement of any training or permitting. While the bill does place limits on those who are mentally ill or legally prohibited from possessing firearms, there's no preventative screening -- only penalties after the fact. Reno County Sheriff Randy Henderson last month came out against the proposed changes. While he strongly supports the current concealed carry legislation and the constitutional right of individuals to bear arms, he also recognizes the value of training for those who want to carry their weapons in public. Let's be clear: This is not a constitutional issue. Every person legally able to carry a firearm can do so now. The only requirement is that they do so openly so others can be aware and adjust their decisions accordingly. And any person who can legally own a firearm and is willing to apply for a concealed carry permit -- and undergo the required training -- can carry a concealed firearm. On this issue, there is no existing barrier to gun ownership, and the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution is not violated in any way,

shape or form. This legislation, sponsored by Sen. Terry Bruce, R-Hutchinson, is completely unnecessary and purely political. Most people who have spent any significant amount of time around firearms understand that training is the single most effective way to prevent firearm-related injury. For generations, fathers and mothers have schooled their children on the proper handling of a firearm before giving them a loaded weapon. Hunters are required to complete a hunter's safety course before they can hunt in an open field or purchase a hunting license. Yet Kansas is on the cusp of allowing people to carry concealed firearms in public without a shred of training or oversight. Such a move is nothing short of irresponsible and unnecessary. It does nothing to protect the public, and it does nothing to protect the aim of the constitutional right to own firearms." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Concealed Concerns," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/20/15)

In 2010, Probst Defended Requiring Background Checks Before A Gun Purchase

Probst, In 2010: "Background Checks Before A Gun Purchase -- Despite All The Overblown Fears When Initiated -- Haven't Significantly Subverted Gun Ownership Rights. This Has Been An Effective Way To Keep Guns Out Of The Hands Of Reckless And Unstable People." "While Chicago has the strictest gun control laws in the country, efforts to curtail gun ownership have done little to curb gun-related crime in the city, which has seen a marked increase in homicides so far this year. The Supreme Court's ruling confirms the principle that gun ownership is an individual right, yet it is not likely to undo many of the common-sense gun laws that are currently on the books throughout the country. For instance, it makes perfect sense to keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons. And background checks before a gun purchase -- despite all the overblown fears when initiated -- haven't significantly subverted gun ownership rights. This has been an effective way to keep guns out of the hands of reckless and unstable people. The ruling will allow the flexibility to address the distinct issues surrounding guns in large metropolitan areas while preventing the unnecessary application of big-city gun laws to the rural areas of Kansas. Thanks to this ruling, any regulations on guns will have to be enforced in a manner that presumes individuals have a protected right to own a gun rather than viewing gun ownership as a privilege granted by state or local government." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Supreme Right," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/1/10)

In 2013, Probst Was Critical Of A Measure To "Outlaw The Spending Of State Tax Dollars Lobbying For Or Against Gun Control Policies" As A Way To Curtail Local Opposition To State Mandates

In May 2013, Probst Was Critical Of A Measure To "Outlaw The Spending Of State Tax Dollars Lobbying For Or Against Gun Control Policies" As A Way To Curtail Local Opposition To State Mandates. "The Kansas Legislature knows what to do when it passes a law that is likely to be unpopular with cities, counties and other public institutions: Pass another law curtailing their ability to complain about it. Earlier this session, the Legislature approved a measure requiring local governments either to allow concealed weapons on their public properties or prove they had beefed up security enough to ensure residents' safety. Possibly sensing that local governments would complain about the cost of an unfunded mandate from Topeka -- one that requires compliance with the state's philosophy or a heavy investment in staff and security equipment -- the Legislature went to work on another bill to outlaw the spending of

state tax dollars lobbying for or against gun control policies. The Kansas House this week gave final approval to the legislation, 83-28. It now awaits the governor's signature. Gun control and the right to carry a concealed weapon are not the central issues with these two pieces of legislation. Instead, the issue is lawmakers' eagerness to walk over the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution in order to protect the Second Amendment. In effect, lawmakers have told local units of government that Topeka has no interest in hearing about the difficulties or objections they might have in implementing a state law. Meanwhile, they're more than willing to hear testimony from private special interests that have fine-tuned the art of lobbying and have nearly unlimited resources to influence lawmakers' votes." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Gag Order," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/23/13)

In 2016, Probst Praised Obama's Executive Action On Gun Control

Probst On Obama's E.A.: "A Handful Of Common-Sense Measures That Make Current Laws More Effective And Enforceable, All While Avoiding An Infringement On The Constitutionally Assured Right To Bear Arms"

In January 2016, Probst Praised Obama's Executive Action On Gun Control As "A Handful Of Common-Sense Measures That Make Current Laws More Effective And Enforceable, All While Avoiding An Infringement On The Constitutionally Assured Right To Bear Arms." "To hear some folks tell it, President Barack Obama's executive orders on firearms is akin to a confiscation of every privately owned gun across the country. In typical fashion, the National Rifle Association and other lobbyists have sprung into action to convince gun owners that the sky is falling, tyranny is on the way and the good people of the U.S.A. will be helpless to stop the ruthless dictator who is our president. Examination of the orders, however, reveals something far less sinister -- a handful of common-sense measures that make current laws more effective and enforceable, all while avoiding an infringement on the constitutionally assured right to bear arms." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Executive Action," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/8/16)

- **Probst Defended Obama's Stipulations On Gun Purchase Background Checks.** "The executive order also allows states and other federal agencies to share information in a background check system about mental illness, domestic violence incidents and other activity that currently isn't part of the background check. For instance, before this series of executive orders, the Health Insurance Information Portability and Accountability Act -- a law created in 1996 to ensure patient privacy -- prevented the Social Security Administration from sharing with the FBI or ATF information about those receiving assistance for mental illness. Many of the actions simply clarify federal law so that local health-care providers, gun dealers and law enforcement have a better understanding of federal laws about mental health and firearms. And some measures are there to increase research into the reasons for gun violence, research advanced gun safety technology and add staff tasked with enforcing current gun laws. There is nothing in the president's executive order that threatens the sale or possession of a firearm. While the rhetoric about firearms has been lucrative for gun lobbyists, manufacturers and the politicians who pander for votes from those who are passionate about the right to bear arms, it has created a dangerous culture that needs to be examined seriously by responsible gun owners." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Executive Action," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/8/16)

Probst, in 2016: "But Perhaps Most Concerning Is The Culture We Now Have, Where Firearms Are Viewed As Accessories Rather Than The Powerful, Dangerous Weapons They Are"

Probst: "But Perhaps Most Concerning Is The Culture We Now Have, Where Firearms Are Viewed As Accessories Rather Than The Powerful, Dangerous Weapons They Are." "But perhaps most concerning is the culture we now have, where firearms are viewed as accessories rather than the powerful, dangerous weapons they are. While The News has supported an individual's right to bear arms, it is irresponsible to support rhetoric that creates the idea that firearms are no more dangerous -- and require no more care or consideration -- than a fashionable purse, a jacket or a new pair of shoes. For those raised with firearms, or who have spent years hunting the rural parts of Kansas, the importance of safety and responsibility is ingrained. Training is required to secure a hunting license. Fathers and mothers teach their children how properly to handle and treat a firearm -- something that sadly has been lost in this effort to create the idea that all are equally equipped to handle a firearm responsibly. Those who have spent much time around firearms, or spent any time hunting, know that's simply not reality." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Executive Action," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/8/16)

Probst Participated In A 2018 March For Our Lives Rally In Wichita In Support For Additional Gun Control Measures

Probst Participated In A 2018 March For Our Lives Rally In Wichita In Support For Additional Gun Control Measures. "Wichita Police estimated the crowd at about 300. Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, said the country has done "little more than shrug our shoulders" since 1999, when two students brought guns, knives and explosives to Columbine High School, killing 11 students and a teacher before themselves. "Every shooting should have been enough," he said. "Today we're standing here with a movement led by a generation of students who have been raised in a world governed by corrosive fear and crippling inaction. A world in which it has become absurdly normal and obscenely accepted that on any given day dozens of students might die a violent death at their school. Today, you stand in the narrow space between yesterday and tomorrow ... we have a choice to make. We can say that sadly this is the state of the world ... or we can say enough is enough.'" ("'Vote Them Out' Protesters Chant At Wichita's March For Our Lives," *The Wichita Eagle*, 3/24/18)

In 2014, Probst Was Critical Of A Measure Signed By Gov. Brownback Removing Local Ability To Enact Gun Regulations As Undermining Local Control

In April 2014, Probst Was Critical Of A 2014 Measure Signed By Brownback Removing Local Ability To Enact Gun Regulations As Undermining Local Control. 'This week, Gov. Sam Brownback signed two different bills that are connected only by the way in which they were quite differently spun to voters. One bill aims to create uniformity by removing a city or county's authority to enact its own gun regulations -- meaning that from Johnson City to Kansas City, every city, town and village must follow the state's orders when it comes to gun laws. While that might seem like a good idea today, it likely won't seem so great to Western Kansas years down the road when Eastern Kansas and its growing population has the political clout to restrict

firearms in even the most rural parts of the state. And while there's an argument to ending patchwork regulation, it could be done without broad, sweeping laws that tie the hands of local communities. The other bill was the policy-laden school finance legislation and its most controversial component that eliminates statewide employment due process rights for teachers, which dates back to a Kansas Supreme Court ruling in 1957. So what connects these dissimilar bills? The divergent message about the importance of local control. Gov. Brownback and the lawmakers who support the end of due process proudly proclaim the bill restores the important element of local control to local school districts." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Different Signatures," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/24/14)

In 2015, Probst Criticized Legislation Allowing The Open Carry Of Firearms In Public Buildings As An Onerous State Mandate On Localities

In December 2015, Probst Criticized Legislation Allowing The Open Carry Of Firearms In Public Buildings As An Onerous State Mandate On Localities. "The Kansas Legislature has decided that every person who so desires should be able to carry a firearm -- concealed or out in the open -- into almost any public building, including on college campuses and in county courthouses. For Reno County, the alternative would mean renovations to the courthouse to create a secure entrance that would cost about $300,000 than originally planned, not including the roughly $200,000 a year it would cost to staff a single secure entryway. Lawmakers, eager to gather the votes of those passionate about the Second Amendment, have passed a number of laws to eliminate restrictions on guns. This includes a law dubbed "Constitutional Carry," a name that has more to do with political pandering than it does with protecting freedoms under the Constitution. But set the issue of the Second Amendment aside and consider what Kansas lawmakers really have created. With public buildings, local governments have been given two options under the new law -- make buildings exceedingly secure, whatever the cost to taxpayers, or allow the unfettered carrying of firearms. While Kansas lawmakers have hailed such measures as protection of a right that never was in jeopardy in Kansas, what they've actually done is created an inordinate burden on local governments that would rather not see the proliferation of firearms in government buildings such as courthouses, where emotions often run high. When the federal government imposes such laws -- whether it be regulations on government or business -- it's labeled an unfunded mandate and dismissed as another federal overreach, where costly rules are established with no mechanism to pay for compliance." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Under A Barrel," *The Hutchinson News*, 12/30/15)

In 2014, Probst Strongly Criticized A Bill To Exempt Concealed Carry Permit Holders From Hunter Safety Education Requirements When Purchasing A Kansas Hunting License

In March 2014, Probst Strongly Criticized A Bill To Exempt Concealed Carry Permit Holders From Hunter Safety Education Requirements When Purchasing A Kansas Hunting License. "A bill before the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources aims to allow Kansans with concealed carry permits to sidestep Hunter Safety Education requirements when purchasing a Kansas hunting license. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks secretary Robin Jennison testified against the legislation -- House Bill 2627 -- on Monday,

saying that bill "would be a mistake that could lead to avoidable injury or death." Additionally, several members of the committee likewise expressed concern about the bill. As well they should. There is a wide difference between the skills and education required for carrying a concealed handgun and those who will be hunting, potentially in groups or near farm houses. While concealed carry training focuses more on how to safely carry and use a small handgun, hunter safety education offers a more comprehensive approach to safety in the field. Hunter safety doesn't simply focus on how to fire a weapon. It addresses the special considerations needed when shooting a high powered rifle at game, and how to safely swing toward a flushing pheasant without endangering others in the hunting party. Additionally, hunter safety education specifically discusses issues specific to hunting -- how to be an ethical hunter, how to safely cross fences and steep ravines with a weapon, and how to protect the rights of private property owners. These are issues that aren't addressed in a concealed carry class. The person who has secured a concealed carry permit has not proven that he or she possesses the appropriate training and skills to carry a rifle or shotgun into the field in the pursuit of wildlife. There's absolutely no reason for this bill to be considered any further -- and it clearly wasn't written by someone who has been through the state's well-established and successful hunter education program, or who understands a single thing about the difference in responsibility between carrying a handgun that likely will never be used, and a rifle or shotgun that most likely will be used -- multiple times -- while hunting." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Unequal Education," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/19/14)

In 2012, Probst Urged A Review Of Kansas' Stand Your Ground Law And Criticized Florida's Version

In 2012, Probst Urged A Review Of Kansas' Stand Your Ground Law And Criticized Florida's Version As "A Flawed Law That Allows People To Determine What Ground Is Theirs And A Subjective Interpretation Of What Is Legally A Legitimate Threat." "And thanks to Florida's "stand your ground" law, Zimmerman so far hasn't been arrested or charged in the incident, although the case will be reviewed by a Florida grand jury. Kansas law is similar to Florida's, stating that any person has the right to stand his ground at any place he has a right to be. Before legislators altered the law in 2010, it contained a "duty to retreat" provision, which required an initial attempt to leave a volatile situation before resorting to deadly force -- with an exception for a person's private property. Local officials view Florida's case as a rarity and express little concern about the implications of Kansas law. Nevertheless, Kansas would do well to re-evaluate its own law to prevent a similar tragedy here. The right to stand one's ground shouldn't extend to the right to pursue someone who hasn't committed a crime, nor should it give people the right to initiate a confrontation and hide behind the law to avoid prosecution. Martin's death in Florida was inexcusable and completely unnecessary, and it was caused in part by a flawed law that allows people to determine what ground is theirs and a subjective interpretation of what is legally a legitimate threat." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Questionable Law," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/22/12)

In 2018, Probst Expressed Opposition To Arming School Teachers

In March 2018, Probst Expressed Opposition To Arming School Teachers. "Members of Reno County's delegation in the State Legislature are split over the idea of armed school

teachers. When the lawmakers participating in a Saturday legislative forum at Hutchinson Community College were asked if they favored teachers "packing heat," they responded: State Rep. Ed Berger, R-Hutchinson: Thinks the decision should be made at the local school board level but doubts many teachers would be comfortable taking the risk and want to be armed. State Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson: Thinks this "is not the solution we should be looking for." A police officer told him, he said, that if he responded to a school shooting and saw a teacher with a firearm, he would assume he was the one shooting kids and would shoot that person. State Rep. Steven Becker, R-Buhler: Does not support arming teachers and he's not sure he agrees it's a policy to be set at the local level. Usually, he favors local control, but this issue might be better determined by the State Legislature, he said. He favors a "professional law enforcement-type" presence in schools. State Rep. Jack Thimesch, R-Spivey: Agrees with the idea of local control, and he also said later that rural schools do not experience the same situations as large schools. He decried that an officer responding to a shooting would think that a teacher would pull a gun on students. He suggested armed teachers could be "red-flagged" so officers would have the information that a teacher was carrying a weapon. Probst responded that it was expecting too much for an officer in a middle of a incident to know that information." ("Reno Legislators Divided On Armed Teachers," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/4/18)

In 2010, Probst Criticized The NRA For Giving An "F" Rating To A Candidate Who Stated That He Could Support Legislation Regulating Semi-Automatic Weapons And Magazines

In July 2010, Probst Criticized The NRA For Giving An "F" Rating To A Candidate Who Stated That He Could Support Legislation Regulating Semi-Automatic Weapons And Magazines. "The National Rifle Association has a record of supporting local legislators who support the Second Amendment and the rights of gun owners. But when it comes to the primary race for the 115th House district, the lobbyist group needs to dial in its scope. Garrett Love, Montezuma, is running against incumbent Rep. Melvin Neufeld, Ingalls, in the Republican primary in that district, and the NRA not only endorsed Neufeld, it gave Love an "F" rating. That's hard to accept, especially in light of the photos Love has of himself, holding a semi-auto shotgun with a days' worth of pheasants in front of him, and the photo of him after a successful jackrabbit outing. Love also was a member of Washburn Students for Concealed Carry on campus -- hardly a group that could be accused of standing in the way of gun-owner rights. Turns out that Love apparently circled one wrong answer on his NRA questionnaire -- stating that he could support legislation regulating semi-automatic weapons and magazines. Apparently, that's enough to earn a reputation as an anti-gun candidate. The NRA continues to support its rating of Love, despite Love's efforts to clear his record. While Neufeld has rightfully earned his NRA endorsement, the lobbyist group should reconsider its "F" rating for Love -- if not to clarify the candidate's position during this race then to preserve its own integrity. To paint a candidate as anti-gun when he's clearly pro-gun and pro-hunting is a disingenuous way to taint the opinions of voters. To stand by the rating after the candidate -- and The News -- brought it to the NRA's attention is irresponsible and erodes any faith voters have in candidate information from lobbyist groups. According to the NRA's rating system, an "F" is a "true enemy of gun owners' rights. A consistent anti-gun candidate who always opposes gun owners' rights and/or opposes gun

owners' rights and/or actively leads anti-gun legislative efforts, or sponsors anti-gun legislation." That's not a fair assessment of Love, and the NRA knows it. This latest snafu by the NRA is an example of how third-party interest groups can skew an election with inaccurate and misleading information -- and how lobbyists groups are seldom, if ever, held to account for their efforts to interfere in the political process." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Off Target," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/27/10)

In 2019, Probst Supported An Amendment That "Would Weaken Second Amendment Rights By Permitting Institutions Of Higher Education To Prohibit The Concealed Carry Of Handguns"

The American Conservative Union "Opposes Weakening Self-Defense And Permitting Universities To Infringe Constitutional Rights And Opposed This Amendment"

In 2019, Probst Voted Yea On H Amdt 1581 To HB 2326, "An Act Concerning Firearms; Relating To The Personal And Family Protection Act; Age Requirement For Licensure; Recognition Of Licenses Issued By Other Jurisdictions." (H Amdt 1581 To HB 2326, Failed (47 - 74), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/26/19, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "The carrying of a concealed handgun shall not be prohibited in any public area of any state or municipal building unless such public area has adequate security measures to ensure that no weapons are permitted to be carried into such public area and the public area is conspicuously posted with either permanent or temporary signage approved by the governing body, or the chief administrative officer, if no governing body exists" (H Amdt 1581 To HB 2326)

ACU: The Woodard Amendment To HB 2326 "Would Weaken Second Amendment Rights By Permitting Institutions Of Higher Education To Prohibit The Concealed Carry Of Handguns." "The Woodard (ACUF Lifetime 21%) amendment to a concealed carry bill would weaken Second Amendment rights by permitting institutions of higher education to prohibit the concealed carry of handguns. Under the amendment, colleges and universities would be able to prohibit anyone who does not have a concealed carry license from carrying a concealed handgun on any grounds or buildings of the institution. Furthermore, the amendment would permit institutions to designate buildings or areas where even those who have licenses would be prohibited from carrying a concealed handgun as long as the institution has "adequate security measures" to prevent weapons from being carried into the area." (American Conservative Union, 2019)

The American Conservative Union "Opposes Weakening Self-Defense And Permitting Universities To Infringe Constitutional Rights And Opposed This Amendment." "ACU recognizes permitting individuals to exercise their right to carry self-defense devices, including firearms, improves public safety—demonstrated by a significant reduction of aggravated and sexual assault incidences occurring on the campuses of Kansas, Georgia and Arizona State universities since expanding self-defense rights. ACU supports the founders' belief in the Second Amendment, opposes weakening self-defense and permitting universities to infringe constitutional rights and opposed this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on March 26, 2019 by a vote of 47-74." (American Conservative Union, 2019)

PROBST BACKED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW FEE ON THE RETAIL SALE OF EVERY FIREARM AND ON EACH ROUND OF AMMUNITION

In 2018, Probst Voted For An Amendment That "Imposes A New $1 Fee On The Retail Sale Of Every Firearm And 1 Cent Fee On Each Round Of Ammunition"

The American Conservative Union "Opposes Singling Out These Select Products For A New Tax And Placing Additional Burdens On Those Who Wish To Exercise Their Second Amendment Rights And Opposed This Amendment"

In 2018, Probst Voted Yea On H Amdt 3962 To HB 2773, "An Act Concerning School Districts; Creating The Kansas Safe And Secure Schools Act; Creating The School Safety And Security Grant Fund." (H Amdt 3962 To HB 2773, Failed (35 - 88), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/27/18, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "There is hereby imposed a firearm and ammunition fee on the retail sale of firearms and ammunition in the following amounts: $1 for each firearm; and $.01 for each round of ammunition. The fee imposed by this section shall be collected by the seller from the consumer with respect to each retail transaction occurring in this state. The amount of the fee shall be either separately stated on an invoice, receipt or other similar documentation that is provided to the consumer by the seller, or otherwise disclosed to the consumer." (H Amdt 3962 To HB 2773)

ACU: The Helgerson Amendment To HB 2773 "Imposes A New $1 Fee On The Retail Sale Of Every Firearm And 1 Cent Fee On Each Round Of Ammunition." "The Helgerson (ACUF Lifetime 26%) amendment to the education bill imposes a new $1 fee on the retail sale of every firearm and 1 cent fee on each round of ammunition. These fees are on top of the state's nearly-10 percent sales tax on these products." (American Conservative Union, 2018)

The American Conservative Union "Opposes Singling Out These Select Products For A New Tax And Placing Additional Burdens On Those Who Wish To Exercise Their Second Amendment Rights And Opposed This Amendment." "ACU opposes singling out these select products for a new tax and placing additional burdens on those who wish to exercise their Second Amendment rights and opposed this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on March 27, 2018 by a vote of 35-88." (American Conservative Union, 2018)

PROBST HAS BEEN DISMISSIVE OF VOTER FRAUD AND CRITICIZED EFFORTS TO ENSURE ELECTION INTEGRITY

In 2010, Probst Strongly Derided Then-Kansas Secretary Of State Kris Kobach's Efforts To Investigate And Root Out Voter Fraud

In November 2010, Probst Strongly Derided Then-Kansas Secretary Of State Kris Kobach's Efforts To Investigate And Root Out Voter Fraud. "For months, Secretary of State-elect Kris Kobach has made the case that voter fraud is running rampant in Kansas. Double voting, illegal immigrants posing as good wholesome Americans and zombie voters are all

raging problems that threaten the sanctity and solvency of our elections. It is such a serious problem, in fact, that the newly empowered Kobach told the Associated Press that he will not waste any time drafting legislation to change Kansas election laws to require voters to show ID at the polls. He also will dedicate two crack investigators in the secretary of state's office to spend their time uncovering this phantom election fraud. A new fangled website will allow anonymous and identification-less do-gooders to report the examples of voter fraud they see in their own communities. Thank goodness, so we all can sleep at night knowing that, at least in Kansas, elections are as pure and safe as they were in the days of poll taxes, property requirements and literacy standards. There is really only one thing to criticize in all this talk about voter fraud: Why in the world are we waiting until January to launch these initiatives? Voter fraud may be more rampant than even Kobach suspects. Insidious agents of under-minification might have worked actively in this election to move the country toward a path of self-destruction. After all, in the last election we sent an un-American secret Muslim agent to the White House, which surely a sign of fowl play among the electorate. There is little reason to think this election was any more secure or legitimate. In fact, consider it longer, and it is clear that voter fraud is the only rationale explanation for why someone like Kris Kobach could land enough votes for election to any office." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Voter Fraud Explains A Lot," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/5/10)

In 2013, Probst Criticized Kobach's Measure Requiring First Time Voter Registrants To Show Proof Of Their U.S. Citizenship

Probst Contended Some Voters Were "Being Potentially Disenfranchised In The Name Of Protecting Kansas Elections From The Handful Of Verifiable Cases Of Voter Fraud That Have Occurred In The Past Decade Or So"

In August 2013, Probst Criticized Kobach's Measure Requiring First Time Voter Registrants To Show Proof Of Their U.S. Citizenship And Contended Some Voters Were "Being Potentially Disenfranchised In The Name Of Protecting Kansas Elections From The Handful Of Verifiable Cases Of Voter Fraud That Have Occurred In The Past Decade Or So." "Thanks to Secretary of State Kris Kobach's zealous concerns about the integrity of Kansas elections, first-time voter registrants must show proof of their U.S. citizenship. The collateral damage, however, is at least 13,863 Kansas residents have landed on a suspension list because they haven't shown adequate proof of their citizenship -- some of whom have previously been registered to vote, and some of whom have voted in previous elections. In Reno County, 377 residents appeared on the voter registrant suspense list and will be ineligible to cast a ballot until they've taken steps to prove they are U.S. citizens. And while the increased scrutiny of voter registration rolls was designed to ensure that elections aren't being tainted by illegal immigrants, many of the people on the suspension list are eligible voters who registered while renewing their driver's licenses. These voters are being potentially disenfranchised in the name of protecting Kansas elections from the handful of verifiable cases of voter fraud that have occurred in the past decade or so. Despite Kobach's claims that "illegal registration of alien voters has become pervasive," a database compiled by NBC News highlights only 216 cases of suspected voter fraud in Kansas between 2000 and 2012 -- a whopping 18 cases a year. The database of voter fraud cases across the country show only 2,068 allegations of voter fraud nationally in those

same 12 years. But that hasn't stopped Kansas' Secretary of State from spreading his special brand of fear and loathing to other states -- 37 of which have either passed or considered voter ID legislation. It's one thing to want to ensure that voters are who they say they are when they register to vote and on Election Day. But when those efforts result in the disenfranchisement of nearly 14,000 Kansas voters -- some of whom already were registered voters and have voted in previous elections -- it leaves little doubt that the cure for voter fraud is much worse and more damaging than the disease." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Voter Suspense," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/7/13)

Probst: "There Never Was A Legitimate Problem That Warranted Kobach's Crusade, With Only A Handful Of Voter Fraud Cases In The Past Decade"

Probst: "There Never Was A Legitimate Problem That Warranted Kobach's Crusade, With Only A Handful Of Voter Fraud Cases In The Past Decade." "In Reno County, 477 people remain on the suspended voter registration list, most of whom still need to produce the additional identification verifying residency. Statewide, more than 18,000 voter registrations have been suspended because they lack the information to meet the state's voter ID laws. Of course, supporters will argue that the law is needed to protect the sacred right of the vote. Yet, there never was a legitimate problem that warranted Kobach's crusade, with only a handful of voter fraud cases in the past decade. The Kobach crowd has consumed the idea that the need to protect the public from a nonexistent threat is worth jeopardizing for 18,000 Kansans one of the most basic and fundamental rights outlined in U.S. Constitution. And somehow, they believe that misguided notion makes them more patriotic and more American than those who seek to expand, rather than restrict, the right of Kansans to vote in open and public elections." ("EDITORIAL: Voting Error," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/26/14)

In 2015, Probst Criticized Kobach's Voter ID Initiative

Probst Criticized Kobach's Voter ID Initiative Noting "He Already Has Made Voting More Of A Hassle For Kansans With His Voter ID Laws, Supposedly Designed To Protect Kansans From The Nearly Invisible Threat Of Fraudulent Voters." "Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach can't seem to help himself when it comes to meddling with Kansas' elections. He already has made voting more of a hassle for Kansans with his voter ID laws, supposedly designed to protect Kansans from the nearly invisible threat of fraudulent voters, and has sought the power to serve as judge, jury and executioner should anyone actually ever attempt to vote without proper identification. In the process, he's knocked nearly 20,000 Kansans from the voter rolls. Now Kobach is pushing another change in voting to return us to the good old days, when poll taxes and land ownership were requirements to vote in public elections. He has proposed a bill to bring back straight party ticket voting to Kansas. No need to think. No need to know the candidates or what they stand for -- just check the box that says "Republican" or "Democrat." Apparently Kobach thinks it's too much for voters to think about candidates as people, with ideas and positions, personalities and experiences. In Kobach's world, you're either a Republican or Democrat, and candidates have nothing to offer beyond the party label they wear." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Blind Vote," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/16/15)

PROBST SIGNALED AN OPENNESS TO RADICAL VOTING REFORMS

In 2014, Probst Described Several Potential Voting Reforms Such As Registering Children To Vote When They Apply For Social Security Numbers, Online Elections, And Electronic Vote Counting

In November 2014, Probst Named Several Potential Voting Reforms Such As Registering Children To Vote When They Apply For Social Security Numbers, Online Elections, And Electronic Vote Counting. "People are busy living their lives -- working, caring for their homes and running their children here and there -- and going to a polling location once every couple of years is understandably not a high priority for many people. But voting might be important to them, if we made it more accessible to more people in a way that fits their lifestyles. Why can't children be registered to vote at the same time they apply for their Social Security number shortly after they are born? Why can't elections be held online and ballots delivered electronically? It's already being done for military and overseas voters. Why can't we ensure that votes will be counted and tabulated accurately through a digital format? We do this currently with federal and state income taxes. We put our credit card information online when we purchase something and fill out countless forms that securely and safely make it to their destinations. Voter fraud a concern? There are 1,000 different ways to verify that someone is who he or she claims to be. We live in a fast-paced, electronic, information-based world, and yet one of our most important functions -- free and public elections -- still operates as it did when the telegraph was the newest form of communication. It's about time we figured out how to do a little updating." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Digital Democracy," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/7/14)

PROBST HAS ECHOED LIBERAL RHETORIC ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE

In 2011, Probst Criticized The U.S. Supreme Court's Citizen United And Other Decisions That He Contended Showed A Favoring Of Free Speech Rights For The Rich And For Corporations

In June 2011, Probst Criticized The U.S. Supreme Court's Citizen United And Other Decisions That He Contended Showed A Favoring Of Free Speech Rights For The Rich And For Corporations. "Two more rulings this week by the obscenely pro-corporate U.S. Supreme Court simultaneously erode the rights of individuals while protecting and expanding the rights of giant corporations. In one, the high court ruled in a 5-4 decision that generic drugmakers can't be held liable for injuries resulting from those medications, even if the original manufacturer is required to keep its drug warning information up-to-date. Apparently, while brand-name drugmakers must warn of newly discovered dangers, when it comes to prescription medications, the onus of protection rests with the consumer. Approximately 75 percent of all drugs prescribed are generic versions of the original -- meaning most drug consumers just lost the right to sue drugmakers if they fall victim to a known side effect. In another ruling, by a 6-3 vote the Supreme Court struck down a Vermont law that prohibited pharmacies, drugmakers and others from buying or selling patient prescription records for marketing purposes. Large chain pharmacies sell such information to drugmakers, who then use that information to more

effectively market brand-name drugs to doctors and researchers. In the ruling, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote that "information is speech" and argued that private patient information used for marketing purposes is protected under the First Amendment and can't be restricted simply because such speech isn't popular. This ruling, however, has nothing to do with speech. Free speech is not data-mining patient information to develop a marketing plan; free speech is ensuring that individuals have a voice in this country and can find ways to make it heard. The truest form of free speech is under attack by this Supreme Court, largely because of its eagerness to grant more and more Constitutional rights to the largest corporations in this country. Through the court's gross misinterpretation of the Constitution, free speech is becoming something that only can be ensured with massive amounts of money. By extension of this philosophy, individuals are losing their right to free speech. These recent rulings, along with the 2010 Citizens United ruling -- which prohibits any limits on corporate campaign spending and essentially allows corporations to buy elections -- shows the true bend of the current Supreme Court. Slowly, with each decision of this nature, the Supreme Court is converting constitutional protection into a commodity that is only extended to those who can purchase it." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Supreme Misjudgment," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/24/11)

Probst, In April 2014: "This Week's United States Supreme Court Ruling Eliminating Limits On Campaign Contributions Further Silences The Voice Of All Those Who Lack The Financial Resources To Spend Unlimited Cash On The Candidate Of Their Choosing"

Probst, In April 2014: "This Week's United States Supreme Court Ruling Eliminating Limits On Campaign Contributions Further Silences The Voice Of All Those Who Lack The Financial Resources To Spend Unlimited Cash On The Candidate Of Their Choosing." "This week's United States Supreme Court ruling eliminating limits on campaign contributions further silences the voice of all those who lack the financial resources to spend unlimited cash on the candidate of their choosing. In a 5-4 vote along ideological lines, the Supreme Court reaffirmed that money is speech and the government doesn't have the authority to limit speech in any way, even if that speech is purchased. In his majority opinion, Chief Justice John Roberts pinned the argument on the idea that only money paid in exchange for supportive government intervention could be regulated. Unlimited campaign contributions, since they aren't directly tied to any favorable action by the candidate, do not equal corruption but are an exercise of an individual's right to share and support his political ideas. The dissenting opinion, issued by Justice Stephen Breyer, countered that Roberts and the majority too narrowly defined corruption. The majority ruled that "Congress may target only a specific type of corruption -- 'quid pro quo' corruption." It then defines quid pro quo corruption to mean no more than "a direct exchange of an official act for money" -- an act akin to bribery. It adds specifically that corruption does not include efforts to "garner 'influence over or access to' elected officials or political parties." The simple translation is that paying a lawmaker to do a specific favor is illegal, but paying a lawmaker with the goal of forming a political and economic alliance is not only legal, it's free speech." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Buying a voice," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/4/14)

PROBST HAD INDICATED POSITIVE NOTES TOWARD BERNIE SANDERS

In 2015, Probst Urged Readers To Take Some Time To Learn About Bernie Sanders And His Policies

In July 2015, Probst Urged Readers To Take Some Time To Learn About Bernie Sanders And His Policies. "5. U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders is the first potentially viable independent candidate for president in years. Take some time to get know him, his policy positions and his ideas. You might be surprised with what you find when you view the world from somewhere besides a party sideline." (Jason Probst, "Editorial: Deflate Deflategate," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/31/15)

Probst: "Bernie Would've Beaten Trump"

Probst: "Bernie Would've Beaten Trump." "Bernie would've beaten Trump. This was a populist election, and there was no taste for a president who was as qualified as Clinton. People have had it up to the gills with the political parties, with political professionals, and with a system that ignores their concerns. I think the math favored Bernie all along. He mobilized an army of young voters. Democrats would've supported him, and a number of conservatives I know would've voted for him over Trump. But they were never, ever going to vote for Clinton." (Jason Probst, 11/9/16)

PROBST HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF TRUMP AND TRUMP SUPPORTERS

Probst, On Trump's Election: "If You're Conservative, And You Think This Election Is Going To Restore America To Its Glorious Past, You Are Wrong. First, That Time Never Really Existed. If It Exists At All, It's In Our Future, Not Our Past"

Probst, On Trump's Election: "If You're Conservative, And You Think This Election Is Going To Restore America To Its Glorious Past, You Are Wrong. First, That Time Never Really Existed. If It Exists At All, It's In Our Future, Not Our Past." "If you're liberal, and you think this is the worst thing ever, that this is going to set the country back 50 years and undo generations of progress, you are wrong. The country at times, stumbles, but it doesn't fall, at least not for long before it gets back up. If you're conservative, and you think this election is going to restore America to its glorious past, you are wrong. First, that time never really existed. If it exists at all, it's in our future, not our past. In fact, I suspect that this election is the death rattle of an aging form of thought. We've seen this before. The political machine did all it could to keep Theodore Roosevelt out of office, but he forced the country to move forward. The country's richest men considered a military coup of the government when Franklin Roosevelt proposed Social Security. We've had a civil war, bad presidents, scandals, wars, depressions and still time moves on. One generation is replaced with a new one, and, eventually, that generation grows old, dies and is replaced by another. It is the way it has always been. Progress and time win 100% of the time, every time. Elections might slow progress, but they can never stop it." (Jason Probst, 11/9/16)

Probst: Trump's Remarks On Women Were "Deplorable" But Part Of American Culture

Probst: Trump's Remarks On Women Were "Deplorable" But Part Of American Culture. "What Donald Trump said is deplorable. Anyone who has a woman in their life that they love – a wife, mother, sister, cousin, daughter, friend – would never want someone talking about her in such a manner. If I caught someone talking about my daughter this way, I'd want to kick his ass. But in this country, we don't just tolerate such brazenness and sexual machismo, we celebrate it. We build marketing campaigns around the underlying force behind Trump's misogynistic words. We incorporate that attitude in our entertainment, and in our economic systems. So I suggest we drop the feigned outrage that Trump would say something so awful, and start looking at some of the reasons this attitude exists in the first place." (Jason Probst, 10/8/16)

In 2017, Probst Used Social Media To Promote A Trump Caricature

In January 2017, Probst Shared A Tweet Of A Trump Caricature. (Probst Profile, Twitter, 1/25/17)

(Probst Profile, Twitter, 1/25/17)

In 2017, Probst Used Social Media To Promote A Political Cartoon Depicting Trump As An Overweight Robin Hood Appearing To Steal From The Poor

In March 2017, Probst 'Retweeted' A Tweet Of A Political Cartoon Depicting Trump As An Overweight Robin Hood Appearing To Steal From The Poor In Order To Give A "Tax Cut For The Rich". (Probst Profile, Twitter, 3/23/17)

(Probst Profile, Twitter, 3/23/17)

In 2014, Probst Used Social Media To Suggest That A Republican Kansas State Representative Had Sold His Soul To The Devil

In April 2014, Probst Shared A Tweet Appearing To Claim That State Rep. Jack Thimsech Sold His Sole To The Devil. (Probst Profile, Twitter, 4/7/14)

(Probst Profile, Twitter, 4/7/14)

APPENDIX A: ISSUES OF NOTE (BY SUBJECT AREA)

Below is a non-comprehensive reference section pertaining to Jason Probst's issues and policy positions of note. Any actionable material from this section has been incorporated into the prior narrative sections.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

Taxes And Fees

Overall

Probst: "Solving America's Budget Deficit Will Require A Mix Of Spending Cuts And Tax Adjustments, And A Balanced Approach Would Cause Less Harm To The Economy Than Either Draconian Spending Cuts Or Unreasonable Tax Increases." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Coddled Class," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/19/11)

Income Taxes

In 2011, Probst Agreed With Warren Buffet's Calls On Increasing Taxes On Those Making More Than $1 Million Annually In Taxable Income. "When one of the richest people in the world steps forward to support a tax increase on the wealthy -- those making more than $1 million a year in taxable income -- it is hard to understand why members of Congress continue to dig in their heels on the matter. Warren Buffett, a man whose story perhaps more than any other showcases the possibilities that exist in the American capitalist system, wrote an opinion piece that appeared in last Sunday's New York Times. In it, he pointed out that he paid income and payroll taxes on 17.4 percent of his taxable income, a much lower rate than most in the middle class. In fact, Buffett explained, that rate was less than the people who work for him. In a separate television interview, Buffett said that his cleaning lady pays a higher marginal tax rate than he does. Buffett also highlights some other interesting anecdotes: --Rich investors don't pass up the chance to make money, no matter the tax rate. Even in 1976-77, when capital gains taxes were as high as 39.9 percent, investors still invested. --Between 1980 and 2000 when the marginal tax rate was higher on the wealthy, more jobs were created than in the last decade, when the rate was lower. --The top 400 earners in 1992 had taxable income of $16.9 billion and a tax rate of 29.2 percent. In 2008, the top 400 collectively earned $90.9 billion, with a lower tax rate of 21.5 percent." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Coddled Class," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/19/11)

- **Probst: "While The Tea Party-Backed Members Of Congress Argue That Raising Even Slightly The Marginal Income Tax Rate On The Wealthy Would Result In Cataclysmic Gyrations In The Economy, That Idea Is Simply A Lie."** (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Coddled Class," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/19/11)

Probst, In 2012: "A House Republican Tax Plan That Would Pull Money From Kansas Highway Projects To Pay For A Reduction In The State Income Tax Makes About As Much Sense As Driving A Car With Four Flat Tires." "A House Republican tax plan that would pull money from Kansas highway projects to pay for a reduction in the state income tax makes about as much sense as driving a car with four flat tires. State highway projects

throughout the state, some already in the planning and design stages, would be shuttered or set aside to make this plan a reality. Also flattened would be the 175,000 jobs and $6.4 billion in economic activity those projects would create or sustain. Kansas' T-Works program is designed to keep regular investment in Kansas highways. These roadways advance Kansas business by connecting cities and improving routes that move goods and people. Reno County has benefited greatly from previous projects, including the expansion of K-96 to Wichita and the ongoing expansion of K-61 to I-135 in McPherson. The most recent projects include improvements at U.S. 50 and Airport Road, which will connect Siemens Wind Power to its suppliers and customers, and improvements to K-96 northwest to Rice County. Despite the proven success of the state's comprehensive transportation plan, some lawmakers are willing to throw out a proven formula that creates jobs and contributes to local economies for many decades, all in the hope of achieving some pipe dream that Kansas, without a state income tax, will become the new Promised Land for industry and business. Part of Kansas' advantage in attracting new business is the heavy investment in infrastructure. Kansas roads are easy to travel, in good shape, safe and well-maintained. Kansans know the program employs people and boosts local economies throughout the state. Trading that known formula for success for an untested tax plan is shortsighted, irresponsible and doesn't serve the interests of the state or its people." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A Flat Idea," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/17/12)

In September 2012, Probst Criticized Gov. Sam Brownback's Tax Reform Plan, "Which Collapses And Lowers Kansas' Individual Income Tax Brackets And Exempts Approximately 191,000 Businesses From Any Income Tax Liability," And Argued Its Benefits Were Overblown. "This week, Gov. Sam Brownback has touted his aggressive tax reform plan as an important economic development tool that will create jobs and increase Kansas' population. According to Brownback's staff, the tax plan -- which collapses and lowers Kansas' individual income tax brackets and exempts approximately 191,000 businesses from any income tax liability -- will unleash the Kansas economy, increasing employment, residency and revenue in the state. Thursday at the Kansas State Fair, Brownback employed a slideshow outlining the ways his tax cuts will affect the state's employment, population and tax receipts. Two slides in particular reveal some telling facts about the Brownback tax plan. First, even without tax reform, Kansas was poised for phenomenal growth in the next seven years, according to data by the Kansas Department of Revenue. The department projects Kansas would add approximately 150,000 new jobs between now and 2020 without tax cuts of any kind, compared to 170,000 new jobs over the same period of time with Brownback's tax plan in place. Likewise for population growth, from 2012 to 2020, the Department of Revenue anticipates 200,000 new residents in the state without the tax cuts, while projections that factor in the tax cuts anticipate 240,000 new residents. Despite the administration's claims that tax reform will light a fire under the economy, the Department of Revenue's own projections show less than amazing results -- 20,000 additional jobs and 40,000 additional residents more than the state would've seen without any tax-code tinkering whatsoever. Meanwhile, the Kansas Legislative Research Department projects the Brownback tax plan almost immediately will create a budget shortfall that will, over five years, accumulate to $2.5 billion. Assuming that the Department of Revenue's projections are valid, the state would've grown beyond our wildest imagination just by letting time pass. Each of those 20,000 additional jobs projected under the governor's tax plan, however, will cost

over $200,000 in state revenue that together are expected to create a $2.5 billion budget deficit in just five years. Yet the true cost of the governor's tax plan won't be known for years, as the taxation burden will shift to local governments that simultaneously will be forced to increase property and/or sales taxes -- which generally are steeper and more severely felt by taxpayers -- to fill the gaps left by state government. The governor might claim that his tax plan will lead to accelerated growth and massive economic activity, but his own data shows that such claims are overblown and ignore the truth that grossly altering the tax code provides, at best, marginal increases in employment and population." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Taxing Math," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/14/12)

In 2013, Probst Criticized Proposals For Additional Income Tax Cuts In Kansas. "Yet, critical analysis of Kansas' finances has done little to curb the appetite of tax-cut enthusiasts in Topeka. Not satisfied with last year's tax coup, Gov. Sam Brownback and much of the Kansas Senate has moved to cut income taxes further, while desperately attempting to fill budget holes created by last year's tax plan. Only the Kansas House has stood in the way, rejecting more income tax cuts that would be paid for by maintaining an elevated sales tax and raiding state agency funds. When the Legislature returns in May, the tax and budget plans will top its agenda. While the governor and his supporters argue such tax cuts would make Kansas a utopia of growth and prosperity, the evidence suggests that tax policy alone isn't necessarily enough to drive people to or from a state. In fact, this week, with a tax-free Kansas just on the horizon, Alco Stores announced plans to relocate its headquarters near Dallas. The move isn't becasue of that state's low tax rate that Brownback hopes to imitate but rather because the company hopes to "attract and retain executive level personnel" and gain access to vendors by locating near a large city. A tax-free Kansas sounds mighty nice on the campaign trail or on a list of talking points. But in practice it alone will neither spur the sort of dreamy job growth the governor projects nor create the dynamic environment required for robust population growth." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Scraping Bottom," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/12/13)

- **Probst, On Brownback's Desire To Cut Income Taxes While Raising Sales Taxes: "A Tax Cut That Requires A Tax Increase Elsewhere Isn't A Tax Cut At All; It Simply Shifts The Burden To Another Group Of People."** "Here's what Kansans know about the effects of Gov. Sam Brownback's "glide path to zero" income tax cut plan: 1. It will require an effective sales tax increase on every man, woman and child in Kansas. 2. It will require the raiding of other department budgets to fill gaping holes left by sawing off one leg of the state's three-legged approach to taxation. 3. Based on the governor's public appearances, legislators seemingly have two bad choices this session -- break a promise to voters and keep the state sales tax high or cut spending to higher education. 4. It is such a dubious plan that even like-minded lawmakers are nervous about its implications and uneasy about gambling the state's future on a theoretical and untested formula. 5. And now we know that the tax plan is so toxic that legislative leaders are at a stalemate -- a stalemate that is costing Kansans more than $30,000 each day so lawmakers can wait and see what comes out of closed-door arm-twisting meetings in Topeka. The governor has touted his tax plan as an accelerant for growth, but based on the stalemate it has created, Kansans and their elected representatives are realizing the plan isn't a prudent or responsible way to move Kansas forward. A tax cut that requires a tax increase elsewhere isn't a tax cut at all; it simply

shifts the burden to another group of people. Already, the tax plan is extracting a cost on Kansas taxpayers -- to the tune of $30,000 every day the Legislature is idled as the governor and his allies try to force Kansans to take a dose of bad-tasting medicine for an illness that needn't exist." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Costly Delay," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/13/13)

Probst, On Brownback's Tax And Economic Program In December 2013: "It's Starting To Look Like This Map Was Poorly Drawn And Is Sending Us Down A Dark And Scary Dead-End Road That Is Littered With Impoverished Children, Higher Property Taxes, Lower-Than-Average Earnings And Lackluster Job Growth." "And we also know that the number of children living in poverty today is higher than the number in poverty when he took office. Recent data compiled by Kansas Action for Children showed that nearly a quarter of the state's children lived in poverty in 2012, up two percent from 2011 and five percent from 2008. And while that number grows, this administration has found creative ways to leverage the state's safety net programs to finance a tax cut that largely benefits the state's most financially secure businesses. Brownback's Roadmap for Kansas was polished and presented with the idea that we'd all see more money in our pockets, our pick of a multitude of high-paying jobs, lower overall tax burdens and children who live in prosperity. But we're not just looking at a map anymore -- we're driving down the road -- and it's starting to look like this map was poorly drawn and is sending us down a dark and scary dead-end road that is littered with impoverished children, higher property taxes, lower-than-average earnings and lackluster job growth." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A Bad Map," *The Hutchinson News*, 12/13/13)

Probst, In 2014: "Kansans Clearly Should See That Brownback's Aggressive Alteration Of The State's Income Tax Was An Error-Plagued Plan That Is Eroding The State's Ability To Provide Any Decent Level Of Service, While Also Failing To Provide Any Tangible Tax Relief To The Middle Class Families That Need It The Most." "Yet, despite the governor's promise that his tax plan would be a shot of adrenaline, it really is that bad. Middle class families aren't paying less in income taxes, and most are paying more in local property taxes, a direct result of this ill-conceived fiscal plan. Though there have been some job gains because of an improving economy across the country, a deeper examination of the unemployment rate shows that the drop in unemployment rate is partly attributable to a declining workforce, as people move out of the state or retire. And whatever job growth there might be fails to live up to the governor's overstated expectations. Kansas is trailing the country and its neighboring states in economic growth, and those numbers come from the governor's own people tasked with measuring the state's economic health. Kansans clearly should see that Brownback's aggressive alteration of the state's income tax was an error-plagued plan that is eroding the state's ability to provide any decent level of service, while also failing to provide any tangible tax relief to the middle class families that need it the most." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Error By Design," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/11/14)

Probst, In 2015: "Eliminating The Income Tax On Many Businesses And Lowering The Tax Rates For The State's Top Earners Has Not Kick-Started The State's Economy, Nor Has It Resulted In More People With More Money To Spend." "But that's not the case here in Kansas, and that's because the state's leaders won't admit the fundamental error in their economic recovery formula: Eliminating the income tax on many businesses and lowering the

tax rates for the state's top earners has not kick-started the state's economy, nor has it resulted in more people with more money to spend. Conversely, what Kansans have found is that their local taxes have increased to maintain a local infrastructure, while wages have remained stagnant and the market for good jobs remains weak. Don't hold your breath waiting for an admission of guilt from Topeka, however. Because any admission that doing away with income taxes was a mistake erodes the foundation of many conservatives' economic belief system. Cutting taxes on the wealthiest does not equal more jobs and more money for the average working person, and it doesn't mean increased economic activity or better tax collections for the state. It equals exactly what we've seen for the past several years in Kansas -- lowered expectations, higher local taxes, reduced quality of life and a bitter realization that a system run by and for the wealthy works exactly as designed." ("EDITORIAL: A Long Slump," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/4/15)

Probst Supports The Kansas Legislature's Decision In 2017 To Rollback The Brownback Income Tax Cuts. "In 2017, the Kansas Legislature rolled back Gov. Sam Brownback's unfair tax policy that allowed more than 330,000 businesses to evade income taxes. While it was billed as a tax cut, it was really nothing more than a shift in the tax burden. Working families across the state saw sales and income taxes, as well as fees for state services, increase to make up the difference. Additionally, the state was forced to cut services in a variety of areas that are now producing real struggles for Kansans. And to make up for immediate budget shortfalls, the state had to borrow money from the transportation fund and bond long term debt – which will cost far more in the long run. This was an irresponsible way to run state government. Jason believes the state should be prudent in how it spends taxpayer dollars, but tax policy must be fair and widely spread across the state's residents. Those dollars must be spent on important services to the state's residents that create a true environment for prosperity." (Probst For Progress, Accessed 3/29/22)

Business Taxes

In March 2013, Probst Criticized Redefining Commerical And Industrial Machinery In An Effort To Make Such Property Tax Exempt As Shifting More Of The State's Revenue Burden To Working Class Families. "There seems to be no limit to how hard this Kansas Legislature, under the guiding hand of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, will work to reduce taxes for large corporate interests, even if it means shifting the state's revenue burden to the average working family. Among the ongoing tax discussion in Topeka is a bill that would redefine commercial and industrial machinery and equipment in an effort to make such property tax-exempt. Under the bill, "trade fixtures" and equipment permanently attached to a property would avoid property tax assessment. The Kansas Division of the Budget estimates the bill would reduce the assessed valuation of grain elevators by 25 percent, railroads by 32 percent and some manufacturing and processing facilities by as much as 75 percent. Oil refineries, such as McPherson's NCRA facility, would be among the biggest beneficiaries of the bill. In McPherson County, the bill would strip 24 percent of the county's total assessed valuation; Montgomery County, one of the poorest counties in the state, would lose 54 percent of its entire tax base, largely for the benefit of a single company, CVR Energy, which owns a refinery and nitrogen plant there. While those companies would save money on their taxes, the burden to support local government and schools once again would be shifted to the average homeowner. In McPherson, residents could see a 9.9-mill increase to make up the difference, and in Montgomery County

offsetting the exemption would raise the property tax levy on homeowners by more than 51 mills. Naturally, the Kansas of Chamber of Commerce has its fingerprints all over this legislation and undoubtedly will go on at length about how such legislation would create jobs and increase investment in the state. But by now, most Kansans should recognize that's an illusion. What this legislation really does is throw average taxpayers under the proverbial bus -- taxpayers who without the power of a well-heeled lobby in Topeka have little choice but to pay more of their wealth to support the basic services and functions that benefit both business and people." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A Taxing Fixture," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/1/13)

Sales Tax

In 2017, "People Expressing Frustration With Taxes Had A Sympathetic Listener. Probst Said He Supports Hutchinson's Nov. 7 Sales Tax Ballot Seeking Continuation Of A Quarter-Cent Tax For Streets, Sidewalks, The Cosmosphere And Strataca." "People expressing frustration with taxes had a sympathetic listener. Probst said he supports Hutchinson's Nov. 7 sales tax ballot seeking continuation of a quarter-cent tax for streets, sidewalks, the Cosmosphere and Strataca. "I like dedicated taxes," he said. But, he also said, "We have absolutely hit the ceiling for sales tax in this community." Probst also understand complaints about the property tax. "I dislike property tax," he said, because if you don't make money or you don't spend money, you still pay it. The challenge of adding affordable housing to expand the property tax base led to audience members discussing the good and the bad of tiny houses." ("Probst Hears The Changes Desired," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/31/17)

Property Taxes

In March 2010, Probst Criticized The Share Of The Property Tax Burden On Homeowners And Called For Reviewing Exemptions For Industries And Special Interests. "The tax break for low-production oil wells -- set in place when oil prices were at record lows -- is indefensible, especially as the price of crude continues to climb higher. In addition to the most notable property tax exemptions, the LPA report found that 99 sales tax exemptions cost the state more than $4 billion in 2009. Despite this evidence, the state's latest idea for addressing the damaging cuts to education is to -- you guessed it -- shift the burden to local property owners by requiring schools to raise their local option budgets to offset aid that normally comes from the state. Property owners, especially homeowners, provide the largest possible pool of people from which to draw revenue. Apparently, they are also the easiest -- while the burden on homeowners has increased substantially, the burden has remained relatively flat for utility companies, agriculture, and the oil and gas industry. But homeowners simply can't continue to serve as an endless supply of money for the state, while trade organizations work to retain tax breaks and exemptions for their industries or interests. While such exemptions are being reviewed, there is little time left for the Legislature to make significant changes this session. The LPA is scheduled to meet after this session and suggest legislation that could undo tax exemptions that don't make sense at any time, but even less sense in a recession. Legislators should listen and begin to consider how to stop piling on to homeowners' already heavy tax burden." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Tax Shelter," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/25/10)

Estate Tax

Probst Criticized Congressional Republicans For Voting To Repeal The Estate Tax In 2015. "While it seems to be a popular talking point for lawmakers to yell about, the truth is that the estate tax affects very few people, and those affected are only the richest of the rich. To attempt to turn the estate tax into a populist issue with disingenuous claims of unfairness ignores the fact that working families carry the country's tax burden throughout their lives, while others can shield their wealth from taxes both in life and in death." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Until Death," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/17/15)

In 2021, Probst Voted Nay On HB 2104, "An Act Concerning Property Taxation; Relating To School District Levies, Authorizing Continuation Of The Statewide Levy For Schools And The Exemption Of A Portion Of Residential Property From Such Levy." (HB 2104, Passed (77 - 42), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 4/6/21, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Amends law related to the list of eligible county appraisers, the qualifications of county and district appraisers, appraisal standards, Board of Tax Appeals (BOTA) administration and membership, property valuation appeals, judicial review of property tax disputes, and school district budget certification." (HB 2104)

ACU: HB 2104 "Protects Taxpayers By Prohibiting Either The Board Of Tax Appeals, Or The County Commission, From Increasing The Appraised Valuation Of Property As A Result Of An Appeal Or An Informal Meeting." "This bill protects taxpayers by prohibiting either the Board of Tax Appeals, or the county commission, from increasing the appraised valuation of property as a result of an appeal or an informal meeting. Additionally, this bill provides reforms of the appraisal process by requiring new standards and training for appraisers and members of the Board of Tax Appeals (BOTA)." (American Conservative Union, 2021)

Sin Taxes

In 2015, Probst Praised A Recognition That Sin Taxes On Cigarettes And Alcohol Would Have To Be Raised; The Increase Was Expected To Raise $394 Million Over Two Years. "Much can be criticized in Gov. Sam Brownback's budget proposal -- one that proposes a variety of cuts and budget shifts to accommodate a reckless reduction in income taxes that has left the state strapped for cash. But some good news can be found in there as well -- namely, making more gradual the governor's ambitious plan to further reduce income taxes and a recognition that some taxes must be raised, in this case on cigarettes and alcohol. The new taxes would raise about $394 million over two years, and the slowing of the income tax reduction would preserve some much needed income for the state. And the surest way to know that Brownback's proposals have some common sense is the fact that Americans for Prosperity and the Kansas Policy Institute expressed disappointment with it. If those groups aren't happy, Kansans can be certain it contains something worthwhile for the average person. While there could be a complaint about raising taxes on "sin" is unfair and tilted toward a specific group of people, it's a reasonable way to raise income for the state in a way that taxes people's choices instead of their productivity or property and while also working as a potential deterrent to poor health choices." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Healthy Option," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/23/15)

Soda Tax

In March 2010, Probst Criticized A Proposed Soda Tax, Noting It "Poses Several Potential Pitfalls." "A bill introduced this week in the Kansas Legislature looks to sugar-filled soft drinks to help sweeten the state's coffers. The measure was introduced by John Vratil, R-Leawood, and would up the price of a 12-ounce soft drink roughly 10 cents by adding a 1 penny tax for every teaspoon of sugar used in the drink. It's expected to raise approximately $90 million in the next fiscal year, if approved. In addition to serving as a stop-gap for the state's porous bank account, Vratil said the sugar tax would help fight the epidemic of obesity and diabetes by curbing consumption of the syrupy soft drink. Such a plan poses several potential pitfalls. In essence, soft drinks would enter a new realm in which they will earn a classification as a "sin." There are excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco, and if this legislation moves ahead, there would be an excise tax on soft drinks. One has to wonder how a governmental body can determine what's so sinful, or harmful, that it warrants its own special tax. Furthermore, where will the line of demarcation rest on this practice? Will candy bars be next? What about birthday cake mixes or a cherry pie with ice cream? Even old-fashioned pancake syrup could one day find itself on a list of high-calorie foods that, directly or indirectly, cause health problems. The other fatal flaw in this plan is that it's impossible for the state to find success on both fronts -- one designed to increase revenue, the other to reduce consumption of soft drinks. Like most excise taxes, this proposal hopes to gain public support on the supposed benefits to the public, while silently relying on the revenue to finance state operations. If the state is successful in its goal to reduce consumption, it will then need to develop a way to replace a steadily diminishing revenue stream. If it's successful in filling a budget shortfall, we, as a state, still will have to address the health problems created from a diet that contains entirely too much soda. If the state really wanted to curb soft drink consumption, the proposed tax would be much higher than 1 cent per teaspoon of sugar. Instead, it's set at a rate that's tolerable and will likely leave consumption completely unaffected. We get it -- Kansas is flat broke and it's pulling at any thread of untapped revenue it can find. The solution, though, shouldn't be found in a special tax for any food or drink that could be harmful to the public. At the very the least the state's leaders can have the courage to pass a tax increase without a sugary concern-for-public-health coating." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: One Sweet Tax," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/11/10)

Hunting And Fishing License Fees

In March 2012, Probst Praised A Compromise Measure Proposed By Democrat Allen Schmidt That Would Charge Seniors For Hunting And Fishing Licenses But At A Reduced Rate; The Licenses Had Previously Been Free For Seniors. "Kansas seniors are understandably upset with the idea that they'd have to pay full price for hunting and fishing licenses after enjoying the benefit of free licenses for many years. Yet, if Kansans are to continue to enjoy great hunting and fishing opportunities, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has to find a way to capture matching federal dollars for fisheries and wildlife programs. Sen. Allen Schmidt, D-Hays, produced a compromise solution that benefits senior hunters and anglers and their younger counterparts. Rather than simply doing away with the exemption, Schmidt's amendment would drastically reduce the cost of a license for seniors while still allowing the state to capture matching federal funds. The federal government collects money

through an excise tax on the sale of hunting and fishing equipment purchased by outdoors enthusiasts. That money is then returned to individual states, based on the number of hunting and fishing licenses sold in that state. Meanwhile, Kansas -- and the rest of the country -- is on the cusp of an era that will see exponential growth in the number of residents over 65. When the exemption was extended in 1971 to those over 65, life expectancy was 71 years. Today, life expectancy is 78.5 years. Under Schmidt's plan, which passed the Senate Thursday, seniors 65 to 74 could purchase an annual license for $9 or buy a lifetime license for $40 -- allowing the state to receive federal money paid by Kansans who purchase firearms, fishing poles, tackle and ammunition. Seniors 75 and older would retain an exemption on license purchases. True, Kansas retirees, with a mean annual income of $18,381, can't absorb too many price increases. But it takes money to preserve the state's natural resources and keep them available for later generations. Schmidt's amendment is a spectacular compromise that would help preserve fishing and hunting opportunities for today's children while giving Kansas seniors a break on fees." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Hunting For A Solution," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/16/12)

- **Probst: "I Supported The Final Law That Came Out Of Topeka -- Which Created A Reduced-Price Annual License Or A $42.50 Lifetime License For Resident Between 65 And 74."** "If I was a hunter or an angler over the age of 65, I'd feel pretty duped about now. Baited, hooked and tossed on a stringer, if you will. If you'll remember back to around this time last year, there was a lot of talk about ending a longstanding exemption for hunters and anglers over the age of 65. After a lot of cussing and fussing over the issue, the Kansas legislature voted to begin charging those over 65 for hunting and fishing licenses. I never liked the idea that older folks had to start buying their licenses after so many years of getting them for free, but I supported the final law that came out of Topeka -- which created a reduced-price annual license or a $42.50 lifetime license for resident between 65 and 74." (Jason Probst, "Seniors, Others Misled On Need For License Fees," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/23/13)

Miscellaneous – Federal Code

In 2018, Probst Voted Nay On HB 2228, "An Act Concerning Income Taxation; Relating To Deductions, Kansas Itemized Deduction And Standard Deduction, Expensing Deduction." (HB 2228, Failed (59 - 59), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 5/4/18, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Would expand a list of certain types of tax-exempt property whose owners are not required to seek approval from the State Board of Tax Appeals (SBOTA) to include property acquired by a land bank, recreational vehicles owned by full-time members of the military, and most property belonging to the federal government (other than any such federal property otherwise expressly declared by Congress to be subject to state and local taxation)." (HB 2228)

ACU: HB 2228 "Is Designed To Stop A Tax Increase By Conforming The State's Tax Code With Changes In Federal Tax Law." "This bill is designed to stop a tax increase by conforming the state's tax code with changes in federal tax law. Under the bill, the Kansas standard deduction is increased by 25 percent, and caps on itemized deductions are phased in more rapidly. Additionally, taxpayers may itemize deductions on their state tax returns, even if they use the standard deduction on their federal return." (American Conservative Union, 2018)

In 2019, Probst Voted Nay On SB 22, "An Act Concerning Taxation; Relating To Income Tax, Addition And Subtraction Modifications, Treatment Of Deferred Foreign Income." (SB 22, Passed (76 - 43), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/8/19, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Makes several changes to Kansas income tax provisions in response to federal income tax changes enacted in late 2017, reduces the state sales tax rate by 1.0 percent on certain purchases of food, and enacts a number of provisions in response to a U.S. Supreme Court decision authorizing states and local units to collect sales and compensating use taxes on certain transactions made through out-of-state retailers and marketplace facilitators that have an economic presence (nexus) in Kansas." (SB 22)

ACU: SB 22 "Would Conform The State Tax Code To Federal Law To Prevent An Unintentional $500 Million Tax Increase." "This bill would conform the state tax code to federal law to prevent an unintentional $500 million tax increase. The bill is in response to federal tax code reforms under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Under the bill, individuals would be permitted to itemize deductions for state income taxes, even if they do not itemize deductions for federal income taxes. Additionally, the bill would decouple the state code from federal law in regards to "global intangible low-taxed income" (GILTI), thus ensuring income earned overseas is not also taxed at the state level. The bill also establishes an internet sales tax for large remote sellers such as Amazon, thereby removing a competitive advantage that was provided to select companies. To offset the new sales tax, the bill reduces the tax imposed on food by 1% (6.5% to 5.5%)." (American Conservative Union, 2019)

Miscellaneous – Tax Credits

In 2020, Probst Voted Yea On HB 2689, "An Act Concerning Income Taxation; Relating To Angel Investor Tax Credits; Qualified Securities; Credit Limitations And Amounts; Investor Requirements." (HB 2689, Passed (103 - 12), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/13/20, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "The bill would extend the sunset on the angel investor tax credit from tax year 2021 to tax year 2026. The annual cap on tax credits would increase in $0.5 million increments annually, from $6.0 million in tax year 2021 to $8.0 million in tax year 2025 and thereafter. The balance of unissued tax credits, as allowed by continuing law, may be carried over in future tax years. The bill would increase the amount of tax credits claimed on a qualified business investment from $50,000 to $100,000. The total amount of tax credits an investor could claim in any one tax year would increase from $250,000 to $350,000." (HB 2689)

ACU: HB 2689 "Would Further Expand Cronyism By Extending And Expanding The Angel Investor Tax Credit Program Which Provides Tax Credits To Select Investors And Companies Favored By Government Bureaucrats." "This bill would further expand cronyism by extending and expanding the angel investor tax credit program which provides tax credits to select investors and companies favored by government bureaucrats. Under the program, "angel investors" (i.e., investors in start-up businesses) are provided with tax credits based on their investment in select companies favored by government. The program is scheduled to expire in 2021, while this bill would extend it to 2026. Additionally, the bill would increase the maximum

allowable tax credit by 40% (from $250,000 to $350,000) while gradually increasing the total cap on credits from $6 million to $8 million by 2025." (American Conservative Union, 2020)

In 2021, Probst Voted Yea On SB 66, "An Act Concerning Income Taxation; Relating To The Kansas Angel Investor Tax Credit Act; Qualified Securities; Tax Credit Limitations And Amounts." (SB 66, Passed (109 - 12), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/25/21, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "Increases single-year tax credit amounts: From $50,000 to $100,000 for a single Kansas business; and From $250,000 to $350,000 for a single qualified investor." (SB 66)

Spending – State

Kansas Arts Commission

In 2011, Probst Criticized Brownback For Cutting $700,000 In Funding For The Kansas Arts Commission. 'To save $700,000 from the state's budget, Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback used his line item veto power to eliminate state financing for the Kansas Arts Commission -- despite a rejection of the cut from the Legislature. Now, after seeing the ripple effects of that cut -- $2 million in lost arts money for Kansas -- it is time for the governor to admit his error and restore the budget for the Kansas Arts Commission in the fiscal year, if not this one. After Kansas' funding cut, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Mid-America Arts Alliance pulled their matching grants for a state that decided not to finance its own arts programs. This isn't money for some obscure artist in a basement poking a brush in the air. This money is used to help Hutchinson's Fox Theatre bring quality entertainment to town. It is money that is used to help the Hutchinson Art Center bring art exhibits to Hutchinson for its residents' enjoyment. State Democratic party leaders and arts advocates have asked that the budget be restored in the next state budget. Based on an anticipated $180 million budget surplus at the end of the fiscal year, and an increase in sales tax collections, there is little reason to argue otherwise." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Smart Money," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/2/11)

Spending - Federal

Overall

Probst: "Fixing The Deficit Long Term, However, Will Require Strong Leadership To Contain Some Of The Popular Programs That Even Budget Hawks Don't Want To Touch -- Like Medicare, Social Security And Defense Spending." "According to an article by The Associated Press, the Social Security Administration made $6.5 billion in overpayments to people who shouldn't have received any money from the agency in 2009. Most of the money was misspent under the supplemental income program, to people who didn't report all the property and assets they owned. Along with overpayments from other federal agencies, the government let $125 billion fall through the cracks in 2010, and $110 billion in 2009. While the overpayments won't make a dent in an effort to trim approximately $2 trillion from federal spending, it represents a significant source of government waste -- one that should be examined and remedied first, before entire programs land on the chopping block. The need to trim federal spending is legitimate, and the U.S. cannot continue to outspend its revenue. Fixing the deficit long term, however, will require strong leadership to contain some of the popular programs that

even budget hawks don't want to touch -- like Medicare, Social Security and defense spending. First, however, it's worth identifying gross inefficiencies in existing programs -- such as issuing payments to people who shouldn't receive them -- and taking steps to make those systems more responsive and effective." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Budget Gaps," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/15/11)

NPR Appropriations

In March 2011, Probst Criticized Congressional Republicans For Cutting $5 Million In Federal Funding For NPR. "The need to ensure that news can reach the hinter parts of the country isn't what it once was, and without federal subsidy NPR is likely to survive. However, those areas most in need of public radio -- the sparsely populated rural areas -- are most likely to suffer should the Senate side with the House in killing support for NPR. Those rural areas would include the territories of Radio Kansas of Hutchinson and High Plains Public Radio based in Garden City. In Hutchinson, the local NPR affiliate also serves as the radio station for Hutchinson Community College -- a partnership that has flourished for a number of years. Yet, every Kansas House member voted to end NPR's budget. The vote to kill money for NPR seemingly has little to do with a principled stand against wasteful spending or with government intervention where it doesn't belong. NPR gets approximately $5 million each year from the federal budget -- a pittance in the government's projected $1.5 trillion budget deficit. If trimming the deficit was truly the aim of House Republicans, they'd have started at the top of a long list of potential cutbacks and savings -- albeit savings that couldn't be as effectively used during the campaign season." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Future Of NPR," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/18/11)

Social Programs

Reform

Probst: "That's The Approach I Think Should Be Taken With Other Food Benefit Programs -- Education And Reasonable Limitations." "Under the WIC program, recipients (at least at the time) had to take a class on nutrition before they could qualify. We had to show that we knew an apple was a better choice than a cupcake, and with the WIC vouchers, choices are limited to healthy foods -- largely milk, cheese and whole grains. That's the approach I think should be taken with other food benefit programs -- education and reasonable limitations. Do I think that people who receive assistance should be publicly shamed? Absolutely not -- no one benefits from that. Should they be told that they can't ever buy something sweet and delicious for their kids? I wouldn't wish that on any kid, or parent. But I think it's time for a little honesty and frankness on this issue. Allowing the regular purchase of pre-made sandwiches and soft drinks at corner-store prices isn't a cost-effective way to provide food to those who need it. Instead, it worsens our rampant obesity problem, sets the stage for a bigger problem in the next generation and exacerbates our health care dilemma. Poverty and obesity are problems that need a real solution -- and while we might not ever be able to solve them, the least we can do is stop purposely making them worse." (Jason Probst, "OPINION: Time For New Approach To Government Assistance," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/24/10)

In January 2013, Probst Urged Scrutiny Of A Proposal To Require Drug Testing For Recipients Of Cash Assistance And Unemployment Benefits. "Kansas Sen. Jeff King, R-

Independence, has put forward a bill to require drug testing for recipients of cash assistance and unemployment benefits, and require employers to report to the state when a job applicant on the unemployment rolls fails a drug test. The legislation is modeled after similar laws in Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Mississippi and Florida. Such legislation has met with varied success, drawing the ire of privacy advocates and launching legal challenges to "random" drug testing among a specific group of people. Yet there is logic to the notion that those receiving help from the community shouldn't be allowed to abuse drugs on the taxpayer's dime. Nevertheless, the central concern should be less about drug testing and more about the legislation's intent, and that's where the debate is less than straightforward. If the Legislature's intent is to trim government spending, such legislation likely would be a bust. The cost of administering, processing and tracking test results likely would cost more than the state might save. And if the intent is to abruptly shuttle people off of welfare and unemployment rolls, the social costs most likely would devour any savings in state-financed programs. Despite the sins of a parent, it does a community little good to take food out of children's mouths or to make an entire family homeless. If, as King stated, the goal is to identify the needs of drug abusers on assistance in order to get them the help they need to become successful, such a program might prove beneficial -- although most certainly costly. Without substance abuse treatment and job skills training, many drug abusers who need assistance likely would struggle much of their lives to break free from such public dependency. Drug testing those on welfare and unemployment isn't a straightforward endeavor. It would bear expense and would include the "expansion" of a government agency. Likewise, a punitive system designed to reduce the number of people on assistance would create costs in other areas, such as an increase in crime or a demand on local service agencies, already struggling to meet local needs. King's plan isn't without merit, but it does require judicious consideration from lawmakers rather than the easy -- and politically popular -- thoughtless acceptance." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Testing A Plan," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/22/13)

In July 2013, Probst Was Critical Of A Proposal To Increase The Co-Pays For Subsidized Child Care. "Gov. Sam Brownback's top officials with the Department of Children and Family Services have a revolutionary idea on how to reduce the number of children in poverty: Make parents more for child care. As reported by the Kansas Health Institute, DCF Secretary Phyllis Gilmore, who also is chair of the Governor's Task Force on Reducing Childhood Poverty, suggested that increasing the co-pays for subsidized child care would encourage parents to work longer hours and pursue workplace promotions. Parents who make less than 180 percent of the federal poverty level -- about $2,900 a month for a single mother with two children -- receive the subsidy to help offset the expensive cost of child care while the parent works. Some parents also can receive a child care subsidy to attend school -- a benefit that also was questioned by some top DCF brass and task force member Joyce Crumpton of Kansas City. Crumpton said that single mothers need to realize that the cost of public assistance programs is "unsustainable" and that the government is not responsible for rectifying single parents' poor choices. "She might have to postpone her education," Crumpton responded to an example of a single mother working several low-paying jobs and trying to attend school. So the logic of top DCF officials and some task force members apparently flows like this: Working parents who aren't making enough money to pay child care costs should pay more for their child care, which effectively will lower their

hourly wage. That, in turn, will encourage those parents to work more hours or pick up an extra job to make ends meet." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Questionable 'Help'," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/5/13)

Probst Criticized A 2015 Proposal That Would Have Restricted TANF Recipients' Daily Cash Withdrawals From The Fund To $25 A Day. "It turns out that when a state is holding out its hand for federal money, it has to follow the giver's rules about how that money is used -- even a state such as Kansas, which never seems to miss an opportunity to penalize people for their financial poverty. The Kansas Legislature, crazed with unchecked power during the last session, moved to alter and limit poor Kansans' access to social service and welfare programs. Among the most absurd was a measure that would restrict daily ATM withdrawals for cash assistance from the federal Temporary Aid for Needy Families fund to $25 a day. Some lawmakers were happy with themselves and didn't mind that ATMs only dole out cash in $10 increments, effectively limiting such withdrawals to $20 a day. An email from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, however, threatened to pull $100 million in federal money from Kansas, which apparently found the soft spot in Kansas government's heart. Some of the changes in the reform package weren't all bad, such as some of the restrictions on where and for what the money could be spent. When lawmakers crossed into the realm of micromanaging the lives of the impoverished, they undid much of the good they originally may have sought to accomplish." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Insufficient Funds," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/5/15)

Food Stamps

In October 2010, Probst Criticized The Over-Permissiveness Seen In Allowing People To Purchase Junk Food With Food Stamp Funds – Which Also Contributed To Public Health Issues Serviced By Another Government Program. "Somewhere in our country's recent history, we decided that every decision that's made needs to be made by consensus. We didn't like the idea that someone else's ideas had been rejected. So every answer tried to include as many competing concerns as possible, in an effort to keep everyone happy. When the focus is on making people happy, it's not on finding the best solution to the problem. That's what I think has happened over the years with food benefits. According to current rules, any food that's not hot can be purchased with food stamps. That's why prepared sandwiches are OK to purchase. That's why Skittles are OK, too. So are candy bars, Twinkies, Hostess cupcakes, pecan pies and all the sugary cereals one would ever care to eat. I suspect advocates for those in poverty talked about dignity and humanity when outlining the rules, while the food companies fought to expand, rather than limit, a recipient's selection and shopping options. So in an effort to make all sides happy, we allowed all foods to be purchased anywhere, so long as it's not served hot. It also seems logical that if a person is receiving food benefits he or she is also likely receiving their health care benefits. By extension, we taxpayers are paying both for the cause and treatment of many health problems associated with a poor diet. Yet nothing changes, and we ignore the fact that we are literally feeding a growing problem." (Jason Probst, "OPINION: Time For New Approach To Government Assistance," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/24/10)

In 2013, Probst Was Sharply Critical Of House Republicans For Cutting $40 Billion From The Food Stamp Program And Described The Action As "Thoughtless." "The U.S. House on Thursday voted along party lines to cut spending for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps, by $40 billion over the next 10 years and potentially remove more than

4 million people from eligibility in the coming year, a move praised by Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Hutchinson. "I am glad that Congress has taken steps to reign in this out-of-control entitlement, and I believe this bill does that," Huelskamp said in a news release. While Republicans in Congress have no shortage of talking points about SNAP, strangely absent is any talk of making actual reforms to the program that would make it more effective, efficient and healthy. The conversation simply focuses on the program's recent growth -- largely because of the recession, according to the National Review -- and on reducing its costs. But much can be learned from what's not being said. If members of Congress seriously hoped to reform SNAP, they would be talking about developing ways to better monitor and restrict the way in which those benefits are being administered and spent. Not that fraud is an enormous problem: SNAP helps lift more than 47 million people out of poverty while suffering a relatively modest overpayment rate of 3 percent, according to an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. And a report issued by Moody's -- and cited in a joint letter by former Sens. Bob Dole and Tom Daschle that pleaded for Congress to stop playing politics with hunger -- revealed that every $1 of SNAP spending generates $1.70 in related economic activity. While retailers across the country can record and track every item a consumer purchases, Congress has made no effort to deploy similar technology to track individuals' SNAP spending. Likewise, it has made no effort to curb some of the unhealthy purchases that are available through SNAP, such as high calorie candy and junk food, or ½-gallon size bottles of sugary soft drinks at the Kwik Shop. Such measures can, and should, be done to curb the misuse in the program and stretch its dollars to help a higher number of qualified families. The fact that making technological improvements to SNAP isn't being discussed indicates that Congress lacks creativity and empathy and the work ethic to develop real solutions for real problems. Likewise, for every example of someone abusing SNAP benefits, someone else, largely unseen and unheard from, is sneaking into the supermarket in the middle of the night to use those benefits to buy food for his or her family, with the hope that no one will learn the true depth of his poverty. The people who abuse the system are by-and-large shameless and are easy to spot, and they generally lack any shame about their behavior; the people who truly need the help require more effort to see. Congressional Republicans might well be patting themselves on the back for the work they have done to decouple the farm bill from the food program and their subsequent effort to reduce social safety net spending. But there is no reason to celebrate. Congress hasn't solved problems in SNAP, developed a way to improve it or help it better serve its purpose. They simply have cut it, and that's the simplest and most thoughtless path they could have taken." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Bad Food," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/20/13)

Pensions Plans

Asset Sales

In May 2011, Probst Argued Against Selling State Assets To Help Address KPERS's Projected $7.7 Billion Shortfall By 2033. "After years of failing to adequately fund the Kansas Public Employees Retirement Plan, or KPERs, the legislature and the governor have crafted a temporary solution to what is a long term problem: sell of the state's assets. Each state agency has been asked to analyze its holdings, and report back with property that could potentially be sold to raise money toward KPERs' projected $7.7 billion shortfall by 2033. Once again, however, the state's leaders are fumbling around for a temporary solution that holds the potential

for long term, if not permanent, repercussions. Selling off assets permanently removes those items -- whether they be land or buildings -- from the state. Once sold, they can't be used for the future needs, and any land that's currently made available for public use -- such as parks or public wildlife areas -- will be lost forever to private development. Those aren't "surplus" properties that should be used for quick gain; they're assets held in trust by the state for the people of this state. Additionally, 80 percent of the money generated from such sales will be used to fill a chronic gap in KPERs funding. It hardly seems right to sell a public asset -- essentially owned by every resident of the state -- to fulfill an obligation that only benefits state employees. Perhaps the strongest argument against the selling off of state assets is that it doesn't really solve any problem, yet it could leave the state in a weaker position in the future. It's doubtful the land that the state could sell would have a meaningful impact on KPERs funding. Legislators and the governor must look for more inventive and lasting ways to solve the KPERs shortfall -- and selling off good property at a pittance in today's somewhat depressed market is a shortsighted solution to what has been, and will remain, a long term problem." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Topeka's Fire Sale," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/27/11)

Development

Tax Abatements

In June 2010, Probst Praised The Hutchinson City Council For Awarding A $5.5 Million Tax Abatement To Facilitate The Construction Of A Fairfield Inn. 'The Hutchinson City Council is again showing its capacity for sound decision making with the recent award of tax abatements to encourage the development of a Fairfield Inn on property that has been empty for a number of years. The deal, which will raise $5.5 million through Industrial Revenue Bonds, will give the hotel developers a tax discount for up to seven years and open discussion on creating a community improvement district in which the hotel could collect additional tax revenue for the project. Originally, the developers, Mitesh Patel and Raju Sheth, both of Wichita, had asked for a 10-year, 100 percent abatement that is allowed under state law. The city, however, wisely decided to grant a partial incentive -- enough to entice, but not enough to give away the whole farm. The Hampton project will receive six year abatement, with 100 percent break in the first two years, dropping to 80 percent in the third year, 60 percent in the fourth year and so on. City Manager John Deardoff said similar tax breaks have been issued recently for two other projects: The Hampton Inn and the Grand Prairie." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: The Right Break," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/19/10)

Labor

Pandemic Enhanced Unemployment Benefits

In May 2021, Probst Argued That Ending Pandemic Enhanced Unemployment Benefits Would Not Ameliorate Labor Conditions In Kansas. 'And the April unemployment rate is 3.5 percent - only .3 percent higher than it was in March of 2020, before Kansas was in full pandemic mode. The data is clear that whatever workforce issues Kansas currently faces doesn't have its origin in a post-pandemic world or because there are too many people making too much money from the extra $300 a week the feds are providing. It's also clear that ending the

enhanced benefit would barely make a dent in filling those job vacancies. What we're facing right now in our labor market is a return to what existed well before the pandemic began - back when we were seeing ample reporting that Kansas was struggling to find enough people to fill the available jobs in the state." (Jason Probst Substack, 5/23/21)

Wages

In 2013, Probst Criticized HB 2069, Which "Would Ban Local Communities From Requiring Contractors Who Win Government Jobs To Pay The Prevailing Local Wage To Its Workers As Part Of The Contract," As An Erosion Of Local Control. "House Bill 2069 would ban local communities from requiring contractors who win government jobs to pay the prevailing local wage to its workers as part of the contract. Crossland -- one of the top contractors in the country with offices in six states, including Kansas -- supports House Bill 2069, saying the bill would "restore integrity" to the contracting process. Sen. Wagle pointed out that the current prevailing wage allowance has been around since 1891 -- in fact Kansas was the first state to pass a prevailing wage requirement for public works projects, which set a precedent for a similar federal requirement in 1931. Now, Wagle says, a law that doesn't require but allows local communities to set wage requirements for locally financed projects are terribly damaging to the Kansas economy. Strangely, throughout this session, anything deemed bad for the Kansas economy has been quickly remedied by either reducing employee pay and protections or creating new tax exemptions for industry. Judging by the legislation coming out of Topeka, it seems the only problem with the Kansas economy is that its workers have been getting paid far too well and enjoyed too many lucrative benefits. Perhaps more interesting is the doubletalk from this crop of legislators. While they go on ad nauseam about the beauty of small government, the evils of oversight and regulation and the ability of small government to better handle its own needs, they've drafted pages of legislation that take away local rights and transfer them to the hands of the Governor and members of the legislature. There may be some small things in Topeka this year, but it's certainly not a government that has worked so tirelessly to wrest away local control from the voters and taxpayers of Kansas counties and cities." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Power Grab," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/3/13)

Right To Work

In November 2021, Probst Was Implicitly Critical Of Right To Work Laws In Kansas. "If you don't like vaccine mandates, you really shouldn't like our right to work laws - which would be more accurately called right to fire laws. In Kansas, an employer can fire an employee for any reason, or without reason, so long as that employee isn't a member of a protected group and the firing isn't found to be based on that discrimination. But I could literally walk up to an employee on a Tuesday morning, say I'm grumpy and today I don't like the way your hair looks - and that would be good enough for Kansas law. Sure, I might get dinged on my unemployment rating - but I can still do that. So, while you might bring an employer a vaccine exemption, it's very possible your boss could accept that, and then find a completely different reason to fire you. Also, and again, the courts will play this out, but if a company is taking federal money, it's pretty well established that they have to play by federal rules. I expect the courts will support that notion. The OSHA rules were always suspect, and likely unenforceable. But when all is said and done, I think most people expect that the state law won't hold up in court, or have much bite to

it. And to further support that idea - some of the legislators who originally called for a special session were not happy with this product - and felt it didn't do nearly enough. And they warned us throughout the special session that they will be bringing more bills in 2022 session." (Jason Probst Substack, 11/30/21)

Civil Service Protections

In 2013, Probst Was Critical Of The Kansas Legislature For Seeking To Undo Civil Service Protections For Public Employees. "A tax cut, who doesn't like the idea of a nice big tax cut? But already Kansans are biting down on the pit in that bill and realizing the pain might well come in higher taxes elsewhere or reduced services in their communities. As for unions, Kansans have never much liked them anyway -- especially those unions that represent teachers and government workers who earn their livings from taxpayer dollars. Another shotgun blast brought a flurry of bills designed to erode union power and membership. Yet, in the process, lawmakers have sought to undo civil service protections, which would allow public employees to be hired or fired based on their political affiliation and the changing winds of each election season." (Jason Probst, "Editorial: Shotgun Legislature," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/22/13)

Workers Compensation

In 2012, Probst Criticized Kansas Legislators For Weakening Workers Compensation Laws To Improve The State's Favorability For Business. "Workers' compensation laws are designed to provide a safety net to workers who become injured or disabled during the course of their work, by covering the cost of medical care and ensuring that a family doesn't fall flat during recovery. The Kansas of 2011, however, looked at workers' compensation laws as a tool that could be leveraged to improve the state's favorability for business. With that twisted view of the purpose of workers' compensation, the Legislature altered the program, significantly weakening protections for workers and easing liability for companies. Meanwhile, Kansas already ranked near the bottom of the country on workers' compensation spending and failed to provide coverage that rivals our bordering neighbors, such as Missouri. Nevertheless, workers' compensation was eyed as an economic development tool that could be tweaked to make Kansas a more attractive business location. Such arguments don't add up: According to a study by the National Academy of Social Insurance, the cost of workers' comp benefits and the cost of the insurance dropped 68 cents and 80 cents, respectively. Furthermore, there is little solid evidence to support the idea that companies, when looking for places to expand or relocate, consider workers' compensation laws among their chief worries. And there is even less reason to believe that a state that already allowed relatively little on workers' comp would become more attractive by lowering benefits even more. Workers' compensation is exactly what the name implies -- compensation for workers who are injured or permanently disabled because of a workplace accident. It should not be a tool for economic development that is adjusted and manipulated to create a more favorable environment for business." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Workers' Compensation," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/6/12)

Unemployment Program

In February 2010, Probst Agreed That Asking Businesses To Increase Their Payments Into The Kansas Unemployment Program During The Economic Recession Would Backfire On

Job Growth. "The unemployment rate in Kansas hasn't hit some of the higher numbers seen in other states, nevertheless the system designed to protect unemployed workers from catastrophe is nearly out of money. To solve the unemployment insurance fund's potential solvency problem, the Kansas Department of Labor is increasing in 2010 the amount employers have to pay into the system, from 2.02 percent to 4.37 percent of the first $8,000 of an employee's wages. Businesses, however, rightly complain that an increase in the fund to pay laid-off workers is taking away money away that could otherwise be used to hire employees back to work, which would help reduce unemployment rolls. The Kansas Policy Institute reported last week that Goodwill Industries of Kansas won't hire seven employees for its stores because its income is down nearly $45,000 and its unemployment insurance funds have increased to $155,000 a year. Other businesses likewise complained to the Senate labor and commerce committees about the increase, saying the increase in insurance fees is hurting their ability to expand their businesses and hire employees. Kansas Labor Secretary Jim Garner told Senate committee members that like any other insurance fund, the premiums increase when a disaster strikes. Together with expected increases in the federal unemployment fund rates, businesses will be paying the highest rate for unemployment insurance they've seen since the 1980s. There's little doubt that increase will be a drain on job creation, which is the only way to decrease the state's number of unemployed and thereby decrease the amount of money flowing out of the fund and increase the amount coming into it. And that leaves the state in quite a lurch." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Financing Unemployment," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/5/10)

- **Probst: "Instead Of Lowering The Rates When Times Are Flush, Which Is A Common Practice, We Might Be In A Better Position Now Had We Left Those Rates Alone And Built Up A Higher Reserve For A Time Such As This."** "There's no doubt that the state has to find a way to make up the shortfall and shore up the unemployment insurance fund. But placing that burden on the backs of businesses now will depress hiring and stall job creation. Kansas isn't alone in its predicament -- more than 30 other states face similar shortfalls and some have fared much worse than Kansas. Two bills introduced in the legislature would attempt to soften the blow to businesses, but reacting in the midst of a disaster is not likely to be of enough effect, soon enough, to do much good. As Kansas finds its way out of this recession, state leaders should examine this issue and try to find a way to fund the unemployment account when times are good to a level that will sustain the state through periods of high and prolonged unemployment. Instead of lowering the rates when times are flush, which is a common practice, we might be in a better position now had we left those rates alone and built up a higher reserve for a time such as this. As late as 2009, the Kansas Policy Institute reported, the unemployment insurance rate was reduced because the fund contained $506 million, while projections estimated the need at $304 million. Businesses paid in a total of $198 million, but will now pay more this year -- when they can least afford it -- because of the reduced rates they enjoyed last year. That policy has to change, with the goal of accumulating reserves for a time like now, if this system is going to be an effective way to provide a safety net without interfering with job creation when's its needed the most." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Financing Unemployment," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/5/10)

Additional Regulatory And Related Issues

Agriculture – Chicken Farming / Pig Farming

In 2012, Probst Criticized A Bill, Passed By A 106-8 Vote, That Would Allow Large-Scale Swine Farming Operations With The Approval Of The County Commission Rather Than A Referendum Of County Voters. "Among a basketful of bills designed to make the world easier for big business, at least one has a bad smell. Last week, the Kansas House of Representatives passed a measure, by a 106-8 vote, to change the law on corporate swine farms. Currently, establishing a large-scale swine operation requires approval by county voters. The new proposal would allow such operations with only the approval of the county commission. If residents are unhappy with the commission's decision, residents would have 60 days to draft an approved protest petition and collect enough signatures -- 5 percent of voters in the previous secretary of state contest -- to force the issue to a vote. The legislation apparently is being "fast-tracked," with little standing in its way to slow it down. Corporate swine operations previously have been forced to go to a public vote for good reason. The smell can ruin neighborhoods and potentially cause significant pollution of waterways. More concerning, however, is that this legislation places the burden on voters to undo a bad decision, while relieving the corporate swine operators of their duty to assure the public that they will take steps to mitigate the negative consequences of a large-scale hog farm. The swine operators, not the public, stand to gain the most from such operations and therefore should carry the burden of proof that the proposed facility would do no harm. Transferring that obligation to the people -- who have little to gain directly but nevertheless must take action to protect their interests -- is simply another example of how our democratically elected government is placing corporate rights above the rights of individuals." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Smelly Legislation," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/7/12)

In 2018, Probst Voted Nay On SB 405, "An Act Concerning The Department Of Health And Environment; Relating To Animal Conversion Units; Poultry Facilities; Confined Feeding Facilities." (SB 405, Passed (84 - 37), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/12/18, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Amends the law that establishes the number of animals permitted in a confined animal feeding facility (CAFO) for the purpose of determining permitting requirements for new construction or expansion of a CAFO. Under continuing law, a CAFO is required to register with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment if the CAFO has an animal unit capacity of 300 or more. A permit is required for a CAFO with a capacity of 1,000 or more and may be required for a CAFO if the facility poses a significant water pollution potential." (SB 405)
- NOTE: "Establishes the animal unit measurement calculation for chicken facilities that use a dry manure waste system as the number of laying hens or broilers multiplied by 0.003. In addition, the bill requires a confined chicken facility to obtain a federal permit if the facility uses a dry manure system and confines 125,000 or more broilers or 82,000 or more laying hens." (SB 405)

ACU: SB 405 "Allows Farmers To Offer More Poultry To The Market By Permitting A Greater Number Of Chickens To Be Housed On A Farmer's Property." "This bill allows farmers to offer more poultry to the market by permitting a greater number of chickens to be housed on a farmer's property. The bill eases regulations governing confined animal feeding facilities, such as concentration and setback requirements." (American Conservative Union, 2018)

Consumer Safety – Toyota

In January 2010, Probst Praised Toyota's Handling Of Car Recalls Related To Accelerator Pads Claiming "Toyota Has Handled This Issue With Class." "Much has been made recently about Toyota's decision to recall some of its most popular and best-selling models after discovering a potential problem with the vehicles' accelerator pedals. "Toyota recall shows how lean manufacturing can backfire," read one headline from the Wall Street Journal. A columnist for the Toronto Star opined that Toyota's legacy of quality disappeared years before the most recent recall, and numerous stories and news broadcasts from around the country pointed out what seems to be obvious -- that the recall hurt Toyota's image. The stock market also bashed the Japanese automaker. The company's stock plunged in the week after the recall announcement, from $91 on Jan. 19, to $79 Thursday. Congress, never a group to miss out on a chance to win favor with the masses, wants to hold its own inquiry. Despite the rabble, the plummeting stock price and the public uproar, the truth of the matter is that Toyota has handled this issue with class. The recall was voluntary, rather than a one initiated by the National Highway Transportation Safety Board. Toyota has been relatively upfront about the issues it has uncovered with the accelerator pedals. Other automakers have had design flaws in the past, and some haven't been as forthcoming as Toyota has been on this issue." (Jason Probst, Editorial, "Turning On Toyota, 1/29/10)

- **Probst: "Rather Than Asking Whether Toyota Ought To Fear The Future, Or Whether The Company's Image Will Be Irrevocably Tarnished, The Real Question Should Be, Why Don't Other Automakers Handle Safety Issues As Aggressively As Toyota?"** "The people at Toyota weren't told to do it, and they weren't subject to any fine if they sat silent. They recognized a potential problem and took steps to alleviate it. Furthermore, Liker reports that in his 25 years of research on the company, Toyota puts more effort into examining and re-examining engineering issues to reduce flaws. During this recession, Toyota repurposed its staff for additional training and to focus on quality and possible improvements, rather than laying off the 40 percent of its production workforce that it didn't need. Rather than asking whether Toyota ought to fear the future, or whether the company's image will be irrevocably tarnished, the real question should be, why don't other automakers handle safety issues as aggressively as Toyota?" (Jason Probst, Editorial, "Turning On Toyota, 1/29/10)

Probst: Concern Over The Toyota Safety Defects "Didn't Warrant The End-Of-The-World Hysteria That Took Hold Around The Country." "As it turns out, investigators with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration have spent the past five months investigating all those runaway Toyotas. What they found, according to an article this week in The Wall Street Journal, was that in more than half of the 58 vehicles involved in "sudden acceleration reports" driver error seems to be the likely cause. By reviewing data from the cars'

"black box" recorders, investigators learned that in 35 of the cars, the drivers never applied the brakes. In another nine cases, the brakes were only applied just before impact. In only one case was it clear that the brake had been consistently applied, and the investigators suspect a floor mat lodged the gas pedal to the floor. In its early report, the NHTSA investigators said there was no indication of safety defects, other than the sticking gas pedals for which Toyota had already launched its recall. There's no doubt that Toyota could've handled the recall with more urgency, and it is a massive recall, though it's not the largest automotive recall in the U.S. -- that belongs to Ford's fire-prone cruise control switches that affected more than 14 million vehicles. But it didn't warrant the end-of-the-world hysteria that took hold around the country. One might be able to understand why cable news networks and blogs would latch onto the recall story and half-wittedly repeat it over and over -- it's the type of story that excites viewers and keeps them glued to a television set or a computer monitor. It's less understandable why the U.S. government would shoot from the hip and launch a congressional hearing while its own investigators were still collecting data that in the end placed some of the blame on drivers." (Jason Probst, "Editorial: Recalling Toyota," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/13/10)

In March 2014, "Car Manufacturer Toyota Has Agreed To Pay A Staggering $1.2 Billion To Avoid Prosecution For Covering Up Severe Safety Problems With "Unintended Acceleration," According To Court Documents, And Continuing To Make Cars With Parts The FBI Said Toyota "Knew Were Deadly.'" "Car manufacturer Toyota has agreed to pay a staggering $1.2 billion to avoid prosecution for covering up severe safety problems with "unintended acceleration," according to court documents, and continuing to make cars with parts the FBI said Toyota "knew were deadly." A deferred prosecution agreement, filed today, forced Toyota to "admit" that it "misled U.S. consumers by concealing and making deceptive statements about two safety related issues affecting its vehicles, each of which caused a type of unintended acceleration.'" ("Toyota To Pay $1.2B For Hiding Deadly 'Unintended Acceleration,'" ABC News, 3/29/14)

- **"Toyota "Put Sales Over Safety And Profit Over Principle," According To FBI Assistant Director George Venizelos."** "Toyota "put sales over safety and profit over principle," according to FBI Assistant Director George Venizelos. "The disregard Toyota had for the safety of the public is outrageous," Venizelos said. "Not only did Toyota fail to recall cars with problem parts, they continued to manufacture new cars with the same parts they already knew were deadly. When media reports arose of Toyota hiding defects, they emphatically denied what they knew was true, assuring consumers that their cars were safe and reliable… More than speeding cars or a major fine, the ultimate tragedy has been the unwitting consumers who died behind the wheel of Toyota vehicles.'" ("Toyota To Pay $1.2B For Hiding Deadly 'Unintended Acceleration,'" ABC News, 3/29/14)

- **"A Senior Justice Official Added That Toyota Made "Blatant Misrepresentations" In What He Called A Classic Case Of Corporate Culture That Favored The Seemingly Easy Way Out Instead Of Paying The Cost And Doing The Right Thing."** "A senior Justice official added that Toyota made "blatant misrepresentations" in what he called a classic case of corporate culture that favored the seemingly easy way out instead of paying the cost and doing the right thing. "The cover up is always going to be worse than the original sin," the official said. In a statement posted on its website, Toyota said

that at the time of the recalls the company "took full responsibility for any concerns our actions may have caused customers, and we rededicated ourselves to earning their trust.'" ("Toyota To Pay $1.2B For Hiding Deadly 'Unintended Acceleration,'" ABC News, 3/29/14)

Fines

Probst: "Unless Monolithic Companies Such As BP Face Crippling Fines For Wrongdoing, They Nearly Always Will Hold Profit Above Principle." "The government reported the settlement is the biggest criminal fine in U.S. history. Nevertheless, it's a pittance for the oil giant and little more than an inconvenience for a company that made $25.8 billion in profits during 2011. Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer said the BP oil spill "resulted from BP's culture of privileging profit over prudence." With fines and penalties that don't equal a company's quarterly profits, however, that practice isn't likely to change. Unless monolithic companies such as BP face crippling fines for wrongdoing, they nearly always will hold profit above principle. When the profit is lucrative, as it is in oil and gas, the reward for breaking the law or endangering the environment far outweighs any risk of punishment. If one needed proof of the excitement in BP's ranks about the settlement, just look to its stock price, which climbed on the heels of the settlement -- seen by stockholders as a positive end to a tragic event. The BP oil spill's effects will linger on the Gulf Coast for years, and it was caused by a blinding devotion to maximum profit making. Thanks to a government that is willing to mete out meaningless penalties for egregious wrongdoing, Americans can only expect more of the same behavior." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Slick Settlement," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/16/12)

Financial Sector

Probst Called For Additional Regulatory Oversight Of The Financial Sector. "In the aftermath of the MF Global bankruptcy, more than $1 billion of customer money was discovered "missing" and potentially lost in the firm's $6 billion bet on European debt, which proved unstable. Corzine, also a former executive of Goldman Sachs, made many appearances on television and on the lecture circuit in the aftermath of the 2008 financial meltdown to talk about the loose regulations governing banks. Yet at the helm of his own firm, MF Global dismissed regulations regarding the proper way to handle clients' protected funds. While the political debate about regulation, over-regulation and updated, modern regulation will rage on, what is certain is that enforcement of the current regulations governing investment houses has virtually no oversight. As in 2008, the MF Global debacle reveals that investment houses are more than willing to tap into customers' protected funds to maximize their profits or as a way to cover investment losses. Until financial regulators are given the authority and the resources to effectively enforce regulations designed to protect investors, the investments of ordinary Americans will continue to be misused and we'll only know it once the money is "missing.'" (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Global Failure," *The Hutchinson News*, 12/15/11)

Corporate Farming

In March 2013, Probst Opposed Proposals To Expand The High Performance Incentive Program For Farm Operations And To Lift Kansas' Restrictions On Corporate Farming. "The High Performance Incentive Program, or HPIP, traditionally has given tax breaks for companies that provide above average wages in the state, with a requirement that companies

document their planned investments before qualifying under HPIP. The breaks include a 10-percent income tax credit for capital investment, a training tax credit and a sales tax exemption for capital investment costs. Under the new proposal, the tax relief would be retroactive to the 2012 tax year and would be extended to chicken egg production, sheep and goat farming, cattle feedlots, dairy cattle and milk production, and hog farming. Inconceivably, the Kansas Farm Bureau, the Kansas Pork Association and the Kansas Livestock Association have supported both the HPIP expansion and the move to lift Kansas' restrictions on corporate farming -- two measures certain to hurt those organizations' members and, eventually, their own ability to help shape farm policy. Such measures, and their aggressive support by the governor, show that Kansas now is governed under a corporate-political complex in which state policy is a joint venture between politicians who literally give away the farm to large multinational corporations, who, in exchange, help finance those politicians' continued success at election time. While this symbiotic relationship between governance and business might be good for both host and parasite, it is bad for everyone else who calls Kansas home." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Bad Seeds," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/7/13)

Probst, On Loosening Restrictions On Foreign Farm Ownership: "It's Also The Truth That Doing Away With Kansas Longstanding Laws Against Corporate Agriculture Ownership Will Require Local Elected Officials To Cede To The State Their Guaranteed Home Rule Authority." "The truth is that Kansas is a business-friendly state -- something the Kansas Department of Commerce proudly proclaims on its website by highlighting business publications that have identified Kansas as a "premier" state for businesses. It's also the truth that doing away with Kansas longstanding laws against corporate agriculture ownership will require local elected officials to cede to the state their guaranteed home rule authority. That means the case against Kansas' laws on corporate farming are not as clear-cut as supporters would have us believe, and we do not know the full extent of what changing the law might mean to the family farmer in Kansas. While the KFB and the KDA undoubtedly will push again this session the idea that the history of the state's agriculture laws don't matter and that it's time for Kansas to welcome international corporate agribusiness, people who live and work in Kansas should watch this issue closely -- and take steps now to protect their futures, just like those forward thinking Kansans did more than 80 years ago." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Ag Watch," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/29/13)

"Probst Voted Against A Bill To Allow Large-Scale Poultry Feeding Operations, And That Bill Was A Key One For The Agriculture Sector, Flickner Said." "Many Kansas House of Representatives incumbents picked up the Kansas Farm Bureau's backing. In Reno County, the PAC endorsed State Reps. Steven Becker, R-Buhler; Joe Seiwert, R-Pretty Prairie; and Jack Thimesch, R-Spivey. State Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, was not endorsed. He is running unopposed. Probst voted against a bill to allow large-scale poultry feeding operations, and that bill was a key one for the agriculture sector, Flickner said. The feedback at the county level was that Probst was not strong on agricultural issues, according to Flickner, and his voting record reflected that." (*The Hutchinson News*, 6/30/18)

Licensure

In 2019, Probst Voted Yea On SB 60, "An Act Concerning Real Estate; Relating To Licensing Of Brokers And Salespersons; Application, Temporary Licenses, Education Requirements." (SB 60, Passed (107 - 17), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/26/19, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "Increasing the pre-license education course from 24 hours to 30 hours, and no more than 45 hours, and renaming the course the "Kansas Real Estate Fundamentals Course." (SB 60)
- NOTE: "Reducing from five years to three years preceding the date of application for the license the time for which an applicant for a broker's license may satisfy the requirement of two years' experience as a resident salesperson or a licensee in another state. The Commission is authorized to adopt rules and regulations to implement this provision." (SB 60)
- NOTE: "Creating a new course titled "Kansas Real Estate Management Course," which is 30 hours to 45 hours in length and is required for original broker's license applicants beginning January 1, 2020" (SB 60)

ACU: SB 60 "Further Restricts Competition On Behalf Of Well-Established, Government-Favored Individuals By Imposing Additional Licensing Requirements On Aspiring Real Estate Brokers." "This bill further restricts competition on behalf of well-established, government-favored individuals by imposing additional licensing requirements on aspiring real estate brokers. Under the bill, individuals who wish to become brokers must complete up to 45 hours of education (previously 24 hours) prior to taking a state exam. Additionally, previous law required an applicant for a broker's license to have two years of experience as a resident real estate salesperson. This bill requires that experience to have been gained within only the last three years (previously five years). Finally, under previous law, individuals working in counties with populations of 20,000 or fewer were eligible for exemptions from these stringent mandates, but this bill eliminates those exemptions, thus forcing small county brokers to fully comply with all licensing provisions." (American Conservative Union, 2019)

Zoning

In April 2010, Probst Criticized Overly Restrictive Business Zoning Laws In Hutchinson. 'On the other hand, a strict and by-the-letter interpretation of zoning laws can also serve as a deterrent to the entrepreneur who has an idea or a skill that is capable of producing income, but who lacks the capital to buy or rent a separate building and pay for the overhead that comes with a separate business location. And when zoning laws kill the opportunity for entrepreneurs to create their own wealth and build their businesses, the community as a whole suffers. Some home based business are little more than hobbies, from which the proprietor's proceeds are used to finance that interest. Other home based businesses are active and productive enough to support a household. Still others become surprisingly successful, grow and eventually become large companies that employ dozens, perhaps hundreds, of people in our community. That's something Hutchinson -- both its residents and its policymakers -- should welcome and encourage. Entrepreneurs are a vital piece of any local economy, and for many ventures that first step to self

employment begins at home. For that to happen, though, the city must take to heart a philosophy that encourages innovation and risk, and one that assumes property owners have an inherent right to improve and modify their properties and operate small businesses, so long as their activities don't infringe upon another property owner's rights. In Kramer's case, however, and in the proposal to make illegal backyard bee hives, the city seemingly has adopted the opposite philosophy -- one that assumes everything needs a rule and a place, and that individual property rights are subordinate to city code. That's not the approach we need in Hutchinson if we're truly interested in creating economic opportunities for the people who live here, and interest in relocating here for those innovators who don't yet call Hutchinson home." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Zoning Initiative," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/9/10)

Hunting

In January 2010, Probst Noted His Opposition To A Proposed Law Requiring Archery Hunters To First Take A Doe Before Taking A Buck – A Means To Curb The Deer Population. "Every couple of years, it seems, some legislation is introduced to curb the deer population in Kansas and by extension decrease the number of deer-related traffic accidents. Legislators undoubtedly hear from their constituents about the issue and feel something should be done to address those concerns and make traveling on Kansas highways and rural roads a little safer. Unfortunately, this most recent incarnation -- which would require archery hunters first to take a doe before taking a buck -- badly misses the mark. The issue, as staff at the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks points out, isn't that hunters aren't taking an appropriate amount of deer. The key issue is that hunters have limited access to hunting ground, especially in areas closer to population centers. The result is a transition zone between city and country, where both more deer and motorists are present and which creates more opportunities for accidents." (Jason Probst, Editorial, "Hunting Solutions," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/27/10)

- **Probst: "A Knee-Jerk Reaction Like This Legislation Could Backfire And Turn People Away From Archery Hunting, Stifling The State's Growing Big Game Industry -- While Leaving A Healthy Number Of Deer Free To Roam Around The Most Traveled Parts Of The State."** "There are other, more logical, steps that could be taken to curb the deer populations, especially in highly traveled corridors. Efforts to open up land to hunting, especially around urban areas, would be much more effective. Continued hunter recruitment efforts could help, too, as could special seasons for lower powered firearms, such as a shotgun slug season. The bottom line is that for as much as motorists and legislators would like to see fewer deer on Kansas highways, the answer isn't simply shooting more deer. Finding solutions to this problem will require a good look at where accidents occur with the greatest frequency and meaningful discussion with biologists who attempt to manage the state's deer herd. A knee-jerk reaction like this legislation could backfire and turn people away from archery hunting, stifling the state's growing big game industry -- while leaving a healthy number of deer free to roam around the most traveled parts of the state." (Jason Probst, Editorial, "Hunting Solutions," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/27/10)

Indoor Smoking

Probst, In 2015: "Though Controversial At The Time, The Smoking Ban -- Also Known As The Kansas Indoor Clean Air Act -- Was The Right Move By Lawmakers." "The predictions five years ago, when the statewide indoor smoking ban took effect, were dire. Businesses would suffer, critics said. Such regulation was unnecessary and overreaching and would lead to people shopping and dining less. Those apocalyptic prophecies, however, haven't materialized. In fact, many businesses report that life is better since the state restricted indoor smoking. While there might be some businesses -- specifically bars and pubs -- that have seen reduced business, most have found traffic unaffected. As a bonus, they've also discovered that a world without indoor smoking includes less maintenance required to cover up, or undo, the lingering consequences of tobacco smoke. Five years later, it's hard to recall a world in which smoking occurred in restaurants, bars and shopping centers. The time of smoking in malls and retail centers is long gone, and few people miss those days when smoke filled the air for all to breathe. Though controversial at the time, the smoking ban -- also known as the Kansas Indoor Clean Air Act -- was the right move by lawmakers. The rules today are well established, and there's no need to question from place to place whether or not smoking is allowed. It's not, in any indoor building in the state of Kansas. Except, of course, the one exemption the state carved out for itself -- casinos." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Clean Air," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/3/15)

Single-Use Plastics

In February 2020, Probst Was Skeptical Of HB 2625 And Contended That It Would Preempt Local Control Over Single-Use Plastics. "In Topeka, the Kansas chapter of the Sierra Club is pushing back against House Bill 2625. It would pre-empt power of cities and counties to regulate paper or plastic bags and other single-use plastic. Sierra Club representative Zach Pistoria said he counted 72 pieces of plastic trash on 10 miles of highway between his home in Linwood and the Capitol. Lack of state action on plastic trash is compelling local municipalities to consider remedies, he said. "Our home on the range is trashed with plastic," Pistoria said. "It tarnishes our great landscape. It's just a disgrace we're filling it up with plastic trash. Kristi Brown, a lobbyist with the Kansas Chamber, said local ordinances that impose fees on use of plastic bags were a tax on consumers. Opposition to plastic bags is driven by environmental myths, she said. "We're looking for consistency," said Tom Palace, executive director of the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas. Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, said skeptics of local control on the trash issue were looking at it wrong. He said he understood cost concerns of business owners but was convinced policies adopted elsewhere could be adapted to fit Kansas communities. "I worry though we take things from a position of fear instead of opportunity," he said." (*Topeka Capital Journal*, 2/21/20)

Inequality

Divisive Rhetoric

Probst: "We Can Pretend That Income Inequality Isn't Anything To Be Concerned About, And We Can Wrap The Gospel Of Wealth In An American Flag And Pretend That It's Good For The Rich And Poor Alike. But The Evidence Shows Us That's A Lie." "We can

pretend that income inequality isn't anything to be concerned about, and we can wrap the gospel of wealth in an American flag and pretend that it's good for the rich and poor alike. But the evidence shows us that's a lie. This upward concentration of wealth is hurting the economy, damaging families and dissolving the American middle class. A CEO who earns what it would take a worker 257 years to make isn't creating many jobs with that money, nor is he stimulating the economy beyond his private, gilded world. That obscene CEO income paid out instead to average middle class families would go much further in boosting the economy. And unlike the "job creator" rhetoric that's all the rage today, the money those families spend on housing, food, entertainment, dining and various other items has a proven track record of creating jobs." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Top Pay," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/30/14)

Probst: "So Long As Those Who Benefit From Aggregated Wealth Draft Economic And Tax Policy, The Gap Between Those Who Have Much And Those Who Have Little Will Continue To Widen, Poverty Will Climb And The Middle Class Backbone Of The U.S. Economy Will Further Weaken -- Even As 1 Percent Of The Population Assures Us It's All For Our Own Good." "While some might find it easy to point the finger at the current administration for weakness in the economy, the truth is that concentration of wealth is a centerpiece of the U.S. economy. For more than 30 years -- across different parties and presidents -- the highest earners in the country have gathered more of the nation's wealth at the expense of the country's middle class families. And the study suggests little reason to expect any changes in the future. A recovery that only restores the income of the wealthy and adds to the reserves of the already wealthy isn't a recovery at all. It's a recipe for depression. An economy that reduces the purchasing power of the vast majority of Americans erodes opportunity for everyone -- the poor, the middle class and the wealthy. Yet in many states, including Kansas, economic policy is being crafted by those organizations that seemingly hope to secure their wealth by strangling the prosperity out of the average working family, all while making the false claim that more wealth in fewer hands means more jobs and more wealth for all of us. History and the data show that concentrated wealth isn't the path to creating jobs. So long as those who benefit from aggregated wealth draft economic and tax policy, the gap between those who have much and those who have little will continue to widen, poverty will climb and the middle class backbone of the U.S. economy will further weaken -- even as 1 percent of the population assures us it's all for our own good." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Economic Indicator," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/11/13)

In 2015, Probst Criticized The Wealthy And Corporate Interests As "Freeloaders" Who Took Advantage Of Tax Breaks. "The idea that the poor are a bunch of freeloaders on the taxpayer dole seems to be a popular thought in Kansas today, but the plain truth is that those on the upper end of the income scale enjoy a lower overall tax rate than those who work for minimum wage. The only measure in which the poor pay less than the rich is income taxes -- based on 2014 figures; in every other measure, lower income families pay substantially more to their local and state taxing entities. And while the report clearly shows the disparity in tax rates, it doesn't touch the issue of corporate tax credits and incentives that, in effect, serve as welfare programs for high-dollar companies. At the federal, state and local level, companies across a variety of industries indulge in taxpayer-financed benefit programs -- yet there's never a word from lawmakers about curbing those firms' reliance on programs funded by middle class and

poor taxpayers. There's a difference between the rhetoric and the reality in Kansas when it comes to the poor. The rhetoric is that the poor are costing taxpayers vast amounts of cash through their poor decisions about how to spend the paltry benefits they receive in the way of a safety net. The reality, however, is much more grim: The freeloaders are those who have the money to buy the tax breaks they want, while forcing the middle class and poor to finance the welfare upon which they increase their wealth." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Tax Poor," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/16/15)

Miscellaneous

Kansas Chamber Of Commerce

Probst Criticized The Kansas Chamber Of Commerce's Electioneering And Lobbying Efforts Noting "There's A Certain Irony In The Fact That The Kansas Chamber Plays The Role Of Victim At The Hands Of The Government, While It's Working Diligently To Not Limit Government, But To Create The Government That It Wants." "The Chamber's political action committee has raised more than $163,000 to help finance the defeat of eight incumbent Kansas state senators -- all moderates who nonetheless have been targeted as opponents of the business community. Targeted senators include: Pete Brungardt, Salina; Terrie Huntington, Fairway; Carolyn McGinn, Sedgwick; Tim Owens, Overland Park; Vicki Schmidt, Topeka; Jean Schodorf, Wichita; and John Vratil, Leawood. Each of the senators' opponents has received maximum contributions from the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, the Chamber has spent upwards of $960,000 in the past five years, lobbying the legislature on behalf of its membership, which includes corporations that hardly seem down on their luck, such as Koch Industries, AT&T, Westar Energy and Cox Communications. The Chamber says its involvement in Kansas politics stems from weak job growth in the private sector -- the blame for which it says lies squarely at the feet of these eight senators. There's a certain irony in the fact that the Kansas Chamber plays the role of victim at the hands of the government, while it's working diligently to not limit government, but to create the government that it wants. The Chamber's true intent isn't to create a government that doesn't interfere in business -- it hopes to install a government that actively works to grease the wheels for large companies that, despite the weak economy, have consistently made millions of dollars in quarterly and annual profits." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Senate Business," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/13/12)

Probst: "The Kansas Chamber Of Commerce Is The Single Best Example Of Lobbying-Run-Amuck: Instead Of An Organization Hoping To Bend A Lawmaker's Ear And Provide Useful Information Regarding Policy Decisions, The Chamber Holds The Power, Influence And Money To Effectively Blackmail Legislators Who Don't March In Lockstep With The Chamber's Positions." "The Kansas Chamber of Commerce is the single best example of lobbying-run-amuck: Instead of an organization hoping to bend a lawmaker's ear and provide useful information regarding policy decisions, the Chamber holds the power, influence and money to effectively blackmail legislators who don't march in lockstep with the Chamber's positions. Today's Kansas Chamber is less about business development and more about making an investment -- using its influence, money and near-constant lobbying -- that will pay a dividend by turning elected leaders into good followers. The Chamber's list of pro-job legislators is a meaningless list that does little more than punish those lawmakers who dare hold to

independent thought -- proven by its omission of Rep. John Doll, R-Garden City, who voted with the Chamber 75 percent of the time. Voters who really want to know about their legislator's pro-job credentials will be better served contacting their local chambers rather than accepting a list manufactured by an organization that seems determined to run the state by proxy." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A shallow list," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/1/13)

Probst: "Voters Should Recognize That The Kansas Chamber Isn't Some Quaint Group That Aims To Help Mom-And-Pop Businesses Thrive. The Chamber Cares Only About Itself And The Large Corporate Members That Support It." "Voters should recognize that the Kansas Chamber isn't some quaint group that aims to help mom-and-pop businesses thrive. The Chamber cares only about itself and the large corporate members that support it. Politicians who have received a nod from the Kansas Chamber ought to do some internal examination and self-reflection, because the Chamber's support isn't a sign that you're a quality candidate; it's a sign that the Chamber believes it can bend you to its will. And those politicians who have been targeted by the Chamber should feel a sense of relief, because the Chamber's wrath is a true sign that you've shown the courage to put Kansans above a nameless, faceless organization whose only real "work" in Kansas is an unyielding effort to extract as much as possible from the state's residents." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Conditional Endorsement," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/13/14)

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change

In 2014, Probst Criticized Climate Change Deniers In The Kansas Legislature And Was Critical Of A Resolution Urging Congress To Oppose Obama's Climate Action Plan. "House Resolution No. 6043 urges the United States Congress to oppose President Obama's climate action plan, which calls for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and encourages development of renewable forms of energy. The resolution, introduced by the Committee on Energy and Environment, states: --The climate of planet earth is somewhat predictable over hundreds, even thousands of years. --The president's plan is based on multiple erroneous assumptions that have been refuted by a preponderance of scientific evidence. --CO2 produces desirable effects upon plant life and is essential to the earth's atmosphere. --Evidence shows there's a disconnect between humans and CO2 emissions --Oceans are rising, but that's not the fault of mankind -- glaciers have been melting for hundreds of years. --There's record ice in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions. --There's no increase in the number of significant tornadoes -- in fact the trend line has been down since 1974. --The worst droughts came between 1930-1942 and 1953-1960. The United States has been "materially wetter" in the past five decades. Anyone who has lived in Kansas the past few years knows that these "facts" are somewhat questionable. Just this year, much of the state emerged -- barely -- from a prolonged, severe drought that left fields scorched. We've had exceptional storms, massive rainfall in August and summer temperatures in the spring. Moreover, data from the National Climatic Data Center tells a different story: 2013 tied as the fourth hottest year on record since record keeping began in 1880; the global land temperature was nearly 2 degrees hotter than the 20th Century average, and nine of the 10 hottest years occurred after 2002. The past two years have seen fewer tornadoes, but since 1950, the trend line is decidedly upward, as is the number of severe storms, and much of

North America has experienced more frequent extreme temperatures. The scientific community has nearly universally accepted that the world's climate is changing and that it is the result of human activity. The deniers -- like those behind this resolution in the Kansas House -- will argue that's simply part of the a natural earthly cycle. Yet that belief defies even the simplest logic. Even if there was merit to the deniers' claims -- and there is not -- what's the harm in efforts to reduce pollution and prepare for the future by developing today renewable energies that one day might be necessary? Continued efforts to deny easily discernible facts damage our ability to address a real issue, and handicap our capacity to examine those issues and develop practical solutions." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Resolved To Deny," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/7/14)

Probst: "Now That Both Skeptics And Supporters Can Agree That The Earth Is Heating Up, Maybe The Idea That Global Warming Is A Myth Can Be Put To Rest, And Scientists And Policy Makers Can Work In Earnest To Figure Out How To Reverse The Trend." "Nevertheless, both Muller and Watts agree that the earth's surface temperature is increasing; they simply disagree on how much, and on whom to blame. "I believe global warming is real. No doubt about it. Not a bit of doubt," Watts told FoxNews.com. "However, I don't think it's catastrophic, or as bad as it's been portrayed." Muller released his paper before a yearlong peer review -- a standard practice in the scientific community -- in the hope that critics would review his data without any delay, with the added hope of moving the discussion beyond politics. Now that both skeptics and supporters can agree that the earth is heating up, maybe the idea that global warming is a myth can be put to rest, and scientists and policy makers can work in earnest to figure out how to reverse the trend." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Heated Debate," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/31/12)

In 2014, Probst Criticized Climate Change Deniers And Compared Groups That Undermined Climate Science To Tobacco Companies. "Two reports released this week revealed that parts of the giant western Antarctic ice sheet are melting and that such melting is likely irreversible and ultimately will lead to a dramatic increase in sea levels. It might happen in as little as 200 years, or it could take much longer, but somewhere down the road the earth is going to look much different than it does today. Research conducted in 2012 indicated that cities such as Miami, New Orleans, New York and Boston would be vulnerable to a sea level increase of four feet. NASA's report puts the future potential sea level increase as high as 10 feet. Despite years of growing scientific evidence and increasing physical evidence of climate change, skeptics continue to bury their heads in the sand and pretend that nothing is wrong, that we simply can carry on as we always have with no concern for the future. That devil-may-care attitude dooms future generations to a world that is fundamentally altered by the evidence of damage by our actions. All the while, groups tied to legacy energy sources spend mind-boggling amounts of money to convince the public that climate change isn't so bad, is part of the earth's natural cycle or is a hoax perpetuated by environmentalists. Such action is akin to the tobacco companies a generation ago advertising the health benefits of smoking despite growing and conclusive evidence to the contrary. For more than 100 years, we've mined, drilled and burned fossil fuels to our hearts' content with little consideration for the long-term dangers. In the past 30 years, scientists have sounded the alarm that such indulgence came with a price, and we now can see first-hand the cost of our immature approach to energy and consumption. The proof is here, and the evidence is no longer a theory or a scientific hypothesis; it is the clear melting of

ice in the north pole, Greenland and in the Antarctic. It is happening now, and it will continue to happen well into the future. The time for denial is long past. The time for political games is over. We have no more time to fabricate lies, excuses or alternate theories about the cause. All that is left to debate is what steps we should take to mitigate the damage and what we can do to preserve the world as we know it for the generations that will follow us." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Melting Proof," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/13/14)

Alternative Energy

Government Assistance

In 2012, Probst Defended Government Programs To Encourage The Development Of Alternative Energy Industries. "Pioneers in the shale oil industry credit the cooperation between business and government as key to today's current success in extracting oil and gas from previously unreachable reserves. And that is why those same pioneers in the oil and gas industry have thrown their support behind similar efforts to foster and grow renewable energy sources such as wind energy. While ther is much bravado and chest-pounding in Kansas and Washington, D.C., about the role of government in business, when it comes to energy -- its security, reliability and affordability -- it is a public security issue that affects every resident of this country. It is disingenuous for elected officials -- such as U.S. Reps. Tim Huelskamp and Mike Pompeo of Kansas -- to gloss over the fact that for 100 years the government has used policy to support the oil and gas industry, which has given today's drillers the knowledge and technology to extract resources from previously unreachable reserves. Today's oil and gas boom can be traced back to the government's early investment and assistance, and that is not unusual. This country always has directed investment in a way that brought the most good for the most people and helped prepare the nation to grow and adapt to changing times." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Oil's Rally For Wind," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/27/12)

Renewable Portfolio Standard

In March 2014, Probst Criticized A Bill To Repeal The 2009 Renewable Portfolio Standard. "When it comes to the debate over wind, conservatives in the Kansas Legislature aren't about to let facts get in the way of their agenda. Last week, the Senate Utilities Committee passed a bill to repeal the 2009 Renewable Portfolio Standard, which requires 20 percent of the state's electricity come from renewable sources by 2020. During discussion on the bill, several legislators regurgitated talking points straight from an Americans for Prosperity television commercial that has been proven to be completely false. Sen. Rob Olson, R-Olathe, blamed the RPS for higher utility rates, even though only a fraction of a cent per kilowatt hour (.16) can be attributed to wind. Sen. Forrest Knox, R-Altoona, echoed the tired refrain that we should "let the market do its thing." Knox's comment is almost laughable considering that the state has several provisions that reduce or reduce or exempt property and severance taxes for oil and gas producers. Olson's comment is head shakingly wrong to anyone who doesn't rely on AFP for his talking points. Wind energy isn't to blame for higher utility prices; it's a compliant Kansas Corporation Commission that has granted nearly every rate increase request that crossed its desk -- and at one point considered shifting corporate utility expenses onto residential customers. What's more, nearly every utility in the state has met, or is very close to meeting, the RPS

requirement. Passing a bill to undo the standard won't lead to the dis-assembly of wind farms and it won't lead to lower utility rates for Kansans. This unending passion to undo the RPS has nothing to do with Kansans, it's simply another effort by do-as-they're-told lawmakers to please the real power brokers in Topeka -- the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Americans for Prosperity. Yet, this desire by some Kansas lawmakers to show off their conservative bonafides and demonstrate their loyalty to those groups is undermining what could be a lucrative industry in Kansas." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Blind To Truth," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/24/14)

- **Probst Praised The Courage Of House Lawmakers Who Rejected Repeal Of The Renewable Portfolio Standard.** 'The Kansas House of Representatives, however, showed it isn't so easily controlled. House members refuted erroneous claims that the mandate has led to increases in utility rates across the state and that it creates an unfair economic advantage for wind energy. During the debate, one lawmaker pointed to a standing tax exemption for oil and gas wells, while other rural legislators, including Reps. Steve Becker, John Doll, Russ Jennings, John Ewy and Bud Estes, talked about the importance of the wind industry to their local economies. Meanwhile, other lawmakers, like Newton's Rep. Marc Rhoades, countered by repeating the mistruths that have been spread by groups like AFP and the Kansas Chamber and leveled a threat against lawmakers who didn't support the repeal. "Folks be advised," Rhoades said. "If you vote this down, people will be hearing about the fact that you allowed their rates to rise." Rhoades' statement is baseless, and documentation by the Kansas Corporation Commission, the Citizen Utility Ratepayer Board and individual utilities all have shown that wind energy isn't responsible for increases in utility rates and accounts for a fraction of a penny per kilowatt hour. Kansas House members, particularly Republicans, who voted against the repeal showed extraordinary courage in the face of hard lobbying by two of the state's most powerful lobbies and by threats from party leadership. That's the sort of courage Kansans expect from their lawmakers, who are sent to Topeka to work for their districts -- not to become faithful, dutiful and unquestioning servants of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Americans for Prosperity." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A Courageous Wind," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/27/14)

Wind Tax Credits

In 2012, Probst Was Critical Of Rep. Tim Huelskamp's Objection To Wind Energy Production Tax Credits. "What's particularly ironic about Huelskamp's video production is that while he's talking about uncertainty standing in the way of job creation, he could've traveled across town to record a much more harrowing story of a congressman whose blind ideology will send Reno County families to the unemployment line. Thanks to Huelskamp's obstinate resistance to extension of the Wind Energy Production Tax Credit, Siemens Wind Energy's plant in Hutchinson is preparing to lay off a portion of its workforce. Wind industry officials have plainly said that without the tax credit, wind development will decline, leading to a reduction in the wind-related workforce and a reduction of investment in wind-rich states like Kansas. That will mean job losses in Huelskamp's district, including Hutchinson, less money spent on wind farms and infrastructure, and it will allow other countries to develop new technologies that better harness our natural resources -- while people like Huelskamp bind this country to antiquity. In the meantime, we can expect to see more heavily-edited videos and releases from Team

Huelskamp explaining how bad Obama is for Kansas, yet fail to utter a word about a U.S. congressman who is convinced that his constituents need to learn what's good for them." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Full Of Wind," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/30/12)

Environmental Considerations

In September 2010, Probst Was Supportive Of Weighing The Potential Effects That Prospective Wind Power Developments On Prairie Chicken Habitats. "Clearly, even something as "green" as wind energy isn't free from controversy. Other groups have issued concerns that wind turbines injure or kill birds and bats. Others complain that the turbines sully the Kansas landscape. The wind energy industry will continue to grow and expand in Kansas and elsewhere in the country. But as we've learned over the years with other forms of mining, drilling and energy production, a cavalier attitude about the implications of that production can lead to consequences we later regret. Wind energy's status as a cleaner alternative to coal and oil doesn't wash away the responsibility to consider the long-term effect of its development. The obligation still exists at least to consider and evaluate the concerns raised by local residents and groups worried about vanishing animal populations. In the case of the ITC Great Plains line, it may not be feasible to choose a different route, and the impact on prairie chicken habitat might not be as dire as it seems. But that won't be truly known without some honest consideration and evaluation of the habitat and alternate routes. Furthermore, if this line is built through prairie chicken habitat with no regard for the consequences, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service might declare the prairie chicken an endangered species, something it has been flirting with for a number of years. That declaration would trigger a mountain of red tape and federal requirements that could stall wind energy development in the state. It is better to consider the long-term effects of this line now, on a voluntary basis, than to have a growing industry hamstrung later by bureaucracy. In the process, we just might keep the prairie chicken around a little longer, while still enjoying the benefits of this growing form of energy production." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Wind Vs. Chickens," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/10/10)

Fracking

Criticism

Probst: "The Evidence Now Seems Undeniable Of A Direct Link Between Deep Disposal Wells That Hold Waste Product Used In The Process Of Hydraulic Fracturing Process For Oil -- Known As Fracking -- And The Concerning Rise In Kansas Earthquakes." "The evidence now seems undeniable of a direct link between deep disposal wells that hold waste product used in the process of hydraulic fracturing process for oil -- known as fracking -- and the concerning rise in Kansas earthquakes. After studying the issue for several months, the Kansas Corporation Commission told the Harper County Commission that it plans to extend recent restrictions on deep disposal wells for at least another six months, citing a significant reduction in the number of earthquakes greater than 2.5 magnitude. In March, the KCC put limits on wastewater disposal amounts in five areas of Sumner and Harper Counties that had displayed the most seismic activity. The restriction lowered the amount of underground wastewater in wells in those areas by 60 percent. The order came despite a continued, and somewhat mind boggling, effort by the oil industry and its supporters to deny, or at least minimize, the connection between

the process of fracking for oil and increased earthquakes in South Central Kansas and Northern Oklahoma." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Solid Evidence," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/11/15)

Regulations And Fees

In March 2015, Probst Contended That Two Bills (A Bill That Sought A Moratorium On Salt Water Disposal Wells And A Bill Creating A Fee Levied On Oil Companies To Pay For Earthquake Damage) At Least Deserved A Hearing. "Clearly, the best approach is for the Legislature to do nothing and not trouble itself with listening to Kansans' concerns. The two bills from the Sierra Club -- one to the House Energy and Environment Committee and the other to the House Standing Committee on Vision 2020 -- likely never had much chance of passage, but they deserved at least a hearing to give lawmakers a chance to hear about earthquakes' affect on area residents One bill sought a moratorium on saltwater disposal wells -- part of the "fracking" process and now believed to contribute to earthquake activity. The other bill would've created an earthquake "risk pool" that would require oil companies to set aside some money -- in the form of a fee -- to pay for damages caused by earthquakes in areas of intense drilling. Kansas has done an abysmal job in managing the increase in hydraulic fracturing in the state, and an even worse job in taking steps to protect anyone who's not part of an oil company. We've not required drillers to share their seismic studies with regulatory agencies, or taken any real steps to slow or stop drillers if their drive for profit clashes with the rights of property owners. Other states -- even some that have welcomed drillers and the economic activity they bring -- have taken common sense measures to both protect residents and attract investment. By contrast, Kansas has largely sat on the sidelines as earthquake activity has ramped up, and as evidence increasingly points to practices related to fracking as the cause of those quakes. The time for voluntary ignorance on this issue has long since passed. What we need now are lawmakers and leaders who will address this problem squarely, rather than actively avoid any effort to learn, understand or take action on what is becoming the biggest concern for those who live in South Central Kansas." (Jason Probst, "Editorial: Splitting Kansas," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/5/15)

In 2019, Probst Introduced Legislation To Levy A Fee Of 10 Cents Per Barrell Of Wastewater From Fracking Wells. ""Oil production is the source of a lot of money and jobs in Kansas," he said, and the state can't ban fracking, he said. He does want to change the pattern of wastewater disposal. The Kansas Geological Survey has evidence that wastewater injected into Class II wells migrated and caused earthquakes in Reno County, he said. To discourage high-volume wastewater disposal in those wells, Probst is eyeing a fee of a dime per barrel. "There are other methods of dealing with this water," he said, and the fee could press large operators to look for alternatives, such as recycling for irrigation purposes. "I don't want to ding family farms that have a well," he said, and the bill would provide exemptions for operators that contribute small amounts of the over 1 billion barrels of wastewater disposed of in Class II wells in a recent year. Probst's bill also is expected to spell out how the state will spend the revenue." ("Probst Spearheading Four Bills In The New Kansas House Session," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/7/19)

"State Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, Introduced House Bill 2224 To Fund Testing For Seismic Activity. It Grew Out Of Earthquakes Felt In Reno County And Other Counties. The Bill Would Have Put A One-Time $100 Fee On Each Operator Of A Class II Disposal Well In The State And A One-Time $100 Fee On Each Operator Of A Class I Well In The

State." "Feb. 24--A bill introduced by one Reno County legislator is stuck in a committee led by another Reno County legislator. On Feb.11, State Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, introduced House Bill 2224 to fund testing for seismic activity. It grew out of earthquakes felt in Reno County and other counties. The bill would have put a one-time $100 fee on each operator of a Class II disposal well in the state and a one-time $100 fee on each operator of a Class I well in the state. The fees would be collected in 2020 and would generate an estimated $500,000. The proceeds would be diverted to the bill's proposed State Geological Survey Monitoring Well Fund, for the drilling of approximately ten monitoring wells in the Arbuckle formation "for purpose of measuring underground pressure in the formation and for the purpose of monitoring the effectiveness of confining beds in the injection zone of the formation," the bill states. The bill was assigned to the House Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Committee, and State Rep. Joe Seiwert, R-Pretty Prairie, is chairman. The committee meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and next week, Monday is the last day for all but key committees to meet. Since Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications meets Tuesdays, it has had its last meeting before the "turnaround," according to committee staff. House and Senate bills must move out of their originating chamber by the turnaround point in the session, which is at the end of Thursday, Feb. 28. After the turnaround, the bodies take up bills that passed the other chamber. Probst said Friday morning he didn't have much hope for movement on the bill. However, it is not dead." ("Probst's Earthquake Bill Standing Still," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/24/19)

EPA

In 2010, Probst Criticized The EPA For Its Regulatory Focus On Dust And Cattle Methane. "It wasn't too long ago that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency turned its attention toward agriculture and the herds of cattle that dot the country's landscape. Cattle release methane, and the EPA began to entertain the notion that livestock methane ought to be regulated much like the gases that spew from coal-fired power plants and pollution from factories. It was the sort of thing that would cause out-loud laughter, if it wasn't such a ridiculously serious consideration, regulating the amount of gas that cattle pass while they're munching on wild grasses or beefing up at feedlots. Now, if it is possible, the EPA has a new, even more absurd target in its sights: dust. That's right. Dust particles, which rise from the ground with every strong Kansas wind, are now under consideration as an airborne pollutant in the Clean Air Act, which requires review and updating every five years. Naturally farm advocate agencies oppose a move to turn agriculture dust into a regulated pollutant. The American Lung Association, however, supports the move, saying that dust particles cause early death, heart attacks, strokes, lung cancer and asthma. Like many regulatory issues in this country, the most important ingredient is missing: common sense. Dust produced from agriculture operations can't be thrown into the same category as dust created from large-scale construction operations or the dust that comes from a heavy industrial area. Claims that people are dying from the dust thrown up by a plow or a seed drill are highly suspect. The American Lung Association argues that the EPA should set a limit for dust and then farmers and communities can decide a way that is best to move ahead with the regulations. That will lead to healthy people in farming communities, according to the association. Yet, the effect on the Kansas economy, which is heavily vested in agriculture, could be disastrous. If such regulations are implemented, farmers might have to put off planting because of the potential to create dust, or invest heavily in equipment to mitigate dust creation.

Both could erode farm profitability, which in turn would hurt Kansans. Progress has been made over the years to limit dust, and more improvements are being made all the time. There is no need for the EPA to over-regulate dust -- especially in an area that is as open and agrarian as Kansas -- when farmers largely have addressed the problem on their own. The EPA's efforts could be better spent focusing on those parts of the country that truly suffer from poor air quality and work to address those concerns, instead of worrying about the dust that is kicked up from tractors and Kansas' famous southerly winds." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Blowing Dust," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/12/10)

Plastic Containers

In March 2022, Probst Voted Nay On SB 493, "An Act Concerning Cities And Counties; Prohibiting The Regulation Of Plastic And Other Containers Designed For The Consumption, Transportation Or Protection Of Merchandise, Food Or Beverages." (SB 493, Passed (74 - 48), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/23/22, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Would prohibit municipalities from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, resolution, or regulation that restricts, taxes, prohibits, or regulates the use of auxiliary containers." (SB 493)
- NOTE: "Would define "auxiliary container" as a plastic straw or a bag, cup, package, container, bottle, device, or other packaging, without limitation. Such auxiliary containers could be made out of cloth, paper, plastic, foamed plastic, expanded plastic, cardboard, corrugated material, aluminum, glass, postconsumer recycled material, or any similarly coated or laminated material." (SB 493)

HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Affordable Care Act/ Obamacare

Implementation

In August 2011, Probst Criticized Gov. Sam Brownback For Rejecting A $31.5 Million Early Innovator Grant To Help Kansas Develop Insurance Exchanges Mandated By The Affordable Care Act. 'Gov. Sam Brownback this week decided to reject a $31.5 million "Early Innovator" grant Kansas had received in February from the Department of Health and Human Services to help the state set up its own health insurance exchange under the federal Affordable Care Act. Brownback's office, in rejecting the money from Health and Human Services, said that Kansas needs to maintain "maximum flexibility" in the face of falling federal resources. Yet this decision to turn down money already given to the state only ensures that Kansas will have no flexibility as it cedes implementation of the Affordable Care Act to the federal government -- leaving Kansans voiceless in the process. This is the sort of backward thinking that comes from politicians who put platforms and rhetoric above what's actually good for the state and its residents. Kansas' decision to reject the money has no bearing on whether the Affordable Care Act will be implemented. It won't do a thing to change the law, nor will it somehow make Kansas exempt from its provisions. It simply means that the federal government will dictate to Kansas how the law will be enacted in our state -- with no input from the people who understand

some of the unique challenges Kansas faces in the delivery of health care. Additionally, the health care exchanges that will be used to deliver insurance to residents are the same system that will be used to enroll Medicaid recipients, and the grant money also would've been used to fund an ongoing program to update that system. Now, however, that function also will be turned over to the feds. With his decision to turn down federal money, Brownback has relinquished control of the future of Kansas health care to Washington, D.C., something one would think a conservative governor would avoid. Yet, even the most conservative of governors can't seem to resist the urge to bolster the appearance of being a small government advocate, even if it means making a decidedly big government decision." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: An Unhealthy Choice," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/10/11)

Miscellaneous

In October 2010, Probst Criticized The Hypocrisy Of Koch Industries In Opposing Obamacare And Yet Availing Of Federal Funds Made Possible Through The Law. "After all the resistance from some businesses about the dire consequences of comprehensive health care reform, it's a little puzzling when those companies are first in line to reap the benefits that "evil" piece of legislation contained. Take Kansas' own Koch Industries, for example. Koch has been a principal investor in Americans for Prosperity, a group central to the Tea Party's growth, and an active opponent to health care reform legislation. Additionally, Americans for Prosperity formed its own spin-off group -- Patients United Now -- which stood in opposition to efforts to pass any sort of health care reform legislation. In fact the Koch Industries website contains a message to its employees, outlining its stance against health care reform. "As a matter of principle, should government mandate prices and control access to doctors and hospitals?" the web sites states. "Is government an efficient health-care administrator? What's more, is it morally right to run up billions of dollars in unfunded liabilities by promising entitlements for everyone?" As a matter of principle, however, Koch Industries didn't have a problem being among the first companies in the U.S. to put out its hands for the money offered in the health care reform bill. According to an article in the Wichita Business Journal, Koch Industries applied, and received approval for federal money to cover the health care benefits of employees over 55 years old, who have retired early. In all, nearly 2,000 companies across the U.S. are eligible to receive the money, which is designed to keep early retirees protected with health care coverage until other components of the health care bill come online in 2014, or until those retirees are eligible for Medicare. Other Kansas companies set to receive the money include Westar, Waddell and Reed and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, Sprint Nextel, several labor unions, and the city of Lawrence. All in all, Koch's acceptance of this health care money will benefit individuals who otherwise might have been forced to go years without health coverage. In this instance, a profitable corporation taking money from taxpayers to provide health coverage for those employees who, for one reason or another, retired before retirement age, seems better than the alternative. But as a matter of principal, maybe Koch shouldn't be so eager to dip into what its own leaders called "unfunded liabilities.'" (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Double Dipping," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/6/10)

Medicaid

Expansion

Probst: "The Refusal Of The Brownback Administration And Previous Legislatures To Accept Medicaid Expansion Is Morally Repugnant." "In 2017, the Kansas Legislature passed a measure to accept a federal expansion of Medicaid that would've provided health coverage to more than 150,000 Kansans. It was vetoed by Gov. Sam Brownback, and fell just five votes shy of being overridden by lawmakers. The refusal of the Brownback administration and previous legislatures to accept Medicaid expansion is morally repugnant. Kansans already pay into the federal Medicaid system with their tax dollars, which are being spent in other states. Yet, because of political ideology, Kansas working families have gone without available health care coverage, and our local hospitals have borne the costs associated with providing emergency care to those who can't afford health insurance. As a Representative, Jason will do everything he can to see that Kansas expands Medicaid. It's far past time we do what's right for the people of Kansas – and that begins with not standing in the way of healthcare for working families who simply can't afford the cost or whose employers don't offer coverage." (Probst For Progress, Accessed 3/29/22)

Probst, In 2014: "Kansas Leaders Have A Moral And Ethical Obligation To Accept The Federal Expansion Of Medicaid." "It's true that Medicaid might cover able-bodied adults, including those who work for a living but have the misfortune of earning between roughly $8,000 and $23,000 for a family of four. Contrary to Brownback's oft-recited message, expansion of Medicaid wouldn't simply provide coverage for shiftless bums, it also would provide coverage for poor families that struggle to make ends meet. Kansas leaders have a moral and ethical obligation to accept the federal expansion of Medicaid. Not doing so leaves empty their rhetoric about compassion, the value of life, their Christian values and the importance of listening to business community. But if the governor and his allies in the Legislature won't listen to Miller and others in the business world, there's little reason to think that they'll suddenly develop a sense of compassion for the state's working poor families." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Medicaid As Investment," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/7/14)

Probst, In 2013: "Beyond The Rhetoric And Fear, However, Lies A Very Simple Truth: Rejecting The Medicaid Expansion Will Hurt Kansas Residents, Hospitals And Ultimately Our Ability To Compete With Other States For Business And Talented Employees." "Beyond the rhetoric and fear, however, lies a very simple truth: Rejecting the Medicaid expansion will hurt Kansas residents, hospitals and ultimately our ability to compete with other states for business and talented employees. If the expansion is rejected, rural hospitals will miss out on payments for patients they treat -- instead, they'll continue to treat the uninsured at their emergency rooms and write off the expensive care. Eventually, they may not be able to operate in the face of continued cuts to Medicare and a state that refused to accept a program to insure more people. At some point, Kansas will be labeled as a state that doesn't care for its residents, and a place where people don't want to -- or won't live. Our neighbors will get sicker, and their care will cost more than it would have if the state's leaders had possessed the courage to do what is right, instead of what is popular. A resolution waits for the House, which expresses opposition to the Medicaid expansion and instructs the Governor to reject the federal government's offer.

When the matter is discussed and voted on, Kansans will learn whether politics and spite mean more than the general welfare of its residents." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Medicaid Pain," *The Hutchinson News,* 3/26/13)

Probst Criticized Refusal To Expand Medicaid As "Inhumane" And Claimed It Would Effectively Cost Kansans More In The Long Run. "With the Medicaid expansion, the federal government would pay 100 percent of the cost for the first three years, with a 90-percent cost coverage in succeeding years. Currently, Kansas Medicaid coverage is reserved only for children, pregnant women, the elderly or the impoverished disabled population. What's more is that this inhumane refusal to provide coverage for the state's poorest residents doesn't save the Kansas taxpayer a single dime. Instead, Medicare and federal tax dollars will be collected from every wage earner in Kansas only to be routed and spent in other states that have chosen to accept the Medicaid expansion. In fact, there is reason to suspect that this politically-motivated act of stubbornness will cost Kansans even more through "uncompensated care" that hospitals will provide to uninsured Kansans. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, expanding Medicaid in Kansas would cost the state about $525 million over 10 years; declining the expansion, however, will cost the state $5.3 billion in federal money and $2.3 billion that would have been paid to the state's hospitals for providing unpaid care. While those lawmakers who have dug in their heels against Obamacare can spend the off-season talking up their roles as spending watchdogs, they also should be honest about what their decisions will cost Kansas -- in both money and morality -- and consider making common sense and compassion part of the 2014 legislative session." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Medicaid Malpractice," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/13/13)

Probst: "As A Public Official Legitimately Concerned About Cost, Colyer Should've Led The Charge To Accept Medicaid Expansion; As A Physician Legitimately Concerned About The Health And Well-Being Of The State's Residents He Should Have Insisted On A Medicaid Expansion That Would Ensure Better Health For More Kansans." "At the time Brownback said his office rejected the money because Kansas needed to "maintain flexibility" in the face of falling federal resources. Now it appears Colyer isn't happy with the inflexibility his boss' steadfast opposition to the Affordable Care Act has meant for Kansas. Later, as it became clear that the ACA was going to become a reality, the Kansas legislature and the Governor's office made another costly, and seemingly purely punitive, decision to reject a largely federally funded expansion of Medicaid for some of the state's poorest residents. That decision has resulted in the unconscionable reality that someone could make too much money to qualify for Medicaid, yet too little to qualify for a federal tax subsidy to offset insurance costs. As a public official legitimately concerned about cost, Colyer should've led the charge to accept Medicaid expansion; as a physician legitimately concerned about the health and well-being of the state's residents he should have insisted on a Medicaid expansion that would ensure better health for more Kansans. As to the lack of competitiveness and higher-than-average costs for health plans on the exchange, Colyer could've stood with Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger, who argued that the state would do well to accept the grant and develop a marketplace that better served the needs of Kansans." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Colyer's Criticisms Contain Memory Flaw," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/26/13)

Probst: "There Is No Sound Reason To Continue The Obstinate Refusal Of The Federal Expansion Of Medicaid." "If logic determined the outcome, Kansas would embrace the federal Medicaid expansion and immediately begin to reap the benefits. There is no sound reason to continue the obstinate refusal of the federal expansion of Medicaid. We've known since the beginning that it would be good for Kansans who work and support their families on meager wages. We've seen that it is essential to the financial viability of small hospitals and would secure access to quality health care in less populated areas of the state. Now we have evidence that, contrary to the partisan talking points, accepting the Medicaid expansion would save Kansas taxpayers money while also providing tangible benefits for the state's businesses and its workers. Kansans should not accept "no" as an acceptable policy position from its lawmakers, and the governor or any state legislator who remains firmly against Medicaid expansion should be challenged to explain -- in detail -- how a refusal to accept this program makes Kansas better or stronger in the future." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Medical Evidence," *The Hutchinson News*, 12/10/15)

In 2019, Probst Underscored His Commitment To Medicaid Expansion. 'State Sen. Ed Berger, R-Hutchinson, and State Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, support it, saying it would affect 150,000 Kansans and would help hospitals. State Reps. Joe Seiwert, R-Pretty Prairie, and Jack Thimesch, R-Spivey, previously voted against it, and State Rep. Paul Waggoner, R-Hutchinson, opposes it. Waggoner said it's "falsely sold" as a panacea for rural hospitals, and Seiwert also questioned who would benefit from it. Thimesch said he wanted to see a Medicaid expansion bill come out of a committee, and Berger said that had occurred previously. Probst said leadership has put up hurdles for the movement of Medicaid expansion legislation through the Legislature." ("Reno Legislators Regard Wind Turbine Sites Local Decision," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/3/19)

In March 2019, Probst Praised A Compromise Measure To Expand Medicaid. "I've used a fair amount of ink throughout the years criticizing the often dysfunctional Kansas Legislature. I've expressed frustration with its processes, concern about too much power concentrated in the hands of too few people, and worry that hyper-partisan rhetoric can serve as a barrier to sound policy. It's equally important, I think, to highlight when the Kansas Legislature gets it right. This week, the Kansas House of Representatives did something that was, to me, a beautiful display of government working precisely as I believe it is designed to work. On Wednesday, a strong coalition of Moderate Republicans and Democrats came together to support a bill to expand Medicaid in Kansas. The bill that emerged from the House was a true compromise. Republicans supportive of expansion had concerns about the cost, and about making sure participants had some investment in their healthcare. The result was an amendment to collect a small monthly premium of $25. This fee wasn't enthusiastically supported by Democrats, but it was supported with the understanding this was necessary to win, and keep, the support of Moderate Republicans. The fee, while modest, could generate upwards of $40 million a year to help offset the cost of expansion. Similarly, an escape clause was inserted into the bill -- ensuring that if fears of a reduction in the federal match become reality, Kansas can get out of the program. Again, not something that won eager support from Democrats, but a measure for which support was necessary to honor the spirit of compromise, and collaborative governance." (Jason Probst, "OPINION: What The Legislature Is Getting Right," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/24/19)

In September 2019, Probst Was Appointed To A Governor's Council To Explore Medicaid Expansion Options. "Rep. Jason Probst, a Democrat from Hutchinson who was appointed to the council, said the council was designed to try to avoid problems with the implementation of a Medicaid expansion plan by looking at the best and worst experiences of other states. A majority of Kansas legislators in both chambers support Medicaid expansion, but there is widespread disagreement over key policy provisions, such as possible work requirements. Arkansas, Kentucky and New Hampshire had work mandates in their Medicaid laws struck down by the courts. Other states have attempted to require participants to pay a premium to participate, but those have been controversial because not everyone can afford the fee. The council's goal, Probst said, is "to arm ourselves with the knowledge needed to swat down really bad ideas that will come out of any other competing plans." Sheldon Weisgrau, a policy adviser with the 100-organization Alliance for a Healthy Kansas that has endorsed Medicaid expansion, said he was supportive of the council formed by Kelly. "Anything that can move this forward is a positive," he said." ("Gov. Laura Kelly Directs Council To Explore Medicaid Expansion Options," *Topeka Capital Journal*, 9/4/19)

In January 2020, Probst Reiterated His Support For Medicaid Expansion. "Just days before the start of the 2020 legislative session, Gov. Laura Kelly and Sen. Jim Denning announced a bipartisan agreement to accept a federal expansion of Medicaid and bring health care coverage to roughly 150,000 Kansans. The announcement was an encouraging start to the session. After six years of debate, a 2017 veto by then-Gov. Sam Brownback of a bipartisan Medicaid expansion bill, and procedural blockades that bottled up another bill that passed the House in 2019, it now appears Kansas is ready to join 36 other states in opening up access to healthcare for poor families. There will, of course, be challenges to get this compromise to the finish line. Some lawmakers in both chambers hold an intractable ideological objection to Medicaid. Others wring their hands in worry that the federal government might some day run out of money, while using those same hands to grab federal money for causes they personally support. But the majority of both chambers have time and time again demonstrated broad support for bringing our federal tax dollars home, strengthening our local hospitals and medical delivery systems, and providing much-needed healthcare to the state's working poor. This fall, I had the pleasure of serving on the Governor's Council on Medicaid Expansion. I have long supported Medicaid Expansion, but what I learned in those meetings -- particularly testimony from Montana and Ohio -- convinced me further. Montana saw substantial job growth, household incomes rise, and improved health outcomes for its state. Moreover, the vast majority of the expansion population remained on the program for less than two years -- citing better employment with benefits as the primary reason for leaving. To me, this demonstrates that Medicaid Expansion serves as a stabilizing force in times of crisis." (Jason Probst, "OPINION: Opening Access For Kansans," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/11/20)

In January 2022, Probst Was The Lead Sponsor Of A Constitutional Amendments To Expand Medicaid. "Kansans could see two new issues on the ballot in November 2022: marijuana legalization and Medicaid expansion. On Thursday, Jan. 6, Kansas House Democrats announced their introduction of three amendments to the Kansas Constitution which would expand Medicaid and legalize medical marijuana as well as recreational marijuana. According to House Democrats, Kansans want legalized marijuana and need easy access to affordable health care. They said the amendments instruct the legislature to enact new laws for the legalization and

expansion by July 1, 2023. "The legislature fails to expand Medicaid, and in the meantime, tens of thousands of Kansans suffer from inaction. It's time for Kansas to catch up. It's past time for us to listen to our constituents," said House Democratic Leader Tom Sawyer. "Passing these constitutional amendments puts them up for adoption on the November ballot. Every voting Kansan will have their voice heard." House Dems said renewed hospital funding and access to care will revitalize western and rural Kansans. Those looking for medical relief will no longer have to travel across state lines to purchase marijuana, which they said would keep more taxpayer dollars in the state's economy. The party also said corporations and businesses would see greater success in recruiting employees if marijuana were to be legalized in the state. House Dems said it's simple - Medicaid expansion and legalized marijuana are pro-business and pro-growth policies. "House and Senate Republicans have gone on and on for years about how crucial it is for Kansans to have a direct say on important matters in our state. When it comes to violating the Constitutional rights of women, they couldn't put their question to voters fast enough. Despite the longstanding and overwhelming support from Kansans for Medicaid expansion and reform of our marijuana laws, Republicans have done everything in their power to block any meaningful discussion on these policies," said Assistant Democratic Leader Jason Probst, lead sponsor of the amendments. "During the upcoming legislative session, House and Senate Republicans will have an opportunity to demonstrate that they honestly value and trust the voters of Kansas to decide what's best for the state, or if they simply support public votes when it's politically advantageous to their re-election campaigns." If passed in the Kansas Legislature, the amendments to legalize recreational and medicinal marijuana as well as expand Medicaid would be put to a vote on the November 2022 ballot." (CBS-12 KWCH, 1/6/22)

Managed Care

Probst Criticized Gov. Sam Brownback's Efforts To Move Kansas Medicaid To A Managed Care System As "Likely To Do More Harm Than Good." "Gov. Sam Brownback's efforts to move Medicaid in Kansas to a managed care system is aimed at providing better overall care to patients while reducing costs through the use of private insurers. The proposal hasn't received much support outside of the administration, and for one group of Kansans -- the developmentally disabled -- such a move is likely to do more harm than good. For those with developmental disabilities, their conditions don't improve, and drugs or treatment don't change their day-to-day medical needs. Other states that have adopted the managed care model have recognized the unique needs of the developmentally disabled and have exempted that segment from the program. The concern is the companies competing for the Kansas contract don't understand the needs of the chronically disabled, who require a lifetime of care. And local family members of developmentally disabled patients worry that managed care companies will look for improvements and, not seeing them, will opt to discontinue care. Such a move would leave the burden of medical care to those families or the local community. It also would reduce the chance that those with such disabilities can live independent and rich lives. Kansas should take a cue from other states and exempt developmental disabilities from the managed care plan. Those patients' needs are different and distinct from the typical Medicaid patient, and it would be irresponsible for Kansas to endanger their lifelong care in an effort save a few dollars." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Managing Care," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/24/12)

COVID-19

Vaccinations

In January 2021, Probst Announced His Intention To Participated In The Expedited Vaccination Program For State Legislators. "Sen. J.R. Claeys appreciates urgency of a plan to offer COVID-19 vaccine to the Kansas Legislature's members and staff, but won't likely take advantage of the expedited distribution program. "I don't anticipate cutting in line. I don't think it's that long I will have to wait anyway," said Claeys, a 42-year-old Salina lawmaker willing to await the phased delivery of vaccine. "I certainly wouldn't begrudge anyone who did, especially those in high-risk categories." Under an initiative authorized by Gov. Laura Kelly and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the 165 state legislators and the array of statehouse staff will be eligible for vaccination against the coronavirus. A clinic at the Nickell Armory Gym in Topeka will be used Feb. 2-4 to handle appointments for most individuals working daily at the Capitol. Rep. Jason Probst, a Hutchinson Democrat, said conversations with statehouse employees fearful of catching COVID-19 while at the Capitol convinced him to be part of the vaccination program. He said several staff members had indicated they were wary of legislators who refused to wear masks or social distance while conducting legislative activities. "I had conversations with staff members in this building who are terribly concerned," said Probst, the assistant minority leader in the House. "More concerned that I've ever seen them about anything before. We have in this building some people who are obstinate and refuse to wear a mask or take any safety precautions. It's completely unfair to staff in this building who are just trying to do their jobs, just trying to make a living, and get through this year healthy.'" ("Vaccine Program For State Legislators: Savvy Maneuver Or Line-Jumping?; Members, Staff Of Kansas Legislature Eligible For Shots In Early February," *Parsons Sun*, 1/26/21)

Vaccine Mandate Exemptions

In November 2021, Probst Voted Yea On HB 2001, "An Act Concerning Employer Covid-19 Vaccine Requirements." (HB 2001, Passed (77 - 34), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 11/22/21, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "The bill requires, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an employer who implements a COVID-19 vaccine requirement to exempt an employee from such requirement, without punitive action, if the employee submits a written waiver request to the employer stating that complying with the requirement would: Endanger the life or health of the employee or an individual residing with the employee, as evidenced by an accompanying written statement signed by a physician or another person who performs acts pursuant to practice agreements, protocols, or at the order, direction, or delegation of a physician; or Violate sincerely held religious beliefs of the employee, as evidenced by an accompanying written statement signed by the employee." (HB 2001)
- NOTE: "The bill requires an employer to grant an exemption requested in accordance with the bill based on sincerely held religious beliefs without inquiring as to the sincerity of the request." (HB 2001)

Accountability And Oversight

In February 2021, Probst Derided A Proposal To Restore The Legislature's Power To Revoke Regulations Issued By State Agencies In Light Of COVID-19 As A "Power Grab." "GOP Attorney General Derek Schmidt and top Republican lawmakers outlined a proposal that would amend the state constitution to restore the GOP-controlled Legislature's power to revoke regulations issued by state agencies. A state law once gave lawmakers that power, but the Kansas Supreme Court struck it down in 1984, declaring that it overstepped the Legislature's authority under the state constitution. The proposal is the latest in a series of measures aimed at curbing the governor's power, as Republicans also try to build a case against Kelly's reelection in 2022, with Schmidt widely considered a potential candidate for governor. GOP lawmakers have intensified their criticism of Kelly in recent weeks over what they view as the state's flawed distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and over the Department of Labor's struggle to deliver benefits to jobless workers and combat fraudulent unemployment claims. "Kansans are tried of excuses, and that's all we're getting," House Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr., an Olathe Republican, said after a Statehouse news conference unveiling the latest proposal. "Oversight seems to be the solution." Other Democratic governors, particularly in North Carolina and Wisconsin, also have faced curbs on their power by Republican legislatures. Kelly was forced last year to accept local control over pandemic restrictions to keep a state of emergency in place. "The pandemic has really, I think, ratcheted up these party warfare tensions over government power in your divided-government states like Kansas," said University of Kansas political scientist Patrick Miller. A Kansas House committee hopes to vote Thursday on a bill that would give lawmakers more control over upgrades of the state Department of Labor's computer system. Lawmakers also are pursuing bills that would create an office to monitor the state's foster care system and report to them, and would strip the governor of the power to fill vacancies in the state treasurer's and insurance commissioner's offices. The latest proposal would go on the ballot for voters' potential approval in November 2022 if both chambers approve it by two-thirds majorities. Republicans have supermajorities in both the House and Senate. "This is a complete power grab and a complete overreach," said Democratic state Rep. Jason Probst, of Hutchinson. Kelly spokesperson Sam Coleman said the new proposal "is further proof that Republican leaders have no interest in doing the serious work" of helping Kansas recover from the pandemic." ("GOP Officials Launch New Effort To Rein In Kansas Governor," *The Associated Press*, 2/23/21)

In 2020, Probst Voted Yea On H Amdt 9150 To HB 2016, "An Act Concerning Governmental Response To The 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic In Kansas." (H Amdt 9150 To HB 2016, Failed (57 - 63), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 6/3/20, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "Where the employer and employee or ~~workman~~ worker are subject by law or election to the provisions of the ~~workmen's~~ workers compensation act, the disablement or death of an employee or ~~workman~~ worker resulting from an occupational disease as defined in this section shall be treated as the happening of an injury by accident, and the employee or ~~workman~~ worker or, in case of death, ~~his~~ the employee's or worker's dependents shall be entitled to compensation for such disablement or death resulting from an occupational disease, in accordance with the provisions of the ~~workmen's~~ workers compensation act as in cases of injuries by accident ~~which~~ that are compensable

thereunder, except as specifically provided otherwise for occupational diseases, including as provided for the occupational disease of COVID-19 pursuant to subsection (g)." (H Amdt 9150 To HB 2016)

ACU: The Pittman Amendment To HB 2016 "Would Place Unreasonable New Liabilities On Taxpayers Pertaining To The Contraction Of The Virus And Death Of State Department Of Corrections Employees." "The Pittman (ACUF Lifetime 40%) amendment (9150) to the Chinese coronavirus (COVID-19) compromise response bill would place unreasonable new liabilities on taxpayers pertaining to the contraction of the virus and death of state Department of Corrections employees. Specifically, the amendment would amend the Workers Compensation Act to create a "rebuttable presumption" that a correctional employee who dies from COVID-19 contracted the virus due to their employment. As a result, taxpayers would face the difficult burden of proof to show that the contraction was not due to employment but from another aspect of an employee's public or private life." (American Conservative Union, 2020)

In 2021, Probst Voted Nay On HR 6015, "Urging The Legislative Coordinating Council To Revoke Any Executive Order Issued By The Governor Mandating Face Coverings If Such An Executive Order Is Issued While The Legislature Is Adjourned." (HR 6015, Passed (84 - 39), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/30/21, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Urge the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) to revoke any executive order issued by the Governor pursuant to the Kansas Emergency Management Act establishing a face coverings protocol, if such executive order is issued by the Governor while the Legislature is not in Session or is adjourned for three or more days during the Legislative Session. The resolution directs the Chief Clerk of the House to send an enrolled copy of the resolution to the chairperson of the LCC." (HR 6015)

ACU: HR 6015 "Strengthens Individual Liberties By Preventing Gov. Kelly From Implementing Excessive One-Size-Fits-All Mask Mandates." "This resolution strengthens individual liberties by preventing Gov. Kelly from implementing excessive one-size-fits-all mask mandates. Instead, this resolution maintains that local governments maintain the legal authority to take any action related to face coverings deemed necessary to protect public safety." (American Conservative Union, 2021)

In 2021, Probst Voted Nay On HB 2416, "An Act Concerning Public Health; Requiring Compensation For The Use, Restriction On Use, Damage, Loss Or Destruction Of Property As A Result Of Certain Governmental Actions." (HB 2416, Passed (81 - 40), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/4/21, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Would create law regarding compensation for the use, restriction of use, loss, or destruction of property as a result of governmental actions related to the prevention of or response to contagious or infectious disease. The bill also would amend law related to property tax relief for businesses affected by governmental shutdowns or restrictions related to certain emergencies and would enact the COVID-19 Retail Storefront Property Tax Relief Act." (HB 2416)

ACU: HB 2416 "Provides A Legislative Check On Executive Branch Emergency Power Which Gov. Kelly Has Abused Throughout The COVID-19 Pandemic." "This bill provides a legislative check on executive branch emergency power which Gov. Kelly has abused throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill modifies the procedure for declaring and extending a state of disaster emergency, while also providing the legislature greater oversight of the Governor's orders. Additionally, the bill prohibits the Governor and State Board of Education from closing private schools during an emergency." (American Conservative Union, 2021)

Vaccinations (Other)

Probst, In 2014: "The Anti-Vaccination Movement Puts The Community At Risk By Creating A Foothold For Diseases To Take Root And Spread." "The anti-vaccination movement puts the community at risk by creating a foothold for diseases to take root and spread. In today's world, the need and effectiveness of vaccinations might not be easy to see, because many of the diseases that once plagued this country largely have been stamped out by multi-generational use of vaccines. There was a time, however, when measles infected millions of Americans each year, hospitalized tens of thousands, left thousands with chronic illnesses and caused several hundred deaths annually. It is because of vaccination that diseases like measles, polio, and smallpox aren't prevalent and devastating in American communities. And, ironically, the success of such vaccination programs has partially contributed to the idea that vaccination isn't critically important. But with a potential outbreak brewing locally, its worthwhile to once again consider the pros and cons of vaccination, and refreshing our memories with the history of such diseases -- and how it came that they weren't a part of everyday American life." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Bad Reaction," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/16/14)

EDUCATION

School Funding

Probst Criticized Block Grant Funding For School Districts In 2015. "If there ever was a question what an urban takeover of public education would look like, it can be found the block grant proposal passed Friday by the Kansas House and supported by Gov. Sam Brownback. The long and short of the plan is this: Kansas will throw a fixed amount of money at each school district in the state. If they're unhappy with the amount, those districts should just ask local property owners to pick up the slack. This new block grant approach would replace the school finance formula in place since 1992 and is part of legislators' plan to plug a gaping and growing hole in the state's budget. But it is also much more -- a step forward in a long-simmering desire to force rural schools to consolidate or close instead of shifting state money from richer districts to meet the constitutional requirement to provide an equal education for all the state's children, regardless of location. Lawmakers who support the change and the governor contend the block grant plan increases spending for school districts, but that is not really the truth. In Reno County, five of the six public school districts would lose money under the new plan. And the Kansas Association of School Boards' examination of the bill shows that 80 percent of the state's poorest districts would lose money while 18 percent of the richest districts would retain their full state aid." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Blocking progress," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/14/15)

School Consolidation

In February 2010, Probst Called For Kansas School Consolidation Efforts To Abide By District Standards In 1960 So As To Not Shortchange Residents In Declining Areas. "The truth, however painful, is that taxpayers can't afford to finance an entire district -- with all the facilities and administration needed to maintain it -- and provide a first-class education to the district's children. What the state should, and can, do, at least, is apply the standards that were put in place in 1960, when the state's 2,600 school districts consolidated down to just over 300 "unified" districts. Then, the Legislature required that a school district had to offer grades 1 through 12 and have at least 400 students or cover an area of at least 200 square miles. Today, 50 years after that standard was set, 32 school districts fall below that threshold. Some are operating in substandard buildings, and some are skirting around consolidation by sharing resources, such as buildings and administrators, without signing off on real consolidation -- allowing those districts to continue receiving additional state aid to offset their low enrollment. Kansas leaders have put in place incentives to encourage consolidation, by keeping funding constant for several years after a merger, and some schools are taking advantage of that. Just this week, the Kansas State Board of Education approved the merger of the Claflin and Lorraine districts and the Hanston and Pawnee Heights districts. It is not enough, however, simply to suggest consolidation. The state no longer can afford to pay for schools in areas with declining populations and falling tax bases, and it needs at least to make schools follow the rules that were laid out in 1960. Under the 1960 guidelines, the median district size would increase from the current 524 students a district to 672 students a district, and the median district size would increase from 233 square miles to 267 square miles. Taxpayers would save roughly $18 million. In addition to consolidation, communities and school districts, working together with legislators, need to become innovative in their approach to tomorrow's school districts. We need to explore ways in which rural areas can keep kids in their hometowns while using the resources of a bigger, more effective school district. Today, we have regressed below the standard set in 1960. Not only is that a disservice to taxpayers statewide, students are missing out on the resources and opportunities a larger district, with shared costs, can provide." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: School in 1960," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/10/10)

In February 2010, Probst Criticized Proposals To Have Kansas School Districts Consolidate Into Mega-Districts Of 1,500 To 1,600 Students Each, Contending The Effect On Education Would Outweigh The Estimated $138 Million In Savings. "The other idea contained in the report would push districts to merge into megadistricts with roughly 1,500 to 1,600 students each. In some areas of the state, these new districts would span nearly 1,000 square miles and require students to spend an inordinate amount of time riding a bus to and from school each day. No doubt the state's school districts need to find ways to become more efficient in their operations, and consolidating smaller districts is one way to achieve that goal. Some rural districts already share buildings and staff, and making the move to a formal consolidation only makes sense. Requiring school districts to meet a 1,500-student minimum, however, is over the top. Aside from the issue of busing -- the cost of which partly would fall to local district patrons -- there is the issue of making buildings big enough to house students. The report found that before savings would be seen under this plan -- approximately $138 million -- there would be the expense of building or remodeling current facilities to accommodate these students. Legislators

no doubt are tired of sending money to small districts with few students, and local taxpayers in towns with dwindling populations are being asked to foot more of the bill each year with an ever-shrinking property tax base. Tired as legislators might be, however, the state still has an obligation to reduce those costs in a way that offers Kansas children a good education. Enforcing the 1960 standard might accomplish that, but creating 1,000-square-mile districts and forcing kids to spend several hours each day on a bus would not." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: One Bad Plan," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/25/10)

School Choice

School Vouchers

In May 2014, Probst Criticized Vouchers For Private Schools And Claimed "Such Policies Never Will Provide An Adequate And Equitable Public Education For All Kansas Children." "Furthermore, the world is changing, and the education system must change with it if we're to properly prepare students for the challenges of adult life. We need a handful of districts to experiment, to try new teaching methods and escape this harmful cycle of teaching to a test that neither advances a student's education nor proves that the student has learned anything. Experimentation helps us learn how to teach, eliminates wasteful practices and helps uncover effective alternatives. More of the same will get us more of the same, and we've made scant progress toward reinventing the way we teach our children. The answer to the education issue isn't to keep the status quo. And it's not vouchers for private schools or corporate tax credits supported by big special interest groups, because such policies never will provide an adequate and equitable public education for all Kansas children. Innovative school districts might not hold the end solution for improving education, but they certainly are places where we can begin to solve the equation." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Innovative Education," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/15/14)

Private School Scholarships

In April 2014, Probst Regarded A Measure Attached To Kansas' Education Funding Bill To Allow A 70-Percent State Tax Credit If They Offer Scholarships To At-Risk Students Who Move To Private Schools To Be "Particularly Troubling." "Had it not been for that stalwart coalition of moderate House Republicans and Democrats, and the hundreds of teachers and education supporters who filled the Statehouse over the weekend, Kansas public education would look much different going forward. Those moderates, who are almost certain to be attacked with primary opponents in August, showed the courage and commitment to stand up to the Kansas Chamber, Americans for Prosperity and the Kansas Policy Institute and their desire to dismantle public education. Nevertheless, under intense pressure from those special interests and legislative leadership, several members changed their votes late Sunday night, and the bill passed the House by a vote of 63-57. It now awaits the governor's signature. Two elements of the bill are particularly troubling. One creates a $10 million-a-year corporate welfare program in support of private education. It allows large companies to enjoy a 70-percent credit against their state tax liability if they offer scholarships to at-risk students who move to private schools. This has nothing at all to do with public education equity; rather it creates a mechanism to damage the finance structure for public schools." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Selling Education," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/7/14)

Curriculum Standards

Common Core

In August 2013, Probst Criticized Opponents Of Common Core For Wasting Time On "Mythical Problems." "Some political groups and Kansas lawmakers who are pushing against the adoption of Common Core Standards in public schools could use a dose of education, and perhaps something to refresh their memories. Common Core standards have been adopted as a way to measure student progress and achievement in English language arts and math in 45 states. They are, more or less, the new and improved version of No Child Left Behind, which was one of the signature initiatives of former President George W. Bush. It is a state-led effort, developed by the National Governor's Association, along with education experts throughout the nation. Its aim is to establish benchmarks that states can use to ensure students have the necessary skills to enter college or the work force. It was not developed by the federal government and is not a sinister plot to nationalize the country's public education system. It's an effort, much like NCLB, to improve educational outcomes for U.S. students -- and like NCLB, federal education dollars have been tied to adoption of the Common Core standards, which is not a new practice by the federal government. Yet, that didn't stop some lawmakers from attempting to derail Common Core at the end of the regular legislative session in Topeka. It didn't stop the creation of a group, Kansans Against Common Core, which hopes to remove Kansas as a participating state. And it didn't stop the local TEA Party group -- the Patriot Freedom Alliance -- from flying in a speaker from the Koch-funded Heartland Institute to provide misinformation about how Common Core is akin to Soviet-style Communism. Such groups might do the country's future a favor by working to find solutions to the country's education issues rather than drumming up an apocalyptic warning that serves no purpose beyond creating fear and distrust. The country's education system is in dire straits -- of that there is no doubt. American students are falling behind students from other modernized countries, and there's little evidence that trend will soon change. Some argue that it's a lack of funding, while others argue that public, taxpayer funded education has outlived its effectiveness. Yet the underlying problem is that teachers -- who simply want to help students learn and prepare for the future -- often find themselves caught in a whirlpool of competing ideologies and the accompanying measurements, matrices and quality control tests that develop around the latest in teaching standards. Under NCLB, teachers spent far too much time and effort proving to state officials -- and eventually federal education officials -- that they were teaching and their students were learning. Common Core likely will come with its own load of unnecessary paperwork -- but it is no more a federal takeover of education than Bush's less vilified attempts at education reform. As long as groups like the Heartland Institute, Kansans Against Common Core and the local Patriot Freedom Alliance waste time on mythical problems, they fail to contribute anything meaningful to the real discussion that needs to happen about how to improve public education." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A Core Concern," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/9/13)

Higher Standards

In September 2010, Probst Supported The Kansas Board Of Regents Increasing The Number Of Math And Civics Courses High School Students Needed To Meet Minimum Admissions Standards. 'The Kansas Board of Regents is considering doing something that

should've been done a long time ago: ensuring that high school graduates heading to college are prepared for the heightened expectations of academic life. A draft of proposed changes at Board of Regents universities would increase the number of math and civics courses high school students would have to take in order to meet minimum admissions standards. The requirements would add a fourth year of math to the curriculum; add a half unit to the civics credit and incorporate three specified elective credits. Local school officials, however, argue that they don't have the money to fund the requirements, which likely would include the hiring of math teachers. The Regents' proposed change isn't drastic, yet it could do much to help prepare students for the rigors of college. High school graduates who lack the proper skills and preparation for college are at a higher risk of dropping out and failing to complete their education. It's no secret that today's high school graduates lack the skills they need to succeed in college or in the world marketplace. There's little incentive -- and certainly no money -- for high schools to add to their curriculum or broaden class offerings." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Preparing For The Future," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/14/10)

Evolution And Science

In 2012, Probst Criticized Attempts To Block The Instruction Of Evolution In Kansas Schools. 'Evolution, according to the developing standards, is recognized as a well established scientific concept. Well, it's a well-established concept to people who believe in science anyway. Willard, who has his own well-established record of trying to stop evolution dead in its tracks, said he plans to raise his concerns when the board meets to review the standards next week. His concerns include a fear the science standards promote "naturalism" and "secular humanism" that eliminate God from consideration of how the universe works. From 1999 to 2007, the Kansas Board of Education adopted five different science standards as conservative Republicans entered and left the board. Eventually, the board .... evolved to adopt mainstream scientific ideas about evolution. In the meantime, however, Kansas became the butt of many jokes. Our children and schools were ridiculed, and legitimate questions surfaced about the quality of education in a state that refused to believe in science. Ken Willard -- and others who hold an unreasonable and irrational fear of science -- need to resist the urge to blend science and religion. The two, while not mutually exclusive, are not interchangeable. It makes about as much sense to insert religion into science standards as it does to insert evolution into traditional and accepted religious teachings. Kansas children need to learn the theories and principles that are widely accepted in a given area of study. Imagine how ridiculous this entire issue would seem if the discussion centered on math, or spelling, and the board decided to adopt alternate ideas about addition or subtraction, or create its own spelling for common words. Despite how much Willard and others might not agree with it, evolution is accepted as factual basis in the scientific world. To teach otherwise is a disservice to Kansas students, a disgrace to our state and a well-worn path we need not walk again." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Evolving Education," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/8/12)

No Child Left Behind

Criticisms

Probst: "No Child Left Behind Has Been An Impossible Goal That Bound The Hands Of Educators Across The Country." "No Child Left Behind has been an impossible goal that

bound the hands of educators across the country. While the idea of holding schools accountable for educational outcomes was worthy, the practice of a standardized test to measure those outcomes was a failure. Teachers lost the ability to tap into to students' interest, and schools largely adopted an "if-it's-not-on-the-test-don't-teach-it" approach in the classroom. Additionally, the idea that every student in every classroom across the country would be nearly perfect in every subject was a pipe dream that never stood a chance to become a reality. Under the waiver program, Kansas schools will be able to transition to career ready programs that will prepare students for the workforce, as well as employ one of several options to measure students' growth and success. With this week's vote, Kansas will join 36 other states that have opted out of an overreaching government mandate that set unreachable goals on local teachers, administrators and school boards. Once that waiver is secured, maybe Kansas schools will be able to focus a little less on testing, and get back to the thing that schools do best -- teaching." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Education Waiver," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/14/11)

Probst: "While NCLB Has Been Successful In Bringing Accountability And Measurable Progress To Education -- And Has Been Especially Useful In Underperforming Districts -- Something Seems Inherently Wrong With An Education System That Whittles Away Programs For Overachieving Students In The Name Of Group Success." "At a meeting last Monday for the Reno County Education Cooperative, the board voted not to renew the contracts of six teachers for the 2010-11 school year, including two who work with gifted children. The move will reduce the county's gifted teaching staff to 2.5 next year. The cuts are being made in response to education cuts at the state level and, at least in gifted student parents' view, to preserve the services needed to help lower performing students meet Adequate Yearly Progress as outlined by NCLB. The federal mandate requires that all students eventually meet AYP, and that requires teachers to work hard to ensure that every student in their classrooms -- from the best student to the most disadvantaged -- is capable of passing a standardized test. But NCLB doesn't require that school districts push students to excel beyond the testing parameters. It doesn't require districts to put any money or effort toward stimulating the schools' most capable students. If the purpose of education is to open students' minds and to challenge them to be creative and inventive and teach them how to learn and how to solve problems, then NCLB wouldn't get a passing grade. If it is designed to lower expectations and create an even playing field where all students are mediocre, then it seems to be working perfectly. While NCLB has been successful in bringing accountability and measurable progress to education -- and has been especially useful in underperforming districts -- something seems inherently wrong with an education system that whittles away programs for overachieving students in the name of group success." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Law Of Averages," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/7/10)

In 2011, Probst Praised The McPherson School District For Seeking An Exemption To NCLB Requirements. "Score one for the McPherson school district. The district announced this week that it is the first in the country to receive an exception from the U.S. Department of Education to the oppressive No Child Left Behind requirements. Now, McPherson administrators and teachers can focus on implementing a new initiative, called C3 -- Citizenship, College and Career Readiness -- to prepare its students for their futures. In addition to a curriculum that will better prepare students for their future paths, the waiver allows the district to rely on a different set of measures to determine student progress. Instead of the arbitrary and

impossible-to-meet 100-percent proficiency requirement in NCLB, McPherson officials will rely on ACT examinations at various levels of students' education. As an added measure, the Kansas Department of Education also will review those outcomes to determine if the McPherson district is meeting adequate yearly progress for its students. With the waiver, control over how students are taught returns to the local level -- where administrators and teachers are more in touch with workforce demands, and where parents and district patrons can have more input. The goal of public education is to prepare children to go to college and successfully enter the workforce. State assessments and federal mandates requiring every child in every school district to excel in every subject don't necessarily achieve that goal. McPherson's approach will more specifically address student needs on a local level. Ideally, more schools throughout Kansas and around the country will follow McPherson's lead and ask for relief from NCLB and a chance once again to teach kids what they'll need for success later in life." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Leaving NCLB Behind," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/1/11)

Teachers

In April 2014, Probst Regarded A Measure Attached To Kansas' Education Funding Bill To Redefine "Teacher" So As To Reform Due Process Protections As "Particularly Troubling." "Two elements of the bill are particularly troubling. One creates a $10 million-a-year corporate welfare program in support of private education. It allows large companies to enjoy a 70-percent credit against their state tax liability if they offer scholarships to at-risk students who move to private schools. This has nothing at all to do with public education equity; rather it creates a mechanism to damage the finance structure for public schools. The second concerning component redefines "teacher" as a way to eliminate due process protections. And the concept of teacher tenure is a myth. The current due process for teachers simply ensures a written termination notice and the right to challenge the decision through review by a hearing officer. In fact the Kansas Association of School Boards reported that the state sees about 10 due process claims each year -- hardly a number that indicates a systemic problem that requires legislative action. The measure is little more than a way to break the teachers' union and silence those teachers who honestly educate and advocate for their students. Naturally, the lawmakers and their proxies who pushed this legislation will talk about how it increases educational choice, fully funds schools, offers property tax relief and gets rid of all those bad teachers that only conservative lawmakers can seem to find.." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Selling Education," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/7/14)

IMMIGRATION

Illegal Immigration

Sanctuary Laws

In March 2022, Probst Voted Nay On HB 2717, "An Act Concerning Municipalities; Relating To Law Enforcement Agencies And Cooperation With Federal Officials Regarding Citizenship." (HB 2717, Passed (84 - 38), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/23/22, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Would prohibit municipalities from restricting law enforcement cooperation with federal authorities and would prohibit the use of municipal identification cards from being used to satisfy state proof of identity requirements, including for voter identification. The bill would also make technical changes." (HB 2717)

Enforcement

In 2012, Probst Criticized Arizona's Immigration Enforcement Law SB 10 Noting "An Arizona-Style Paper Checking Law Adds Another Level Of Divisiveness To Public Policy And Lawmaking." "On the immigration front, Kobach has gained national attention for his work on "check your papers" laws in Arizona and Alabama, and as an adviser to former Presidential contender Mitt Romney. Lawmakers expect to review similar laws during the upcoming legislative session, as well as an E-verify system and a repeal of a 2004 law that grants Kansas immigrants in-state tuition rates at Kansas universities. Repeal of the tuition law would do little more than open a long-closed scar, while an Arizona-style paper checking law adds another level of divisiveness to public policy and lawmaking. On both fronts, however, Kobach has a receptive audience in the Kansas legislature, and will likely have little trouble realizing his agenda. That might be good for Kobach's larger political ambitions and his contract work for other states and cities, but it's uncertain how much good it will do Kansans." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Ambitious Agenda," *Hutchinson News*, 12/28/12)

Benefits

In 2012, Probst Criticized Repealing A Law Granting Illegal Immigrants In-State Tuition Rates. "On the immigration front, Kobach has gained national attention for his work on "check your papers" laws in Arizona and Alabama, and as an adviser to former Presidential contender Mitt Romney. Lawmakers expect to review similar laws during the upcoming legislative session, as well as an E-verify system and a repeal of a 2004 law that grants Kansas immigrants in-state tuition rates at Kansas universities. Repeal of the tuition law would do little more than open a long-closed scar, while an Arizona-style paper checking law adds another level of divisiveness to public policy and lawmaking. On both fronts, however, Kobach has a receptive audience in the Kansas legislature, and will likely have little trouble realizing his agenda. That might be good for Kobach's larger political ambitions and his contract work for other states and cities, but it's uncertain how much good it will do Kansans." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Ambitious Agenda," *Hutchinson News*, 12/28/12)

In A January 2022 Reddit AMA, Probst Noted "From The Research I've Done, It Looks Like "Qualified Non-Citizens" Are Generally Eligible For Coverage Through Medicaid." (Reddit, 1/12/22)

ixamnis · 3 mo. ago

I work for a FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) in Topeka, providing Health care to lower income Kansans (primarily). It always amazes me how many people fall through the cracks and who don't have any form of health care coverage. A few questions along these lines:

Do you have any data on the number of residents without health care coverage?

A number of my patients are immigrants (mostly from Mexico, but also other places). If we could expand Medicaid, could non-Citizen residents qualify for coverage? If not, what solutions do you have for these people? Kansas has a LOT of residents who are working and providing for their families who are not US Citizens, many who are here legally, but don't have health care coverage of any kind.

What do you think your chances are to get Medicaid expansion on the ballot (or through the legislature)? This has been an important issue for us for many years and it seems every time we make a few steps in that direction, it always gets torpedoed.

Thank you for the work you do.

7 Reply Give Award Share Report Save Follow

thatguyinhutch · 3 mo. ago

We commonly hear that between 145,000 to 160,000 people would qualify for Medicaid expansion. KHI reports that 9.1 percent of Kansans are uninsured. https://www.khi.org/assets/uploads/news/15012/annual_insurance_update_2021_(december_2021)_2.pdf

But I think those numbers don't tell the whole story. There are a lot of people working who don't have coverage. There are a lot of people who pay for insurance that they never use, because they can't afford the copays and deductibles, or the prescriptions they need.

I think the Medicaid amendment has a harder path than the marijuana provisions, because so many Rs are opposed to the idea of health coverage for working families who don't make much money. The resistance to getting this done has been one of the most frustrating things to me in my time here. It's inhumane. It doesn't make financial sense. And it doesn't support our healthcare infrastructure.

8 Reply Give Award Share Report Save Follow

thatguyinhutch · 3 mo. ago

Also, from the research I've done, it looks like "qualified non-citizens" are generally eligible for coverage through Medicaid.

5 Reply Give Award Share Report Save Follow

(Reddit, 1/12/22)

Immigration Reform

Birthright Citizenship

In September 2010, Probst Opposed Doing Away With Birthright Citizenship Contending It Set A "Dangerous Precedent." "There's a big push underway in some circles to undo the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, claiming that it's an antiquated idea that has outlived its usefulness. That's the clause that ensures due process and equal protection of the law -- not to every citizen of the United States, but to every person who lives within the jurisdictional boundaries of the country -- and grants citizenship rights to any person born in the United States.

The amendment was ratified in 1868, three years after the end of the Civil War. As the debate on immigration continues to take a front seat in the United States, serious talk is emerging about the need to do away with the 14th amendment. The clause pertained to recently freed slaves, some are arguing, and it's no longer needed in 2010. Today its benefits are extended to those who enter the United States illegally, and then have "anchor babies" to remain here, the argument goes. Proponents of such a change suggest that at least one parent should be a citizen in good standing before citizenship will be extended to any baby born in the United States. There is some degree of irony in the fact that those who want to change the 14th amendment generally fall in the ranks of those who repeatedly shout about the purity of the Constitution -- and how it should be viewed in its true, original form. Opening the door to change the Constitution on the whims of the current political environment is a dangerous precedent to set. What other amendments might seem outdated and useless at some point in the future -- the right to bear arms? The right against unlawful search and seizure, or a trial by a jury of one's peers? Depending on the time, and the political landscape, any one of those rights might be deemed unnecessary and an argument could be made that they, too, should be changed. Riling up the masses to change the Constitution for the popular political issue of the day is a policy that could backfire down the road. There are no doubt problems with U.S. immigration policy, as well as a foreign policy that has allowed drug cartels and rampant poverty to thrive in Mexico and Central America. Large U.S. corporations, too, exploit the cheap labor of illegal immigrants, and somehow manage to dodge any criticism while the citizenry's anger remains directed at immigrants, who most likely just want to raise their families in a safer, more prosperous environment. Those are problems that need to be addressed, and for which policy ought to be explored. Undoing a clause that allowed for the immigration of Kansas' large population of industrious Mennonites -- who brought with them a variety of wheat that helped increase wheat production in the state -- is a clear political maneuver that shouldn't result in a change to a document as deliberate as the U.S. Constitution." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Politically Driven Policy," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/17/10)

LAW AND ORDER

Criminal Justice Reform

Bail Reform

In October 2015, Probst Called For A Reexamination Of Cash Bail Policies, Implicitly Criticizing Holding People In Jail On Minor Offenses If They Could Not Meet Bail. "Ford County and Dodge City have become a target in a nationwide effort to end the practice of pauper's prisons -- those where people are held in jail on minor offenses if they can't come up with the money to post bail. But the city and county are by no means alone in the practice. Throughout Kansas, and the nation, cities arrest and detain people for violation of city ordinances, unless they have the means to pay their way out of jail. The practice has become far too common, and it has become far too accepted. The group Equal Justice Under Law has initiated a number of legal actions across the country, including the suit in Dodge City, with a hope of bringing the country's municipal courts and jails more in line with the ideals of the U.S. Constitution. No American's freedom should be determined solely on his or her ability to pay a fine, yet that is essentially what is happening in thousands of American cities. People are

arrested, sometimes for nothing more serious than violation of a city ordinance. Those with means go free, while those without lose their freedoms, at least temporarily. This isn't how American justice is supposed to work. The iconic image of a blind Lady Justice loses all meaning when money is the primary element that determines a person's liberty. Largely in cases across the country, the courts are siding with attorneys for Equal Justice Under Law. While the suit has been lodged against Dodge City and Ford County, other municipal courts and county jails would do well to examine their policies before being challenged in court. The rulings from other courts tend to show that the practice of charging people for their freedom in such instances runs counter to the country's laws. And it certainly runs counter to the spirit of the U.S. Constitution and the idea that all men and women are viewed equally under the law, regardless of their station in life or their financial limitations." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Price Of Freedom," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/29/15)

Sentencing Reform

In May 2010, Probst Proposed Restoring Judicial Discretion In Sentencing For Certain Crimes, Such As Shoplifting, Rather Than Tying Judges To A Strict Penalty Matrix. "The other side of the coin, however, is that some people who one day might walk the straight-and-narrow could be doomed to a pitiful existence thanks to an overly aggressive prosecution of a youthful indiscretion. Furthermore, aggressively prosecuting a shoplifter is a cost to taxpayers, taking time from the district attorney's office and likely requiring a taxpayer-paid defense attorney for the accused shoplifter. Should the case be taken to trial -- and the prospect of prison time almost assures that it will -- the District Court would spend resources hearing a case that might have been handled more efficiently. If the sentence is time in prison, then the cost to taxpayers rises dramatically. According to the 2009 annual report from the Kansas Department of Corrections, it costs $24,745 a year to house an inmate. A three-year sentence for aggravated burglary means Kansas taxpayers will pay more than $74,000 to lock up a person who stole less than $1,000 in merchandise on several different occasions. That makes as little sense as allowing a thief to land 50 criminal convictions, yet still roam the grocery store aisles looking for five-finger discounts. Another factor is that Kansas prisons are nearly full, more laws are being drafted that carry longer prison terms, and our budget has no money to expand or build a new prison. Sending shoplifters to prison would only exacerbate that problem and force Kansas either to release other, potentially more dangerous criminals, or pay for a new facility. So what's the solution? Who really knows? Thievery is as old as mankind. But maybe Kansas should consider returning to local judges some of the power it removed in the 1990s. Currently, judges are bound by a sentencing grid from which they can't deviate much at all. A conviction for an aggravated burglary, factored by the defendant's criminal history, equals a predetermined amount of time in prison or probation, with little room for the judge to issue a sentence appropriate for each individual case. A little more latitude for judges to make the punishment fit the crime likely would be a better approach, because what we have now are two bad options -- either allowing shoplifters to roam relatively free from punishment or asking taxpayers to pay almost $25,000 a year for what amounts to petty thievery." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Cost Of Shoplifting," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/13/10)

Diversion

Probst, In 2013: "Expanding The Diversion Program To Offenders Of Low-Level, Nonviolent Crimes Likewise Makes Good Sense. By Allowing "Small" Crimes -- Like Possession Of Marijuana -- To Go Through Diversion, The County Avoids The Trouble Of Prosecuting A Crime That Likely Will End With Fines, And Possibly Probation." "Expanding the diversion program to offenders of low-level, nonviolent crimes likewise makes good sense. By allowing "small" crimes -- like possession of marijuana -- to go through diversion, the county avoids the trouble of prosecuting a crime that likely will end with fines, and possibly probation. The offender can resolve the case quickly, pay the diversion fee and move on with his or her life. In the process, the county raises money and realizes a savings when it avoids prosecution for a relatively minor offense. Schroeder suggested the additional revenue could be used to fund another full-time position in his office -- with duties split between diversion duties and processing/editing digital information that will be used in criminal trials. While staff additions in any county department typically raise concern among taxpayers, positions that are effectively self-funded tend to hold up better under scrutiny. Through the use of additional diversion funds, it's possible the district attorney's office could finance the additional position and still leave money in the county coffers. Perhaps more importantly, expanding the diversion program is a good tool to give good people -- who might find themselves in a temporary spot of trouble -- a way to avoid the trouble, expense and potentially long-lasting repercussions of a full-blown criminal proceeding. Instead, those who run afoul of the law in a minor way get a chance to clean up their act, while both the county and offender save money." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: A Good Diversion," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/10/13)

Drug Courts

In July 2010, Probst Praised The Implementation Of Drug Courts For Defendants Facing Drug Possession Charges As An Alternative To The Criminal Court System. "A contingent of Reno County representatives has been visiting drug courts in other counties to learn more about the program and how to implement those ideas here. The drug court, while operating as part of the court system, focuses more on treatment and education than on punishment and prosecution. National statistics show that defendants who graduate from drug court are less likely to commit another offense and are more successful at managing their addiction to controlled substances. Rather than sending drug addicts to a near-capacity prison, drug court offers additional oversight for those who seek treatment. Additionally, the program won't cost the state or the county any more money. Since the introduction of SB 123, a law that requires treatment on a first offense for drug possession, the state has paid for offenders' treatment anyway. However, that treatment largely has been on the shoulders of the defendant, with only marginal oversight or help from the court. Taking a more active approach to treatment will increase the odds that the state's money is being well spent. Sending an addict out on his or her own to handle treatment isn't likely to be as successful as regularly following up with an addict to ensure that treatment is progressing as it should. A large number of criminal cases in Reno County stem from drug use, and many property crimes are committed in an effort to purchase drugs, which expands illegal drugs' reach into the community. It is a community problem that warrants a community response. Drug court provides that response. Those who simply have made an error

in judgment and want to clean up and lead a productive and meaningful life will have the opportunity and help they need to reach that goal. Those who choose to spiral further down the path of drug addiction and crime will disregard the benefits of drug court and find their solution in the criminal courtroom and eventually prison." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Drug Court," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/9/10)

Probst: "Reno County Drug Court Is One Of The Real Success Stories To Surface In The Criminal Justice System Recently." "Reno County Drug Court is one of the real success stories to surface in the criminal justice system recently. With little more than a desire and a model to follow, a handful of dedicated people -- including judges, prosecutors and community corrections officials -- launched a program aimed at addressing drug addiction as an alternative to the cycle of incarceration and repeated offenses. This week, the upstart program received a boost with the announcement of a $106,987 grant from the U.S. Office of Justice Programs. The money will help the drug court handle up to 30 offenders at a time. Reno County also can qualify for two additional years of grants for the program. In drug court, offenders face more intense and frequent oversight and drug testing and appear in court every other week in an effort to keep them off of drugs, reduce imprisonment rates and help them establish a productive role in society. Over the long term, drug court holds the potential to reduce the local cost associated with drug cases, which often involve repeat offenses and eventual imprisonment. The infusion of grant money will help drug court hire a full-time coordinator and potentially another probation officer to oversee participants. The money also will pay for recovery services, such as drug treatment, education and housing for offenders. Those who threw their support behind drug court deserve recognition for their efforts to address a critical need in Reno County and for looking beyond the traditional methods for solutions. Their success in securing resources is a testament both to their dedication and the validity of the program." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Money Well Spent," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/21/12)

Incarceration

Probst: "The Kansas Legislature Has To Tackle This Problem Head On -- Either Paying For New Prisons, Or By Reviewing The Laws To Ensure The Most Dangerous Offenders Remain In Prison, While Giving Those Marginal Offenders The Tools They Need To Become Productive Members Of Society." "It seems that Kansas is at a crossroads with several options: Build new prisons to house more potentially violent offenders; decriminalize or reduce the penalties for those crimes that pose little real threat to society; or adequately fund programs like Community Corrections so it can adequately supervise its caseload. As it is now, the entire Department of Corrections system is overwhelmed. In Topeka, there's little will to lessen the penalties on less serious crimes, yet nary has a politician missed a chance to seize a hot button crime issue for a campaign tool. That sort of campaigning-as-governance, however, has painted the state into a corner. What we have now is a system where judges and prosecutors are acutely aware of the overcrowding situation and offenders with progressively more dangerous behavior avoid prison despite repeated probation violations and years-long criminal records. That was the case with the two men charged with killing 27-year-old Jennifer Heckel. Billy Craig, Jr. has a criminal record that reaches back over a decade, while Logsdon's record includes charges for aggravated battery and aggravated escape from custody. Both, however,

were given additional shots at reformation through probation and Community Corrections. Ultimately, the Kansas legislature has to tackle this problem head on -- either paying for new prisons, or by reviewing the laws to ensure the most dangerous offenders remain in prison, while giving those marginal offenders the tools they need to become productive members of society." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Time For A Correction," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/7/11)

Death Penalty

In February 2018, Probst Sponsored Legislation Abolishing The Death Penalty. 'Topeka: Kansas Legislature has issued the following bill status: Status Spectrum: Bipartisan Bill Status: Introduced on February 12 2019 - 25% progression Action: 2019-02-19 - House Hearing: Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 1:30 PM Room 152-S Summary Abolishing the death penalty and creating the crime of aggravated murder. Sponsors Rep. Mark Schreiber [R] Rep. Barbara Ballard [D] Rep. John Carmichael [D] Rep. Lonnie Clark [R] Rep. Susan Concannon [R] Rep. Tom Cox [R] Rep. Pam Curtis [D] Rep. Diana Dierks [R] Rep. Brenda Dietrich [R] Rep. John Eplee [R] Rep. Broderick Henderson [D] Rep. Larry Hibbard [R] Rep. Dennis Highberger [D] Rep. Tim Hodge [D] Rep. Eileen Horn [D] Rep. Michael Houser [R] Rep. Jan Kessinger [R] Rep. Annie Kuether [D] Rep. Martin Long [R] Rep. J.C. Moore [R] Rep. Monica Murnan [D] Rep. Cindy Neighbor [D] Rep. KC Ohaebosim [D] Rep. Brett Parker [D] Rep. Jason Probst [D] Rep. Adam Smith [R] Rep. Jerry Stogsdill [D] Rep. Bill Sutton [R] Rep. Barbara Wasinger [R] Rep. Valdenia Winn [D] Rep. Kathy Wolfe Moore [D] Rep. Rui Xu [D]." (Kansas Legislature, 2/18/19)

Law Enforcement

Criticism

Probst Voiced Criticism Of Law Enforcement Noting "Over Time That Appreciation [For Police] Morphed Into A Mistaken Notion That Every Police Officer Is A Hero Who Is Above Reproach Or Questioning. And The Public Has Allowed The Country's Law Enforcement Departments To Shield Themselves From Legitimate Scrutiny By Hiding Behind The Need For Safety, Security Or An Ongoing Investigation." "The events in Ferguson, Mo., should make everyone pause and ask what is going on today in America. Why does a police department for a suburb of 21,000 people lack in-car cameras for its police department yet possess enough riot gear, high-powered assault rifles and armored personnel vehicles to launch a small war? Why does this police department find it necessary to launch canisters of tear gas and rubber bullets at citizens who are exercising their right to assemble? Why has the Federal Aviation Administration declared a no-fly zone over the area, and why are they arresting journalists who are covering the unfolding events and writing their stories from the local McDonald's? At least part of the answer can be found by examining our post 9-11 America. Since the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, several collective shifts have occurred in the nation that have given root to what's happening in Ferguson, Mo. First, much of this country developed a sense of appreciation for the police, firefighters and first responders who rushed toward the World Trade Center while everyone else was running away. Such respect and admiration was and is justified. But over time that appreciation morphed into a mistaken notion that every police officer is a hero who is above reproach or questioning. And the public has allowed the country's

law enforcement departments to shield themselves from legitimate scrutiny by hiding behind the need for safety, security or an ongoing investigation." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: False Security," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/14/14)

Military Gear

Probst Criticized The Purchase Of Military Gear By Police Departments And Argued "Equipment Designed To Repel Terrorists, Used Against Ordinary Americans, Is Nothing Short Of Obscene." "Secondly, we created the Department of Homeland Security, which during the past decade has funneled billions of dollars to local police departments, which have in turn used the money to purchase military gear with the idea that it might be needed if ever some small town in middle America falls under a terrorist attack. But equipment designed to repel terrorists, used against ordinary Americans, is nothing short of obscene. In the case of Ferguson, money to purchase the armored vehicles and riot gear would have been better spent on cameras for the department's cruisers, because video evidence of the altercation between an unnamed officer and Michael Brown might have provided some answers that could have stemmed the public's anger over the young man's death. Instead, that federal tax money was used to purchase war zone gear that today is being used to keep people in line." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: False Security," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/14/14)

Probst: "Our Reaction Has Been To Spend Money We Didn't Have On Military Equipment For Police Departments That Didn't Need It. Then, When Something Bad Happens And The Citizens Rise Up In Protest, We Use That Equipment To Assuage Our Fears By Squashing Anything That Smacks Of Dissent." "The America of today seems to be terrified, and of what we're not entirely sure. But 9-11 seemingly ripped our innocence from us as a nation and made us realize that we are vulnerable. And our reaction has been to spend money we didn't have on military equipment for police departments that didn't need it. Then, when something bad happens and the citizens rise up in protest, we use that equipment to assuage our fears by squashing anything that smacks of dissent. That cannot be the answer, because it will only lead to more latent anger from the oppressed and more unjustified fear from those who have little reason to be so fearful. And right now there's no better example of how fear and anger collide to create an unmitigated disaster than in Ferguson, Mo." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: False Security," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/14/14)

Probst: "We Have Militarized Police Forces Across The Country, Because We Are Afraid That An Islamist Jihadist Might Decide To Wage War On A Small Country Town In The Middle Of Nowhere." "This is how the corrosive nature of fear decays all that is good about America. Instead of recognizing a student who seemingly wanted nothing more than to make a good impression on his teacher, fear brought out the worst, and a promising, bright and innocent kid was treated like a terrorist. Unfortunately, this is part and parcel of American life today. We have abandoned the hope of a bright future and replaced it with an angry brand of fear that has made America much less safe today than it was in the days before 9/11. We have granted the government the authority to spy on its citizens, in violation of the U.S. Constitution, because we were afraid and thought it might make us safe. We have militarized police forces across the country, because we are afraid that an Islamist jihadist might decide to wage war on a small country town in the middle of nowhere. We see terror everywhere we look, and, as a result, we

have allowed that view to erode our freedom, our passion and our advancement." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Feeding Fear," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/19/15)

Warrants

In May 2013, Probst Noted That Measures To Allow Law Enforcement To Secure Warrants Ahead Of A Crime Were "Concerning." "More concerning are changes that loosen the requirements for securing warrants. Now, instead of proving that a crime has been committed, law enforcement officials will be allowed to secure a warrant in advance of a crime. While law enforcement says the measure is a time saver that will allow them to better fight criminal activity and that it's not a significant change to current protocol, it's a change that will require oversight by the public. Likewise, another change allows local prosecutors to more easily seat a grand jury to hear evidence in criminal cases. In some parts of the state, active use of a grand jury could be an effective tool to bring to court cases that languish under the ordinary process. Yet, thanks to the secretive nature of the grand jury, there is legitimate concern the legal mechanism could be used to keep secret -- even from the defendant -- otherwise public information." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Keeping Watch," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/2/13)

Drugs

Legalization (Overall)

In October 2015, Probst Urged That Legalization Of Drugs Be Considered As Part Of The Conversation. "It is time to acknowledge all the signs of failure; it is time to try a different approach to the drug epidemic that plagues our communities, our state and our country. Drugs haven't always been illegal. There was a time in American history when drug use and addiction were treated as a health concern. Addicts received medical care and, in some cases, prescriptions for low doses of drugs to control their addictions. Much like the "functioning alcoholics" many of us know, those addicts held down jobs, maintained households and healthy relationships. Making drugs illegal didn't stop drug use. It created a lucrative black market, where violence reigns, and it turned addiction or youthful experimentation into a crime. A teenager convicted of a drug crime is ineligible for financial aid for higher education -- altering the future of what might have been a bright student headed toward a prosperous future. Drug prohibition is cost-prohibitive. It consumes the resources of police, prosecutors and our judicial system. Yet, the biggest price of prohibition can be found in the trail of lives ruined by a criminal conviction that leads to prison, probation, continued drug abuse, ostracism and ongoing criminal behavior. We've seen this problem before. Prohibition of alcohol began in 1919, but problems with enforcement and the lure of liquor-related economic activity led to its repeal by 1933. Today, the industry is legal but heavily taxed and regulated. It now provides revenue, must meet quality standards, and alcohol is difficult for minors to purchase. The logic around drug prohibition is faulty. In other areas -- such as gun control -- we generally reject the idea that prohibition of any sort would curb gun-related violence. We accept that most people obey the law and use their firearms responsibly. All efforts to curb access to guns are met with fierce resistance, yet that logic doesn't extend to other areas of law that are likewise questionable or have outlived their usefulness. Heitschmidt is right. Prohibition might not be the only answer, but it must be part of the conversation. He's also right that drug prohibition isn't a law enforcement problem. It is a

political problem because prohibition and incarceration are politically popular. Meanwhile, communities such as Hutchinson have little flexibility to draft alternative approaches to the unique issues locally -- restricted in their approach to the laws drafted by people in Topeka who want to tell voters they are tough on crime, even if their toughness has proved to be a failure. And it has been an absolute failure. The antidrug campaigns ring hollow. Incarceration has swollen our prisons and consumed our tax dollars. The black market has given rise to violent criminals and forced police to respond with an alarming military approach. All the while, drug use -- and all its associated crime and pain -- continues unabated and undeterred by generations of prohibition." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: LEAP Of Faith," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/23/15)

Marijuana

In 2011, Probst Argued In Favor Of Legalizing Marijuana. "That fact highlights the other side of the argument about illegal drugs -- the need to legalize marijuana. Most of the drugs that legislators have been attempting to ban derive their demand from the desire to circumvent the criminalization of marijuana. Were "pot" legalized, the demand for synthetic forms of the drug would dry up, and the need to chase the next synthetic form of "pot" would end. Legislators could stop spending time each session writing new laws against new drugs, and police could quit investing time and resources keeping up with new synthetic drugs. Instead, the state could heavily tax marijuana, like it does tobacco and alcohol, and generated much-needed new revenue. As long as people want to smoke marijuana, and as long as it is illegal, lawmakers, police and prosecutors will have to run to stay ahead of the curve. Legalizing a substance that arguably isn't any more dangerous than alcohol would end a losing battle and allow for tougher laws on the more harmful synthetic varieties." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Banning Potpourri," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/25/11)

Probst: "It Is Well Past Time That Kansas Stop Treating Possession Of Marijuana As A Serious Offense. Our Prisons Are Bulging At The Seams, And The Arrest, Prosecution And Incarceration Of Those In Possession Of Marijuana Is A Drain On Every Taxpayer In The State." "In the midst of a legislative session filled with questionable bills, proposed tax increases and fundamental changes to the way Kansas finances public schools, there's a piece of common sense wafting down from Topeka. House Bill 2049 would lessen the penalties for marijuana offenses to misdemeanors for the first two offenses, before reaching a felony on the third offense. Current law offers a break on the first offense but turns the second offense to a serious crime with the potential for a prison sentence. The bill also would legalize the medicinal use of hemp oil in certain cases and authorizes research on industrial use of hemp. The measure passed the House 81-36. It is well past time that Kansas stop treating possession of marijuana as a serious offense. Our prisons are bulging at the seams, and the arrest, prosecution and incarceration of those in possession of marijuana is a drain on every taxpayer in the state. Furthermore, there is no reason to deny a reasonable and well-researched treatment method for seizures simply because some people's sensibilities are offended." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Light In Topeka," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/8/15)

In January 2022, Probst Was The Lead Sponsor Of Constitutional Amendments To Legalize Recreational And Medical Marijuana. "Kansans could see two new issues on the ballot in November 2022: marijuana legalization and Medicaid expansion. On Thursday, Jan. 6,

Kansas House Democrats announced their introduction of three amendments to the Kansas Constitution which would expand Medicaid and legalize medical marijuana as well as recreational marijuana. According to House Democrats, Kansans want legalized marijuana and need easy access to affordable health care. They said the amendments instruct the legislature to enact new laws for the legalization and expansion by July 1, 2023. "The legislature fails to expand Medicaid, and in the meantime, tens of thousands of Kansans suffer from inaction. It's time for Kansas to catch up. It's past time for us to listen to our constituents," said House Democratic Leader Tom Sawyer. "Passing these constitutional amendments puts them up for adoption on the November ballot. Every voting Kansan will have their voice heard." House Dems said renewed hospital funding and access to care will revitalize western and rural Kansans. Those looking for medical relief will no longer have to travel across state lines to purchase marijuana, which they said would keep more taxpayer dollars in the state's economy. The party also said corporations and businesses would see greater success in recruiting employees if marijuana were to be legalized in the state. House Dems said it's simple - Medicaid expansion and legalized marijuana are pro-business and pro-growth policies. "House and Senate Republicans have gone on and on for years about how crucial it is for Kansans to have a direct say on important matters in our state. When it comes to violating the Constitutional rights of women, they couldn't put their question to voters fast enough. Despite the longstanding and overwhelming support from Kansans for Medicaid expansion and reform of our marijuana laws, Republicans have done everything in their power to block any meaningful discussion on these policies," said Assistant Democratic Leader Jason Probst, lead sponsor of the amendments. "During the upcoming legislative session, House and Senate Republicans will have an opportunity to demonstrate that they honestly value and trust the voters of Kansas to decide what's best for the state, or if they simply support public votes when it's politically advantageous to their re-election campaigns." If passed in the Kansas Legislature, the amendments to legalize recreational and medicinal marijuana as well as expand Medicaid would be put to a vote on the November 2022 ballot." (CBS-12 KWCH, 1/6/22)

Intelligence

In November 2016, Probst Cautioned That Mike Pompeo's Selection As CIA Director Merited Some Skepticism Due To His Support For Enhanced Surveillance Practices. "Pompeo also has a strong record in support of measures designed to thwart and prevent planned terrorist attacks around the globe. He's defended Bush-era policies, including the use of "advanced interrogation techniques," including waterboarding. And while such methods raised criticism, the intelligence community largely has supported such measures, claiming they produced good information that prevented additional attacks on American soil. However, there are spots worthy of caution. Pompeo supports enhanced surveillance of American citizens, abroad and at home. He opposed the USA Freedom Act, which prevented the U.S. government from collected massive amounts of metadata from citizens and instead required a court order to gather information on Americans." (Jason Probst, "Mike Pompeo Encouraging Choice For CIA," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/26/16)

Miscellaneous

Sheriffs

In February 2022, Probst Voted Yea On HCR 5022, "A Proposition To Amend Sections 2 And 5 Of Article 9 Of The Constitution Of The State Of Kansas To Require That A Sheriff Be Elected In Each County For A Term Of Four Years." (HCR 5022, Passed (97 - 24), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 2/23/22, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "The constitutional amendment would require the election of a county sheriff in counties that had not abolished the office of sheriff before January 11, 2022, and specify that a sheriff be elected in such counties for a term of four years. [Note: Riley County abolished its sheriff's office in 1974 and is the only county in Kansas without a sheriff.]" (HCR 5022)
- NOTE: "The amended section would state any county that had abolished the office of sheriff prior to January 11, 2022, would be authorized to restore the office of sheriff as provided by law, and such restoration would be irrevocable." (HCR 5022)
- NOTE: "The amendment would also specify that a county sheriff only may be involuntarily removed from office by a recall election pursuant to Article 4, Section 3 of the Kansas Constitution or a writ of quo warranto initiated by the Attorney General." (HCR 5022)

SOCIAL ISSUES

Abortion

Personhood

In March 2014, Probst Criticized An Amendment Adding Personhood Concepts To A Bill Issuing A Certificate Of Birth Resulting In Still Birth. "Where Doll's bill sought to issue a certificate of stillborn birth for pregnancies beyond 20 weeks, the Senate committee expanded that to include issuance of a certificate at any stage of pregnancy. And the committee's amendments changed some language to align more closely with personhood definitions commonly supported by the anti-abortion community. The amendment also included a mandatory reporting requirement for all miscarried pregnancies in the state. Suspend for a moment individual ideas about abortion and consider Doll's legislation absent the emotionally-charged discussion surrounding that debate. The bill was a simple and apolitical effort to do some good for a constituent. There is honor and decency in such an attempt, and it shows a sadly unfamiliar effort to use a seat of power to help the common Kansan. There might be debate about whether such a bill is needed, but there can be no debate that the bill, in its original form, was drafted and submitted with the best of intentions. Those good intentions, however, have been muddied by Pilcher-Cook's ceaseless efforts to force her worldview on the entire state of Kansas. In this case, she converted a noncontroversial bill designed to offer solace to grieving couples into a highly political piece of legislation that carries the weight and disagreement of a decades-old debate." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Political Alteration," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/25/14)

In February 2019, Probst Noted He Would Not Support A Personhood Amendment. "Seiwert and Waggoner want the Legislature, not the court, to determine adequate funding levels for K-12 schools. Berger thinks without a definition of "suitable" funding, the issue is prone to litigation. Probst does not want to prevent the courts from having a role, because legislators could make school funding decisions based on their re-election, he said. "By and large, lawmakers don't tend to see beyond their own election," Probst said. Thimesch doubts Gov. Kelly will get as much additional school funding as she wants." ("Reno Legislators Regard Wind Turbine Sites Local Decision," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/3/19)

Contraception

In 2019, Probst Is Known To Have Sponsored Legislation Requiring Health Insurance Plans To Cover Contraceptives. "Topeka: Kansas Legislature has issued the following bill status: Status Spectrum: Strong Partisan Bill (Democrat 12-1) Status: Introduced on February 4 2019 - 25% progression Action: 2019-02-04 - House Referred to Committee on Insurance Summary Requiring health insurance plans to cover contraceptives. Sponsors Rep. Brett Parker [D] Rep. David Benson [D] Rep. Sydney Carlin [D] Rep. Stephanie Clayton [R] Rep. Eileen Horn [D] Rep. Annie Kuether [D] Rep. Jeff Pittman [D] Rep. Jason Probst [D] Rep. Susan Ruiz [D] Rep. Jerry Stogsdill [D] Rep. Freda Warfield [D] Rep. Brandon Woodard [D] Rep. Rui Xu [D]." (Kansas Legislature, 2/5/19)

Planned Parenthood

In March 2013, Probst Criticized A Bill To Prevent Public Schools For Using Sex Ed Materials Provided By Planned Parenthood And Claimed Descriptions Of The Organizations As "Some Sort Of Abortion Pusher" Were "Factually Flawed." "A bill moved forward this week that would prohibit public schools from using sex education materials provided by Planned Parenthood. Though the bill's central premise -- that Planned Parenthood is some sort of abortion pusher -- is factually flawed, at least the legislation was toned down some before the overzealous conservatives in the House had their way with it. Initially, the bill would've gone so far as to prohibit anyone with Planned Parenthood, or any employee with any abortion provider, from volunteering in the classroom -- even in their own child's classroom. The overbroad wording wasn't a mistake or oversight. "If we're going to have people in our education system, I don't want them involved in any way, shape or form or manner in killing children, killing babies," Rep. Allan Rothlisberg, a Grandview Plaza Republican said of the original language. "We should have people of integrity and morality teaching our children." Additionally, Mary Kay Culp, executive director of Kansans for Life, said groups such as Planned Parenthood in schools is "like if you let the driver's ed come from the local Buick dealer down the street." Never mind that while Culp and Rothlisberg don't want the Buick dealer teaching driver's ed, they're more than happy to open the doors for the local Ford dealer." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Moral Authority," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/8/13)

Taxpayer Funds

In 2019, Probst Voted Nay On H Amdt 1470 To HB 2066, "An Act Concerning The Department Of Health And Environment; Establishing The KanCare Bridge To A Healthy

Kansas Program." (H Amdt 1470 To HB 2066, Failed (55 - 69), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/20/19, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no state moneys or matching federal moneys allocated for state Medicaid services under the Kansas program of medical assistance shall be expended for reimbursement to any non-public entity provider that provides family planning services but does not provide comprehensive primary and preventative care services." (H Amdt 1470 To HB 2066)

ACU: The Landwehr Amendment To HB 2066 "Would Prevent Funds From Going To Abortion Providers Such As Planned Parenthood." "The Landwehr (ACUF Lifetime 76%) amendment to a Medicaid expansion bill would prohibit funds for KanCare Bridge (Medicaid expansion) from funding abortion providers. Specifically, the amendment would prevent funds from going to abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood which are "nonpublic entity providers" which provide "family planning services" (i.e., including abortion) but do not provide comprehensive primary and preventative care services." (American Conservative Union, 2019)

Additional

In 2021, Probst Voted Nay On HCR 5003, "A Proposition To Amend The Bill Of Rights Of The Constitution Of The State Of Kansas By Adding A New Section Thereto Stating That There Is No Constitutional Right To Abortion." (HCR 5003, Passed (86 - 38), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 1/22/21, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "Proposes an amendment to the Kansas Constitution for consideration at a special election called on August 2, 2022, to be held in conjunction with the primary election held on that date. That amendment, if approved by a majority of Kansas voters, would create a new section in the Kansas Bill of Rights concerning the regulation of abortion. The resolution states the amendment may be cited as the Value Them Both Amendment." (HCR 5003)

ACU: HCR 5003 "Would Propose An Amendment To The State Constitution That Would Clarify That No One Has The Right To Take The Life Of An Unborn Child And That Taxpayers Do Not Have An Obligation To Fund The Practice." "This resolution would propose an amendment to the state constitution that would clarify that no one has the right to take the life of an unborn child and that taxpayers do not have an obligation to fund the practice. This bill is in response to the 2019 Kansas Supreme Court decision in Hodes & Nauser v. Schmidt & Howe in which the court declared unconstitutional SB 95 of 2015 (which ACUF scored) that banned dismemberment abortion, a gruesome practice which involves cutting apart the unborn child for extraction." (American Conservative Union, 2021)

LGBTQ

Gay Marriage

Probst: "The Supreme Court's Ruling Striking Down Parts Of The Defense Of Marriage Act Is Welcome News To Anyone Who Believes A Group Of People Shouldn't Be Denied Common Rights And Benefits Simply Because The Majority Doesn't Like Or Approve Of

Them." "The Supreme Court's ruling striking down parts of the Defense of Marriage Act is welcome news to anyone who believes a group of people shouldn't be denied common rights and benefits simply because the majority doesn't like or approve of them. In the 5-4 majority opinion released Wednesday, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy outlined the primary reason the court found the law unconstitutional. "By seeking to displace this protection and treating those persons as living in marriages less respected than others, the federal statute" violates the Constitution, he said. Despite all the noise the decision will create, the meaning of the ruling is quite simple: Same sex couples, legally married in a state that recognizes same-sex unions, will be able to enjoy the federal benefits -- such as joint taxes, pensions and estate transfers -- enjoyed by traditional married couples. The court left alone a provision of the law that allows individual states to set their own legal definitions of marriage, so there's no substance to claims that this ruling suddenly will require states to license gay marriages or churches to hold gay weddings." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Fair Ruling," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/27/13)

DADT

In September 2011, Probst Celebrated The End OF The Military's DADT Policy Noting "Ultimately, Those Who Want To Serve The United States, And Who Possess The Character And Skill To Do So, Should Be Given That Opportunity Without Being Forced To Lie About Who They Are." "Tuesday marked the end of a compromise policy -- Don't Ask, Don't Tell -- that allowed gay people to serve in the U.S. military, so long as they kept their sexual orientation under lock and key. Before the Clinton-era policy, the military specifically asked about sexual orientation, and gays and lesbians were prohibited from serving in the military. The new policy allows gays to serve their country proudly while granting them the dignity to be open and honest about themselves. When it comes to the armed forces -- and the workforce in general -- the only question that should matter is can the person do the job that is required of him or her? A person's economic status, religious affiliation, skin color and sexual orientation shouldn't matter at all. Unfortunately, that hasn't always been the case. Ultimately, those who want to serve the United States, and who possess the character and skill to do so, should be given that opportunity without being forced to lie about who they are. Before DADT, and undoubtedly years before that policy, many servicemen and servicewomen valiantly served this country during peacetime and war, risking their lives to uphold the values and principles that make our country unique. That people want to take on that risk for their country warrants the respect of their countrymen; that they serve daily in the trenches already has earned them the respect of their peers. And being gay never made those soldiers less heroic, patriotic or committed to protecting the Constitution than anyone else." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: End Of An Era," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/22/11)

Discrimination

In March 2012, Probst Supported Expanding "A Local Ordinance Banning Discrimination To Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual And Transgender People." "This week, the Hutchinson Human Relations Commission is holding three public comment sessions to help determine whether Hutchinson should expand a local ordinance banning discrimination to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. The issue largely appears to be one of personal liberty versus religious liberty. Those in favor of expanding the protected classes cite a need for protection from

discrimination in employment and housing; opponents argue that they hold a moral conviction against a gay lifestyle and that governmental interference on the issue violates their freedom of religion. Despite the strongly held convictions of some, the city should move forward to ban discrimination against gays and lesbians. The idea that protecting a group from discrimination somehow alters one's religious beliefs is little more than theatrics and fear mongering. A local ordinance offering such protection -- a protection currently enjoyed by anyone of any religious belief -- has no bearing on nor does it weaken one's faith. It doesn't require anyone to participate in what he considers a sinful act, and it doesn't force anyone to accept or condone something that is contrary to his faith." (Jason Probst. "EDITORIAL: Better Protection," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/30/12)

- **Probst Derided A Fox News Piece Critically Covering The Ordinance As Misinformation.** "It started with the headline, "Proposed Law Would Force Churches to Host Gay Weddings." And it continued to a lead paragraph stating that the "law would force churches to host gay parties." That is simply untrue. The next step in the process is for city staff to draft an ordinance for debate. At that point, council members are free to insert an exemption for religious institutions or take other measures to protect the interests of local churches. To present a news story as if the issue is settled and that churches soon will be forced to play host to gay parties, is completely irresponsible and misleading. The issue will endure debate before the city council, and should it pass, it is not likely to be in a raw or unrefined form. The purpose of the Fox News story was made clear by what wasn't included inside it -- any reference to Lawrence, where a similar measure has been law for more than a year. While local ministers cited their fears about what the law might mean to their churches, no effort was made to see if those fears were realized in Lawrence after the ordinance took effect. That's because in Lawrence -- a city far less conservative than Hutchinson -- local leaders included a provision that exempts from the public accommodations requirement "a religious or nonprofit fraternal or social organization or corporation." A phone call or a quick look at the City of Lawrence website could have either affirmed the premise of the story -- that a comprehensive anti-discrimination law forces churches to violate their own beliefs -- or revealed that gays and lesbians taking over church buildings is little more than a red herring. But that would've removed the indignant anger and overwhelming fear that has become the cornerstone of much of Fox News' reporting." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Pesky Facts," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/30/12)

- **In November 2012, Probst Wrote In Praise Of The Proponents Of The Ordinance Despite Their Nominal Loss At The Ballot Box.** "Sure, there remains no ordinance on the books to protect gays and lesbians against discrimination -- and thanks to state statute it will remain that way in Hutchinson and Salina for at least the next 10 years. For the next decade, the gay community will continue to have no recourse in the face of discrimination. That, however, is nothing new. The ordinance's supporters are winners because the vote brought to the surface an issue that previously had remained hidden, and unspoken, in the heart of one of the most conservative states in the Union. They're winners because nearly 42 percent of Hutchinson voters sided with them, in the face of an active and vocal resistance from the juggernaut of Hutchinson's religious community, which included scores of Hutchinson churches handing out or displaying "Vote No" literature for their congregants. They're winners because even though national estimates put the adult gay population at between 2 and 8 percent, they managed to win the support

of more than 40 percent of Hutchinson voters. The victors of this election were the losers, because they resorted to outright lies about the nature of the ordinance. Throughout months of debate, they never let go of the clearly misleading statements that an expanded anti-discrimination ordinance would force churches to hold gay weddings or that they'd be forced to allow gay parties at their facilities. Additionally, opponents resorted to a "bathroom" argument that preyed on residents' fears but was patently untrue. The anti-discrimination ordinance's opponents can take satisfaction in Tuesday night's victory and feel good about protecting the advance of something they genuinely believe threatens their way of life. In the long run, however, the night belonged to the ordinance's supporters. They used the legislative process to spark a dialogue and raise awareness about gays in Hutchinson. And with the odds stacked against them in what easily could be considered hostile territory, they managed to win far more voter support than could've been expected a year ago, when discussion first began." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Winners And Losers," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/8/12)

Race

White Privilege

In June 2020, Probst Participated In A BLM Rally In Reno County And Implicitly Recognized That He Benefitted From His Privileges As A White Man. "Kansas Rep. Jason Probst noted that he and other white men have an unfair advantage because they "never held the fear that I could meet my end by simply living my life." Instead of ignoring that advantage, Probst said that recognizing it, using it to support others, and listening to the experiences of people of color is an important step for white individuals. Probst asked the crowd to tell him what he can do to help. Datjaeda Moore, Hutchinson's Human Relations Officer, spoke next and answered him. "What can you do? Use your whiteness. Use your whiteness to destroy racism in where you exist. No more racist jokes or attitudes. Call them out in public, private, take away their ability to sustain by not doing business with them," Moore said. "Take away their ability to disregard human life," she said." ("'No Justice, No Peace': Protesters Share Frustration, Hope In Peaceful Sunday Event," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/1/20)

Critical Race Theory

In July 2021, Probst Shared A Tweet Describing Critical Race Theory (CRT) As "The New Boogeyman To Scare Voters". (Probst Profile, Twitter, 7/19/21)

(Probst Profile, Twitter, 7/19/21)

Religion

Church And State

In 2012, Probst Praised The Buehler City Council For Changing Its City Seal And Sign, Which Contained A Large Cross, Following A Complaint From The Freedom From Religion Foundation. "Many residents of Buhler undoubtedly will disagree, but the city council made the right decision to change the city seal and sign -- which contain a large cross -- after a complaint from the Freedom from Religion Foundation. For the last 24 years, the city had violated the law with a city sign that contained a smaller cross. When the city recently took another step to make the cross a more dominant part of the city seal, it drew attention and at least one complaint. After securing legal opinions from the city attorney and two outside agencies -- American Center for Law and Justice and the Christian Law Association -- the council recognized that inclusion of the cross wouldn't pass a legal challenge. The First Amendment's "Establishment Clause" specifically prohibits the government from establishing a default religion. The legal opinions provided to Buhler city officials clearly spell out that a cross dominating the city's seal shows the city's preference toward Christianity as the town's established religion. The First Amendment is designed to protect people of all faiths, including Christians, from a religious-based government that would try to restrict or mute in any way religious freedom. One can't support the blending of government and religion simply because the religion happens to be his own. The day could come when a different religion dominates the

landscape, and today's Christians would rightly be offended and angry if a city seal contained Islam's crescent moon and star, the Jewish star of David or the Wicca Pentacle. While Christians might be disappointed today that a cross will be removed from Buhler's city seal, they also should feel relief in the knowledge that another religion never will be able to use local government to dictate how they practice their faith. Furthermore, the decision to remove religious symbolism from the city's seal does not amount a violation of religious liberty. Residents are free, on their own properties or at their churches, to express their religious beliefs. Nothing in the city's decision limits the ability of Buhler residents to display on their own land their support of Buhler as a Christian community. A Christian community isn't determined by the religious symbolism on its signage but by the actions and beliefs of the people who live there. Buhler was a Christian community for 100 years before it voted to put a cross on the city sign in 1988, and because of its residents' strong convictions, it will remain that way long after that cross is removed." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Religious Liberty," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/26/12)

In 2013, Probst Was Critical Of Kansas Law Makers For Drafting A Military Religious Freedom Resolution, Which Detailed Attacks On The Free Expression Of Religion Within The Military. "What do Kansas lawmakers do when they run into an overtime legislative session and can't come to an agreement on the one thing they have left to do? They start crafting legislation and resolutions on imaginary issues about which state legislatures have absolutely no control, input or relevance. This week, members of the Kansas Senate and House began drafting a resolution referred to as the Military Religious Freedom Resolution. And while the resolution says it supports religious freedom, the only religion ever mentioned is the Judeo-Christian faith -- so it's not really a resolution about religious freedom, but a resolution about the "right" religion. The resolution goes on at length about the important role the Judeo-Christian faith has played in American history and reports an unspecified list of attacks in the U.S. military on the free expression of service members' faith." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Off Topic," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/31/13)

- **Probst Argued The Effort Was A Distraction And Ultimately Had No Real Effect.** "Such a resolution presents a number of issues with which Kansans could find fault -- including legitimate questions about why the Legislature is debating a resolution that has no legal teeth or power when lawmakers haven't hammered out a tax plan. The state of Kansas has no authority or power over the operations of the U.S. military, the Pentagon or even the state's U.S. representatives or senators. Taking time to draft and consider a resolution on Military Religious Freedom might make lawmakers feel warm and fuzzy inside -- and perhaps raise their stock with some voters -- but it is an absolute waste of time and money. The House needs to complete the legitimately difficult task of reaching a tax compromise with a Senate and governor that seem content to wait it out to get their way. The Senate and the governor need to listen to the demands of the people's House and move away from their rigid and unyielding positions on the state's tax structure and demands for a higher-than-promised sales tax. And they all need to focus on this singular task, close up shop and get out of Topeka." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Off Topic," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/31/13)

Religious Freedom

Probst Criticized Brownback's Executive Order On Religious Freedom In Anticipation Of A Favorable Ruling On Gay Marriage From The Supreme Court As "Worthless." "Brownback's executive order effectively does nothing to further protections for religious organizations that wasn't already covered by the U.S. Constitution and affirmed by the Supreme Court's ruling. It does, however, throw up a red herring designed to incite fear and worry in the hearts of those who feel slighted or somehow offended by the court's ruling. As a bonus, it will serve as a nice talking point for Brownback when he finally loosens his grip on Kansas and moves on to another arena. Beyond that, his executive order is a worthless string of words that has no tangible value. This isn't the first time the Supreme Court has made a ruling that some thought would threaten their religious freedoms, and it's unlikely to be the last. Nevertheless, God and the country's strong religious protections endure, just as they have throughout all the changes in American history." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Out Of Order," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/9/15)

Liquor Sales

In 2013, Probst Encouraged Hutchinson To Abandon Its Prohibition On Sunday Liquor Sales. "It is hard to buy the idea that Sunday is a day reserved for rest when Hutchinson's restaurants are filled to capacity on Sunday afternoons with people still clutching their church bulletins. Likewise, a move to allow Sunday sales in Hutchinson wouldn't require any liquor store to open its doors on Sunday. They might feel the pressure from the store down the road that is eager for extra business on a Sunday afternoon, but it is a pressure each store owner can chose to ignore. No logical, moral or fiscal reason remains for Hutchinson to hold on to an old prohibition that has been lifted elsewhere throughout the state. It is beyond time for Hutchinson to move into the modern era and allow liquor sales on Sunday. Like the Salina City Commission did, the Hutchinson City Council should approve Sunday sales, then let it stand for protest petition if enough people are in opposition to challenge the change and put it to a vote." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Dry Run," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/7/13)

Second Amendment And Self-Defense

Constitutional Carry

Probst Slammed Constitutional Carry Laws In 2015 Contending "Such A Move Is Nothing Short Of Irresponsible And Unnecessary. It Does Nothing To Protect The Public, And It Does Nothing To Protect The Aim Of The Constitutional Right To Own Firearms." "The Kansas Legislature is close to passing Senate Bill 45, more politically known as the "Constitutional Carry" law. Apparently, we live in a time when we can slap the word "Constitution" in front of anything and it suddenly becomes a good idea. No matter how bad the legislation, exploiting the U.S. Constitution ensures it plays well during the election season. This bill, if passed, would allow anyone over the age of 21 to carry a concealed weapon without the requirement of any training or permitting. While the bill does place limits on those who are mentally ill or legally prohibited from possessing firearms, there's no preventative screening -- only penalties after the fact. Reno County Sheriff Randy Henderson last month came out against the proposed changes. While he strongly supports the current concealed carry legislation and the

constitutional right of individuals to bear arms, he also recognizes the value of training for those who want to carry their weapons in public. Let's be clear: This is not a constitutional issue. Every person legally able to carry a firearm can do so now. The only requirement is that they do so openly so others can be aware and adjust their decisions accordingly. And any person who can legally own a firearm and is willing to apply for a concealed carry permit -- and undergo the required training -- can carry a concealed firearm. On this issue, there is no existing barrier to gun ownership, and the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution is not violated in any way, shape or form. This legislation, sponsored by Sen. Terry Bruce, R-Hutchinson, is completely unnecessary and purely political. Most people who have spent any significant amount of time around firearms understand that training is the single most effective way to prevent firearm-related injury. For generations, fathers and mothers have schooled their children on the proper handling of a firearm before giving them a loaded weapon. Hunters are required to complete a hunter's safety course before they can hunt in an open field or purchase a hunting license. Yet Kansas is on the cusp of allowing people to carry concealed firearms in public without a shred of training or oversight. Such a move is nothing short of irresponsible and unnecessary. It does nothing to protect the public, and it does nothing to protect the aim of the constitutional right to own firearms." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Concealed Concerns," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/20/15)

Gun Control

Probst, In 2010: "Background Checks Before A Gun Purchase -- Despite All The Overblown Fears When Initiated -- Haven't Significantly Subverted Gun Ownership Rights. This Has Been An Effective Way To Keep Guns Out Of The Hands Of Reckless And Unstable People." "While Chicago has the strictest gun control laws in the country, efforts to curtail gun ownership have done little to curb gun-related crime in the city, which has seen a marked increase in homicides so far this year. The Supreme Court's ruling confirms the principle that gun ownership is an individual right, yet it is not likely to undo many of the common-sense gun laws that are currently on the books throughout the country. For instance, it makes perfect sense to keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons. And background checks before a gun purchase -- despite all the overblown fears when initiated -- haven't significantly subverted gun ownership rights. This has been an effective way to keep guns out of the hands of reckless and unstable people. The ruling will allow the flexibility to address the distinct issues surrounding guns in large metropolitan areas while preventing the unnecessary application of big-city gun laws to the rural areas of Kansas. Thanks to this ruling, any regulations on guns will have to be enforced in a manner that presumes individuals have a protected right to own a gun rather than viewing gun ownership as a privilege granted by state or local government." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Supreme Right," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/1/10)

In May 2013, Probst Was Critical Of A Measure To "Outlaw The Spending Of State Tax Dollars Lobbying For Or Against Gun Control Policies" As A Way To Curtail Local Opposition To State Mandates. "The Kansas Legislature knows what to do when it passes a law that is likely to be unpopular with cities, counties and other public institutions: Pass another law curtailing their ability to complain about it. Earlier this session, the Legislature approved a measure requiring local governments either to allow concealed weapons on their public properties or prove they had beefed up security enough to ensure residents' safety. Possibly

sensing that local governments would complain about the cost of an unfunded mandate from Topeka -- one that requires compliance with the state's philosophy or a heavy investment in staff and security equipment -- the Legislature went to work on another bill to outlaw the spending of state tax dollars lobbying for or against gun control policies. The Kansas House this week gave final approval to the legislation, 83-28. It now awaits the governor's signature. Gun control and the right to carry a concealed weapon are not the central issues with these two pieces of legislation. Instead, the issue is lawmakers' eagerness to walk over the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution in order to protect the Second Amendment. In effect, lawmakers have told local units of government that Topeka has no interest in hearing about the difficulties or objections they might have in implementing a state law. Meanwhile, they're more than willing to hear testimony from private special interests that have fine-tuned the art of lobbying and have nearly unlimited resources to influence lawmakers' votes." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Gag Order," *The Hutchinson News*, 5/23/13)

In January 2016, Probst Praised Obama's Executive Action On Gun Control As "A Handful Of Common-Sense Measures That Make Current Laws More Effective And Enforceable, All While Avoiding An Infringement On The Constitutionally Assured Right To Bear Arms." "To hear some folks tell it, President Barack Obama's executive orders on firearms is akin to a confiscation of every privately owned gun across the country. In typical fashion, the National Rifle Association and other lobbyists have sprung into action to convince gun owners that the sky is falling, tyranny is on the way and the good people of the U.S.A. will be helpless to stop the ruthless dictator who is our president. Examination of the orders, however, reveals something far less sinister -- a handful of common-sense measures that make current laws more effective and enforceable, all while avoiding an infringement on the constitutionally assured right to bear arms." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Executive Action," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/8/16)

- **Probst Defended Obama's Stipulations On Gun Purchase Background Checks.** "The executive order also allows states and other federal agencies to share information in a background check system about mental illness, domestic violence incidents and other activity that currently isn't part of the background check. For instance, before this series of executive orders, the Health Insurance Information Portability and Accountability Act -- a law created in 1996 to ensure patient privacy -- prevented the Social Security Administration from sharing with the FBI or ATF information about those receiving assistance for mental illness. Many of the actions simply clarify federal law so that local health-care providers, gun dealers and law enforcement have a better understanding of federal laws about mental health and firearms. And some measures are there to increase research into the reasons for gun violence, research advanced gun safety technology and add staff tasked with enforcing current gun laws. There is nothing in the president's executive order that threatens the sale or possession of a firearm. While the rhetoric about firearms has been lucrative for gun lobbyists, manufacturers and the politicians who pander for votes from those who are passionate about the right to bear arms, it has created a dangerous culture that needs to be examined seriously by responsible gun owners." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Executive Action," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/8/16)

Probst: "But Perhaps Most Concerning Is The Culture We Now Have, Where Firearms Are Viewed As Accessories Rather Than The Powerful, Dangerous Weapons They Are."

"But perhaps most concerning is the culture we now have, where firearms are viewed as accessories rather than the powerful, dangerous weapons they are. While The News has supported an individual's right to bear arms, it is irresponsible to support rhetoric that creates the idea that firearms are no more dangerous -- and require no more care or consideration -- than a fashionable purse, a jacket or a new pair of shoes. For those raised with firearms, or who have spent years hunting the rural parts of Kansas, the importance of safety and responsibility is ingrained. Training is required to secure a hunting license. Fathers and mothers teach their children how properly to handle and treat a firearm -- something that sadly has been lost in this effort to create the idea that all are equally equipped to handle a firearm responsibly. Those who have spent much time around firearms, or spent any time hunting, know that's simply not reality." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Executive Action," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/8/16)

Probst Participated In A 2018 March For Our Lives Rally In Wichita In Support For Additional Gun Control Measures. "Wichita Police estimated the crowd at about 300. Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson, said the country has done "little more than shrug our shoulders" since 1999, when two students brought guns, knives and explosives to Columbine High School, killing 11 students and a teacher before themselves. "Every shooting should have been enough," he said. "Today we're standing here with a movement led by a generation of students who have been raised in a world governed by corrosive fear and crippling inaction. A world in which it has become absurdly normal and obscenely accepted that on any given day dozens of students might die a violent death at their school. Today, you stand in the narrow space between yesterday and tomorrow ... we have a choice to make. We can say that sadly this is the state of the world ... or we can say enough is enough.'" ("'Vote Them Out' Protesters Chant At Wichita's March For Our Lives," *The Wichita Eagle*, 3/24/18)

Local Gun Regulations

In April 2014, Probst Was Critical Of A 2014 Measure Signed By Brownback Removing Local Ability To Enact Gun Regulations As Undermining Local Control. 'This week, Gov. Sam Brownback signed two different bills that are connected only by the way in which they were quite differently spun to voters. One bill aims to create uniformity by removing a city or county's authority to enact its own gun regulations -- meaning that from Johnson City to Kansas City, every city, town and village must follow the state's orders when it comes to gun laws. While that might seem like a good idea today, it likely won't seem so great to Western Kansas years down the road when Eastern Kansas and its growing population has the political clout to restrict firearms in even the most rural parts of the state. And while there's an argument to ending patchwork regulation, it could be done without broad, sweeping laws that tie the hands of local communities. The other bill was the policy-laden school finance legislation and its most controversial component that eliminates statewide employment due process rights for teachers, which dates back to a Kansas Supreme Court ruling in 1957. So what connects these dissimilar bills? The divergent message about the importance of local control. Gov. Brownback and the lawmakers who support the end of due process proudly proclaim the bill restores the important element of local control to local school districts." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Different Signatures," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/24/14)

Open Carry

In December 2015, Probst Criticized Legislation Allowing The Open Carry Of Firearms In Public Buildings As An Onerous State Mandate On Localities. "The Kansas Legislature has decided that every person who so desires should be able to carry a firearm -- concealed or out in the open -- into almost any public building, including on college campuses and in county courthouses. For Reno County, the alternative would mean renovations to the courthouse to create a secure entrance that would cost about $300,000 than originally planned, not including the roughly $200,000 a year it would cost to staff a single secure entryway. Lawmakers, eager to gather the votes of those passionate about the Second Amendment, have passed a number of laws to eliminate restrictions on guns. This includes a law dubbed "Constitutional Carry," a name that has more to do with political pandering than it does with protecting freedoms under the Constitution. But set the issue of the Second Amendment aside and consider what Kansas lawmakers really have created. With public buildings, local governments have been given two options under the new law -- make buildings exceedingly secure, whatever the cost to taxpayers, or allow the unfettered carrying of firearms. While Kansas lawmakers have hailed such measures as protection of a right that never was in jeopardy in Kansas, what they've actually done is created an inordinate burden on local governments that would rather not see the proliferation of firearms in government buildings such as courthouses, where emotions often run high. When the federal government imposes such laws -- whether it be regulations on government or business -- it's labeled an unfunded mandate and dismissed as another federal overreach, where costly rules are established with no mechanism to pay for compliance." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Under A Barrel," *The Hutchinson News*, 12/30/15)

Concealed Carry

In March 2014, Probst Strongly Criticized A Bill To Exempt Concealed Carry Permit Holders From Hunter Safety Education Requirements When Purchasing A Kansas Hunting License. "A bill before the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources aims to allow Kansans with concealed carry permits to sidestep Hunter Safety Education requirements when purchasing a Kansas hunting license. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks secretary Robin Jennison testified against the legislation -- House Bill 2627 -- on Monday, saying that bill "would be a mistake that could lead to avoidable injury or death." Additionally, several members of the committee likewise expressed concern about the bill. As well they should. There is a wide difference between the skills and education required for carrying a concealed handgun and those who will be hunting, potentially in groups or near farm houses. While concealed carry training focuses more on how to safely carry and use a small handgun, hunter safety education offers a more comprehensive approach to safety in the field. Hunter safety doesn't simply focus on how to fire a weapon. It addresses the special considerations needed when shooting a high powered rifle at game, and how to safely swing toward a flushing pheasant without endangering others in the hunting party. Additionally, hunter safety education specifically discusses issues specific to hunting -- how to be an ethical hunter, how to safely cross fences and steep ravines with a weapon, and how to protect the rights of private property owners. These are issues that aren't addressed in a concealed carry class. The person who has secured a concealed carry permit has not proven that he or she possesses the appropriate training

and skills to carry a rifle or shotgun into the field in the pursuit of wildlife. There's absolutely no reason for this bill to be considered any further -- and it clearly wasn't written by someone who has been through the state's well-established and successful hunter education program, or who understands a single thing about the difference in responsibility between carrying a handgun that likely will never be used, and a rifle or shotgun that most likely will be used -- multiple times -- while hunting." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Unequal Education," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/19/14)

NRA

In July 2010, Probst Criticized The NRA For Giving An "F" Rating To A Candidate Who Stated That He Could Support Legislation Regulating Semi-Automatic Weapons And Magazines. "The National Rifle Association has a record of supporting local legislators who support the Second Amendment and the rights of gun owners. But when it comes to the primary race for the 115th House district, the lobbyist group needs to dial in its scope. Garrett Love, Montezuma, is running against incumbent Rep. Melvin Neufeld, Ingalls, in the Republican primary in that district, and the NRA not only endorsed Neufeld, it gave Love an "F" rating. That's hard to accept, especially in light of the photos Love has of himself, holding a semi-auto shotgun with a days' worth of pheasants in front of him, and the photo of him after a successful jackrabbit outing. Love also was a member of Washburn Students for Concealed Carry on campus -- hardly a group that could be accused of standing in the way of gun-owner rights. Turns out that Love apparently circled one wrong answer on his NRA questionnaire -- stating that he could support legislation regulating semi-automatic weapons and magazines. Apparently, that's enough to earn a reputation as an anti-gun candidate. The NRA continues to support its rating of Love, despite Love's efforts to clear his record. While Neufeld has rightfully earned his NRA endorsement, the lobbyist group should reconsider its "F" rating for Love -- if not to clarify the candidate's position during this race then to preserve its own integrity. To paint a candidate as anti-gun when he's clearly pro-gun and pro-hunting is a disingenuous way to taint the opinions of voters. To stand by the rating after the candidate -- and The News -- brought it to the NRA's attention is irresponsible and erodes any faith voters have in candidate information from lobbyist groups. According to the NRA's rating system, an "F" is a "true enemy of gun owners' rights. A consistent anti-gun candidate who always opposes gun owners' rights and/or opposes gun owners' rights and/or actively leads anti-gun legislative efforts, or sponsors anti-gun legislation." That's not a fair assessment of Love, and the NRA knows it. This latest snafu by the NRA is an example of how third-party interest groups can skew an election with inaccurate and misleading information -- and how lobbyists groups are seldom, if ever, held to account for their efforts to interfere in the political process." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Off Target," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/27/10)

Stand Your Ground Laws

In 2012, Probst Urged A Review Of Kansas' Stand Your Ground Law And Criticized Florida's Version As "A Flawed Law That Allows People To Determine What Ground Is Theirs And A Subjective Interpretation Of What Is Legally A Legitimate Threat." "And thanks to Florida's "stand your ground" law, Zimmerman so far hasn't been arrested or charged in the incident, although the case will be reviewed by a Florida grand jury. Kansas law is similar to Florida's, stating that any person has the right to stand his ground at any place he has a right to

be. Before legislators altered the law in 2010, it contained a "duty to retreat" provision, which required an initial attempt to leave a volatile situation before resorting to deadly force -- with an exception for a person's private property. Local officials view Florida's case as a rarity and express little concern about the implications of Kansas law. Nevertheless, Kansas would do well to re-evaluate its own law to prevent a similar tragedy here. The right to stand one's ground shouldn't extend to the right to pursue someone who hasn't committed a crime, nor should it give people the right to initiate a confrontation and hide behind the law to avoid prosecution. Martin's death in Florida was inexcusable and completely unnecessary, and it was caused in part by a flawed law that allows people to determine what ground is theirs and a subjective interpretation of what is legally a legitimate threat." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Questionable Law," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/22/12)

School Safety

In March 2018, Probst Expressed Opposition To Arming School Teachers. "Members of Reno County's delegation in the State Legislature are split over the idea of armed school teachers. When the lawmakers participating in a Saturday legislative forum at Hutchinson Community College were asked if they favored teachers "packing heat," they responded: State Rep. Ed Berger, R-Hutchinson: Thinks the decision should be made at the local school board level but doubts many teachers would be comfortable taking the risk and want to be armed. State Rep. Jason Probst, D-Hutchinson: Thinks this "is not the solution we should be looking for." A police officer told him, he said, that if he responded to a school shooting and saw a teacher with a firearm, he would assume he was the one shooting kids and would shoot that person. State Rep. Steven Becker, R-Buhler: Does not support arming teachers and he's not sure he agrees it's a policy to be set at the local level. Usually, he favors local control, but this issue might be better determined by the State Legislature, he said. He favors a "professional law enforcement-type" presence in schools. State Rep. Jack Thimesch, R-Spivey: Agrees with the idea of local control, and he also said later that rural schools do not experience the same situations as large schools. He decried that an officer responding to a shooting would think that a teacher would pull a gun on students. He suggested armed teachers could be "red-flagged" so officers would have the information that a teacher was carrying a weapon. Probst responded that it was expecting too much for an officer in a middle of a incident to know that information." ("Reno Legislators Divided On Armed Teachers," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/4/18)

Fees

In 2018, Probst Voted Yea On H Amdt 3962 To HB 2773, "An Act Concerning School Districts; Creating The Kansas Safe And Secure Schools Act; Creating The School Safety And Security Grant Fund." (H Amdt 3962 To HB 2773, Failed (35 - 88), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/27/18, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "There is hereby imposed a firearm and ammunition fee on the retail sale of firearms and ammunition in the following amounts: $1 for each firearm; and $.01 for each round of ammunition. The fee imposed by this section shall be collected by the seller from the consumer with respect to each retail transaction occurring in this state. The amount of the fee shall be either separately stated on an invoice, receipt or other

similar documentation that is provided to the consumer by the seller, or otherwise disclosed to the consumer." (H Amdt 3962 To HB 2773)

ACU: The Helgerson Amendment To HB 2773 "Imposes A New $1 Fee On The Retail Sale Of Every Firearm And 1 Cent Fee On Each Round Of Ammunition." "The Helgerson (ACUF Lifetime 26%) amendment to the education bill imposes a new $1 fee on the retail sale of every firearm and 1 cent fee on each round of ammunition. These fees are on top of the state's nearly-10 percent sales tax on these products." (American Conservative Union, 2018)

Additional

In 2019, Probst Voted Yea On H Amdt 1581 To HB 2326, "An Act Concerning Firearms; Relating To The Personal And Family Protection Act; Age Requirement For Licensure; Recognition Of Licenses Issued By Other Jurisdictions." (H Amdt 1581 To HB 2326, Failed (47 - 74), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/26/19, Probst Voted Yea)

- NOTE: "The carrying of a concealed handgun shall not be prohibited in any public area of any state or municipal building unless such public area has adequate security measures to ensure that no weapons are permitted to be carried into such public area and the public area is conspicuously posted with either permanent or temporary signage approved by the governing body, or the chief administrative officer, if no governing body exists" (H Amdt 1581 To HB 2326)

ACU: The Woodard Amendment To HB 2326 "Would Weaken Second Amendment Rights By Permitting Institutions Of Higher Education To Prohibit The Concealed Carry Of Handguns." "The Woodard (ACUF Lifetime 21%) amendment to a concealed carry bill would weaken Second Amendment rights by permitting institutions of higher education to prohibit the concealed carry of handguns. Under the amendment, colleges and universities would be able to prohibit anyone who does not have a concealed carry license from carrying a concealed handgun on any grounds or buildings of the institution. Furthermore, the amendment would permit institutions to designate buildings or areas where even those who have licenses would be prohibited from carrying a concealed handgun as long as the institution has "adequate security measures" to prevent weapons from being carried into the area." (American Conservative Union, 2019)

Miscellaneous

Sex Issues

In 2015, Probst Was Critical Of The Kansas Legislature For Considering Legislation Regarding The Sex Lives Of Kansans. "Sex seems to be on the minds of lawmakers so much this year, one might call this session "50 Shades of the Kansas Legislature." While the state faces a crippling budget deficit and needs to make some important decisions about managing the state's affairs, there has been a steady stream of legislation introduced in Topeka that focuses on the sex lives of Kansans. There's a bill that would require parents to opt-in their children for sex education at school, another that would effectively ban strip clubs, a bill to interfere with divorce proceedings and yet another that would allow teachers to be criminally charged if their instructional material is subjectively viewed as obscene. There's even a bill that outlines, and

rewards, what lawmakers view as the perfect little family. Someone in Topeka needs to explain how so much involvement in the private lives of Kansans meets the definition of that limited and smaller government lawmakers talked about ad nauseum during the election season. Conservative lawmakers enshrine the free market as the antidote for every wrong but jump at the opportunity to regulate a legal business if it doesn't conform with their puritanical ideology. They speak of local authority as if it's a sacred right yet have an insatiable appetite to usurp the authority of local school boards and other governing bodies." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Shades Of Gray," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/20/15)

FOREIGN POLICY

Miscellaneous

In December 2012, Probst Criticized U.S. Failure To Ratify The Convention On The Rights Of Persons With Disabilities; Conservatives Voiced Concerns That It Would Impact U.S. Sovereignty. "Bob Dole, longtime U.S. senator from Kansas and architect of the Americans with Disabilities Act, made an appeal to members of his former chamber this week, asking that they ratify a United Nations treaty on disabilities. The Congress of today, however, is far different than the one in which Dole earned a reputation as a bridge-builder who could bring opposing sides together on important issues. Instead of ratifying a treaty that would recognize people with disabilities to live with equal rights, the Senate waited until the frail, 89-year-old Dole was wheeled out of the chamber and then rejected his plea by raising imaginary issues about how the treaty would interfere with U.S. sovereignty. Even Kansas' Sens. Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts voted against the treaty, which came up short of the two-thirds majority required on a 61-38 vote Tuesday. In May, Moran joined Arizona Sen. John McCain in praising the treaty but wouldn't talk to anyone about his change of heart after the Tuesday vote. Approval of the treaty -- formally titled the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities -- would have given the U.S. a lead position in ensuring that other countries work to end discrimination against people with disabilities. In essence, it aims to bring the treatment of disabled people more in line with the United States, under the ADA -- on which the treaty was modeled. Its approval would have added the clout of the United States and spurred other countries to emulate America's model for the treatment of people with disabilities." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: UN-Healthy Fear," *The Hutchinson News*, 12/5/12)

POLITICAL

Ideology

Centrism

Probst: "To Cast A Vote For Someone For No Other Reason Than Party Affiliation Is A Poor Policy For Democrats, Republicans And Kansans." "That's unfortunate -- not because Democrats are better officeholders than Republicans or any of the other ridiculous nonsense that falls to one side or the other of a party line. It's unfortunate because the latest polling shows, more than anything else, that party affiliation matters a lot more than experience, ability or a proven track record in office. Take the treasurer's office, for instance. Dennis McKinney is a popular Democrat from Greensburg who had no trouble winning re-election in that very

Republican district. He's done as good of a job in the treasurer's office as anyone, and earlier this year he returned a portion of his unused budget to the state general fund. Or how about Steve Six, who took over an Attorney General's office that had been embroiled in controversy for the past decade -- first for Phill Kline's aggressive politics, and later for the questionable behavior of Paul Morrison. Six came in, cleaned house, kept his nose clean and worked to execute the duties of the office effectively. He hasn't used the office to further his own political career or personal agenda and he has made the office more efficient and responsive to the concerns of Kansans. And then there's Kris Kobach and Chris Biggs, both of whom are running for Secretary of State. One, however, currently holds the job, has a long, distinguished career in public office and is realistic about how much power the Secretary of State truly possesses. The other is known for his legal work to limit illegal immigration to the United States -- an issue for which the Secretary of State has no control or authority whatsoever. But Kobach has an (R) behind his name and has become somewhat of a Republican icon across the country -- and therefore he holds a 17 percentage point lead over Biggs. Is that to say that Ron Estes, Derek Schmitt or Kris Kobach couldn't be capable officeholders? Not at all, and those candidates undoubtedly bring their own qualifications and expertise to the table. But that's the basis on which any decision about a political candidate ought to be made. To cast a vote for someone for no other reason than party affiliation is a poor policy for Democrats, Republicans and Kansans." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Voting "R" Or "D,'" *The Hutchinson News*, 9/24/10)

Probst: "Today, 10 Years After We Stood As One Nation, We Seem To Be Terrorizing Ourselves From The Inside Out With Our Vitriolic Discourse." "Today, 10 years after we stood as one nation, we seem to be terrorizing ourselves from the inside out with our vitriolic discourse. We can't even agree to the concept of compromise or agree to entertain another point of view. One side is right, the other side is wrong, and there is no room in the middle for a shared solution to a problem. That is the same sort of resolute self righteousness that bred the terrorists who attacked us on Sept. 11, 2001. Whether we are better as a nation than we were 10 years ago depends on one's measuring stick. We've prevented another terrorist attack on our soil, and we've eliminated the man primarily responsible for the attacks on 9/11. Both are infinitely vital successes that have made our country safer and more secure for the future. But if success is measured by our ability to refuse to live a life of fearfulness, or by our resolve to stand together for the sake of our country, then our success has been fleeting. If it is measured by civil discourse and a pragmatic approach to solving this nation's issues, then we've lost much of the good that emerged from our people in the face of despair. Perhaps on this 10-year anniversary of the biggest tragedy in a generation, we can stand united once again and show the world that America is bigger than fear, bigger than hate and bigger than anything that aims to erode our treasured way of life." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Ten Years After 9/11," *The Hutchinson News*, 9/8/11)

Probst: "Senate Moderates Are Seemingly A Last Line Of Defense Against A Wholesale Takeover Of Topeka By Conservative Legislators Primarily Concerned With Shrinking Government And Increasing Opportunity For Business." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Senate Business," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/13/12)

Probst: "It Might Be That A Viable Third Party Is Just The Medicine Kansas Needs." "Today, it might be that a viable third party is just the medicine Kansas needs. We have a

Republican Party that is full of swagger and arrogance and filled with the false idea that its electoral successes grant it a God-given right to reshape the state to its will and extract revenge from those who dissent. And we have a Democratic Party that works so fiercely to satisfy its most ardent and fringe members that its central message fails to resonate with most Kansas voters, leaving the party impotent as a challenger to the state's Republican establishment. Additionally, thanks to the perversion of the country's campaign finance laws, lawmakers are largely beholden to the corporate donors that secured their elections. And when it comes time to write, consider and vote on legislation, those same investors fill the halls of the state Capitol with their paid lobbyists, who are eager to hand out advice, voting suggestions and good seats at Allen Fieldhouse. Third parties are hard to create, harder to build and even more difficult to hold. But if a political party is designed with the idea of moderating the extremism in both parties, and representing the interests of most Kansans, it just might have a fighting chance." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: In Moderation," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/17/13)

Criticism Of Conservatism

In 2013, Probst Authored A Scathing Column Claiming "The Great State Of Kansas Passed Away On March 31, 2013, After A Long And Difficult Battle With Extremism That Became Markedly More Aggressive In 2010." "The Great State of Kansas passed away on March 31, 2013, after a long and difficult battle with extremism that became markedly more aggressive in 2010. The struggle left the state so weakened it could no longer fight against the relentless attacks by the fatal disease. Kansas was born on Jan. 29, 1861. The state is preceded in death by fair taxation, good highways, strong education, family farms, a good public parks and wildlife system, open government, neighborliness and belief in helping each other out, freely elected public servants, and political moderation." (Jason Probst, Column, "Kansas 1861-2013," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/30/13)

- **Probst: "Kansas Is Survived By Widespread Poverty, Low-Wage Jobs, High Property Taxes, Pollution, Poorly Educated Children, Outmigration And Rural Depopulation, Foreign Land And Farm Ownership, Lobbyist-Funded Legislators, Chronic Mistreatment Of The Disabled, A Maniacal Hatred Of Government And Children Who Dream Of Living Anywhere Else."** (Jason Probst, Column, "Kansas 1861-2013," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/30/13)

- **Probst: "One By One, The Things Kansas Had Spent A Lifetime Building Were Dismantled, Until The State Was Rendered As Empty And Uninviting As It Had Been In Those Early Days When The First Settlers Eyed Its Endless Expanse."** "One by one, the things Kansas had spent a lifetime building were dismantled, until the state was rendered as empty and uninviting as it had been in those early days when the first settlers eyed its endless expanse. Along the way, the state's defenders - the farmer, the laborer, the property owner and the shop keeper - stood mute and passive, hoping for a day when the state would spark back to life, as it had always done before. They remained silent too long. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, the Kansas Policy Institute, or Americans for Prosperity all in care of Gov. Sam Brownback, Office of the Governor, Capital 300 SW 10th Ave. Ste 241S, Topeka, KS 66612-1590." (Jason Probst, Column, "Kansas 1861-2013," *The Hutchinson News*, 3/30/13)

Probst Criticized Rep. Tim Huelskamp's "Blind Devotion To The TEA Party Constituency And Special Interest Groups Such As Club For Growth, Americans For Prosperity And Americans For Tax Reform -- And Unwillingness To Even Consider A Compromise On Any Piece Of Legislation…" "One has to hand it to U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp: He's determined to stand by his "principles" even when they are damaging to his constituents. That sort of blind devotion to the TEA party constituency and special interest groups such as Club for Growth, Americans for Prosperity and Americans for Tax Reform -- and unwillingness to even consider a compromise on any piece of legislation -- culminated this week with the Kansas Republican's removal from the important House Budget and Agriculture committees. For the first time in more than 50 years, Kansas' First Congressional district -- the most heavily agricultural district in Kansas -- won't have a representative on the ag committee. If another Kansas representative isn't chosen to fill his slot, it will be the first time in at least 100 years that a Kansan hasn't had a seat on the committee. House leadership reportedly moved a handful of representatives, including Huelskamp, from committee assignments in response to "obstinate" voting patterns that have run counter to the Republican party. Huelskamp, of course, sloughed off any responsibility for his actions, wrapped himself in the warm, cozy blanket of conviction and laid blame on everyone else in Washington. Almost immediately, Club for Growth offered its support for Huelskamp." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Bad For Kansas," *The Hutchinson News*, 12/5/12)

Party Identification

"Although He Has Been Largely A Registered Republican Before Becoming A Democrat This Month, Probst Has Written Critically About Republicans Governor Sam Brownback And Secretary Of State Kris Kobach And Their Policies." "An opinionated watchdog will enter the Kansas House of Representatives. Nine Reno County Democratic precinct committee members chose Jason Probst in a 6-3 vote Wednesday evening to fill the vacancy created by the recent death of Rep. Patsy Terrell, D-Hutchinson. Jim Clark, 65, a former union steward who knocked on 2,500 doors during Terrell's 2016 campaign, received three votes. Attorney Luann Trummel Wellborn, 59, drew no votes. Probst said he will resign Thursday morning as Opinion/Sunday editor at The Hutchinson News. Although he has been largely a registered Republican before becoming a Democrat this month, Probst has written critically about Republicans Governor Sam Brownback and Secretary of State Kris Kobach and their policies. "Tough decisions require leadership, but the state won't find it in the governor's office," Probst wrote less than a month ago." (*The Hutchinson News*, 6/22/17)

Political Reform

Lobbying Reform

Probst: "Lobbyist Activity Perverts The Legislative Process And Excludes People From The Conversation About Laws That Might Affect Them. However, Banning Lobbyists Only From Taxpayer-Financed Interests, While Allowing Business And Other Special Interests To Continue Unabated, Simply Drowns Out One Set Of Voices And Ensures The Only Voices Legislators Hear Are From Those Who Were Paid To Speak." "Our democracy fails when a single voter's voice can't be heard as clearly as the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, Johnson and Johnson, Pfizer, Exxon Mobile, Time Warner Cable, Westar Energy or Kansas Gas

Service. The only recourse left is to make those individual voices louder collectively by employing the same tactics the other special interest groups to gain access to lawmakers and amplify the message. Lobbyist activity perverts the legislative process and excludes people from the conversation about laws that might affect them. However, banning lobbyists only from taxpayer-financed interests, while allowing business and other special interests to continue unabated, simply drowns out one set of voices and ensures the only voices legislators hear are from those who were paid to speak." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Outlawing Access," *The Hutchinson News*, 2/14/13)

Citizens United And Campaign Finance

In June 2011, Probst Criticized The U.S. Supreme Court's Citizen United And Other Decisions That He Contended Showed A Favoring Of Free Speech Rights For The Rich And For Corporations. "Two more rulings this week by the obscenely pro-corporate U.S. Supreme Court simultaneously erode the rights of individuals while protecting and expanding the rights of giant corporations. In one, the high court ruled in a 5-4 decision that generic drugmakers can't be held liable for injuries resulting from those medications, even if the original manufacturer is required to keep its drug warning information up-to-date. Apparently, while brand-name drugmakers must warn of newly discovered dangers, when it comes to prescription medications, the onus of protection rests with the consumer. Approximately 75 percent of all drugs prescribed are generic versions of the original -- meaning most drug consumers just lost the right to sue drugmakers if they fall victim to a known side effect. In another ruling, by a 6-3 vote the Supreme Court struck down a Vermont law that prohibited pharmacies, drugmakers and others from buying or selling patient prescription records for marketing purposes. Large chain pharmacies sell such information to drugmakers, who then use that information to more effectively market brand-name drugs to doctors and researchers. In the ruling, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote that "information is speech" and argued that private patient information used for marketing purposes is protected under the First Amendment and can't be restricted simply because such speech isn't popular. This ruling, however, has nothing to do with speech. Free speech is not data-mining patient information to develop a marketing plan; free speech is ensuring that individuals have a voice in this country and can find ways to make it heard. The truest form of free speech is under attack by this Supreme Court, largely because of its eagerness to grant more and more Constitutional rights to the largest corporations in this country. Through the court's gross misinterpretation of the Constitution, free speech is becoming something that only can be ensured with massive amounts of money. By extension of this philosophy, individuals are losing their right to free speech. These recent rulings, along with the 2010 Citizens United ruling -- which prohibits any limits on corporate campaign spending and essentially allows corporations to buy elections -- shows the true bend of the current Supreme Court. Slowly, with each decision of this nature, the Supreme Court is converting constitutional protection into a commodity that is only extended to those who can purchase it." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Supreme Misjudgment," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/24/11)

Probst, In April 2014: "This Week's United States Supreme Court Ruling Eliminating Limits On Campaign Contributions Further Silences The Voice Of All Those Who Lack The Financial Resources To Spend Unlimited Cash On The Candidate Of Their Choosing."

“This week's United States Supreme Court ruling eliminating limits on campaign contributions further silences the voice of all those who lack the financial resources to spend unlimited cash on the candidate of their choosing. In a 5-4 vote along ideological lines, the Supreme Court reaffirmed that money is speech and the government doesn't have the authority to limit speech in any way, even if that speech is purchased. In his majority opinion, Chief Justice John Roberts pinned the argument on the idea that only money paid in exchange for supportive government intervention could be regulated. Unlimited campaign contributions, since they aren't directly tied to any favorable action by the candidate, do not equal corruption but are an exercise of an individual's right to share and support his political ideas. The dissenting opinion, issued by Justice Stephen Breyer, countered that Roberts and the majority too narrowly defined corruption. The majority ruled that "Congress may target only a specific type of corruption -- 'quid pro quo' corruption." It then defines quid pro quo corruption to mean no more than "a direct exchange of an official act for money" -- an act akin to bribery. It adds specifically that corruption does not include efforts to "garner 'influence over or access to' elected officials or political parties." The simple translation is that paying a lawmaker to do a specific favor is illegal, but paying a lawmaker with the goal of forming a political and economic alliance is not only legal, it's free speech.” (Jason Probst, “EDITORIAL: Buying a voice,” *The Hutchinson News*, 4/4/14)

Electoral Reform

Voting Reforms

In November 2014, Probst Named Several Potential Voting Reforms Such As Registering Children To Vote When They Apply For Social Security Numbers, Online Elections, And Electronic Vote Counting. “People are busy living their lives -- working, caring for their homes and running their children here and there -- and going to a polling location once every couple of years is understandably not a high priority for many people. But voting might be important to them, if we made it more accessible to more people in a way that fits their lifestyles. Why can't children be registered to vote at the same time they apply for their Social Security number shortly after they are born? Why can't elections be held online and ballots delivered electronically? It's already being done for military and overseas voters. Why can't we ensure that votes will be counted and tabulated accurately through a digital format? We do this currently with federal and state income taxes. We put our credit card information online when we purchase something and fill out countless forms that securely and safely make it to their destinations. Voter fraud a concern? There are 1,000 different ways to verify that someone is who he or she claims to be. We live in a fast-paced, electronic, information-based world, and yet one of our most important functions -- free and public elections -- still operates as it did when the telegraph was the newest form of communication. It's about time we figured out how to do a little updating.” (Jason Probst, “EDITORIAL: Digital Democracy,” *The Hutchinson News*, 11/7/14)

Voter Fraud

In November 2010, Probst Strongly Derided Then-Kansas Secretary Of State Kris Kobach’s Efforts To Investigate And Root Out Voter Fraud. “For months, Secretary of State-elect Kris Kobach has made the case that voter fraud is running rampant in Kansas. Double voting, illegal immigrants posing as good wholesome Americans and zombie voters are all

raging problems that threaten the sanctity and solvency of our elections. It is such a serious problem, in fact, that the newly empowered Kobach told the Associated Press that he will not waste any time drafting legislation to change Kansas election laws to require voters to show ID at the polls. He also will dedicate two crack investigators in the secretary of state's office to spend their time uncovering this phantom election fraud. A new fangled website will allow anonymous and identification-less do-gooders to report the examples of voter fraud they see in their own communities. Thank goodness, so we all can sleep at night knowing that, at least in Kansas, elections are as pure and safe as they were in the days of poll taxes, property requirements and literacy standards. There is really only one thing to criticize in all this talk about voter fraud: Why in the world are we waiting until January to launch these initiatives? Voter fraud may be more rampant than even Kobach suspects. Insidious agents of under-minification might have worked actively in this election to move the country toward a path of self-destruction. After all, in the last election we sent an un-American secret Muslim agent to the White House, which surely a sign of fowl play among the electorate. There is little reason to think this election was any more secure or legitimate. In fact, consider it longer, and it is clear that voter fraud is the only rationale explanation for why someone like Kris Kobach could land enough votes for election to any office." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Voter Fraud Explains A Lot," *The Hutchinson News*, 11/5/10)

In August 2013, Probst Criticized Kobach's Measure Requiring First Time Voter Registrants To Show Proof Of Their U.S. Citizenship And Contended Some Voters Were "Being Potentially Disenfranchised In The Name Of Protecting Kansas Elections From The Handful Of Verifiable Cases Of Voter Fraud That Have Occurred In The Past Decade Or So." "Thanks to Secretary of State Kris Kobach's zealous concerns about the integrity of Kansas elections, first-time voter registrants must show proof of their U.S. citizenship. The collateral damage, however, is at least 13,863 Kansas residents have landed on a suspension list because they haven't shown adequate proof of their citizenship -- some of whom have previously been registered to vote, and some of whom have voted in previous elections. In Reno County, 377 residents appeared on the voter registrant suspense list and will be ineligible to cast a ballot until they've taken steps to prove they are U.S. citizens. And while the increased scrutiny of voter registration rolls was designed to ensure that elections aren't being tainted by illegal immigrants, many of the people on the suspension list are eligible voters who registered while renewing their driver's licenses. These voters are being potentially disenfranchised in the name of protecting Kansas elections from the handful of verifiable cases of voter fraud that have occurred in the past decade or so. Despite Kobach's claims that "illegal registration of alien voters has become pervasive," a database compiled by NBC News highlights only 216 cases of suspected voter fraud in Kansas between 2000 and 2012 -- a whopping 18 cases a year. The database of voter fraud cases across the country show only 2,068 allegations of voter fraud nationally in those same 12 years. But that hasn't stopped Kansas' Secretary of State from spreading his special brand of fear and loathing to other states -- 37 of which have either passed or considered voter ID legislation. It's one thing to want to ensure that voters are who they say they are when they register to vote and on Election Day. But when those efforts result in the disenfranchisement of nearly 14,000 Kansas voters -- some of whom already were registered voters and have voted in

previous elections -- it leaves little doubt that the cure for voter fraud is much worse and more damaging than the disease." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Voter Suspense," *The Hutchinson News*, 8/7/13)

Probst: "There Never Was A Legitimate Problem That Warranted Kobach's Crusade, With Only A Handful Of Voter Fraud Cases In The Past Decade." "In Reno County, 477 people remain on the suspended voter registration list, most of whom still need to produce the additional identification verifying residency. Statewide, more than 18,000 voter registrations have been suspended because they lack the information to meet the state's voter ID laws. Of course, supporters will argue that the law is needed to protect the sacred right of the vote. Yet, there never was a legitimate problem that warranted Kobach's crusade, with only a handful of voter fraud cases in the past decade. The Kobach crowd has consumed the idea that the need to protect the public from a nonexistent threat is worth jeopardizing for 18,000 Kansans one of the most basic and fundamental rights outlined in U.S. Constitution. And somehow, they believe that misguided notion makes them more patriotic and more American than those who seek to expand, rather than restrict, the right of Kansans to vote in open and public elections." ("EDITORIAL: Voting Error," *The Hutchinson News*, 6/26/14)

Voter ID

Probst Criticized Kobach's Voter ID Initiative Noting "He Already Has Made Voting More Of A Hassle For Kansans With His Voter ID Laws, Supposedly Designed To Protect Kansans From The Nearly Invisible Threat Of Fraudulent Voters." "Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach can't seem to help himself when it comes to meddling with Kansas' elections. He already has made voting more of a hassle for Kansans with his voter ID laws, supposedly designed to protect Kansans from the nearly invisible threat of fraudulent voters, and has sought the power to serve as judge, jury and executioner should anyone actually ever attempt to vote without proper identification. In the process, he's knocked nearly 20,000 Kansans from the voter rolls. Now Kobach is pushing another change in voting to return us to the good old days, when poll taxes and land ownership were requirements to vote in public elections. He has proposed a bill to bring back straight party ticket voting to Kansas. No need to think. No need to know the candidates or what they stand for -- just check the box that says "Republican" or "Democrat." Apparently Kobach thinks it's too much for voters to think about candidates as people, with ideas and positions, personalities and experiences. In Kobach's world, you're either a Republican or Democrat, and candidates have nothing to offer beyond the party label they wear." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Blind Vote," *The Hutchinson News*, 1/16/15)

Primary System

Probst, In 2010: "What Is Known Is That The Current Primary System Excludes Too Many Voters, Forces Candidates To The Extremes To Make It To The General Election And, In Many Cases, Leaves Voters Not With The Two Best Candidates But With The Two Candidates Most Capable Of Chanting Their Party's Talking Points." "What if a Prop 14-type election system existed in Kansas? Maybe instead of a laundry list of Republican candidates for the 1st District, and a lone Democrat, voters could pick from a list that included more independents. Maybe those Republican candidates wouldn't have to run over each other to prove their conservative pedigree in order to win the Republican nomination. Take the race for Sen.

Sam Brownback's seat, for example. Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Hays, and Rep. Todd Tiahrt, R-Wichita, have spent the season moving farther and farther to the right in an effort to win the Republican nod for the general election. In the meantime, there is no real discussion about issues facing our state -- just a bunch of rhetoric that screams, "I'm the most conservative of all the conservative candidates." Under a Prop 14 system, Democrats in Kansas likely would be relegated to sideline status, but that is often the case under the current system. In every campaign now taking place, one Republican will emerge to battle a Democrat, and other solid Republicans will wash out at primary. In most of those elections, a Republican will land the job. Whether California's Prop 14 will pass voter muster won't be known until June, and whether a similar system might dull extremism in Kansas politics might never be known. But what is known is that the current primary system excludes too many voters, forces candidates to the extremes to make it to the general election and, in many cases, leaves voters not with the two best candidates but with the two candidates most capable of chanting their party's talking points." (Jason Probst, "EDITORIAL: Picking The Best," *The Hutchinson News*, 4/30/10)

January 6th And 2020 Election

Probst: "What Happened On Jan. 6, 2021, Was An Insurrection. It Was An Attempted Coup And An Effort To Undermine Our Democracy. And It Was The Result Of A Deliberate Misinformation Campaign That Led People To Believe That An Election Had Been Stolen…" "What happened on Jan. 6, 2021, was an insurrection. It was an attempted coup and an effort to undermine our democracy. And it was the result of a deliberate misinformation campaign that led people to believe that an election had been stolen, and as such, they had the right to violate our Constitution and physically attack duly elected members of Congress, and Vice President Mike Pence, as they took the final step in certifying the election results. They were egged on by people in power, people who hoped to hold onto that power, and who were eager to weaponize fear to keep that power - regardless of the human and social toll it might carry." (Jason Probst Substack, 1/6/22)

Notable Political Associations

Bernie Sanders

In July 2015, Probst Urged Readers To Take Some Time To Learn About Bernie Sanders And His Policies. "5. U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders is the first potentially viable independent candidate for president in years. Take some time to get know him, his policy positions and his ideas. You might be surprised with what you find when you view the world from somewhere besides a party sideline." (Jason Probst, "Editorial: Deflate Deflategate," *The Hutchinson News*, 7/31/15)

Probst: "Bernie Would've Beaten Trump." "Bernie would've beaten Trump. This was a populist election, and there was no taste for a president who was as qualified as Clinton. People have had it up to the gills with the political parties, with political professionals, and with a system that ignores their concerns. I think the math favored Bernie all along. He mobilized an army of young voters. Democrats would've supported him, and a number of conservatives I know would've voted for him over Trump. But they were never, ever going to vote for Clinton." (Jason Probst, 11/9/16)

Trump

Probst, On Trump's Election: "If You're Conservative, And You Think This Election Is Going To Restore America To Its Glorious Past, You Are Wrong. First, That Time Never Really Existed. If It Exists At All, It's In Our Future, Not Our Past." "If you're liberal, and you think this is the worst thing ever, that this is going to set the country back 50 years and undo generations of progress, you are wrong. The country at times, stumbles, but it doesn't fall, at least not for long before it gets back up. If you're conservative, and you think this election is going to restore America to its glorious past, you are wrong. First, that time never really existed. If it exists at all, it's in our future, not our past. In fact, I suspect that this election is the death rattle of an aging form of thought. We've seen this before. The political machine did all it could to keep Theodore Roosevelt out of office, but he forced the country to move forward. The country's richest men considered a military coup of the government when Franklin Roosevelt proposed Social Security. We've had a civil war, bad presidents, scandals, wars, depressions and still time moves on. One generation is replaced with a new one, and, eventually, that generation grows old, dies and is replaced by another. It is the way it has always been. Progress and time win 100% of the time, every time. Elections might slow progress, but they can never stop it." (Jason Probst, 11/9/16)

Probst: Trump's Remarks On Women Were "Deplorable" But Part Of American Culture. "What Donald Trump said is deplorable. Anyone who has a woman in their life that they love – a wife, mother, sister, cousin, daughter, friend – would never want someone talking about her in such a manner. If I caught someone talking about my daughter this way, I'd want to kick his ass. But in this country, we don't just tolerate such brazenness and sexual machismo, we celebrate it. We build marketing campaigns around the underlying force behind Trump's misogynistic words. We incorporate that attitude in our entertainment, and in our economic systems. So I suggest we drop the feigned outrage that Trump would say something so awful, and start looking at some of the reasons this attitude exists in the first place." (Jason Probst, 10/8/16)

In January 2017, Probst Shared A Tweet Of A Trump Caricature. (Probst Profile, Twitter, 1/25/17)

(Probst Profile, Twitter, 1/25/17)

In March 2017, Probst 'Retweeted' A Tweet Of A Political Cartoon Depicting Trump As An Overweight Robin Hood Appearing To Steal From The Poor In Order To Give A "Tax Cut For The Rich". (Probst Profile, Twitter, 3/23/17)

(Probst Profile, Twitter, 3/23/17)

Miscellaneous

In April 2014, Probst Shared A Tweet Appearing To Claim That State Rep. Jack Thimsech Sold His Sole To The Devil. (Probst Profile, Twitter, 4/7/14)

(Probst Profile, Twitter, 4/7/14)

Supreme Court

In 2021, Probst Voted Nay On HCR 5013, "A Concurrent Resolution Urging The United States Congress To Propose The 'Keep Nine' Amendment To The United States Constitution." (HCR 5013, Passed (84 - 38), Kansas State House Of Representatives, 3/18/21, Probst Voted Nay)

- NOTE: "States that the State of Kansas urges Congress to propose the "Keep Nine" amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The concurrent resolution specifies that the amendment shall state "The Supreme Court of the United States shall be composed of nine justices." (HCR 5013)

- NOTE: "The resolution requires the Kansas Secretary of State to send an enrolled copy of the resolution to each member of the Kansas Congressional delegation, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate and the leader of each legislative chamber for the other 49 states." (HCR 5013)

ACU: HCR 5013 "Calls On Congress To Prevent Court Packing And Fundamental Changes To America's Court System By Proposing A 'Keep Nine Amendment' To The United States Constitution." "This resolution calls on congress to prevent court packing and fundamental changes to America's court system by proposing a "Keep Nine Amendment" to the United States Constitution." (American Conservative Union, 2021)

PERSONAL

Additional Background Notes

Early Life And Family

"Probst Considered His Life Story As Not Dissimilar To That Of Others Living In The 102nd. The 1992 Nickerson High School Graduate Said He "Had Kids Too Young" And Struggled To Make Enough Money To Raise Them." (*The Hutchinson News*, 6/22/17)

"He Married In 1994 And Had Various Jobs, Including An Early-On Unsuccessful Restaurant Venture. He Was A Machinist At Mega Manufacturing, And Had A Job At Home Depot." (*The Hutchinson News*, 6/22/17)

"He Attended Hutchinson Community College Before Earning A Bachelor's Degree From Baker University. Divorced, Probst Has A Two Grown Children And A Granddaughter, Age Two And A Half." (*The Hutchinson News*, 6/22/17)

"In 2002, He Started On The Copy Desk At The News. He Subsequently Covered The Cops-And-Courts Beat And Later Was Promoted To Management. He Was News Editor Prior To Becoming The Opinion/Sunday Editor." (*The Hutchinson News*, 6/22/17)

Use Of Government Assistance

In October 2010, Probst Acknowledged That He And His Family Once Relied On Medicaid And Used The WIC Program While He Was Starting Out In His 20s. "What's the solution? I don't know for certain, but I have some ideas that come from my own experience with public assistance. At the age of 20, I was a soon-to-be father earning a salary of $250 a week. My family didn't have health insurance. We had a car that broke down a lot, and we didn't have much money for anything. My pregnant wife, and later my infant child, relied on Medicaid for health care during that period. We didn't get food stamps, but we used the Women, Infants and Children program, which provides food assistance to pregnant and nursing mothers and their children in the first years of life. So I'm a believer in what public assistance can do for people. Had it not been available when our family was starting out, we'd have been saddled with debt, hungry, and poor and angry with life. Besides, in the years since, I'll bet I've paid a lot more in for taxes than I ever took out in assistance." (Jason Probst, "OPINION: Time For New Approach To Government Assistance," *The Hutchinson News*, 10/24/10)