

Taxes

In 2009, Sattler supported renewing a quarter-cent sales tax.

Apr. 1--Local voters have had opportunities recently to renew a quarter-cent sales tax in Finney County.

Twice, though, voters rejected plans to use such revenue for local economic development efforts.

On Tuesday, we'll find out if Finney County voters agree with a different plan -- one that would put a countywide quarter-cent sales tax to use in helping with maintenance needs.

The county's maintenance dollars have dried up due to tight budgets and voters several years ago rejecting a tax-supported building fund.

A quarter-cent sales tax would generate about \$1.6 million a year, with Finney County and Garden City splitting most of that. (Holcomb would receive about \$50,000.)

Finney County would spend its share on maintenance of existing roads, buildings and other infrastructure, with Garden City using funds for transportation and road projects.

But as reasonable as that may be, there's no guarantee of voter approval on Tuesday.

Unlike the bond issue to fund a long-range facilities plan for Garden City USD 457 that voters approved in November, the sales-tax proposal won't benefit from the turnout of a presidential election. A lack of contested races in Garden City this time hurts, as well.

Yet we can expect those who oppose anything that involves spending to make it to the polls to vote against the plan.

No one likes taxes. But reasonable citizens should know they're necessary to pay for infrastructure and services that keep communities strong. Putting off fixes to roads and buildings only leads to more significant costs down the line.

The sales tax proposal addresses the challenge of meeting those needs without adding to the property tax burden.

It's estimated that at least half of the sales tax dollars generated locally come from people who live outside the county. We should let them help pay for our necessities.

And even with an increase, the sales tax rates for Garden City and Finney County still would compare favorably to other area communities.

Perhaps most importantly to many, no new county projects would be funded. The sales tax dollars would go to needs, rather than "wants" difficult to embrace in a time of economic uncertainty.

It's a prudent plan, and one voters should be eager to support with a "yes" vote on Tuesday.

What do you think of the proposed sales tax? Talk about it at SWKTalk.com, or starting Wednesday evening, listen to a podcast that discusses the details of the proposal.

(Source: *The Garden City Telegram*, April 1, 2009)

In 2019, she praised a multicounty initiative that would give local residents a .15 percent sales tax increase for paying for Horse Thief Reservoir.

Aug. 11--Outdoor recreation enthusiasts are waiting.

To those eager for the opening of HorseThief Reservoir near Jetmore, a possible Memorial Day weekend 2010 opening can't come soon enough.

Yet that date probably seems surprisingly early for those who spent many years dreaming of such a facility.

An idea hatched more than 30 years ago, plans for the reservoir and recreation area gained steam in the mid-1980s, when the Pawnee Watershed District hired engineers to study a site on Buckner Creek for the reservoir.

When the proposal for the 440-acre lake and 1,100-acre recreation area eventually was presented to voters in 2005, critics questioned whether such a project was possible in a drought-stricken region -- even though extensive studies of drainage, Buckner Creek flow and land-use practices showed it was with average rainfall.

At the time, critics also questioned asking residents of Finney, Ford, Gray and Hodgeman counties to support a .15 percent sales tax to help fund the project.

Voters who knew the value of new recreational opportunities, enhanced quality of life and economic benefits such a project would deliver prevailed at the polls, however, and now the facility is taking shape.

State officials are to inspect the newly built dam in early September. Once the Division of Water Resources gives its OK, the gate on Buckner Creek will be closed and creek runoff will start filling the lake -- a process that will take some time, depending on local rainfall.

Supporters of the project are willing to wait. After all, their patience and persistence helped the recreational facility come to life in the first place.

Proponents of HorseThief Reservoir didn't give up their dream. Instead of listening to naysayers, they went to work on a project that will make southwest Kansas more of a destination.

Area residents have been thirsty for a park offering more recreation options, especially one with boating, fishing and water skiing, along with camp sites, picnic shelters, horseback riding and hiking trails.

Even those who labeled the lake an impossible dream should see the park as a welcome development -- one that's been well worth the wait.

On the Web

Do you think the HorseThief project will be a worthwhile endeavor? Talk about it at SWKTalk.com.

(Source: The Garden City Telegram, August 11, 2009)

Sattler supported a \$1 state tax hike on cigarettes.

Smokers in Kansas must feel like they're being attacked from every possible angle.

They've been ordered outside of public places if they want to light up. Nonsmokers badger them to kick the habit.

And now, a need to raise money in the midst of a state budget crunch has some proposing that smokers cough up more dough to help the cause.

If health advocacy groups campaigning to tack a \$1 tax on a pack of cigarettes have their way, Kansans can indeed expect to pay more for their smokes.

Considering the potential to raise needed funds, generate savings in health care costs and discourage an unhealthy habit, it's a prudent pitch.

When cigarettes go up in price, smokers often cut back. Younger would-be smokers have even more trouble affording such an expense.

Kansas history proves as much. When the cigarette tax was raised in 2002 and 2003 to bring it to the current 79 cents, packs of cigarettes sold dropped 21.6 percent in the first year - yet revenue to the state still soared from \$47.9 million in fiscal year 2002 to \$116.2 million the next year.

So, with the state facing a budget shortfall of some \$470 million, it's no wonder most Kansans polled support a higher tobacco tax.

The poll by Public Opinion Strategies found that 69 percent of likely Kansas voters favored the \$1 per pack increase.

Plus, 81 percent agreed with increasing the tax on other tobacco products, such as cigars, snuff and chew, to match the rate on cigarettes. Those products currently are taxed at 10 percent of the wholesale price, an amount in place since 1972.

Those polled also preferred the tobacco tax over other income-generating strategies, such as sales and income taxes (although all warrant consideration.)

It's worth noting that Public Opinion Strategies was co-founded by Glen Bolger, a leading Republican Party strategist and pollster, so there was no Democratic agenda at work in the poll.

And those lawmakers - particularly Kansas House Republican leaders - who fear that endorsing any tax could cost them politically should know there's no evidence that a cigarette tax ever cost a legislator their seat.

Instead, lawmakers should acknowledge the good on the health and financial fronts that would come of the tobacco tax.

For one, it would raise an estimated \$74.7 million in new revenue, according to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The funds needed as public schools and other state-funded agencies face cuts also could help with tobacco cessation and other prevention programs.

Above all, health-related benefits of the tax would matter most.

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids estimated that the \$1 tax would lead 12,000 adult smokers in Kansas to quit, and discourage 21,600 children alive today from taking up smoking.

And the most compelling reason of all: The tax would prevent an estimated 10,000 smoking-caused deaths - more than the populations of Scott and Kearny counties combined.

Of course, the financial benefit of healthier Kansans also would be significant, including an estimated savings of a whopping \$492 million in long-term, tobacco-related health care costs.

You'd think the potential for saving lives would be reason enough to support the tobacco tax.

But even if it takes an economic crisis to deliver legislation that leads to better health while improving state finances, we've made progress.

Dena Sattler is editor and publisher of the Garden City Telegram. Previously, she was assistant publisher of The Ottawa Herald. E-mail her at denas@gctelegram.com 042210colSattler

(Source: The Ottawa Herald, April 21, 2010)

She criticized the Trump/GOP 2017 federal tax cuts.

the fiscal mess in Kansas.

Yet similarities are striking and undeniable.

The federal plan would be bankrolled with significant debt, just like in Kansas.

Desperate to score what they'd consider a needed victory before the end of the year with elections ahead in 2018, Republicans rushed to add and subtract particulars designed to land votes needed for passage, regardless of the potential fallout.

Such sweeping overhaul warrants months of thoughtful and open debate. Instead, it's been pushed through without due deliberation — just like in Kansas.

The tax breaks that would disproportionately benefit major corporations with scant tax relief to ordinary Americans were pursued at the behest of corporate giants such as Koch Industries. Just like in Kansas.

And just like in Kansas, the damage from such radical and reckless policy would be far reaching and long lasting, with funding for programs many people depend on slashed to pay for the tax cuts.

Responsible lawmakers know better, but our members of Congress would rather put the interests of the wealthy above those of all others.

Just like in Kansas. — Dena Sattler, The Garden City Telegram

(Source: Parsons Sun, December 9, 2017)

She endorsed voting yes on a half-cent sales tax increase in Holcomb.

Oct. 29--Funding community wants and needs is a difficult balancing act.

For elected officials charged with spending public funds, the question always becomes how to pay for the essentials -- good streets, for example -- while still pursuing projects, such as park improvements, that boost the local quality of life.

When dollars are tight, as they always seem to be, governments must prioritize. That often means delaying or scrapping good projects.

With such challenges of budgeting and an interest in easing the property tax burden in mind, the Holcomb City Council has pitched a half-cent sales tax to generate new revenue. If approved by voters, the sales tax would go into a general fund for special projects, city improvements or other initiatives for the city.

Businesses in Holcomb now collect a county and state sales tax, which comes to 6.2 percent. That amount would increase to 6.7 percent if voters endorse Holcomb's first city sales tax.

While it's a reasonable amount, any new tax raises eyebrows in a time of economic uncertainty.

Voters should know that one appeal of the local sales tax is that it could lighten the load on property taxpayers. Like any governing body, the council wants to find ways to stabilize or lower the local mill levy, which it had to raise recently.

The town also would benefit from spending by visitors who pass through to shop or dine.

Should the new sales tax be approved, Holcomb officials would be wise to do even more to reach out to residents with surveys, public meetings and other ways to solicit ideas and interests regarding public spending. Citizens already have cited an interest in cleaning up eyesores along with other beautification efforts, should additional public funds become available.

Encouraging citizen involvement and following through on requests should alleviate concern over how the new revenue would be spent. At the end of the day, citizens have a responsibility to guide elected officials in the use of their tax dollars.

A half-cent sales tax increase is a modest hike, considering the potential return in improvements and property tax relief.

The sales tax proposal is proof of an interest in Holcomb in making sure the community remains progressive. Voters should acknowledge the potential of the tax to improve the community, and vote "yes" on Nov. 4.

Our View

Buying progress

Modest sales tax
would pay dividends.

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(Source: The Garden City Telegram, October 29, 2008)

Advocated for a mill levy increase in Kearny County, calling a \$38 increase on \$100,000 home as “reasonable” and encouraged the voters to “dig deep”

Jul. 27--Many residents of rural communities cherish their hospitals.

A lot of small towns, after all, don't have a local medical facility, so residents face the extra burden of heading elsewhere for emergencies and other care.

That's why those communities usually work hard to help their hospitals stay viable. In Kearny County, the question for voters Tuesday is whether they're willing to give more to address needs at their local hospital.

Capital investments to boost technology and improve care are key in Kearny County Hospital's budget request for \$1,849,152, which equals 6.796 mills. Any request of more than six mills must be put to a vote.

*Last year voters rejected a \$1.6 million request, and the hospital received \$1 million. This year's proposed increase in the **mill levy** would mean a reasonable \$38 increase in taxes for the owner of a \$100,000 home.*

Some would argue that the hospital has to tighten its belt. But the challenge is in keeping costs in check without compromising patient care at a time that's becoming more difficult.

As rural populations shrink, those who remain in those communities tend to be older, sicker and poorer. At the same time, hospitals must endure cuts in Medicaid and Medicare and declining insurance reimbursements.

Kearny County Hospital officials fear that if they don't move swiftly on an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, they stand to lose more in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements as the federal government pushes to replace paper record systems.

The budget request before voters includes \$250,000 for Phase One software to keep digital records. Other proposed capital expenditures include one driven by a rise in surgeries: two new anesthesia machines (\$75,000) that comply with federal standards of care.

Tuesday's vote comes amid challenging economic times. When they head to the polls, Kearny County voters need to ask themselves the cost of not investing more in their local hospital.

Economic turbulence and the ever-changing health care environment have created an uncertain future for many rural hospitals struggling to stay viable.

With that in mind, Kearny County voters should be willing to dig deep in supporting a budget request that helps their own hospital address realistic needs.

On the Web:

Kearny County Hospital Election

Page: <http://www.kearnycountyhospital.com/election09/election.shtm>

Our View

Future needs

Improvements vital at rural hospitals.

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What do you think of the hospital plan? Talk about it at SWKTalk.com.

Medicaid and Medicare and declining insurance reimbursements.

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(Source: The Garden City Telegram, July 27, 2009)

In an endorsement of Jim Barnett for Governor, Sattler has a quote about Kansas income tax hikes of 2017: "Rather, he's prepared to make tough decisions required to move Kansas forward - just as the Legislature did recently in restoring income taxes recklessly slashed by Brownback and fellow ultraconservatives who put unfair tax breaks for wealthy Kansans above key state-funded programs.

The Aug. 7 Republican gubernatorial primary election in Kansas is among the most critical in many years.

Voters must be careful.

The winner could ease the path to the same irresponsibility we saw from former Gov. Sam Brownback.

Or, voters have the opportunity to select a Republican who's calm, thoughtful and ready to fix problems.

With a farm background and career helping others as a physician, Jim Barnett embraces traditional Kansas values.

He isn't a political climber. Rather, he's prepared to make tough decisions required to move Kansas forward - just as the Legislature did recently in restoring income taxes recklessly slashed by Brownback and fellow ultraconservatives who put unfair tax breaks for wealthy Kansans above key state-funded programs.

Public education, highways, corrections and other core services bore the brunt of the former governor's agenda as the state spiraled further into debt.

It will take many years to address the fallout.

In 2016, voters rightly steered the Legislature toward more centrist, sound thinking. Barnett is the lone Republican gubernatorial candidate who would forward that positive momentum.

The other three contenders embody more of the far-right mindset that damaged Kansas. And now, with ultraconservatives out to recapture Kansas House seats and the Kansas Senate already too far right, the Statehouse is in jeopardy of shifting back to all-out, radical-right control, as happened in 2013 after Brownback's camp purged moderate legislators who resisted ideology that hurt the state.

Kansas cannot afford a repeat of that sad chapter.

While the years ahead will be difficult, Barnett - a former state senator - stands ready work with all in the Legislature on challenges ranging from budgetary woes to access to affordable healthcare.

With time as a school board member in Emporia, Barnett knows the role of public education in fueling economic development, and will promote job training opportunities needed throughout Kansas.

His unconventional selection in a running mate also was notable. Barnett chose his wife, Rosie Hansen. She was a U.S. Department of State foreign service officer with U.S. embassy assignments worldwide - extraordinary experience that would benefit any future governor.

Above all, Kansas needs an alternative to Republican extremism. That's Barnett, the clear choice for voters in the GOP primary.

(Source: The Pratt Tribune, July 28, 2018)

Spending

In 2009, she praised Obama's Cash for Clunkers program

Aug. 25--Cash for Clunkers has come to the end of the road.

The program that became a smash hit for new car dealers and car buyers alike ended Monday as the allotment of \$3 billion in federal funds for the economic stimulus program was exhausted.

The end result: Hundreds of thousands of new vehicle sales occurred nationwide as consumers rushed to take advantage of rebates of \$3,500 to \$4,500 for turning in gas-guzzling vehicles for more fuel efficient models.

It's no wonder that, from day one, Cash for Clunkers was applauded by many car dealers who enjoyed extraordinary sales at a time they needed such a boost.

Then there were those more skeptical, even fearful of the program leaving them high and dry. That nervousness became more apparent as critics of the program zeroed in on its shortcomings, including paperwork tied to each sale and the slow pace of federal refunds to dealers.

Questioning government, especially costly programs, is one thing. It's welcome and needed. Deliberately planting seeds of doubt and even fear where they aren't warranted is another.

That's what has happened with Cash for Clunkers and other Obama administration proposals, including health care reform.

Many GOP lawmakers still want Cash for Clunkers to crash and burn. They'd be happy if car dealers weren't reimbursed -- in spite of the cost to those businesses -- because such a failure would be a disaster for the Obama administration.

Indeed, many Republicans would prefer that every economic stimulus program be a bust.

Even in a time of economic crisis, they're eager for missteps by the Obama administration that might improve their chances of regaining power -- a counterproductive, win-at-all-costs mentality that both parties too often embrace.

With Cash for Clunkers, the Obama administration knows it must deliver.

That means car dealers will get their money, fewer gas guzzlers will be on the road and communities will enjoy a surge in sales tax receipts.

Most car dealers understood the sales were worth the hassle. Too bad for those more reluctant who were influenced by the negative rhetoric, soft-pedaled the program and missed out on a unique opportunity.

Did you favor the Cash for Clunkers program? Talk about it at SWKTalk.com.

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People Informing People

Dena Sattler.....denas@gctelegram.com.....Editor/Publish

Our View

Clunker cash

Political potholes
don't stall program.

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swktalk.com
Southwest Kansas Talk

**Were you in favor of the
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Many GOP lawmak-
ers still want Cash for
Clunkers to crash and

(Source: The Garden City Telegram, August 25, 2009)

She advocated for the federal Wall Street bailout of 2008.

Sep. 30--Faced with a tough decision over whether to allow the government to buy bad mortgages and other worthless assets held by troubled financial institutions, lawmakers let politics get in the way.

The U.S. House of Representatives on Monday rejected a proposed \$700 billion bailout pitched by President Bush as a way to protect ordinary Americans from the fallout of Wall Street's miscues. The belief is that alleviating financial institutions' debt would put them in better position to lend money, and in turn reverse the economic downturn.

Investors who saw the bailout as necessary to halting a global market meltdown were stunned. As a result, the Dow Jones industrial average plunged some 778 points, the biggest one-day point decline in history.

Still, many Americans continue to howl in protest over a bailout they see as sticking taxpayers with the burden of saving financial institutions that made bad decisions and should suffer the consequences.

While that's an understandable reaction, the problem is that there are no simple, pretty answers to this ugly mess. Many among us will pay the price for past failures to regulate. That's a given.

At this point, Congress still must find a strategy that, as distasteful as it may seem, will rescue a Wall Street marred by irresponsible lending and greed. Letting the market sort it out while Americans' personal savings and jobs evaporate isn't the answer.

But on Monday many lawmakers on both sides of the aisle either weren't willing to make the politically risky move of endorsing the bailout plan, or were turned off by partisan politics.

Before Monday's vote, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi blasted Bush's failed economic policies, and apparently angered a number of Republicans who might have voted in favor if not for the Democrat's harsh words -- unacceptable political gamesmanship from both parties.

Lawmakers have an obligation to make tough decisions that in this case would help shape the economic future of our nation.

Something must be done to restore confidence in Wall Street and, just as importantly, prevent future economic meltdowns. And quickly.

The question is whether there are enough courageous lawmakers who can set aside personal political agendas and agree on a plan that's desperately needed to stave off an even deeper economic crisis.



(Source: The Garden City Telegram, September 30, 2008)

She backed the Garden City Commission spending money on a lobbyist.

Dec. 1--Spending money to sway lawmakers has long raised eyebrows, and for good reason.

Lobbying too often results in corruption, especially when lobbyists' campaign money buys influence and circumvents the openness needed in a democratic system.

But for communities hoping to boost their voice and position at the state and federal level, lobbyists can make inroads in a positive way.

Talk of hiring a lobbyist to do just that came from meetings of a new collaboration known as the Southwest Kansas Coalition, formed when the governing bodies of Garden City, Dodge City and Liberal embarked on efforts to enhance communication and build on their collective strength.

One idea was to invest in a lobbyist to work for the region on key issues -- particularly in the areas of transportation and education.

A new comprehensive transportation plan for the state is looming, and southwest Kansas needs road improvements that better position the area for growth. Recruiting and retaining an adequate workforce makes education another priority in southwest Kansas.

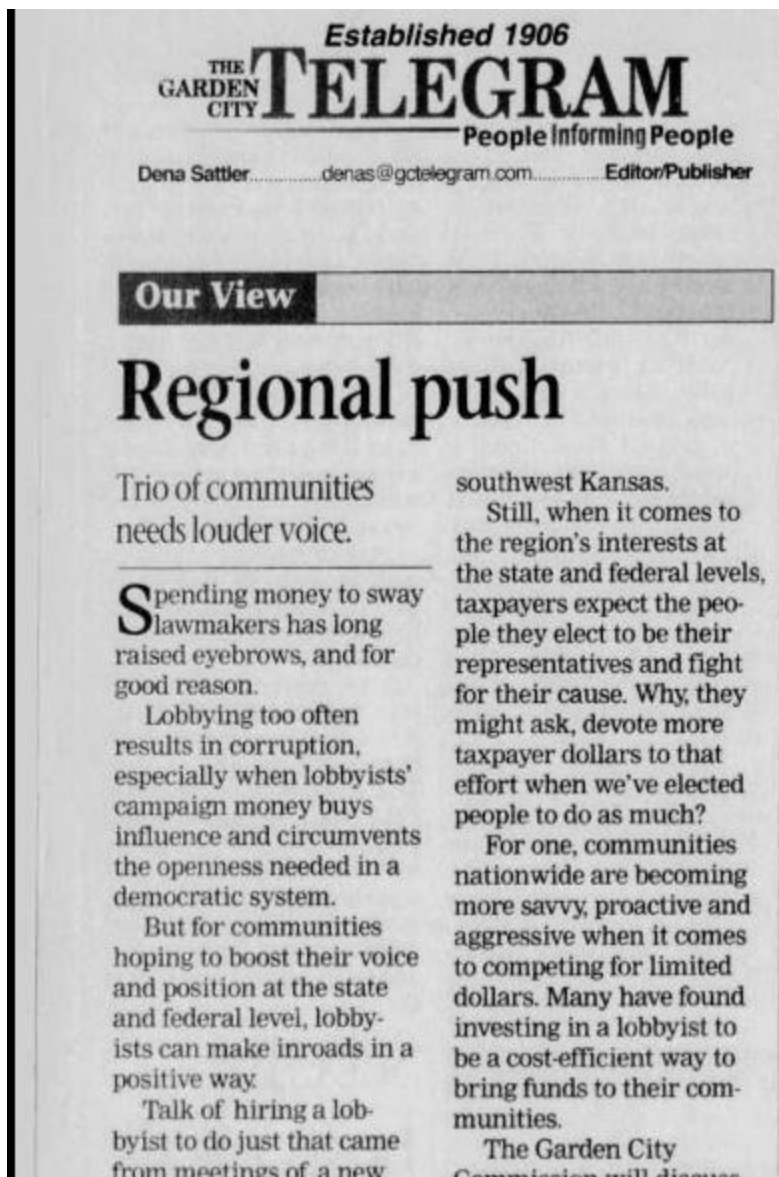
Still, when it comes to the region's interests at the state and federal levels, taxpayers expect the people they elect to be their representatives and fight for their cause. Why, they might ask, devote more taxpayer dollars to that effort when we've elected people to do as much?

For one, communities nationwide are becoming more savvy, proactive and aggressive when it comes to competing for limited dollars. Many have found investing in a lobbyist to be a cost-efficient way to bring funds to their communities.

The Garden City Commission will discuss a lobbyist and related costs at its Dec. 9 meeting. Commissioners should agree that if money spent on a lobbyist returns significant funding to southwest Kansas, the investment would be more than worthwhile. That said, the governing bodies also would need to ensure that lobbying efforts do indeed pay dividends.

While we still expect our elected representatives to work hard for our interests, the new consortium of southwest Kansas municipalities working for the region's greater good should have a strong voice.

If bolstering those efforts with a lobbyist could help us get our fair share, it's worth a try.



(Source: The Garden City Telegram, December 1, 2008)

Another article where she appears to advocate for the city government hiring a lobbyist.

May 4--When it comes to action at the state and federal levels, southwest Kansans often feel left out.

Because the population on this side of the state falls well short of other areas, such parts as eastern Kansas with higher concentrations of voters attract more attention and consideration from lawmakers and other policymakers.

Rather than just sit back and complain about southwest Kansas being shortchanged, local leaders are trying to create a bigger, regional voice -- a strategy that already has representatives of local governments from Garden City, Dodge City and Liberal meeting as the Southwest Kansas Coalition.

Now chambers of commerce have followed suit with creation of the Southwest Kansas Chamber of Commerce, an alliance between Garden City and area chambers of commerce in Liberal, Dodge City and Grant County.

Each governing body and chamber already has plenty of work in their respective communities. Still, those involved in the regional forces rightly believe going the extra mile will enhance southwest Kansas' voice among state and federal officials. An area of interest that should top their list is transportation, with highway improvements key in the region's survival and growth.

Realizing the need to move forward on transportation and other issues even led the Southwest Kansas Coalition to recruit a lobbyist to represent the region's interests.

The notion of investing in someone else to work at the state capital understandably raised eyebrows. Citizens, after all, elect representatives for that role.

But considering the stiff competition from other communities vying for precious funding and other benefits -- and a history that shows southwest Kansas often left out -- stepping up the game is not only acceptable, it's essential.

Should that move result in more funds for the region, it's more than worth the investment considering regional successes should in turn boost each community.

Meanwhile, as the regional presence grows, the important work each local entity needs to do at home can't be overlooked. None can afford to lose their individual identity.

If they can strike a balance between local and regional missions and achieve tangible results, more power to them -- and to southwest Kansas as a whole.



(Source: The Garden City Telegram, May 4, 2009)

In 2011, she claimed the Garden's City's hotel-motel tax should be spent on marketing. Quote: "As the hoteliers pointed out, it does make sense to use as much of the hotel-motel tax on marketing as possible."

April 09--Local hotel operators and tourism officials want the same thing. They want more people to visit Garden City.

Yet the groups clearly were at odds during Monday's Finney County Commission meeting.

Upset with how the county's hotel-motel tax dollars are spent, several hoteliers asked commissioners to separate the Finney County Convention and Tourism Bureau from the Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce.

A 6 percent hotel-motel tax goes to the Convention and Tourism Bureau (CTB) to market new and existing events that bring people to town. The CTB budgeted just more than \$200,000 this year, based on 2010 hotel-motel tax revenues.

Eager for new events that draw visitors, the hoteliers want more hotel-motel tax receipts spent on marketing, and less on administrative costs.

Along with funding various tourism and marketing initiatives, the so-called "bed" tax also pays the full salaries of the CTB director and assistant director; half of the salaries of a receptionist and a bookkeeper who works for the chamber and CTB; and one-third of the chamber president's salary.

The hoteliers also claim there isn't enough oversight of CTB spending, and that the county should sign off on expenditures.

Yet the CTB is held accountable, as its budget must be approved by the county commission. That said, more transparency when it comes to spending always would help -- spelling out costs for the new community branding effort coordinated by the CTB, for example.

The fear is in making the funding subject to political whim. If what's happening in Topeka and Washington, D.C., is any indication, local tourism initiatives could be erased in an instant if elected officials control those purse strings.

Instead, hoteliers and other stakeholders should take advantage of a sensible system that allows them to be involved in how hotel-motel tax dollars are spent.

The current Convention and Tourism Advisory Committee, in place to foster ideas and plans, includes a number of hotel operators. Through the committee, they have a voice and should be heard.

After all, everyone wants the funds used to draw more visitors. Good events and attractions bring people who spend money here, which helps the local economy. Everyone wins.

The three-day 3i Show, for example, generates more than \$1 million in economic impact to the community in motel rooms, dining, shopping and other expenditures.

As the hoteliers pointed out, it does make sense to use as much of the hotel-motel tax on marketing as possible.

It's also necessary to acknowledge the multifaceted job of boosting tourism -- one that involves sales, marketing and services, and has to be tackled with expertise and from different angles. Beyond creating new events, we also need to promote the fine attractions already here, such as Lee Richardson Zoo.

The challenge is in using local strengths to create new draws.

With that in mind, the hoteliers pitched a good idea in attracting sports tournaments. The chamber has a plan to pursue such events, and should be allowed to make it work.

Meanwhile, it's safe to say county officials aren't eager to be involved in every tourism-related decision and expenditure. They have enough on their plate.

Commissioners should, however, insist that all involved work together to outline the best possible tourism strategies for Garden City and Finney County.

This is no time to overhaul or shortchange tourism -- especially in the face of such challenges as retaining the 3i Show at a time Dodge City would no doubt welcome the huge event.

The local chamber and hoteliers have the same goal: bringing in more visitors. They just differ on how to get there.

To move forward, the next step has to be better communication.

County Commissioner Cliff Mayo said it best: "I am of the opinion that we have something in place that will work if you will listen to each other."

If all involved share thoughts, concerns and strategies through a system that encourages as much, local tourism efforts should pay even bigger dividends in the future.

Everyone just needs to play ball.

E-mail Editor-publisher Dena Sattler at denas@gctelegram.com

(Source: The Garden City Telegram, April 9, 2011)

Immigration

In 2010, wrote an editorial with this quote about immigration: "How sad that debate over illegal immigration, a far less pressing matter than war, draws more attention and passionate discourse than the ongoing battles that exact such a costly toll in lives and dollars."

More than 15 years have passed since I donned an Army uniform.

Combine that time with the long distance from the place I served, and it's meant little if any contact with my fellow soldiers.

Still, it's easy to remember the good and bad times we shared, and the many different personalities in an Army Reserve unit that drew people from all walks of life.

Most of the men and women in our outfit were in for the standard, six-year enlistment. After that, we returned to careers and lives that didn't include military service.

Then there were those in for the long haul, the rare individuals who managed civilian lives and military careers long past the required enlistment.

On a recent road trip, I caught a radio report on such a soldier - one I had the good fortune to know.

And as happens during war, the news wasn't good.

Army Command Sgt. Maj. John Laborde, 53, of Waterloo, Iowa, had died in Afghanistan.

I'd later learn he suffered a heart attack while leading his troops in a physical training session, a detail that didn't make his death any less tragic. You don't have to take a bullet to be a hero.

The sad news took me back to my time in a Middletown, Iowa, unit in the early 1990s, when Laborde served as our first sergeant and leader.

He insisted that we work hard, but also made sure we took time to laugh. Such balance went a long way in making our job easier.

Laborde's military career blossomed over 31 years as he would achieve the highest enlisted rank and honor of serving as a command sergeant major.

The devoted husband, father of five and grandfather of two also made time to teach classes at his church.

It was no surprise to hear those who recently served with Laborde remember him as a soldier's soldier, and devoted to his troops.

During one of our summer camps, I was in charge of a group effort to erect a huge radio antenna on a hill in Central America. It became quite a struggle.

Rather than stay on the sidelines and bark orders, Laborde joined in and helped us get the job done. He led by example.

Now he's gone, another outstanding American lost to war.

He was among nearly 1,000 U.S. military troops to die in Afghanistan so far. Another 4,400 have perished in Iraq.

Unfortunately, the wars have become a bit of an afterthought for many Americans. How sad that debate over illegal immigration, a far less pressing matter than war, draws more attention and passionate discourse than the ongoing battles that exact such a costly toll in lives and dollars.

And there's plenty to debate and question, not the least of which would be the deplorable state of veterans affairs.

So many vets face physical disabilities, mental illnesses and financial woes. Resources available to them, and to families who lose loved ones to war, are far from adequate.

Saturday was Armed Forces Day, a time for the nation to honor all who have served.

Every American should vow to salute U.S. troops in recognition of that special day, and also honor them with a commitment to fight for their needs. They deserve no less.

Dena Sattler is editor and publisher of the Garden City Telegram. Previously, she was assistant publisher of The Ottawa Herald. E-mail her at denas@gctelegram.com 052010sattler

(Source: The Ottawa Herald, May 19, 2010)

**Quote supporting in-state tuition for illegal aliens in an 2011 editorial:
“especially with such misguided moves as the attempt to repeal in-state college tuition for children of illegal immigrants who qualify.”**

March 19--What's the matter with Kansas?

Ever since Kansas editor William Allen White asked as much in his famous 1896 editorial for The Emporia Gazette, the question has been answered in different ways.

Sadly, remarks related to immigration point to plenty of problems these days with some attitudes in the Sunflower State -- and in the Kansas Legislature, in particular.

Consider the recent blunder from Rep. Virgil Peck, a Tyro Republican.

As part of a recent House Appropriations Committee discussion on ways to control the wild hog population, Peck said one strategy -- shooting pigs from helicopters -- might be an answer "to our illegal immigration problem."

Later, in a half-baked apology, Peck said he was joking.

Was it funny? Not at all. The comment was irresponsible and embarrassing to every Kansan with a sense of decency.

Peck also told the Lawrence Journal-World that most of his constituents are upset with illegal immigration and the federal government's failure to respond to the problem.

"I was just speaking like a southeast Kansas person," he said.

Perhaps, at least when it came to frustration over immigration. Surely no right-minded constituent of his would joke about gunning down immigrants, or liken them to wild animals.

That such thoughts would even exist in anyone's mind is troubling. To hear them expressed publicly -- and in the state's seat of government, no less -- was sickening.

Yet it wasn't a complete surprise.

Just last month, another Kansas lawmaker suggested a college student probably wasn't a United States citizen because of her "olive complexion." That gem came from Republican Rep. Connie O'Brien of Tonganoxie, who obviously needs a refresher course on racial profiling.

Both comments were more sad testimony on the mind-set of some of our elected representatives in Topeka - the folks we expect to make reasonable decisions on immigration and other difficult issues.

Most everyone is frustrated by the lack of progress in the nation's capital on immigration. But if we let people like Peck and O'Brien try to craft solutions at the state level, we're in serious trouble -- especially with such misguided moves as the attempt to repeal in-state college tuition for children of illegal immigrants who qualify.

Besides, state lawmakers should know Congress is responsible for fixing a broken immigration system, not individual states -- and for good reason. The careless, insensitive comments out of the Kansas Statehouse show a gross lack of understanding and compassion in a nation that has encouraged immigrants to cross the border in search of jobs.

Lawmakers must show calm and reason in dealing with issues, especially those as polarizing as immigration. Thankfully, this state does have legislators who understand as much, particularly in the Kansas Senate.

Unfortunately, Republican Reynaldo Mesa -- the new representative for Garden City, which has a significant immigrant population -- reportedly stood by Peck for what he considered a sincere apology. Mesa would have

better served his district by taking a stand on how hurtful and counterproductive such remarks can be, and demanding that they not be tolerated.

If Peck accomplished anything, it was in casting still more unfavorable light on a state that already has its fair share thanks to the likes of Westboro Baptist Church preacher Fred Phelps and his gang, who claim God is killing the nation's military personnel because of the nation's tolerance of homosexuality.

Of course, we've come to expect the worst from Phelps and his wacky clan. We deserve far better from our legislators.

Peck should resign. If he doesn't, he should be removed for his astounding lack of judgment.

This state doesn't need more reasons for people to ask what's the matter with Kansas. Hateful sentiments already have done more than enough to hurt and embarrass Kansas and its people.

*E-mail Editor-publisher **Dena Sattler** at denas@gctelegen.com*

(Source: The Garden City Telegram, March 19, 2011)

In 2007, Sattler wrote an editorial opposing the Garden City Commission's to stiffen penalties on people driving without driver's licenses, claiming it would "do more harm than good." She even stated Hispanic leaders worried about the law change impacting the lives of illegal immigrants as having a "valid concern."

Nov. 26.

The **Garden City Telegram**, cracking down on driving without driver's licenses:

The Garden City Commission has cracked down on those who'd dare to drive without a driver's license and insurance, signing off on stiffer penalties for violators to include mandatory jail time for second and subsequent convictions.

The move has troubled Hispanic leaders, who say it largely impacts illegal immigrants, as a Social Security number is required to obtain or renew a driver's license in Kansas under a state law that went into effect in July.

It's a valid concern.

A community with a significant number of immigrants, many trying to gain legal status, has an obligation to understand challenges they face in a system that makes the citizenship process difficult at best.

The reality of the situation is that immigrants, whether here legally or illegally, have to get to work, school and take care of family, among other needs. As anyone with a job and family knows, trying to get around without a driver's license can be a logistical nightmare.

Slapping unlicensed, uninsured drivers with jail time will lead to lost jobs and income of immigrants and others trying to support families creating costs that would in turn be absorbed by communities.

And putting more nonviolent offenders behind bars would add to the strain of a crowded jail system, again at a cost to the public. ...

Illegal immigration and the failure of Congress to solve that problem have cities and states nationwide trying to address the fallout on their own.

Those that do have an obligation to pursue strategies that are based in reality, not heavy-handed, shortsighted moves that only promise to do more harm than good.

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Our View

License flap

City should craft positive solutions.

The Garden City Commission has cracked down on those who'd dare to drive without a driver's license and insurance, signing off on stiffer penalties for violators to include mandatory jail time for second and subsequent convictions.

The move has troubled Hispanic leaders, who say it largely impacts illegal immigrants, as a Social Security number

grants and others trying to support families — creating costs that would in turn be absorbed by communities. And putting more nonviolent offenders behind bars would add to the strain of a crowded jail system, again at a cost to the public.

Mayor Reynaldo Mesa said the stiffer penalties weren't implemented to target immigrants. While that may be true, commissioners had an obligation to carefully consider potential pros and cons of

(Source: Garden City Telegram, November 26, 2007)

In 2018, she attacked proof-of-citizenship voter registration requirements.

We're too often given reasons to distrust Kansas' election system.

Credit much of the suspicion to a secretary of state not shy about using an office responsible for election oversight to further his own political cause.

Secretary of State Kris Kobach has successfully pushed blatant voter suppression strategies since taking office in 2011, to include onerous proof-of-citizenship voter registration requirements that disenfranchised the poor, young adults, minorities, seniors, disabled and other prospective voters unlikely to support his side's ultraconservative agenda.

Moves to discourage voter registration and participation result in lower voter turnout, which usually benefits candidates on the far right. Their supporters are faithful voters.

And now Kobach - unnervingly closer to becoming governor - has seized the opportunity to do more harm.

Locked in a dead heat with Gov. Jeff Colyer for the Republican gubernatorial nomination - and a recount likely - expect Kobach to further abuse his power as secretary of state.

He already chose to oversee an election in which he was a candidate, when he should have stepped aside while running for office. He recently promised to recuse himself from the ongoing vote tally after Tuesday's primary election, but not a possible recount, which would be an epic conflict of interest.

The drama doesn't end there. Johnson County - with an election commissioner appointed by Kobach - bogged down in such a way Tuesday night that unofficial results weren't available until Wednesday. Inexcusably, it was a similar outcome in November 2016 in Johnson County, again with tight races on the line.

Kobach's side emerged on top in both instances.

Such a mix of far-reaching problems demands immediate attention from the Legislature.

Meanwhile, the sitting governor - also an ultraconservative - has established a so-called "voting integrity hotline" to help his cause.

No election process is perfect. Citizens should report problems.

With errors already revealed in the vote count for Colyer and Kobach, Kansans also should see the need for more vigilant election audits. The Statehouse recently produced such legislation, but ultraconservatives amended it to delay implementation.

As for the recent primary election, Kansans now must wait to learn who won the Republican gubernatorial nomination - and, unfortunately, with Kobach's history of self-serving maneuvers only casting more doubt on the process and results.

DENA SATTLER THE PRATT TRIBUNE PUBLISHER

(Source: The Pratt Tribune, August 11, 2018)

Editorial attacking Trump including this quote: “But Trump, who used anti-immigrant sentiment to fuel his campaign, thought it OK to tear immigrant children from their parents as a way to pressure lawmakers into building a border wall.”

Knowing as much, we have a question for Kansas’ congressional delegation: How can you continue to stay silent in the face of President Trump’s boorish behavior?

Every president has had shortcomings and controversies. But others didn’t carry on with the volume of incivility and thoughtlessness we’ve seen from Trump.

Trump’s authoritarian approach and disdain for democratic processes cannot be denied. He’s a bully, and as a result, this nation’s once unparalleled leadership in advancing democratic principles and global interests has been tarnished.

The president of the United States should be honorable, show empathy and respect the rule of law. Trump has trampled on those ideals.

Consider the ongoing Russia probe and spate of indictments of officials tied to Trump — a mess that casts serious doubt over the trustworthiness of all in his circle.

Presidents should be candid and forthcoming. Every American who wants to be a knowledgeable participant in their democracy needs accurate, factual information.

But Trump has scant interest in the truth. His tired cries of “fake news” are self-serving attempts to discredit journalists and others charged with holding government accountable to the people it serves.

We also need our president to be a champion of humanity and human rights. But Trump, who used anti-immigrant sentiment to fuel his campaign, thought it OK to tear immigrant children from their parents as a way to pressure lawmakers into building a border wall.

His rhetoric has been decidedly divisive, and dangerous. He's been crude and insulting (and that's putting it mildly) to women, minorities and the disabled.

His recent show of disrespect toward the late U.S. Sen. John McCain, the Arizona Republican who stood up to Trump, was yet another low point.

So, we implore our congressional contingent to publicly rebuke the president's shameful acts. U.S. senators Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran, and U.S. House representatives Kevin Yoder, Lynn Jenkins, Ron Estes and Roger Marshall must do something other than look the other way because Trump's a fellow Republican.

By speaking out against the president's constant betrayal of bedrock values of honesty, integrity and compassion — all of which we hold dear in Kansas — our representatives would prove they grasp the importance of those values in their home state.

Dena Sattler, *The Dodge City Daily Globe*

(Source: The Dodge City Daily Globe, September 6, 2018)

Editorial critical of an “enforcement-only approach” to immigration and calling for a guest worker program.

Illegal immigration has generated plenty of heated debate and angry rhetoric, much of it fueled by those who claim the costs outweigh immigrants' contributions.

A state lawmaker's attempt to get a true picture of the costs vs. benefits in Kansas recently was derailed. Rep. Nile Dillmore, D-Wichita, proposed a Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit report that would have attempted to estimate the financial costs and benefits of illegal immigration in a state that's home to an estimated 40,000 to 70,000 illegal immigrants, according to a 2005 Pew Hispanic Center estimate.

Instead of the proposed study, the legislative committee that oversees the division voted to have the division's researchers prepare a less thorough report in the form of a summary of existing studies on costs and revenues from illegal immigration, along with its impact on worker wages.

Dillmore had a point when he said some in the Statehouse may fear his proposed study would show that illegal immigration doesn't cost the state nearly as much as some believe. Such studies elsewhere have shown undocumented workers having a net positive impact on their economies.

Kansas lawmakers should know the costs and benefits before adopting any sort of immigration legislation, as anti-immigration laws in other states have brought painful economic losses.

Unfortunately, many conservative Republicans still embrace the shortsighted, enforcement-only approach to illegal immigration, when the only reasonable solution is a comprehensive strategy of

stepped-up enforcement and realistic opportunities for immigrants to gain legal status while continuing to work and contribute.

Immigrants (whether here legally or not) reportedly hold about a third of the nation's unskilled, low-wage jobs -- work many Americans don't want. Combine that with the significant number of foreign-born scientists, engineers and other professionals, and there's an irrefutable case for a guest worker program that truly meets the nation's labor needs.

Still, fixing the system to allow immigrant workers to continue making the contributions we've depended on for generations is the responsibility of Congress.

Until that happens, Kansas lawmakers looking to address the fallout of illegal immigration should welcome a chance to better understand its true impact on our economy.

Considering the politics involved, it's no surprise that some would rather steer clear of that reality.

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(Source: The Garden City Telegram, September 18, 2008)

In 2013, she stated that federal legislation that would give out work visas and amnesty to illegal aliens was “encouraging”

The Garden City Telegram, April 20

Reform plan

Federal lawmakers dodged the hot-button issue of immigration reform far too long.

Most everyone would agree that change is in order. But the issue became so divisive in recent years that it was easier from a political standpoint to avoid taking a stand that may be right, but unpopular with some Americans seeking a more heavy-handed approach.

A lack of meaningful action in Congress even led policymakers in some states — Kansas included — to consider their own ways to address those who entered the country illegally.

So, it’s encouraging to see real steps toward reform at the federal level, where immigration policies should be addressed.

A new, bipartisan immigration bill out of the U.S. Senate would overhaul the immigration system by ushering in new visa programs for low- and high-skilled workers, requiring a tough new focus on border security, instituting a new requirement for all employers to check the legal status of their workers, and installing a path to citizenship for 11 million immigrants in the country illegally.

More emphasis would be placed on employment opportunities, and hopefully address labor needs in places like western Kansas, where dairies and feedlots are among businesses that rely on immigrant workers.

Not surprisingly, criticism of the Senate bill came from both sides of the aisle.

But if there’s to be meaningful change, no one will get everything they want. They’ll have to compromise.

And therein lies the problem. Too many lawmakers — especially in the U.S. House — have an all-or-nothing approach, the kind of thinking that has hindered progress in Washington, D.C., and statehouses nationwide.

Unfortunately, First District Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler, and others of the hyper-partisan tea-party persuasion have resisted any compromise with those outside their circle.

They should know illegal immigration and its fallout aren’t Republican or Democratic problems. They’re national problems.

Critics on both sides should embrace the need for a bipartisan plan to move toward comprehensive reform that would deliver reasonable controls on immigration along with strategies to address labor needs.

At least some in Congress have acknowledged as much, and deserve support as they move toward long overdue immigration reform.



(Source: Garden City Telegram, April 23, 2013)

While Sattler was dismissing the issue of illegal immigration and advocating for benefits for illegal aliens, her newspaper's home county, Finney County, was listed as a Sanctuary city in 2015 by the Center of Immigration Studies.

Finney County leaders do not believe the county is an immigrant sanctuary as it was recently labeled by the Center for Immigration Studies - a designation Kansas Congressman Kevin Yoder would like to see used to determine which counties receive funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In the Enforce the Law for (the) Sanctuary Cities Act being pushed by U.S. Rep. Yoder, R-Kan., counties and cities labeled immigrant sanctuaries for not cooperating with federal immigration officials could lose FEMA funding.

Finney County Emergency Management Director Gilbert Valerio said his department receives funds from an Emergency Management Performance grant every year through FEMA. Last year it received \$28,522.

Valerio said if the county does not receive the money as a result of the sanctuary county label, it would have a significant impact.

“It would impact our readiness to react to emergencies or get equipment to get ready for disasters,” Valerio said.

Without these funds, his department would be limited to the budget that the county commission approves, he said.

Amanda Bicknell, with the regional FEMA office in Topeka, said the agency takes its direction from Congress, and referred all other questions to the national office, which did not return calls seeking comment.

Finney County Sheriff Kevin Bascue said none of the Kansas counties listed as immigrant sanctuaries believe that they deserve that label. In addition to Finney, other counties labeled as sanctuaries include Sedgwick, Harvey, Butler, Shawnee and Johnson.

One of the reasons for the label could be how those counties have handled federal requests. The Department of Homeland Security and immigration officials would like cities and counties to hold prisoners for 48 hours before releasing them from custody to give Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) time to investigate the individual.

Bascue said his office still cooperates with the Department of Homeland Security but by law cannot on hold requests.

“A little over a year ago, we decided to stop honoring Department of Homeland Security immigration hold requests after we became aware of two recent court decisions addressing immigration detainees with hold requests,” Bascue said.

Those cases were Mirand-Olivares vs. Clackamas County and Galarza vs. Szalczyk.

“In light of those two cases, it was my opinion that we would be unable to honor further detainer requests without an underlying basis for probable cause to detain,” Bascue said. “Immigration-only arrests will be accepted based only upon a valid warrant or deportation order.”

Bascue explained that if Finney County did 48-hour detainer holds, it would have to hold every prisoner 48 hours before releasing them on bond or after completing a jail sentence.

“Because of this, we do not consider Finney County to be a sanctuary county,” he said. “Subjects who commit crimes that are a violation of Kansas State Statute are subject to being arrested and lodged in the Finney County Jail regardless of their status in this country.”

Calls to the Department of Homeland Security and federal immigration officials were not returned.

Bascue pointed out that the Finney County Sheriff's Office continues to send its daily jail log to the federal immigration office in Wichita, and that his deputies assist federal agents in executing arrest warrants in Finney County.

"It is our desire to assist them in all means necessary, outside of the 48-hour detainer request," Bascue said.

Finney County Administrator Randy Partington does not consider Finney County to be an immigrant sanctuary, either.

Partington said the county commission has not done anything to warrant labeling Finney County an immigrant sanctuary.

He said the FEMA grant is the only source of funding the county receives from the federal agency.

"I guess there is nothing we can do," Partington said. "We did not sign up to be an immigration sanctuary. I do not know why we would be penalized for following the law."

The Yoder amendment requires the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to compile a list of sanctuary cities, counties and states by March 1 of each year, and to present the list to Congress. Entities on the list wouldn't be eligible for FEMA grants for one year, and those grants instead would be given to municipalities not listed as sanctuaries.

The amendment has passed committee and will be heard by the House in four to five weeks after Congress returns from its summer recess, said Jon Meadows, communications assistant to Congressman Tim Huelskamp, R-Kan., who represents the 1st District and supports Yoder's amendment.

"America has been a nation of laws. We must continue to be." Huelskamp wrote in a prepared statement. "That is why I voted for the Enforce the Law for (the) Sanctuary Cities Act last week.

"We expect counties and cities to fully assist and cooperate with federal immigration law enforcement," he added. "Harboring illegal aliens, particularly violent criminals like Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, is unacceptable."

Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, an illegal immigrant who was deported several times, is accused of shooting and killing Kathryn Steinle on July 1 on a pier in San Francisco.

Yoder has penned an editorial, made two Fox News television appearances and two radio appearances touting his amendment and bemoaning sanctuary cities, which he accuses of "putting the comfort of illegal immigrants ahead of the safety of Americans."

He has used figures provided by the Center for Immigration Studies that list certain counties as sanctuaries.

Yoder's amendment is just one of many proposals before Congress to crack down on sanctuary cities.

The amendment is tied to an annual appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security that was passed by the House Appropriations Committee on July 14.

On July 23, the House passed the Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act, which would withhold some Justice Department funding from sanctuary cities. The bill passed 241-179, largely along party lines, with

Kansas' all-Republican delegation, including Huelskamp, voting in favor. (Source: The Garden City Telegram, July 31, 2015)

Backing Biden/Obama/Clinton

In 2008, she endorsed Obama for President. She also stated that Joe Biden was a “solid choice” for Vice President who was a common man and a foreign policy expert.

Nov. 1--When it comes to red and blue states. Kansas bleeds as crimson as any Republican stronghold.

Still, you'd think the current state of affairs would compel more Kansans to keep an open mind when it comes to deciding which presidential candidate would best lead the nation past this troubling time.

We believe that candidate is Sen. [Barack Obama](#).

Many Kansas Republicans dismiss Obama because he's a Democrat. That's unfortunate, as closer consideration would show Obama gives us hope of recovering from failed policies of the past eight years.

Try as the GOP might to deny it, a vote for [Sen. John McCain](#) would be an endorsement of the status quo. McCain admitted voting with President Bush 90 percent of the time, an unacceptable record considering such crises as a rocky economy and war with no end in sight.

While both candidates promise change, they diverge on many issues, including the war in Iraq. McCain would support more of the same, while Obama rightly wants a timetable for U.S. troops' return. On taxes, McCain's plan favors the wealthy. Obama would give the middle class a break it deserves.

It's all proof of Obama's empathy, as is his pledge to help more Americans with health care, a goal fueled by seeing his mother, a Kansas native, struggle with insurance coverage while dying of cancer.

On the campaign trail, McCain has focused on distancing himself from his party and maligning his opponent. Obama, meanwhile, has shown sincerity and passion that should resonate with voters. Novelist Christopher Buckley, among notable conservative Republicans to endorse Obama, said he has "a first-class temperament and a first-class intellect."

As for decision-making, the candidates made real statements in choosing running mates.

McCain's pick of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin was a head-scratcher. Palin may appeal to social conservatives who elude McCain, but her inability to grasp issues proves she's far from ready to be a heartbeat away from the Oval Office.

Obama made a solid choice in Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, an advocate of the common man and a foreign policy expert who easily could transition to president.

Rather than claim he has all the answers, Obama seeks the advice of experts. That's reassuring, and will be essential in unraveling the fallout of war and a tattered economy, among other problems.

We need a thoughtful leader with a steady hand. Obama fits the bill, making him the choice to help a frustrated, divided nation come together in changing the course of a failed administration.

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Our View

Fresh start

Obama offers hope of a new direction.

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As for decision-making.

(Source: The Garden City Telegram, November 1, 2008)

Endorsed Obama's pick of Hillary Clinton as secretary of state.

Dec. 2--It's been said that debate can lead to effective problem-solving.

President-elect Barack Obama apparently believes as much, encouraging what he called "vigorous debate inside the White House" in building his Cabinet.

Obama formally nominated Hillary Clinton as his secretary of state on Monday, as he announced members of a national security team that also would include current Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

Obama was wise to stick with Gates, who has earned respect from both parties following the disastrous performance of Donald Rumsfeld.

In choosing Gates, Obama also stayed true to his pledge to name at least one Republican Cabinet member -- proof that he'll reach across the aisle in tackling issues.

The president-elect also wasn't afraid to name a former rival to one of the more visible posts in the world, as he selected Clinton, his chief foe in a hard-fought Democratic primary, to be secretary of state.

With Clinton, Obama chose someone who's no stranger to foreign affairs, and is smart, tough and tenacious -- all needed qualities in a secretary of state.

He heaped praise on the woman in line to be America's top diplomat.

"She possesses an extraordinary intelligence and toughness, and a remarkable work ethic," Obama said. "She is an American of tremendous stature who will have my complete confidence, who knows many of the world's leaders, who will command respect in every capital and who will clearly have the ability to advance our interests around the world."

Doubt over whether Clinton could work with her former rival was put to rest when she campaigned for Obama after his primary win, and proved she can be part of an Obama team.

At issue as Obama mulled his choice, though, was former president Bill Clinton's ongoing work with the Clinton Global Initiative, and how it would complicate his wife's role as secretary of state. Bill Clinton has agreed to make fundraising and donations transparent to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

With that issue resolved, Hillary Clinton looks to be a perfect fit on a team Obama sees avoiding the insular "groupthink" that plagued previous administrations.

By adding strong personalities with strong opinions -- not the least of which is Hillary Clinton -- he's clearly moving toward that important goal.

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Our View

Strong will

Obama picks should spur healthy debate.

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(Source: The Garden City Telegram, December 2, 2008)

Endorsement = Taxpayer Funded Job

As an editor, Sattler endorsed Laura Kelly for Governor in Democrat primary of 2018.

Democratic gubernatorial primary elections are uncommon at best in the Sunflower State.

In Republican-dominated Kansas, Democrats usually rally around one candidate from start to finish. On Aug. 7, however, they'll choose from three strong contenders all running spirited campaigns in hopes of making it to the Nov. 6 general election.

State Sen. Laura Kelly, former Wichita mayor Carl Brewer and Josh Svaty, a past Kansas agriculture secretary and state representative, all have solid credentials and would serve the state well.

The question is, who's best equipped to tackle significant challenges now?

Recent setbacks caused by far-right Republicans will haunt the next governor. Former Gov. Sam Brownback and his ultra-conservative regime saddled the state with many problems, to include unprecedented debt accumulated in an irresponsible attempt to offset revenue losses from reckless income-tax cuts.

Well-off Kansans benefited the most, and even they wanted to reverse Brownback's tax policy that failed to generate economic growth, but did set up destructive funding hits on education, highways, public safety and other core services.

As a result, the next governor must make many tough decisions. It's necessary to work effectively with the Legislature starting on Day 1.

Best suited to do so is Kelly, the moderate Democratic senator from Topeka whose no-nonsense, intellectual take on issues earned her the respect of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. She's most familiar with the dynamics of the current legislative process and state agency operations, which would prove invaluable in fixing far-reaching problems.

A staunch supporter of educational opportunities for all students, Kelly won't tolerate the ugly, deliberate run on public schools and educators we saw from Brownback and his fellow ultraconservatives out to privatize education.

She'll also push for Medicaid expansion to help working-poor Kansans and healthcare providers struggling in rural areas in particular. And, she's vowed to improve economic development strategies designed to create jobs and fuel economic growth in rural parts.

Kansas needs a gritty, pragmatic problem solver with a keen understanding of current challenges; someone with steely resolve who'll work with policymakers of all political persuasions to get things done.

Kelly possesses those important qualities, making her the choice for Democrats in the Aug. 7 primary.

(Source: The Pratt Tribune, August 2, 2018)

She resigned from the newspaper about a month after she backed Kelly.

Dena Sattler, southwest Kansas group publisher for GateHouse Media, announced Tuesday her planned departure from the post.

Publisher of The Garden City Telegram since 2004, Sattler earlier this year was named a group publisher for GateHouse Media. In the role, she also was publisher of the Dodge City Daily Globe, The Pratt Tribune, Kiowa County Signal and St. John News.

Sattler said a desire to spend more time with husband, Ed, and family in Iowa was the main factor for her decision to step down as publisher.

(Source: The Dodge City Daily Globe, September 5, 2018)

Sattler was hired by Laura Kelly's Administration in February of 2009.

The Kansas Department of Commerce has named Dena Sattler as the Director of Marketing and Communications. She has been active in the role since mid-last week.

Sattler served as editor-publisher of The Garden City Telegram from 2004 to 2018, and in 2018 was named southwest Kansas group publisher for GateHouse Media, serving as publisher of The Telegram, the Dodge City Daily Globe, The Pratt Tribune, Kiowa County Signal and St. John News.

"Dena brings decades of experience and serious talent to this agency," said Acting Secretary of Commerce David Toland. "She will be instrumental in our push to communicate our mission for Kansas, as well as in exposing the opportunities of the state to potential business partners around the world."

(Source: <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/2019/02/the-kansas-department-of-commerce-welcomes-dena-sattler-as-director-of-marketing-and-communications/>)

By June of 2019, Dena Sattler was serving as spokesperson for Governor Laura Kelly.

*Gov. Laura Kelly on Monday announced **Dena Sattler** as her new spokeswoman, replacing Ashley All.*

Sattler previously directed communications for the Kansas Department of Commerce.

"I'm pleased to have Dena join our team and take the lead in communications for our office," Kelly said. "She brings decades of media and team management experience, which will be instrumental as we move forward."

From 2004 to 2018, Sattler was publisher of The Garden City Telegram. The Telegram and The Topeka Capital-Journal are both owned by GateHouse Media.

Sattler, whose newspaper career began in 1985, also is a past president of the Kansas Press Association board of directors and former member of the Capital-Journal's editorial advisory board.

"It's an honor to be part of Gov. Kelly's team," Sattler said. "Throughout my career, I've worked to help raise awareness of news and issues, and most recently in southwest Kansas. I look forward to doing the same for the state as a whole, and helping Kansans better understand the important work of their government."

All served as communications director for the governor's office throughout the legislative session after working in the same role for Kelly's campaign last year.

"Ashley has quite literally been by my side since day one of my campaign for governor," Kelly said. "She dedicated herself to helping share my vision for the state of Kansas. Ashley has been a trusted, loyal member of our staff, and I thank her for her service."

(Source: Topeka Capital-Journal, June 3, 2019)

Dena Sattler earned over \$230,000 in salary from the State of Kansas from 2019-2022.

Print Excel CSV Copy

Year	First Name	Last Name	Agency	Position	Total Pay
2022	Dena A	Sattler	Dept of Commerce	Director of Public Affairs	\$21,558

(Source: <https://kansasopengov.org/databank/payroll-all-state-employees/>)

Year	Employer	Name	Title	Annual Wages	Source
2021	Kansas Department of Commerce	Sattler Dena A	Director Of Public Affairs	\$95,000.10	Kansas Department of Administration
2020	Kansas Department of Commerce	Sattler Dena A	Director Of Public Affairs	\$90,000.10	Kansas Department of Administration
2019	Kansas Office of the Governor	Sattler Dena A	Dir Of Communicatio & Strategy	\$25,227.74	Kansas Department of Administration

(Source: [https://www.openthebooks.com/kansas-state-employees/?F_Name S=Sattler%20Dena&Year S=0](https://www.openthebooks.com/kansas-state-employees/?F_Name=S=Sattler%20Dena&Year_S=0))

Other

Criticized legislation that would have repealed the renewable energy standards.

Activity in the Kansas Statehouse has been memorable this year, and for all the wrong reasons.

Radical-right GOP lawmakers embarrassed Kansas with pursuit of a "religious freedom" bill that would encourage discrimination against same-sex couples; an attempt to undo renewable energy standards key in wind and ethanol production; and creation of more tax breaks for the wealthy that penalize the poor.

In dealing with one high priority - a Kansas Supreme Court order to increase aid to poorer public school districts - the GOP extremists refused to simply address the dollars. At the last minute, they bundled the funding with ideological, anti-public-schools initiatives, the most controversial in stripping K-12 teachers of their long-held right to due process in employment conflicts.

Instead of blasting the assault on teachers, [Gov. Sam Brownback](#) only danced around the issue, then signed the harmful plan.

Such foolishness has no doubt buoyed the chances of state Rep. Paul Davis, D-Lawrence, the challenger to a Republican governor aligned with the far right.

Early in the session, though, Brownback's people dismissed how headline-grabbing, ultraconservative GOP bills - including proposals that didn't gain momentum - would affect his re-election bid.

"Voters care about real results, not dead legislation," David Kensinger, Brownback's top political adviser, wrote in an email to The Kansas City Star.

Not true. Successful or not, the outlandish proposals gave Kansans a look at legislators' thinking - and the special interests driving them - which was disturbing.

Clay Barker, Kansas Republican Party executive director, also misfired.

"I don't think people will consider the Legislature owned by [Sam Brownback](#)," Barker told The Star.

Really? Brownback and his allies - Americans for Prosperity, the billionaire Koch brothers and Kansas Chamber of Commerce - seized control of the Legislature in 2012 by aggressively supporting candidates who would vote in lockstep with the governor.

Brownback cannot conveniently disassociate himself from lawmakers handpicked to rubber-stamp his agenda.

That said, all of the misguided legislative ventures put Davis in a better place, which is encouraging.

At the same time, the recent nonsense also created an opening for Republicans who aren't in step with the radical GOP faction now in charge. The question is whether those traditional, more moderate Republicans will take full advantage in the August primary.

They should. The Sunflower State needs leaders who - unlike the current regime - covet good schools, effective social services and tax policies that foster economic growth without hurting the poor.

In a state where it's always tougher for Democrats, Kansans should have a choice of Republican candidates - especially in the governor's race.

Of course, Republicans who might step up - former state lawmakers in particular - know the sting of being maligned by the Americans for Prosperity-Koch-Kansas Chamber special-interest machine, which in 2012 targeted those in the Statehouse who challenged their quest for an ultraconservative utopia.

The extremists used last-minute attack ads to purge select Republican lawmakers in the GOP primary. The ads deliberately misled voters on numerous counts, not the least of which was trying to link targeted legislators to Obamacare, a federal - not state - law upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

As laughable as it was, the stunt still swayed voters.

But we now know Koch-fueled campaigns of misinformation aren't foolproof, as attempts to manipulate other elections in Kansas and beyond have failed.

As much happened in Ulysses. Mayor John Battin, who was on the receiving end of such an assault, said he thought the attack ads actually helped his re-election campaign in April 2013, when he easily defeated a fellow councilman praised in Americans for Prosperity ads.

Relentless campaigns of misinformation - even those supported by seemingly endless financial resources - can indeed turn off voters. Add in the senseless legislative pursuits of ultraconservatives in control in Topeka, and more reasonable Republicans now have an attractive opening.

The governor is vulnerable, and the faster his opponents move, the better. A GOP primary challenge would compel Brownback to defend a record that's shaky at best. Otherwise, the ultraconservative camp gets a pass in August - one it does not deserve.

Kansas' future is worth more of a fight.

Dena Sattler is editor and publisher of the Garden City Telegram. Previously, she was assistant publisher of The Ottawa Herald. E-mail her at denas@gctelegram.com 042414sattler

(Source: The Ottawa Herald, April 23, 2014)

Once complained that she couldn't participate in an all men's golf tournament.

Play in golf fundraisers around Garden City, and you'll see participants of all ages, races and genders swinging away and contributing to the cause.

Not so for this year's Southwest Kansas Pro-Am, which chose to ban women from its featured event last weekend at Buffalo Dunes and The Golf Club at Southwind.

It was just the latest clumsy move in an ongoing effort to keep women away. Before, Pro-Am organizers tried to discourage women from playing in the top event with such nonsensical rules as making them hit from the men's tees and even forcing one - yours truly - to qualify. For a fundraiser!

No men have been subjected to such shabby treatment.

And this year, Pro-Am organizers managed to make a bad situation worse.

In defending the new ban on women playing in the main Pro-Am, organizers of the event that benefits St. Catherine Hospital's Newborn Intensive Care Unit argued women have their own tournament.

The one-day tourney is a nice option for women, including those who might feel uncomfortable playing in the bigger Pro-Am. (And is it any wonder they would?)

But men also have a one-day tournament as an option for those not able to play in the two-day Pro-Am or who might be interested in playing additional days.

This year, men could sign up for the smaller tournament and main event, which features better prizes, amenities and networking opportunities.

Women could not. Why?

No one has offered a good reason. Probably because there isn't one.

I have played in the women's tournament and the bigger, two-day Pro-Am, and enjoyed both. Because of a schedule conflict, the main event was my only option this year.

And I would have had that choice - if I was a man.

Instead, I was rejected, knowing full well the Pro-Am committee never would exclude Hispanics or men older than 70, for example. Gender discrimination didn't hit home with the mostly male committee.

Yet city officials, rightly worried about a claim of discrimination at taxpayer-funded Buffalo Dunes, had to seek a legal opinion.

Of course, perhaps the Pro-Am committee was concerned. What else would explain the reluctance to share this year's restrictions with potential sponsors?

No mention of it appeared in Pro-Am promotional material. Organizers proud of their decision should have been eager to share details in advance.

Instead, they signed up sponsors and players who knew nothing of the restrictions.

Now, sponsorships that help a worthy cause are in jeopardy. Sponsors, after all, know women patronize their businesses.

Current sponsors have sent letters to the Pro-Am committee, as well as the golfers turned away, stating they would reconsider supporting the event if women aren't allowed to play.

As for my newspaper, The Garden City Telegram, a longtime Pro-Am sponsor, the committee's acceptance of our two-player sponsorship, followed by its rejection of one player, essentially was a denial of our support for the event.

A newspaper that always has given the Pro-Am extensive coverage also presents editorials decrying discrimination. So, we chose to contribute directly to the hospital's Newborn Intensive Care Unit, rather than lend more financial support to an event that spurned a certain class of people.

Like many women, I'm no stranger to the "old boy's club" in golf circles and beyond. Sexism and male chauvinism are alive and well, unfortunately.

But how sad that such prejudices materialized in a very public way and in a diverse community working to be tolerant, inclusive and welcoming to all. This city cannot tolerate discrimination anywhere - its golf courses included.

We know the Pro-Am has done much good for the hospital and community. But it stands to lose ground if ongoing efforts to single out women continue.

Those in charge should seize the opportunity to change course in that regard and make the Southwest Kansas Pro-Am a better community event in the future.

Dena Sattler is editor and publisher of the Garden City Telegram. Previously, she was assistant publisher of The Ottawa Herald.

(Source: The Ottawa Herald, August 11, 2010)

Social Media

↳ Dena Sattler reposted

 **Joe Biden** @JoeBiden · Oct 3, 2022

Get in, folks. We're building a better America: JoeBiden.com



21K 15K 115K

🗨️ 🔄 📊 📌 📤

Dena Sattler reposted



Governor Laura Kelly @GovLauraKelly · Jan 5, 2021

Vaccines give us hope as we enter the new year. Meanwhile, we have to be vigilant to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Kansas. Keep practicing the health safety measures we know to help protect us.

- ✓ Wear a mask
- ✓ Wash your hands
- ✓ Avoid gatherings
- ✓ Stay home when sick

KDEM @KansasEmergency · Jan 2, 2021

Stay vigilant Kansans, continue to #maskup even after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. This helps to #StopTheSpreadOfCOVID19 keeping both you and your loved ones safe!

@KDHE | @GovLauraKelly | @CDCgov



10 28 68

Dena Sattler reposted



Governor Laura Kelly @GovLauraKelly · Jul 16, 2020

We've seen what happens when guidelines aren't mandatory in our state. Schools must implement COVID-19 mitigation strategies including masks, sanitation, and temperature checks - the health of our students and our educators depends on it.



From cjonline.com

79 86 664

Dena Sattler reposted



Joe Kennedy III @joekennedy · Aug 30, 2018

In case anyone thinks for a second that what the Trump Administration is doing at the border is about immigration policy or public safety or enforcing our laws: It's about skin color. It's always been about skin color.

The Washington Post @washingtonpost · Aug 29, 2018

Replying to @washingtonpost

The Trump administration is accusing hundreds, and possibly thousands, of Hispanics along the border of using fraudulent birth certificates since they were babies, and it is undertaking a widespread crackdown on their citizenship. wapo.st/2PNif68

1.1K

16K

37K



Allie Utley · 2nd

Kansas Organizer | Preserving History In 66748
7mo · 🌐

+ Follow

I was honored to receive the Change-Maker of the Year award at [Thrive Allen County's](#) 16th annual celebration this month for past racial justice and LGBTQ+ inclusion work I've done in SEK. The award isn't just mine; it's a celebration of every voice that contributes to a more inclusive world, and every person who has come before me to make me feel confident enough to raise my voice. I am humbled.



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6 comments



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Dena Sattler · 2nd

Previously Public Affairs for KS Gov Laura Kelly/Dept of Commec...

7mo

Amazing honor!



Dena Sattler liked Paul Hughes, MBA's comment on this



Christopher "Chris" Little · 3rd+

Building Great Things for Federal Agencies | VOSB
1mo · Edited · 🌐

+ Follow

I find it interesting that while billions of dollars are being canceled in student loans, junior enlisted soldiers are being denied a significant pay raise.

The White House opposes a 19.5% pay increase for junior enlisted troops, citing cost concerns, even though the Congressional Budget Office estimates this would cost \$24.4 billion over the next five years.

In contrast, the current administration has approved 116.6 billion(+) in student loan forgiveness (source date July 14, 2023). This discrepancy highlights a glaring issue: we can find the funds to cancel student debt, but we can't support our young service members who willingly volunteered to put themselves in harm's way for our country and our freedom.

It's time to prioritize our troops, make recruiting / retention a priority and ensure they receive the fair compensation they deserve.

Source:



White House Opposes Significant Pay Raise for Junior Enlisted Troops – SOFX

sofx.com

👍❤️👤 147

54 comments · 12 reposts



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Paul Hughes, MBA · 2nd

1mo (edited) · ⋮

Pathfinder - A.I. Voyager - Dog's Best Friend

That the White House is backing a DoD policy of holding on pay raises until their impacts are better understood does not mean the White House is blocking it. It comes as little surprise that this mess is owned by Congress and several ridiculously intertwined issues.



Dena Sattler likes this



Matt Kleinmann • 2nd

Democratic Candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, S... [+ Follow](#)

1mo · 🌐

In some personal news, I have filed to be a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in the Second Congressional District of Kansas.

Learn more at: <https://lnkd.in/ggb-gwKM>



👍❤️ 268

18 comments · 19 reposts



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Dena Sattler likes this

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Nadira Hazim-Patrick • 2nd

COMPASS Plus LLC

[Visit my website](#)

Tyr • 🌐

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My very own "History Breaking" Shovel.

Might hang this next to my K-State Jersey.



👍👍👍 54

3 comments



Dena Sattler likes this



Allan Swan · 2nd

President at Panasonic Energy of North America

1yr · Edited ·

[+ Follow](#)

Yesterday, [Panasonic North America](#) had the pleasure of hosting United States Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg at our new EV battery facility in De Soto, KS. I'd like to thank Secretary Buttigieg and the [U.S. Department of Transportation](#) for coming out and giving [Panasonic Energy of North America](#) the opportunity to share our excitement about the future of growing America's EV battery supply chain.

Panasonic's De Soto project has been a massive undertaking, and we owe a debt of gratitude to the local and federal leaders who have guided us throughout this process. Thank you to the many people who have played a role in bringing this important opportunity to fruition. We at [Panasonic Energy of North America](#) could not be working towards a greener tomorrow without each of you.



363

28 comments · 10 reposts

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Dena Sattler likes this



Rhonda Harris · 2nd

Supplier Diversity Manager, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kan... [+ Follow](#)

Yesterday the JCCC Procurement Services, SBDC, Kansas PTAC and SBA sponsored their first Supplier Diversity Reverse Expo at Johnson County Community College. We had a chance to meet with some great businesses and share information about our MBE/WBE/DBE certification program [#Collaboration](#) [#Connectingpeople](#)



36

8 comments · 1 repost



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Stephen Wade · 2nd

Extensive senior and change management experience. Prosci ...

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1yr · 🌐

Great intro to our first Chief DEI Officer!



City of Topeka Government

2,259 followers

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Meet **Ernestor De La Rosa**, the City of Topeka's first Chief Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Officer. Hear about Ernestor's background and what he hopes to accomplish in the role. To learn more about the city's DEI Office, visit <https://lnkd.in/gsvh58Py>. #diversity #equity #inclusion



Get to know Chief DEI Officer Ernestor De La Rosa

👍❤️👍 36

2 comments



Dena Sattler likes this



Kansas Department of Commerce

9,952 followers

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The Kansas Broadband Summit has featured a wide diversity of perspectives. We appreciate all the partners who came together to help us understand this complex issue and accelerate our state's momentum from digital divide to digital equity. [#ConnectingAllKansans](#)



👍❤️ 37

2 comments · 3 reposts



Dena Sattler likes this



Allie Utley · 2nd

Kansas Organizer | Preserving History In 66748

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1yr · 🌐

I'm happy to share that I'm starting a new position as Field Organizer at [ACLU of Kansas](#) this month!



Starting a New Position



52

2 comments



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Dena Sattler likes this



Ernestor De La Rosa • 2nd

Regional Manager, Local Government and Community Affairs
1yr • Edited •

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It was a pleasure and a lot of fun to present along my friend and colleague [City of Garden City, Kansas](#), Assistant City Manager, [Derek Ramos, MBA](#) and [Welcoming America](#), Executive Director, [Rachel Perić](#) at the Kansas Association of City/County Management (KACM) Annual Conference this week. The presentation focused on shared insights on how local government is taking steps to ensure that recent and new residents are able to participate in civic, social, and economic functions in their local communities and how to build a more welcoming and inclusive community for all. [#welcoming](#) [#diversityequityinclusion](#) [#belonging](#) [#KACM](#) [#localgovernment](#)



86

10 comments - 4 reposts



Dena Sattler likes this



Stephen Wade · 2nd

Extensive senior and change management experience. Prosci ...

+ Follow

TRULY impact lives and policy! This is an opportunity to have an impactful voice in our community and government. Grab a seat at the table and be our first Chief DEI Officer! #diversityequityinclusion #belonging



City of Topeka Government

2,259 followers

1yr ·

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The City of Topeka is seeking an innovative, visionary, and purpose-driven individual to serve as its very first Chief Diversity Equity and Inclusion Officer. ...more



SALARY UP TO \$160,773 DOQ • COMPREHENSIVE BENEFITS PACKAGE • RELOCATION PACKAGE AVAILABLE

The City of Topeka is seeking an **innovative, visionary, and purpose-driven** individual to serve as its very first Chief Diversity Equity and Inclusion Officer.

As a member of the Executive Leadership Team, this person is responsible for the development, implementation and incorporation of proactive **diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging** strategies throughout all aspects of the City. This person will be instrumental in ensuring a work environment and community where **all have an opportunity to succeed.**

To learn more about the ideal candidate, the minimum qualifications, and to view the full position description, please visit www.topeka.org/careers.



Email hr@topeka.org with questions or to check application status.



Dena Sattler likes this



Kansas City Area Development Council

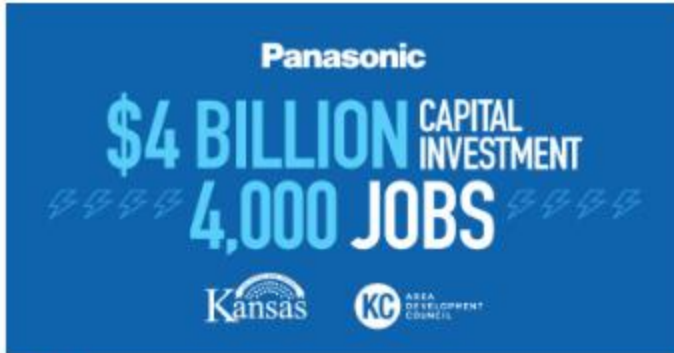
15,344 followers

2yr · 🌐

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BREAKING: Kansas Governor Laura Kelly announces that **Panasonic North America** plans to develop a state-of-the-art, electric vehicle battery facility in De Soto, resulting in an approximate \$4B investment and creating up to 4,000 jobs. Learn more: <https://lnkd.in/dgTfsAqW>

#EV #electricvehicle #megaproject #electricvehiclebatteries #kansas #panasonic #panasonicenergy #KC #KCregion #KCHearland #KansasCity



👍❤️ 404

10 comments · 30 reposts



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Dena Sattler likes this



Kansas Department of Commerce

9,952 followers

2yr · 🌐

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Register today to attend our celebration of women and minority owned businesses in Kansas! Learn more about the Luncheon on October 20 and RSVP here: <https://lnkd.in/e76CaQy>



👍 3



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Dena Sattler
March 18 · 🌐



An outstanding group! Thanks to everyone who attended Washington Days.



Franklin County Democratic Party
Political Party

Call now



Franklin County Democratic Party
March 18 · 🌐

Kenzie Singleton and Darrell McCune were your delegates to the State Committee Meeting this year at Washington Days in Topeka. Saturday's caucus meetings and t... See more



Dena Sattler
February 23 · 🌐



KANSAS SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER DINAH SYKES ON FLAT TAX OVERRIDE FAILURE

“This entire legislative session, Republican leadership has been holding tax relief for Kansas families hostage to their unpopular flat tax plan.

The Senate Tax chair has repeatedly stated that she will not work any tax relief bills until a veto override is attempted. Now that the flat tax proposal has failed for the second year in a row, it’s time to have honest conversations about providing tax relief for all Kansans.

We will work with anyone who is willing to pass responsible tax cuts that support working families.”

STATE SEN. DINAH SYKES

Kansas Senate Democratic Leader



Kansas Senate Democrats

February 20 · 🌐

Now that the flat tax proposal has failed for the second year in a row, it’s time for our leaders to have honest conversations about providing tax relief for all Kansans.

Read Senate Democratic Leader [Senator Dinah Sykes’](#) response to the Kansas House upholding Governor Laura Kelly’s flat tax veto:



Dena Sattler is in Topeka, KS.
February 18 · 🌐

...

I picked up this beautiful piece of history (etched marble) marked 1979 at this weekend's [Douglas County Democratic Party \(Kansas\) Party Blue 2024](#) ... such a great event! Several years ago, I had the good fortune to work with Governor John Carlin and other moderate Kansans on the Save Kansas Coalition -- an unprecedented show of bipartisan unity -- and ever since I've benefited immensely from Governor Carlin's wisdom and guidance. He's a tireless advocate for good governance and for candidates who will fight for common-sense policies that best serve the people of Kansas. I'm proud to have him as a mentor in my run for Kansas Senate. [#savekansas](#) [#kansansfirst](#) [#votebluein2024](#)





Dena Sattler

February 8 · 🌐



Every one of our dedicated state employees in education, law enforcement, corrections, healthcare and beyond deserves a sound retirement plan. That's why it makes good sense for the KS Legislature to support moving all KPERS 3 participants to KPERS 2, which would ensure guaranteed retirement income for every Kansan who serves our state so well. The riskier, 401(k)-style KPERS 3 only created an unnecessary benefits gap. There's bipartisan support to fix the problem now for all of our state workers. [#ksleg](#) [#kansansfirst](#) [#KPERS](#)




👍 29


5 shares

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 **Dena Sattler**
July 10, 2019 · 🌐





CNBC.COM
The comeback state of 2019: Kansas economy rebounds from tax-cutting disaster
Kansas is running a budget surplus this year, and it is a big deal for the state, which saw reven...


  25 3 comments

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 **Gene Merry**
Prefer to have my overpaid tax money back, it will be wasted.

 **Dena Sattler**
June 28, 2019 · 🌐



KFDL.COM
Governor Laura Kelly supports ruling on citizenship question
The U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling Thursday morning that blocks a citizenship question o...

 3

Political Contributions

Donated twice to Kansans for a Democratic House.

Displaying records **1 - 2** of **2**.

(Note: We only display the first 500 records. Need more? Please contact us requests@opensecrets.org.)

Category	Contributor	Employer	Occupation	Date	Amount	Recipient	Recipient Jurisdiction
Money to Parties	SATTLER, DENA TOPEKA, 66605	BLANK		07-05-2023	\$88	KANSANS FOR A DEMOCRATIC HOUSE (D)	KS
Money to Parties	SATTLER, DENA TOPEKA, 66605	BLANK		10-12-2023	\$46	KANSANS FOR A DEMOCRATIC HOUSE (D)	KS

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(Source: [Opensecrets.org](https://www.opensecrets.org), Search of Dena Sattler Contributions)

Donated once to the Kansas Democratic Party

Viewing **1** filtered results for:

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Ending 12/31/2024 X Sattler, Dena X or Sattler, Dena X

Contributor name	Recipient
SATTLER, DENA	ACTBLUE

Open Image

Source information

Name	SATTLER, DENA
City, state and ZIP code	TOPEKA, KS 66605
Occupation	FREELANCER/CONSULTANT
Employer	SELF
Year to date	\$175.00

Receipt information

Amount	\$175.00
Receipt date	March 7, 2024
Report year	2024
Memo	earmarked for KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY - FEDERAL ACCOUNT (C00019380)
Reported on	Form SX on line 11A1
Election type	

(Source: www.fec.gov, Contribution Search of Dena Sattler)

