

# Kansas GOP: High marks for eight years

For the past eight years, while national politics has lurched from one crisis to another, Kansas has been a place where conservative policymaking has actually produced results.

With durable Republican supermajorities in both chambers, the Legislature has delivered a record that many other states envy: lower taxes, stronger local accountability, reduced regulation, and firm commitments to traditional values. These successes haven't come from luck—they've come from the persistence of lawmakers who resisted pressure and kept Kansas on a steady, conservative course.

Perhaps the most immediately felt win for Kansas families has been tax relief. After years of debate, the Legislature passed multiple rounds of income-tax reforms that simplified brackets, raised standard deductions, and shielded most Social Security recipients from state income tax. In short, retirees—who built this state—no longer get punished for staying here. Meanwhile, the long-promised elimination of the state sales tax on groceries is finally being realized. For decades, Kansans paid among the highest grocery taxes in America. Republicans made ending it a priority, and they delivered.

But tax policy hasn't been the only area where lawmakers have acted. The Legislature also reined in runaway local property taxes through the Truth in Taxation law, requiring cities, counties, and school districts to publicly vote—on the record—before raising mill levies. For too long, local governments quietly pocketed windfalls from rising valuations while claiming they never raised taxes. Those days are gone. Thanks to Republican leadership, taxpayers now get transparency and accountability before they get the bill.

The Legislature also took a hard look at the regulatory tangle that had been strangling small businesses. Occupational licensing reforms now make it easier for skilled workers moving to Kansas to get licensed without bureaucratic delays. A new "regulatory sandbox" lets innova-



tive companies test ideas without wading through outdated red tape. These are exactly the kinds of pro-growth policies that attract investment and keep Kansas competitive in a changing economy.

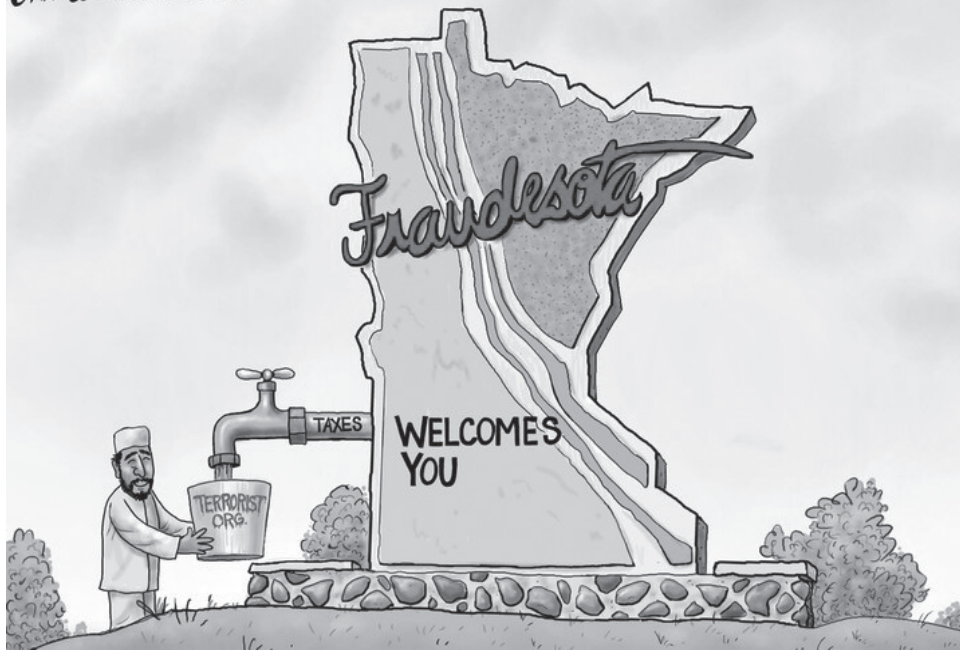
Not all accomplishments have been economic. In recent years, lawmakers stood firm on cultural issues that national Democrats and legacy media insist Kansans should shy away from. The Legislature passed laws protecting women's spaces by defining biological sex clearly in state statutes. It restricted irreversible gender-transition procedures for minors—aligning Kansas with a growing number of states that believe children shouldn't be rushed into life-altering medical decisions. Republican majorities also moved to ban ranked-choice voting, ensuring election integrity and maintaining straightforward, traditional ballot processes.

And through all of this, Republicans have held—and even strengthened—a veto-proof supermajority, allowing them to override executive obstruction and govern decisively.

Kansas isn't perfect and never will be. But over the past eight years, while other states veered toward higher taxes, more bureaucracy, and experimental social policy, Kansas moved in the opposite direction: toward lower taxes, more freedom, and a clearer vision of family and community. That's worth recognizing—and continuing. ###

BRANCO AlphaNews.org  
©2025 Creators.com

@afbranco @afbranco



## Letters to the editor

### Article on roads filled with chugholes, reader says

I read the recent article concerning our county roads in Anderson County and I have to say that I found it extremely humorous, the article titled "Are You Killing Your Own Road?" I do understand that there are some drivers out on the county roads that do drive too fast, and I also understand that being a rural community we have tractors, combines, large sprayers, and stock trailers that use the county roads, but there are fundamental things that could be done to keep the roads in much better shape.

The article mentions having proper crowns on the road to allow drainage to take place, I would challenge all of the county commissioners, and the

SEE LETTERS ON PAGE 6

## The Anderson County Review's PHONE FORUM

Record your comments on the topic of your choice at (785) 448-2500. You do not need to leave your name. Comments may be published anonymously. Calls may be edited for publication or omitted.

I am very disgusted with this Big Beautiful Bill that says that nurses, if it passes, nurses will not get as much help to go through a nursing school because they would be considered not professionals.

As the Trump abomination continues its chaos, the make America Great Again mantra is fast becoming, Make America, God Awful.

I read a quote that I'd like to read that fits into today's society. "Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are."

# "Sinister Six" granted immediate Dem privilege

Democrats stood firm on their efforts to sabotage the Trump administration this week. It was their latest attempt to manipulate the American public through lies and deception, and create a wave of discontent and sow political chaos nationwide.

The "sinister six," which includes Sen. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI), Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO), Rep. Maggie Goodlander (D-NH), Rep. Chris Deluzio (D-PA), and Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), insisted they did nothing illegal or wrong after they called for military personnel and members of the intelligence community to defy President Donald Trump.

All of them delivered a hyperbolic performative claim that it was their constitutional duty to do so. Yet, none of them could detail exactly what orders Trump gave that were illegal and necessary to defy. This is what is known as Democratic privilege. This condition allows left-wing elected officials to engage in dramatic, performative, pearl-clutching antics that are immoral, unethical, and questionable in legality, under the guise of whatever virtue signaling cause they happen to be focused on that day. It's all a sham and meant to sow political chaos. Sadly, this is nothing new and has been occurring for decades.

The Bolsheviks and Soviets had their show trials; the 21st-century Democrats have their performative political social



media dramas. The methodology has evolved in response to societal norms and technological advancements, but the objective remains the same: to influence public opinion by crafting a narrative that portrays political opponents as committing grave injustices, despite contrary facts and evidence. In the United States, these left-wing antics can be traced back to the late 1960s (think the Chicago 7), when radical Democrats used the seeds of discontent to manipulate public opinion and advance political agendas.

Consider some of the events in 2025 that demonstrated this Democratic privilege — acts that normal people would have been thrown in jail for. However, because elected Democrats committed them, they were given a pass, or a narrative was advanced that the Democrats involved in the questionable and chaotic behavior were victims instead of aggress-

sors.

For example, there was Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan, who helped an illegal immigrant avoid federal agents in April. This was a crime, and as a result, Dugan was arrested by the FBI and indicted. In every other circumstance, a person being arrested after helping a criminal evade capture by a federal agent would not have warranted any outrage. However, in Dugan's case, because she is a Democrat and her actions aligned with Democratic ideology, she was portrayed as the victim. The narrative became "Trump is arresting judges."

Democrats, who claim to be so concerned with "illegal orders," had no such objections for Dugan. Not only did they not object, but Democrats supported her to do so and crafted her criminal behavior as being an innocent victim of Trump's authoritarianism. This is just one of many examples of Democrats not caring about the law or "illegal orders." They only care about advancing their agenda. The legality of the tactics used is irrelevant.

This is Democratic privilege, and it is indicative of the current scenario involving Kelly, Slotkin, and the rest of the "sinister six."

Another example is Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA). Who can forget Padilla's bru-

SEE TREMOGLIE ON PAGE 6

# Epstein files tell Trumpless tail of big money networking

It's not what you know, it's who you know -- even if you may have committed terrible crimes. That's the Jeffrey Epstein version of the famous line about success.

The massive tranche of Epstein emails released by the House Oversight Committee didn't reveal any smoking guns about Donald Trump, but they did highlight a vast conspiracy to help the disgraced financier thrive despite his guilty plea to sex charges involving a minor in 2008.

This conspiracy wasn't the work of the Deep State, or Israel, or the Jews. No, it was more pedestrian and damning than that. An element of the American elite embraced Epstein as one of its own, thanks to his wealth and his connections. The conservative thinker Russell Kirk once quipped of conspiracy theories about Dwight Eisenhower that Ike wasn't a communist; he was a golfer. In a similar vein, Jeffrey Epstein wasn't a Mossad agent; he was a networker.

The implausible populist narrative about the Epstein case is that the government -- at all levels and up to today -- has protected him and others who participated in his crimes because too many powerful people have too much at stake, or because it's too dangerous to reveal Israel's role in the scandal, or both. Perhaps these interpretations will gain factual support as more is revealed,



but it seems unlikely.

Regardless, populists have a different narrative at hand that is consistent with the known record. Namely, that some of the most privileged members of our society -- at the very top of the financial, academic, political, media and social worlds -- had no standards or ethics, and embraced Epstein as a friend and consigliere.

Epstein knew influential people, so influential people felt that they should know him. They considered him fun, and useful -- for advice, for banter, for introductions, for information and for donations. The emails suggest that Epstein missed his calling as a high-level, seamy advice columnist to the rich and powerful.

Want to know more about the rep-

utation of the woman you are having an affair with? Seeking advice on how to gain political influence in Europe? Wondering how you're handling your interactions with a potential mistress? Looking for insights about Donald Trump? Trying to survive sexual harassment allegations? Need a reference for a gastroenterologist? Well, then, ask Jeffrey Epstein.

He emailed with former Harvard president Larry Summers, the linguist Noam Chomsky, venture capitalist Boris Nikolic, Emirati businessman Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Trump activist Steve Bannon, the journalist Michael Wolff, the artist Andres Serrano, the department store scion Jonathan Farkas and former White House counsel Kathryn Ruemmler, among others. It's not as though Epstein was particularly insightful, but if he knew so many important people, he must know something, right?

As for his scrape with the law, clearly all had been forgiven and forgotten. If he was in the good graces of the social wrangler Peggy Siegal, whose job was to get bold-faced names to accept invitations, he must be OK. For some of Epstein's correspondents, it was part of his appeal that he was disreputable. Larry Summers, who leaned on Epstein

## Connect with your elected leadership

**Governor Laura Kelly**  
300 SW 10th Ave #241s,  
Topeka, KS 66612  
(785) 296-3232  
email form:  
[www.governor.kansas.gov](http://www.governor.kansas.gov)



**Senator Roger Marshall**  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20510  
(202) 224-4774



**Senator Jerry Moran**  
2202 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20510  
(202) 224-6521



**3rd Dist. Congressman Sharice Davids**  
1541 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C., 20515  
(202) 225-2865



**12 Dist. Sen. Caryn Tyson**  
300 SW 10th St. Rm 236-E  
Topeka, Ks. 66612 (785) 296-6838  
P.O. Box 191 Parker, Ks. 66072  
(913) 898-2366  
[caryn.tyson@senate.ks.gov](mailto:caryn.tyson@senate.ks.gov)



**9th Dist. Rep Fred Gardner**  
State Capitol Room 512-N  
Topeka, KS 66612  
Office: (785) 296-7451  
[fred.gardner@house.ks.gov](mailto:fred.gardner@house.ks.gov)



*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

*Lovers of freedom, anxious for the fray.*  
FORMERLY THE GARNETT PLAIND DEALER,  
THE ANDERSON COUNTY REPUBLICAN,  
THE REPUBLICAN-PLAIND DEALER,  
THE GARNETT JOURNAL PLAIND DEALER, THE GARNETT REVIEW,  
THE GREELEY GRAPHIC AND THE ANDERSON COUNTIAN.

**The Anderson County Review**  
EST. 1865

Published with gusto each Thursday by Garnett Publishing, Inc., and entered as Periodicals class mail at Garnett, Ks., 66032, under USPS permit #214-200  
Anderson County Review, P.O. Box 409, Garnett, Ks., 66032  
(785) 448-3121 • [review@garnett-ks.com](mailto:review@garnett-ks.com)  
**GAROLD DANE HICKS, PUBLISHER**  
Copyright Garnett Publishing, Inc., 2025

SEE LOWRY ON PAGE 7