



News From The Capitol

Representative Don Hineman

January 16, 2012

Clarification and Update

A question has been raised regarding the following statement in last Saturday's newsletter: "Allowing the state sales tax rate to drop to 7.6% would make the combined Kansas state and average local rate equivalent to the rate in Colorado and Missouri and lower than Oklahoma and Texas."

To clarify, if the state sales tax rate dropped from 6.3% to 5.7%, as currently scheduled for July 1, then the combined state **and average local** sales tax rate in Kansas would be 7.66%. Here are the numbers for other states in the region:

Colorado: 7.48%
Missouri: 7.67%
Nebraska: 6.77%
Oklahoma: 8.66%
Texas: 8.14%

Obviously tax rates vary from city to city and county to county, but these figures give a sense of the relative sales tax burden compared to our neighbors.

Since Saturday's newsletter was sent out I have come across an online source for Governor Brownback's [tax plan](#). I was pleased to learn of the governor's plan to bolster the safety net for low-income Kansans by doubling the standard deduction and investing an additional \$60 million in state social services and healthcare programs. This proposal goes a long way toward answering the concern about eliminating the earned income tax credit.

Here is another valuable resource from Kansas Legislative Research Department: [Kansas Tax Facts](#)

2012 Issues Survey Coming Soon



The 2012 session will be a challenging one, and it is important to me that I understand what the residents of the 118th District are thinking on the important issues we will face. I will soon be sending out my 2012 Issues Survey, and I encourage response from anyone living in the 118th.

To make the survey results truly representative of the thoughts of the residents of the 118th District I need a large response. **If you have friends, family, or associates who might be interested in completing the survey and receiving the newsletter** I would appreciate your forwarding their contact information to me.

During each legislative session every legislator has the privilege of hosting young people who wish to serve as a legislative page for a day. This year I will be allowed four pages on Monday, February 6 and four more pages on Monday, March 12. Please contact me for details if you know of any junior high or high school student who would like to serve.