



News from the Capitol

February 3, 2011

THANK YOU — THANK YOU — THANK YOU

First off, I would like to thank everyone for enduring another campaign cycle and for voting in November. I promise to serve everyone, supporter or not, who resides in the 96th District to the best of my ability. Everyone has a voice and you will be listened to.

NEWS FROM TOPEKA

- **Budget:** The main focus of this session will be addressing the \$550 million state budget deficit and repairing the Kansas economy. The first step comes in House Bill 2014 which freezes the state budget for the 2011 fiscal year and makes approximately \$120 million in cuts, orders several funding transfers and would create a \$35 million surplus in the State General Fund for this fiscal year. This week the House Appropriations Committee held hearings and began working on amendments to HB 2014. I anticipate the bill will make its way out of committee soon and will be ready for a full vote next week.
- **Arts Funding:** Many Kansans have expressed their concern over the restructuring of the Kansas Arts Commission (KAC). As we face astounding revenue declines we must restructure government while focusing on providing essential services and defining the "core function" of government. The restructuring plan is a viable option and several other states are contemplating similar proposals. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), which provides federal funding for the KAC, has said that federal money may not be available as a result of this action but the enabling legislation for the NEA has also been reviewed and no requirement for state funding to match federal funding has been found.
- **Voter ID:** House Bill 2067 would require Kansans to show a birth certificate, passport or other proof of citizenship when registering to vote. At the polls, voters would have to show government issued photo ID before casting their ballot. The Act would require voters who request an advance or mail-in ballot to include with the ballot application their driver's license number or a photocopy of their ID. Titled the SAFE Act (Safe and Fair Elections Act), the measure has over 35 co-sponsors in the House and is expected to be passed and signed into law by Governor Brownback.

Reliable feedback is critical in making sure I'm accurately representing my friends and neighbors in the 96th district. Please call or email and I'd be happy to discuss any topic you are interested in.

47th Street Bridge/Construction Project Update

GREAT NEWS!!! I contacted the Deputy Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation Jerry Youngers and got the latest news. The bridge is half finished, Broadway is almost complete and 47th Street is next. The project is on time to finish mid-summer. That date could change if we have a hard winter. We will keep our fingers crossed. Traffic should be improving.

Unemployment Benefit Problems?

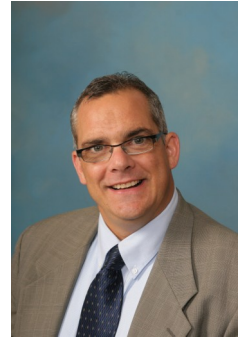
If you are having problems with your unemployment benefits please do not hesitate to contact me.

Health Coverage and Assistance

If you need information on affordable health coverage, dial 211 or e-mail www.sedgwickcounty.org. To see if your children are eligible for public health coverage (Medicaid-Healthwave), call 1-800-792-4884.

Prescription Cost

- Sedgwick County Prescription Discount Card is FREE. Call (316) 660-7673.
- Partnership for Prescription Assistance. Call 1-888-4PPA-NOW.
- \$4 Prescriptions: Try Dillon's, K-Mart, Target, and Wal-Mart for these.
- Contact Medical Services Bureau (MSB) has three prescription programs, the Voucher Program, Prescription Drug Program and the Non-Profit Pharmacy. Individuals can qualify for one or all three depending on the poverty level assessment. Eligibility is determined by visiting a (MSB) representative. They are located at: 1148 S. Hillside Suite 105 or call (316) 683-7559.



State Rep.
Phil Hermanson

It's an honor to be your state representative. Thank you for that privilege.

Please contact me with your questions, comments & concerns.

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Committee Assignments

Energy & Utilities
9:00 Mon.-Fri.

Financial
Institutions
3:30 Tues./Thurs.

Health & Human
Services
1:30 Mon.-Fri.

Insurance
(Vice-Chairperson)
3:30 Mon./Wed.

EMAILS NEEDED: I am looking to expand my e-mail mailing list. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others, or send their email addresses directly to me. (Please include your home address.)

NOTICE: This electronic newsletter is intended as a service to constituents and supporters. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please contact me at the email address listed above.

WANTED

I am looking for youngsters to serve as pages. Interested? Contact:
philhermanson@cox.net