Amanda Adkins was one of former Governor Sam Brownback’s closest advisors, calling him quote “an incredible governor.” Adkins supported Brownback’s tax handouts for big corporations paid for with major cuts to public school budgets. Now, our schools are struggling to pay for the safety precautions needed for students and teachers to safely return to the classroom.

Adkins Was Appointed By Brownback To Be Head Of The Kansas Children’s Cabinet. “A former chairwoman of the Kansas Republican Party and longtime adviser to former Gov. Sam Brownback has entered the race to take on Democratic U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids next year. [...] Adkins chaired the state party from 2009 to 2013, overseeing the 2010 election when Republicans, with Brownback at the top of the ticket in the race for governor, won every federal and statewide office. She managed Brownback’s 2004 campaign for U.S. Senate and after he became governor he appointed Adkins to chair the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund, which oversees a variety of childhood programs.” [The Kansas City Star, 9/3/19]

Adkins Was Endorsed By Sen. Brownback For GOP Party Chair. “Adkins, of Overland Park, was elected by GOP delegates without opposition to replace Kris Kobach, who stepped aside to prepare his 2010 campaign for secretary of state. She received a key endorsement from Sen. Sam Brownback, who is running for governor.” [New GOP Chair Stressed Winning, Topeka Capital-Journal, 2/1/09]

Brownback Praised Adkins For Running His Successful Senate Re-Election Campaign. “Adkins has served on several congressional staffs, worked with the Heritage Foundation and managed Brownback’s last Senate campaign. ‘In 2004, when my career was on the line during a re-election, I trusted Amanda to run my campaign,’ the Topeka senator said in a letter to party members. ‘The campaign Amanda designed and led yielded over 780,000 votes - the most votes ever received by any candidate in any campaign for any office in Kansas history.’” [New GOP Chair Stressed Winning, Topeka Capital-Journal, 2/1/09]

Adkins Served As Campaign Manager For Brownback’s 2004 Senate Re-Election Campaign. Adkins served as the Campaign Manager for Sam Brownback’s 2004 re-election campaign for Senate representing the state of Kansas. [2004 Candidate For United States Senate From Kansas, Kansas City Star, 7/28/04]

Adkins Called Brownback An “Incredible Governor” And Praised Him For Leading The State To Be “No-Income-Tax.” “Kansas GOP Chairwoman Amanda Adkins: Kansas, ‘a state where we grow leaders like Dwight D. Eisenhower, Bob Dole and our incredible governor, Sam Brownback. A governor who is leading us to become a no-income-tax state.’” [Convention Buzz | Parties Have Perks, Paul Camp Lurks, Kansas City Star, 8/28/12]

NPR: Brownback’s Plan Cut The “Pass-Through” Tax Rate To Zero, Allowing Big Companies To Exploit Tax Exemptions. “A key part of the plan slashed to zero the tax rate pass-through businesses pay. Small businesses — such as sole proprietorships, partnerships and S corporations — pay taxes through the individual income tax code, not the corporate one. Under the Kansas plan, the pass-through tax rate was reduced from 7 percent to zero. Kriz says big companies exploited this tax exemption. ‘There were a lot of really big companies that were actually [limited liability] like big law firms in this state, oil exploration companies then,’ he says. Others supposedly lied on their tax forms. ‘Most famously, a couple of basketball coaches allegedly — although nobody can ever prove this — were alleged to have retitled themselves as independent contractors in order to be able to take advantage of it for their multimillion-dollar incomes,’ Kriz says.” [NPR, 10/25/17]

Kansas Lawmakers Balanced The Budget By Refashioning The School Funding Formula, Which Included Closing And Consolidating Several School Districts. “[W]hen the tax cuts went into effect in 2014, their failure was seen almost instantly. State revenues plummeted by almost $700 million, Kriz says. ‘To put it in context, the state general fund budget is about $6 billion, and so that’s 10 percent revenue loss in one year,’ he says. ‘That’s a lot for any government to have to make [up].’ State lawmakers tried to balance the budget by tapping into reserves and the highway fund. They put construction projects on hold; pension contributions dropped; and Medicaid was cut. The state also refashioned the school funding formula and closed and consolidated several school districts. School funding consumes about half of Kansas’ budget.” [NPR, 10/25/17]
2016: Brownback Announced $44.5 Million In Education Cuts To Patch Budget Hole Resulting From Deep Income Tax Reductions. “Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback on Thursday announced $44.5 million in education cuts to help patch a budget hole blamed on deep income tax reductions he signed into law. Brownback’s plan takes $28 million, or 1.5 percent, out of elementary and secondary education, including $5 million from Johnson County schools. The districts taking the biggest hits will be Olathe, Shawnee Mission and Blue Valley. The Republican governor also sliced more than $16 million, or 2 percent, from higher education, something he traveled the state campaigning for in 2013 when it was lawmakers who wanted to cut funds for colleges and universities.” [The Kansas City Star, 2/11/16]

Adkins Tweeted Support For Tax Cuts Implemented By Brownback. [Amanda Adkins Twitter, 10/24/2015]

[Image of a graph showing average adjusted gross income per tax return for Kansas Outflow and Inflow Migration with Missouri.

$486 Million In Growth Later, Kansas' Historic Tax Cut Should Set Example... While naysayers continue to refute the existence of the (very real) good news from Kansas, more positive evidence just keeps coming. Recently... forbes.com]

[Amanda Adkins Personal Twitter Page, 10/24/2015]

Adkins Tweeted Support For Brownback’s “Pro-Business Agenda.” [Amanda Adkins Personal Twitter Page, 8/11/09]

ADKINS OP-ED: Adkins Believed “Kansas Republicans Are Presenting A United Front With Sound Plans To Meet The Challenges Of A 21st Century Economy.” “Much has been said about President Barack Obama's commitment to mirror European nations spending, health care and other environmental policies. For people who thought Democrats could sell European-style socialism to Americans, the April 30th Daily Presidential Tracking Poll by Rasmussen Reports should prove alarming. Fifty-three percent of voters disapprove of Obama's performance as president. Kansans, being a people who look to community and family before government for answers, will take a hard look at leadership on the ballot in November. The question is simple: Do you want an America that rewards
individual promise, entrepreneurship and centers on family or do you want European-style socialism that penalizes hard work, stifles prosperity and celebrates government? Kansas Republicans are presenting a united front with sound plans to meet the challenges of a 21st Century economy. Our philosophy centers on liberating the promise of the individual and family as the answer, not more government growth, on a path to prosperity. The choice is yours. Amanda Adkins, Overland Park, is the chairwoman of the Kansas Republican Party and a business executive in the health care industry.” [Hays Daily News, Amanda Adkins, 5/12/10]

**Adkins Noted Support For Brownback Economic Policies.** “Dozens of people marched Saturday to the Kansas Statehouse to protest potential budget cuts and other policies pursued by Gov. Sam Brownback and fellow Republicans who dominate state government. […] State GOP Chairwoman Amanda Adkins said Kansans’ top priority is creating jobs for more than 100,000 state residents who are without work, then noted strong bipartisan support behind legislative approval of a plan from Brownback to lure people from other states to declining Kansas counties with income tax breaks. ‘Kansans of all backgrounds and viewpoints are coming together behind ideas to grow our state,’ Adkins said. ‘That’s the top priority.’” [Kan. Statehouse Rally Protests GOP-Run State Govt, Associated Press State & Local Wire, 3/20/11]

**Adkins Said The Governor Was Taking A “Long View” In Reference To Damaging Economic Policies.** “Kansas Republican Party Chairwoman Amanda Adkins said disagreement over policy decisions was a healthy part of the democratic process, and she encouraged residents regardless of political party to be passionate about issues they hold dear. Adkins, who was appointed by Brownback to be head of the Kansas Children’s Cabinet, said the governor was taking a ‘long view’ of where Kansas needs to be to have a growing economy while providing services in the most efficient manner.” [Newly Formed Kan. Group Plans Rally, Associated Press State & Local Wire, 8/27/11]

**Adkins Wrote An Op-Ed Praising Brownback’s Economic “Road Map” And Its Impact On Children.** “Research well-documents that 90 percent of a child’s brain is developed before the age of 5. Therefore, it is of critical importance to focus on and invest in early education and health care interventions and outcomes for kids. The Institute for a Competitive Workforce, an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, found in a 2010 report that ‘for every dollar invested today, savings range from $2.50 to as much as $17 in the years ahead.’ Understanding that Kansas children are critical to our future, Gov. Sam Brownback made improving kindergarten readiness a key measure of his economic ‘road map.’” [Amanda Adkins Op-Ed, Wichita Eagle, 10/13/14]

**Adkins Tweeted Her Support For Brownback’s “Pro-Growth” Strategy.** [Amanda Adkins Twitter, 1/10/2012]

[Amanda Landes Adkins](https://twitter.com/ama/)

> 1/11 Gov Brownback State of State speech will lay out the most aggressive pro-growth strategy KS has seen in decades. #KSGOP #Entrepreneur

[2:23 PM - Jan 10, 2012 - Twitter Web Client]

[Amanda Adkins Personal Twitter Page, 1/10/2012](https://twitter.com/ama/)

**Coronavirus Caused A $653 Million Budget Shortfall, A Result Of Lack Of Revenue, In The Kansas Budget, Which School Funding Made Up For More Than Half Of The State Budget.** “Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner for the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), says Kansas schools should be in financially good shape to run safely in the fall. This is due in large part, Dennis said, because Governor Kelly has not cut money from school budgets. […] There was concern earlier this year after it was announced that Kansas would be facing a $653 million budget shortfall due to lack of revenue coming in as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Governor Kelly, nicknamed the ‘Education Governor’ by many, said she wouldn’t rule out cutting from school funding if it was necessary. In Kansas, school funding makes up more than half of the state’s budget.” [FOX-Channel 4, 7/1/20]
Kansas’ Failure “Highlights How Years Of State Government Austerity Measures Have Left Cash-Strapped Agencies […] Bereft Of Investments Needed To Handle Emergencies.” “Kansas, in particular, where the Department of Labor website for filing claims has been buggy or offline for extended periods and getting someone on the phone is rare, highlights how years of state government austerity measures have left cash-strapped agencies like those that administer unemployment bereft of investments needed to handle emergencies.” [Kansas City Star, 4/16/20]

The System Inherited From Brownback Was “Held Together With What Seems Like Band-Aids.”
“Secretary of Labor, Delia Garcia, said the unemployment system was not only overloaded, but also outdated. ‘This inherited system is held together with what seems like band-aids,’ she said, ‘Our fellow Kansans deserve better than a 40-year-old system.’” [WIBW, 4/16/20]
New GOP chair stresses winning

Topeka Capital-Journal (Kansas)

February 1, 2009

By Tim Carpenter

THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Amanda Adkins eschewed modest goals Saturday upon election as chairwoman of the Kansas Republican Party.

"We're going to change the face of Kansas," she said. "We want to win, and we want to win big."

Adkins, of Overland Park, was elected by GOP delegates without opposition to replace Kris Kobach, who stepped aside to prepare his 2010 campaign for secretary of state. She received a key endorsement from Sen. Sam Brownback, who is running for governor.

"We will be focusing on freedom and limited government," Adkins told the Kansas Days crowd at Agricultural Hall at the Kansas Expocentre. "The Republican Party's message will be one of hope, growth and opportunity."

Kobach, of Piper, said the 2008 elections didn't tip the balance of power toward Democrats, despite Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' effort to make Kansas more of a "blue" state in the wake of Barack Obama's presidential campaign. Republican Lynn Jenkins defeated incumbent Democrat Nancy Boyda in the 2nd Congressional District, and Republican Sen. Pat Roberts easily won re-election. The mix of Republicans and Democrats in the GOP-dominated Legislature changed little.

"So much for Kansas turning purple," Kobach said. "I'm pleased to report Kansas is bright red."

Adkins, a 34-year-old executive at Cerner Corp., a health care computer systems company, said the state GOP would establish an internal think tank to develop a road map for electoral victory in 2010.

The group will produce strategy based on conservative ideals, strengthen ties among Republicans and expand membership in the party, she said.

"This is all very much focused on expansion and bringing more people into the process," she said. "We must develop a message and fresh ideas that will reach across the kitchen table and resonate with the voters."

Adkins has served on several congressional staffs, worked with the Heritage Foundation and managed Brownback's last Senate campaign.

"In 2004, when my career was on the line during a re-election, I trusted Amanda to run my campaign," the Topeka senator said in a letter to party members. "The campaign Amanda designed and led yielded over 780,000 votes - the most votes ever received by any candidate in any campaign for any office in Kansas history."

The Kansas Democratic Party convenes Feb. 27 in Topeka for Washington Days, the party's annual meeting.

Tim Carpenter can be reached at (785) 296-3005

or timothy.carpenter@cjonline.com
2004 Candidate for United States Senate from Kansas
The Kansas City Star
July 28, 2004

NAME: Sam Brownback
OFFICE YOU ARE SEEKING: U.S. Senator from Kansas
POLITICAL PARTY: Republican
DATE OF BIRTH: September 12, 1956
EDUCATION: 1. Bachelor of Science, Kansas State University; 2. Juris Doctorate from University of Kansas
OCCUPATION: U.S. Senator - I have served as Kansas Secretary of Agriculture from 1986-1993 with a 1 year sabbatical to serve as a White House Fellow in the Office of US Trade. In 1994 I was elected to the US House of Representatives. In 1996 I was elected to serve in the US Senate.
IMMEDIATE FAMILY: My wife Mary and I have five children, Abby, Andy, Elizabeth, Mark, and Jenna
CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Amanda Adkins
CAMPAIGN MANAGER CONTACT: (913) 851-4310

1. If you are an incumbent or have previously held another public office, please briefly describe three of your most important accomplishments.

I believe that we need to reform the way the federal government does business. In my first term in the Senate, the Republican Congress successfully passed a balanced budget and reduced the federal deficit, both of which are key ingredients for economic growth. Congress needs to work to return to a balanced budget again.

One of my most important goals is to reduce the size of the federal government and require accountability over government spending. I have introduced a bill that will bring about meaningful reform in Washington. The CARFA bill will create a commission of experts that will have jurisdiction to review all discretionary federal programs to investigate which are wasteful and outdated.

Finally, I have worked hard to ensure Kansans a strong and healthy cultural environment. I have sponsored legislation to increase fines on non-cable television stations that violate obscenity rules that have long been in place. This legislation does not restrict free speech in any new way, but simply requires major networks to reconsider if FCC violations are worth the cost of a penalty.

2. If elected this year, what would your top priorities be?

One of the most important issues is to strengthen and support the growth of our economy. We must develop an economic atmosphere that produces jobs for everybody that seeks one.

We also need fundamental tax reform, litigation reform, personal Social Security accounts and a balanced budget to set ourselves irreversibly on a path of economic growth. And, we must confront aggressively those nations who would subsidize or steal their way into markets we have fought for and fairly won. I will continue to work for an open and fair market where every Kansan can participate and enjoy economic benefits in their daily life.

3. How well is the United States pursuing the war on terrorism? What more needs to be done?

I believe in the importance of building a strong democracy in Iraq. From democratic change flows prosperity. The roots of terrorism reside in the broken souls of people who face oppression, corruption, neglect and violence from dictatorial and undemocratic governments. Persistent poverty, hatred and ignorance coincide with undemocratic governments. A secure, free Iraq helps the Iraqi people and greatly advances our global campaign against terrorism.

4. How well has the Bush administration handled Iraq? What course should the United States pursue there?

The United States transferred sovereignty to the Iraqi people on June 28, 2004. This was part of an overall effort to give the Iraqi people control over their own future as soon as possible. America will continue to play a leading role in Iraq working to secure and rebuild that nation after decades of violence and degradation.
I continue to believe there can be a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. That solution will not come from capitulation to terror, nor women and children by terrorists bent on inflicting death and destruction.

There is no parity between a military response to military targets and wanton attacks on civilian men, strain on the economy.

The hour has come to extend accountability and fiscal soundness throughout the federal government. With the economy growing, Congress should be poised to return to a balanced budget and the budget surpluses of the late 1990's -- but our success will be largely contingent upon how effective we are at eliminating federal waste, fraud, and abuse, which defraud taxpayers, undermine the government, and put an overall strain on the economy.

The current violence in the Middle East is heartbreaking. I extend my condolences to the victims of the violence between Israelis and Palestinians, and in particular to those innocent civilians caught in the nightmare of daily terror attacks. In any conflict, blame can be apportioned to both sides. However, there is no parity between a military response to military targets and wanton attacks on civilian men, strain on the economy.

Iran has provided support to international terrorists for many years. Its government has also pursued nuclear materials, likely to be used in weapons. Though some of its rulers speak of democratic change, Iran is not anything like a democracy and reforms have come slowly, if at all. The Iranian government frequently represses its people and repeatedly abuses human rights.

There are many groups demanding democratic reform in Iran, making it clear that the United States does not need to build a democracy in their country. Most Iranians seem ready to chart their own future. We should give them every opportunity to bring freedom to Iran by supporting their efforts for change. I have introduced, and will continue to support, legislation that fosters democratic changes and supports the people of Iran.

North Korea poses a grave danger, both to the United States and to its own people. The regime of Kim Jong-il has pursued nuclear weapons relentlessly, even as it starves and imprisons its citizens. I support negotiations to reduce the nuclear danger, but I am skeptical of any pledges made by Kim Jong-il's government. I believe we must have a reason to trust North Korea before we can believe they will stop building nuclear weapons. One way for North Korea to demonstrate its trustworthiness would be better treatment of its own people. In order to encourage this behavior, I introduced the North Korea Freedom Act, S.1903. This legislation demands substantial reforms in North Korea's repressive system of government before the United States could provide any economic assistance. If North Korea ends its nuclear program and lives up to the standards of my legislation, it could be allowed to begin a process of mending its relationship with the United States.

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What should the United States deal with hostile and dangerous nations such as Iran and North Korea?

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Trade with America can be an effective catalyst for the long term viability of the institutions of democracy, and the economic strength that bolsters them in our friends abroad. Economic prosperity, civil rights and liberties are an extension of a democratic society, and in turn ameliorate internal strife and dissatisfaction that can lead to extremism, evil, and terror. By reaching out to our friends and struggling nations, by opening our markets to their products and vice versa, we can deploy the entrepreneurship of America as a weapon to help solidify the foundations of democracy, civil liberty, human rights, and economic prosperity abroad.
I have introduced legislation—the Commission on the Accountability and Review of Federal Agencies (CARFA) Act (S.1668)—which has 28 Senate co-sponsors, the Senate has already expressed its support for the CARFA Act by including similar language in the Budget resolution. If enacted, CARFA would establish a two-year, presidentially-appointed commission to review domestic discretionary spending programs and agencies, recommending elimination or reform where waste, fraud, and abuse are found. Upon completion of its work, the commission would report back to Congress with draft legislation to implement its recommendations. Congress would subsequently be required to vote either up-or-down on the recommendations, thus eliminating the protection so often afforded to the undeserving bureaucracy.

11. Do you believe the estate tax should be permanently abolished?

I have introduced the Tax Code Termination Act, S.2463, which will sunset the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 by Dec. 31, 2009. This legislation will effectively end the current federal tax system and suggests guidelines to the relevant Congressional committees about how and when an alternative tax system should enact.

12. Do you believe that other tax cuts enacted in the last four years should be left alone, repealed or extended? Please be as specific as possible.

I authored the Tax Code Termination Act, which ends the current tax code and gives guidance to the appropriate committees on a replacement. The bill suggests that a new federal tax system should be simple and fair. It gives six recommendations: apply a low rate to all Americans; provide tax relief for working Americans; protect the rights of taxpayers and reduce tax collection abuses; eliminate bias against savings and investment; promote economic growth and job creation; and do not penalize marriage or families.

13. How concerned are you about future funding for Social Security and Medicare? Please specify any changes you would support in the programs, including cuts or increases in the Social Security and Medicare taxes.

Social Security and Medicare have a permanent place in our society. I am opposed to any legislative measures that would diminish Social Security or Medicare benefits for those who are currently retired or are soon to retire. Kansans have worked long and hard, paying into Social Security and Medicare, and the government must keep its promise.

While I am opposed to any reforms that would diminish benefits to Social Security or Medicare beneficiaries, it is evident that the system itself needs to be modernized. The Social Security Administration has announced that the system will begin running out of money in about 10 to 15 years as more baby boomers will be retiring and increasing the number of individuals drawing Social Security benefits. At the same time, the number of workers paying taxes to provide Social Security benefits is decreasing. Congress must take action to ensure that Social Security keeps its promise to the American people.

Congress has kept the promise to expand Medicare benefits to include prescription drug coverage for all seniors. Already, 117,000 seniors in Kansas who had no prescription drug coverage can benefit from Prescription Drug Discount Cards available to seniors under the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA). According to estimates, these cards have the potential to translate into $71 million in savings for beneficiaries in Kansas. While I maintain concerns about the long term implementation of the MMA—including the long-term cost of the program and the continued viability of community pharmacies—I am proud to have been part of the Congress that has fulfilled this decades old promise.

14. Please summarize any major changes in the health care system that you would favor.

Health care policy has become one of the most contentious issues on the national agenda in recent years. There are sure to be more disagreements in the future. What is important as we debate these issues, however, is for each of us to recognize that what is most important in this debate is the benefit of the patients.

I have recently introduced legislation to reauthorize a program to recruit physicians to serve in rural areas. Congress is taking action to improve access to health care for rural Americans by allowing good doctors, who are educated in the United States, to practice medicine in rural areas. This is a common sense solution to a growing problem in Kansas and throughout the country. The J-1 visa program gives international medical graduates the opportunity to stay in the U.S. if they agree to practice in areas that are experiencing a shortage of doctors.

Also I have introduced the National Cancer Act of 2003 which seeks to improve data collection and dissemination, treatment, and research relating to cancer. I am committed to eradicating cancer. I think we need to make some changes in how we, in Washington, approach the disease. I firmly believe that we must set a date by which cancer survivorship will be the rule and cancer mortality will be the exception. By the nature of the disease, many cancer patients are Medicare beneficiaries. It is about time that Medicare accurately reimburses for Oncology care. Medicare's obsolete procedures for adopting new technologies must be reformed so that cancer patients receive the new tests and treatments they need. The FDA needs to be better prepared for the new advances emerging to diagnose and treat cancer. And policymakers in the public and private sector must consider the broad improvements these advances make in the health care system and society as a whole.

15. Please summarize any changes you would support in the nation's campaign finance system.

I was sent to Washington, in part, to reduce the size and scope of our federal government and reform our government's service to the people. Campaign finance reform is a key to achieving this goal, so I co-sponsored Senate bill 22, the Open and Accountable Campaign Financing
Act of 2001. This legislation would have instituted a cap on soft money contributions, a needed reform. It would have also increased for inflation, the amount an individual can give to a campaign -- so-called 'hard dollars.' Individual contributions to candidates are the best way to fund political campaigns. The bill would have strengthened existing disclosure requirements on candidates and the national parties, required standardized reporting software and increased electronic disclosure by the FEC, and required disclosure of the sponsors of independent expenditures in a constitutionally sound manner -- all needed reforms.

16. How high a priority should the federal government place on conservation and environmental protection? Are there specific changes in federal policies that you would support?

The issues affecting agriculture, the environment and energy policy are of particular importance to Kansas. Environmental integrity is also an important asset that Kansas enjoys. Clean air and water are a necessity -- both for the public at large, and the agricultural production in the state. Water quality concerns in the State have become increasingly important. I look for ways to promote the mutual benefit of cleaner energy and a better environment - through agricultural production and conservation techniques.

I have encouraged Congress to look at environmental issues in a new light -- to create markets for the environment. I support domestic and international carbon sequestration markets which would provide financial incentives to farmers and businesses to invest in better land management at home and rain forest preservation abroad. I have traveled to Brazil to view carbon sequestration projects which American companies and environmental groups have invested in. These projects pull carbon dioxide, a global greenhouse gas, out of the atmosphere and store it in trees and soil. These projects also reduce the amount of agricultural land in Brazil, in favor of returning this land to its native rainforest -- great news for Kansas farmers and the environment.

17. Are you satisfied with the current law and court rulings on abortion, including the Roe vs. Wade decision? If not, what changes would you like to see?

Life is a precious gift. I believe that we should all play a special role in seeking to protect and defend every human life. No one should suffer disenfranchisement -- certainly not those who are young and defenseless. From the moment of conception, a unique, young person is present. Scientifically, it is a proven fact that the newly conceived child in his or her mother's womb is alive.

Legislatively, during my time in Congress, I have taken the lead in numerous legislative battles in defense of the sanctity and dignity of every human life from the moment of conception. I have also co-sponsored measures such as the "Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act," and the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act." I will continue to be a strong advocate for legislation that ensures all individuals are afforded their inalienable right to life.

18. What changes, if any, would you support in federal energy policies?

Energy policy has been neglected for far too long. We see the effects in the sporadic high prices at the pump during the summer, in the fact that we import 57% of the petroleum we use and in the complexities we must endure in our foreign policy because we depend so strongly on oil nations to meet existing energy needs. To alleviate these problems, the U.S. must produce more domestic oil and natural gas while diversifying with increased investments in renewable energy.

I have voted for S. 14 and H.R. 6 to put us on the path to genuine energy security. Specifically, these bills will put forth a number of long term solutions -- including increased support for renewable and traditional energy production, greater incentives for efficiency, as well as providing support for sound scientific research necessary to make good energy policy.

19. What changes, if any, would you like to see in U.S. agricultural policies?

I would like to see the further development and use of carbon sequestration in Kansas and across the county. Currently, actions are being taken to turn the research into new beneficial farming practices for our farmers in Kansas. This initiative will not only help us fight off global climate change by storing a leading greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, in trees and soils - it will also preserve habitat, prevent runoff pollution in our water and create better soil fertility for our farms.

20. Are you satisfied with current gun-control laws? If not, what changes would you favor?

I believe that any changes to current gun-control laws need to be evaluated with the greatest respect for the 2nd Amendment rights of Americans.

21. Please describe any changes in the Constitution, including a ban on gay marriage, that you would support.

That marriage is the union of a man and a woman may seem elementary to most Americans, but this is not currently the case in America's courts or on Capitol Hill. Pro-family advocates are concerned that the traditional definition of marriage could be in jeopardy due to activist judicial rulings, such as the recent decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to mandate gay marriages in that state. My pro-family colleagues and I have been discussing methods to protect the traditional definition of marriage, and one strategy that has gained significant support in Congress is an amendment to the U.S. Constitution officially defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Such an amendment would protect the institution of marriage by making it impossible for any court on the federal or state level to rule the
traditional understanding of marriage to be unconstitutional. I, along with several of my Senate colleagues, have sponsored the Federal Marriage Amendment (S.J.Res.26) for just this reason

22. Are there any circumstances under which you would support an increase in congressional pay during the coming term of office? If so, please describe these circumstances.

I would not support an increase in congressional pay this term. I believe that we need governmental reform and that includes financial responsibility at all levels of government. I am not aware of a need to increase the current salaries of members of congress at this time. I have authored amendments in the past to restrict Congressional pay increases and still support such efforts in the future.
Much has been said about President Barack Obama's commitment to mirror European nations spending, health care and other environmental policies. One only needs a quick review of history to be reminded of how well this does not work.

In the 1970s, Great Britain was a weak, socialist nation with many of its industries nationalized and taxation rates topping at 98 percent. While Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher cleaned up a number of economic problems in the 1980s, Britain sadly has bounced back to a government deficit today which equates to 11.4 percent of gross domestic product. This is largely because of high pensions and health care costs. Sound familiar? Our president has passed a health care bill that seeks to emulate their system of high spending and, ultimately, care rationing.

The U.S is not in much better shape. Under the Obama/Reid/Pelosi regime, we will soon post the largest deficit since World War II at 10.6 percent GDP. As Obama's Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has shared in recent weeks, this leaves us with tough options: raise taxes, cut entitlement spending or cut other discretionary spending.

Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson is operating in lock-step with Obama's European-style agenda which includes a priority to tax individuals and families more as the answer to balance the state's budget. Parkinson's plan is funded with the largest tax increase in state history - a combination of a one-cent sales tax increase and a 70 percent tax increase on cigarettes and other tobacco products.

How far will Obama, Reid, Pelosi and Parkinson go? We know what Lady Margaret Thatcher would say: "Let me give you my vision. A man's right to work as he will. To spend what he earns. To have the state as servant and not as master."

She was right, and this is America's inheritance too.

For people who thought Democrats could sell European-style socialism to Americans, the April 30th Daily Presidential Tracking Poll by Rasmussen Reports should prove alarming. Fifty-three percent of voters disapprove of Obama's performance as president. Kansans, being a people who look to community and family before government for answers, will take a hard look at leadership on the ballot in November.

The question is simple: Do you want an America that rewards individual promise, entrepreneurship and centers on family or do you want European-style socialism that penalizes hard work, stifles prosperity and celebrates government?

Kansas Republicans are presenting a united front with sound plans to meet the challenges of a 21st Century economy. Our philosophy centers on liberating the promise of the individual and family as the answer, not more government growth, on a path to prosperity.

The choice is yours.

Amanda Adkins, Overland Park, is the chairwoman of the Kansas Republican Party and a business executive in the health care industry.
Dozens of people marched Saturday to the Kansas Statehouse to protest potential budget cuts and other policies pursued by Gov. Sam Brownback and fellow Republicans who dominate state government.

Their protests initially were inspired by Brownback's proposal to move the Kansas Human Rights Commission, an independent agency, under the attorney general's office. But the governor dropped the plan earlier this week, and speakers at the rally touched on a wide range of issues, including immigration, abortion rights and protection from employment discrimination for gays and lesbians.

Organizers described their events as a civil rights march and rally. The groups involved included the state chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and National Organization for Women, the American Civil Liberties Union, the League of Women Voters and the gay rights group Kansas Equality Coalition.

About 150 people marched nine blocks to the south steps of the Statehouse from the national historic site dedicated to the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education that declared segregated schools unconstitutional. They chanted, "This is what democracy looks like" and, "Civil rights are here to stay."

"We are standing together," said the Rev. Ben Scott, president of NAACP's Topeka chapter. "This is one time we will stand up against the enemies that try to hold us back, because we realize we've come too far to turn around now."

Organizers originally had hoped that hundreds of people would converge on the Statehouse, but the day was cool and overcast, and showers had been forecast. Thunder punctuated the speeches and chanting, and a light rain pelted participants as the rally drew to a close.

Rally participants criticized Brownback's plan to close a budget shortfall because it includes a 6 percent cut in the state's base aid to its schools. They also tried to paint Brownback and many Republican legislators as conservative extremists who are attacking the rights of workers, women and immigrants.

"They're not doing what we elected them to do," said Lester Shotwell, a Wichita resident disabled by kidney disease. "How dare they try to take away the rights of the people?"

State GOP Chairwoman Amanda Adkins said Kansans' top priority is creating jobs for more than 100,000 state residents who are without work, then noted strong bipartisan support behind legislative approval of a plan from Brownback to lure people from other states to declining Kansas counties with income tax breaks.

"Kansans of all backgrounds and viewpoints are coming together behind ideas to grow our state," Adkins said. "That's the top priority."

Brownback's plan to move the Human Rights Commission spurred plans for the rally because the NAACP and other groups feared it would make the commission more partisan and less effective.

The governor argued the commission would be more effective in investigating discrimination complaints with the resources of the attorney general's office behind it, but also proposed the move as a way to save $231,000 a year. He's still pursuing the budget cuts.

"The compromise on the Human Rights Commission saves taxpayer dollars and will serve Kansans well," Brownback spokeswoman Sherriene Jones-Sontag said after the rally.

Rally participants acknowledged that Brownback had backed off but remain wary of his administration.

"I am honored to be standing with progressive Kansans that know our state can and will be better," said Pedro Irigonegaray, a Topeka attorney and immigrant rights advocate who represents both Planned Parenthood and Kansas Equality Coalition. "Our country has taken a giant step backward recently, and we cannot permit it to go in that direction."
Newly formed Kan. group plans rally

August 27, 2011

By JOHN MILBURN, Associated Press

Organizers of a newly formed statewide group say frustration is building among Kansans who are concerned about recent policy decisions by first-term Republican Gov. Sam Brownback.

From closure of social services offices to elimination of state funding for the arts, supporters of Kansans United in Voice and Spirit say it's time they made their concerns known. A rally is scheduled Sept. 16 on the Statehouse steps in Topeka to air differences with Brownback and the new administration.

Crystal McComas, a clinical social worker in Lawrence, is organizing Kansas United along with Tamara Werth, a Lawrence psychiatrist. The two said the galvanizing issue for them was the decision to close the city's Social and Rehabilitation Services office. After much discussion, the city and Douglas County agreed to pay a portion of the office's rent to keep the center open.

McComas said the governor seems to be moving ahead with his agenda "when the average Kansan has questions."

"We believe that Kansans in general didn't fully understand" what his election meant, she said. "He feels he has a mandate to make changes in the policies Kansans hold dear."

Werth said the response to the rally has been good and residents across the state are excited to have an opportunity to have their voices heard. She is anticipating hundreds of participants for the weekday rally and is using social media to spread the word.

Brownback's spokeswoman Sherriene Jones-Sontag didn't respond directly to the concerns about the policy decisions, or whether the governor is ignoring some residents in the process. She repeated the message Brownback has uttered since the 2010 campaign that the focus is about getting the state economy on solid footing.

"Since January nearly 11,000 private-sector jobs have been created and working with the Kansas Legislature, we turned a deficit into a more than $100 million ending balance," Jones-Sontag said. "We've had some other successes recently, but still have much more work to make our great state even better."

Gerry Heil, a semi-retired Hays resident, said she hopes the rally can bring enough people together to force the governor to take a step back and see what's happening.

"What he's done has been a tragedy," Heil said. "I hope people realize that he was a mistake."

She points to the new regulations on abortion and laws aimed at blocking funding for Planned Parenthood services in Kansas. Heil also said many people question why Brownback has hired so many people from outside Kansas to fill key positions.

Heil said supporters of Kansans United are looking "to come together as part of a movement that is bigger than ourselves to help our state become more balanced."

Kansas Republican Party Chairwoman Amanda Adkins said disagreement over policy decisions was a healthy part of the democratic process, and she encouraged residents regardless of political party to be passionate about issues they hold dear.

Adkins, who was appointed by Brownback to be head of the Kansas Children's Cabinet, said the governor was taking a "long view" of where Kansas needs to be to have a growing economy while providing services in the most efficient manner.

She said Brownback was receiving diverse opinions as to where the state should go.

"From the governor's perspective, and mine, it is a positive thing for people to show up and share their comments and passion for the state," she said. "The Kansas Republican Party and the governor support the right to peaceably assemble. Whenever someone has a strong opinion on something, we welcome that."

Katie Krider, a retired French teacher in Lawrence, said she's bothered by the Christian ideology that the administration seems to advocate in new policies, such as faith-based social services and promoting marriage.

"Christians don't have a lock on moral authority," Krider said. "The fact they claim to be acting as Christians is very offensive. It's not the Christianity that I know."
Krider said the decision in July to close social services offices statewide may have been the tipping point to push people into action.

"He doesn't seem to be a very good listener. He seems to have his agenda set and damn the torpedoes full speed ahead," Krider said. "It would be nice if he would listen."