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# Manhattan Free Press

Vol. 23 Number 3

An Award Winning Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, June 19, 2014

## That's The Brakes

By Jon A. Brake  
Publisher Free Press

For more than 20-years the Manhattan Free Press has been printing the Minutes of the Riley County Commission.

The Minutes were well read and citizens knew what was going on in the County. Things have changed.

About a month ago, the Riley County Commissioners leased new software to prepare the Agenda and the Minutes. COST: \$700.00 per Month, per MONTH.

Monday, I was reading through the Minutes and thought "I'm reading the Agenda." I looked at the top of the page and it said "Minutes."

I called Riley County Clerk Rich Vargo (he is responsible for the Minutes) and told him that the Minutes looked like the Agenda and he wasn't putting in the Minutes what was being said in the meeting. Vargo said that with the new software all of the Reports given to the Commissioners are in the Agenda Packet and people can go to the Packet to see what the Commissioners were told.



Jon Brake

Well, I have seen many, many County Commission meetings and I have seen and read many, many Reports and they are not the same as what the Commissioners were told. I'm sure Department Heads felt that what ever they put in a Report did not need to be reported in person.

Here is one item taken from the June 3, 2013 Minutes. You can see that Vargo gave a brief but good account of what the Commissioners and the Chamber Members were talking about:  
**"10:50 Frank Beer, Chamber of Commerce Public Affairs Committee member Beer asked for input from the Board for 2014 legislative priorities. Lewis said the machinery**

**and equipment tax exemption and concealed carry bills have been a concern.**

**Boyd asked Beer to consider adding the machinery and equipment tax exemption.**

**Lewis said this Board is against the machinery and equipment exemption.**

**Wells discussed the LP&P building codes policy.**

**Holeman stated the privacy of public records legislation has been changed this legislative session."**

Now look at what the Riley County Commissioners are telling the Citizens:

**"9:00 AM R i c h Vargo, County Clerk**

**9. Year to date budget and expenditure reports**

**9:15 AM J e f f Adams, Flint Hills Regional Council**

**10. Flint Hills Regional Council update**

**9:30 AM P r e s s Conference"**

Nothing, absolutely nothing. The Commissioners are paying \$700.00 per month to tell the Citizens nothing.

And that is the way the Commissioners want it.

## Department of Agriculture Relocates To Manhattan

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) has successfully completed the relocation process and is open for business in Manhattan, Kan. The agency is leasing the building from the KSU Foundation.

"This is a good day for Kansas agriculture. The Kansas Department of Agriculture is looking forward to being in Manhattan, being able to further collaborate with Kansas State University and other industry partners and ultimately better serve the farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and consumers of Kansas," said Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Jackie McClaskey.

An official building dedication and open house will be held September 18.

The new mailing address for KDA is 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, Kansas 66502. The main phone number is (785) 564-6700.

KDA will retain an Office of the Secretary in the Landon Office Building in downtown Topeka. That office includes administrative support and workspace for staff during the legislative session. Offices at Forbes Field include the State Agriculture Laboratory as well as some of the Weights and

Measures, Plant Protection and Division of Water Resources field staff. Additional field offices across Kansas supporting the Division of Water Resources include offices in Stockton, Stafford, Garden City, Parsons and Olathe.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture works to serve all Kansans and strives to help grow and support the state's largest industry dedicated to the production of food, fiber and fuel for consumers here and around the globe.

More information about KDA can be found on our website at [www.agriculture.ks.gov](http://www.agriculture.ks.gov)

## IPAB: The Obamacare Challenge

By Eric Boehm  
Watchdog.org

It might sound like the latest new product from Apple, but IPAB is actually the newest major legal challenge to Obamacare.

Last week, a three-judge panel in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco heard arguments about the Independent Payment Advisory Board, or IPAB, a 15-member panel created by the Affordable Care Act and empowered to make all kinds of decisions regarding health coverage for Americans. The board's powers are significant, and some say completely unconstitutional, because language in the ACA frees the board from any kind of congressional or judicial oversight.

The board, which many in the right-wing have labeled the ACA's "death panel" after Sarah Palin coined the term in 2009, would be able to set Medicare policy and health care payment rates for virtually all Americans starting in 2017. Language in the ACA even prevents Congress from being able to repeal the IPAB's existence after that same year.

"It's really and truly an unprecedented concentration of power," said Christina Sandefur, an lawyer at the Goldwater Institute in Phoenix, Ariz., who argued the case June 10 before the 9th Circuit Court.

Those challenging the legitimacy of the IPAB in the Coons v. Law lawsuit argue that it is unconstitutional for a variety of reasons — in particular, they say it violates the Fourth, Fifth and Ninth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, while also

running afoul of the separation of powers that are enshrined throughout the Constitution.

"It consolidates the powers of every single branch of government into one body, and yet it is unaccountable to any of those branches," Sandefur told Watchdog.org on Friday.

Under the provisions of the ACA, the board would be made up of 15 presidential appointees. But in an interesting twist, all the powers of IPAB would revert to the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services if the president does not appoint anyone to the board.

So far, no appointments have been made.

But last week's oral arguments in San Francisco only glossed over many of the deeper, constitutional issues at play in the IPAB case.

That's because courts are unwilling to except legal challenges until someone has been harmed by the entity being challenged, which has proven to be the major hurdle in the IPAB case.

Plaintiffs say that is the case. Dr. Erik Novack, an Arizona orthopedic surgeon, is one of those plaintiffs. Because many of his patients are on Medicaid, Novack claims he will face declining reimbursement rates from IPAB decrees.

Attorneys defending the federal law have argued the court should not consider the case "ripe" until members of the board are appointed and it begins functioning.

It was mostly on those grounds that the case was dismissed in December by U.S. District Court Judge G. Murrey Snow.

"Plaintiff's claim is unripe insofar as they argue that they will be forced to disclose confidential medical information to third parties," Snow wrote.

On appeal, the issue of ripeness will be the first thing the three-judge panel in the 9th Circuit will have to decide, but there is no timetable for a decision.

If a majority of the panel sees the case as ripe, the judges will then move on to the constitutional questions. Eventually the case will likely make its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, although it may be several years before that happens.

The clock is ticking on other aspects of the IPAB, though.

Once the board begins making policy, it is insulated from congressional or judicial oversight, with Congress given only a brief window in 2017 to repeal or limit the IPAB's powers — and it would require a supermajority to do so, per ACA rules.

After that, the board becomes the metaphorical cockroach that would survive even a nuclear holocaust.

Even among members of Congress who voted for the ACA, there are some who question the broad powers given to the IPAB under the law.

"I've never supported it, and I would certainly be in favor of abolishing it," U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., told Politico in 2011. "I'm opposed to independent commissions or outside groups playing a role other than on a recommendatory basis."

## Virginia Real: Cantor Ousted

By Kenric Ward  
Watchdog.org

Fed up with the arrogance, the cronyism and a perceived sellout on illegal immigration, voters in Virginia's conservative 7th Congressional District did last Tuesday what no one has done since 1899: Throw out a sitting House majority leader.

The mainstream media and their political pundits didn't see it coming. The party and corporate bag men who backed Rep. Eric Cantor with millions of dollars were powerless to stop the wave of revulsion.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch's endorsement didn't help, as Hanover, Henrico and Chesterfield counties ringing the capital city went heavily for tea partyer Dave Brat.

Tuesday dawned with the conservative Washington Times declaring on Page One that Cantor was "the heavy favorite."

By the end of the day, Brat — an economics professor and

first-time candidate — was the big winner, trouncing the seven-term congressman, 55-44.

A heavy turnout of 65,000 voters fairly shouted that they had grown weary, if not disgusted, with Cantor's steady statist drift. A key player in the Wall Street bailout, the House's No. 2 Republican paid the ultimate electoral price.

Populism — a political strain both feared and ridiculed by Washington's political class — is spreading like wildfire in central Virginia.

Watchdog was the first to report on this uprising, citing Brat's unstinting attacks on "crony capitalism."

Whether Tuesday's revolt against the status-quo spreads to other districts remains to be seen. But voters in the 7th demonstrated that when given a viable alternative, they're ready to throw out "experienced" incumbents.

And why not? The economy is wretched. Jobless rates are

vastly understated. The income gap between the top 1 percent and the rest of the country is widening to pre-Depression levels. And Congress dithers.

In such times, third-party movements arise and the major parties splinter.

A Republican establishment head was lopped off Tuesday. And business-as-usual Democrats are rightfully worried about a similar fate. They have been announcing retirements ahead of the fall elections.

While refusing to debate Brat, Cantor tried to paint his challenger as a "liberal college professor" — a gambit that clearly failed, said Steve Farnsworth, political science professor at the University of Mary Washington.

"That allegation was one of the biggest mistakes Cantor made. One of the first pictures you see on Brat's website is Ronald Reagan, and then Cantor with Barack Obama."

## Kansas Ranks Among Nation's Least Corrupt States

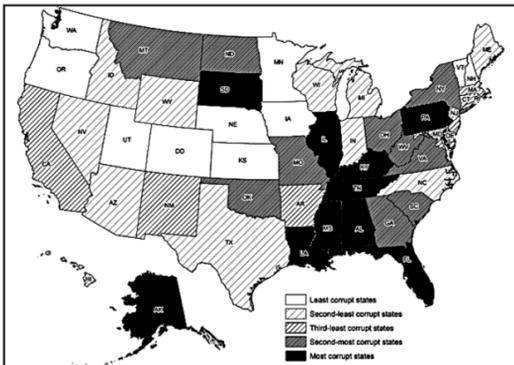
By Travis Perry  
Kansas Watchdog

OSAWATOMIE, Kan. — Congratulations, Kansans, you've now got one more reason to celebrate not living in Missouri.

Or Oklahoma, for that matter.

In a recent study completed by researchers at Indiana University and City University of Hong Kong, China, Kansas was ranked as the 10th least corrupt state in the nation. While Colorado (ninth) and Nebraska (fourth) ranked higher, other surrounding states didn't fare as well.

Missouri clocked-in as the 16th most corrupt state in the



Union, but was not to be outdone by Oklahoma, which pulled in the region's highest position at 11th most corrupt.

Researches created a state-

by-state "corruption index" by analyzing more than 25,000 convictions for violations of federal anti-corruption laws between 1976 and 2008. Those

convictions were cross-referenced against the number of state government employees to compile a corruption-to-employee ratio for each state.

### Most Corrupt States

- Mississippi
- Louisiana
- Tennessee
- Illinois
- Pennsylvania

### Least Corrupt States

- Oregon
- Washington
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- Iowa

Loy Barker, executive director of the Kansas Republican Party, told Kansas

Watchdog the Sunflower State's focus on lean and efficient governance, combined with its leadership culture, may have contributed to its favorable ranking.

"While individual cases of corruption will occur everywhere, I think Kansas has a governmental culture where corruption, even on a small scale, is not normal, tolerated or accepted," Barker said. "Small size and scope of government may play a role. Kansas, being a smaller state has less government, but I'm not sure where Kansas stands on a size of government per capita scale. Less resources and fewer decisions by govern-

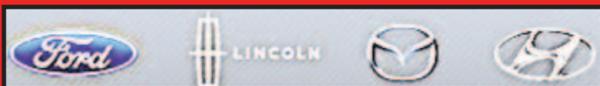
ment mean less opportunity or reason for corruption."

Indeed, researchers found that corruption goes hand-in-hand with increased spending, with more cash flowing to areas of government which are more easily manipulated for personal gain, such as construction projects.

"The empirical results show that states with higher levels of corruption tend to spend more on items on which corrupt officials may levy larger bribes at the expense of others," authors Cheol Liu and John L. Mikesell wrote.

The Kansas Democratic Party declined comment to Kansas Watchdog.

**DICK EDWARDS**  
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# Courthouse News

Manhattan Free Press

Thursday, June 19, 2014

2A

## Events Outside Kansas Clouds Senate Race

By JOHN HANNA  
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Even with tea party challenger Milton Wolf's feisty rhetoric and daily attacks, many Kansas Republicans see U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts coasting to a comfortable victory in the state's Aug. 5 Republican primary.

But U.S. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor's stunning loss to an underfinanced and largely unknown primary challenger in his Virginia congressional district last week raised new questions about the certainty of a Roberts primary victory and how much an anti-Washington, anti-incumbent sentiment on the right could hurt him.

The three-term Republican

incumbent's supporters contend there are significant differences between Roberts and Cantor, particularly the Kansan's tougher stance against creating a pathway to citizenship for immigrants in the U.S. illegally. Still, Wolf's backers are buoyed by the results in Virginia and believe Kansas is part of a larger political trend.

"One of the hardest things for an underdog to do is convince voters, donors and campaign workers that you can win," said Bob Beatty, a political scientist professor at Washburn University in Topeka. "It looks a little more possible after Cantor."

Wolf, a Leawood radiologist, has been campaign aggressive-

ly against Roberts since October and portraying the incumbent as a career politician who's lost touch with Kansas.

Roberts' career in Washington dates back to his days as a congressional aide in the late 1960s, and Wolf and attacks Roberts daily for owning a home in a Washington suburb in Virginia, while listing rented space in the home of Dodge City supporters as his Kansas residence.

For weeks, Wolf has suggested that Roberts is struggling like another veteran Republican incumbent with a strong tea party challenger — Mississippi's Thad Cochran, who finished second in a three-person primary earlier this month and is now in a tough

runoff.

"Something very real is going on," Wolf said in an interview last week. "This era of the career politician is ending, which I think is a very good thing for America."

However, such assessments from Wolf and his supporters seemed less compelling before Cantor's loss.

Roberts has spent nearly \$1.1 million on his campaign since the start of last year — more than three times as much as Wolf — and the incumbent had \$2.25 million in campaign cash at the end of March, compared to Wolf's \$278,000. Roberts also has the backing of the Kansas State Rifle Association and the anti-abortion group Kansans for Life,

## Riley County Commission Minutes

**NOTICE**  
**The Computer Software that Riley County uses to produce the Agenda and these Minutes Cost \$700 per Month.**

June 9, 2014

8:30 AM Call to Order

Attendee Name

Robert Boyd County Commissioner Present

8:30 AM

Ronald Wells County Commissioner Present

8:30 AM

Dave Lewis County Commissioner Present

8:30 AM

Rich Vargo County Clerk Present

8:30 AM

Clancy Holeman Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

Johnette Shepek Budget and Finance Officer

Cindy Volanti Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk

Debbie Register Register of Deeds

Leon Hobson Public Works Director/County Engineer

Laura Monsanto KMAN

Brady Bauman Mercury

Jeff Adams Flint Hills Regional Council

Cheryl Collins Museum Director

Linda Glasgow Museum

Brenda Nickel Health Department Administrator

Patti Grub Public Health Nurse

Ginny Barnard Extension

Ben Wilson

Shelly Williams

Community Corrections Director

Becky Brooks

Administrative Assistant II

John Doehling Riley County Police Department

Susie Swanson

Eileen King County Treasurer

Shilo Heger Tax & Accounting Supervisor/Deputy Treasurer

Larry Coachman EMS

Pat Collins Emergency

Management Director

Grant Bannister

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Commission Comments

Business Meeting

1. Sign a Letter of Support for the Healthy Communities Initiative Implementation grant from the Kansas Health Foundation

Move to sign a Letter of Support for the Healthy Communities Initiative Implementation grant from the Kansas Health Foundation.

RESULT: ADOPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

2. Sign Riley County Personnel Action Form(s)

The Board signed Riley County Personnel Action Forms for the following:

Alyssa Bauer, a new hire, as an As Needed Legal Clerk, in the Attorney's Office, at \$9.51 per hour.

Jeffrey Martinez, a new hire, as a Facility Technician I, in the Public Works Department, at a grade H step 1, at \$15.13 per hour.

3. On Call Agreement with Bruce McMillan, AIA

Move to sign On Call Agreement with Bruce McMillan, AIA Architects, PA.

RESULT: ADOPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

4. Sign On-Line Access Agreements for Register of Deeds Office

Move to approve On-Line Access Agreements for Charlson & Wilson and Alpha Title LLC.

RESULT: ADOPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

5. Randolph Fireworks display application

Move to approve the Randolph Fireworks display permit.

RESULT: ADOPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

6. Discuss Press Conference for Monday, June 16th

Greg M.—Crop report

C. Collins—Juneteenth

Next Week—Stampede-Larry & Brad S. Review Minutes

7. Board of Riley County Commissioners - Regular Meeting - Jun 5, 2014 8:00 AM

Move to approve the minutes.

RESULT: ACCEPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

8. Tentative Agenda 9:00 AM

Rich Vargo, County Clerk

9. Year to date budget and expenditure reports

9:15 AM Jeff Adams, Flint Hills Regional Council

10. Flint Hills Regional Council update

9:30 AM Press Conference

11. Kansas Preservation Alliance Awards for Excellence 2014 - Cheryl Collins and Linda Glasgow (2 minutes)

12. Breastfeeding Welcome Here Campaign - Flint Hills Breastfeeding Coalition (3-5 minutes)

13. McDowell Creek public meeting - Leon Hobson (1-2 minutes)

Hobson reported the McDowell Creek Road project public meeting will be Thursday, June 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Ashland Community Center.

14. People and Pet Summer Safety: Zoonotic Disease Tularemia - Patti Grubbs (5 minutes)

15. A Conversation: County Public Health Assessment Process Scheduled for June 11th - Brenda Nickel (4 minutes)

Nickel reported on Wednesday, June 11th a local public health system assessment meeting will be held at the St. Thomas More Church.

16. 2015 Budget presentations schedule - Johnette Shepek (3 minutes)

17. Party Changes Before Primary Are Limited - Rich Vargo (3 minutes)

10:00 AM Break

10:10 AM

Leon Hobson, Public Works Director /County Engineer

18. Project update

10:25 AM Clancy Holeman - Department of Administrative Services 2015 Budget Request

19. 2015 County Counselor Budget Request

10:40 AM Clancy Holeman, Counselor/Director of Administrative Services

20. Administrative Work Session

11:00 AM Cheryl Collins, Museum Director

21. Riley County Historical Museum Staff Report

11:03 Boyd left the meeting to attend the Airport Board meeting.

11:15 AM Shelly Williams - Adult Services, Juvenile Services, and Juvenile Supervision Fees 2015 Budget Request

22. 2015 Budget Request Presentation Community Corrections

11:45 AM Lunch

1:15 PM Budget/Appropriation request presentations

23. 2015 Budget Request Presentations

1:15 Boyd returned.

Eileen King - Treasurer's Office 2015 Budget Request

Larry Couchman - EMS/Ambulance 2015 Appropriation Request

Pat Collins - Rural Fire, Emergency Management, and 911 2015 Budget Requests

Johnette Shepek - Commission, Coroner, Insurance, General Services 2015 Budget Requests

2:40 PM Adjournment

Moved to adjourn.

RESULT: ADOPT-ED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Dave Lewis, County Commissioner

SECONDER: Ronald Wells, County Commissioner

AYES: Boyd, Wells, Lewis

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Wednesday, July 2nd \* 7:30pm \* Chase Rice  
Thursday, July 3rd \* 9:30pm \* Brett Eldredge  
Saturday, July 5th \* 9:00pm \* Hairball

**\$15** One \$15 Ticket is your pass to all events.  
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## Farm Land Prices Buck Economists' Predictions

By Megan Hart

(AP) The price of irrigated farmland in Kansas was largely unchanged compared to last year, despite concerns an agriculture bubble could be deflating.

Irrigated farmland sold at auction for up to \$6,000 in Kansas this June and in June 2013, according to Farmers National Company, which holds land auctions. Top prices for an irrigated acre this June varied from a high of \$12,500 in Illinois to a low of \$3,000 in Oklahoma.

Brock Thurman, vice president of Farmers National's operations in Kansas and Oklahoma, said lower-quality land has dropped in price, but high-quality ground still commands strong prices. Most demand is from local farmers bidding against each other, because they know whoever buys farm land likely won't sell again in this generation, he said.

"The higher-quality land can still top the market if you have strong local demand," he said. "The really good stuff, there's always a strong local demand for that."

Prices in Kansas ranged from about \$3,500 to \$6,000 for irrigated land and \$2,000 to \$4,000 for non-irrigated land. Auction sales have been strong, Thurman said.

"We're just as active as we've been the last four or five years," he said.

Thurman said prices likely

will remain steady in the near future, though an overall economic setback or bad weather could pinch farmers' pocketbooks and reduce how much they can pay for land.

"I don't think you're going to see much tapering off in land values," he said. "If we go back into drought conditions, that could change."

Farmers National reported sales nationwide were down from 2013, when they reached record levels, but were still "strong." Randy Dickhut, vice president of real estate operations for Farmers National, said economists had predicted farm incomes could fall by as much as 20 percent, which would have dragged down the price buyers were willing to pay for farmland.

Instead, incomes remained relatively stable as the price of grains and meat increased in 2014 due to weather conditions, instability in Ukraine and other factors. Also, relatively few farms were on the market, Dickhut said, encouraging prices to rise or remain stable.

"Market factors aligned to create an optimal situation for our industry," he said. "Due to this, we continue to see a strong land market. While there are no record-setting top values currently, land prices are not going down significantly."

Farmland prices in Kansas had shown a 10 percent decline year-over-year in January, with irrigated land selling for \$4,500 in January 2014 and for \$5,000

in January 2013. It isn't clear if the drop in January was a blip reflecting the selling prices of a small number of farms, or if June's rebound in prices to 2013 levels will prove to be temporary.

Thurman had said in January that prices were likely to hold steady or drop, depending on interest rates and the price of grains. Some economists were more confident predicting that land prices had peaked and

would decline, though not nearly as forcefully as home prices had during the recession.

Land prices went down in eight of the 17 states Farmers National examined: Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee and Texas. Farmers National attributed the decline to poor weather in the northern Great Plains and to lower commodity prices at the end of 2013.

Prices held steady in Illinois,

Michigan, Nebraska, Mississippi and South Dakota Oklahoma and Washington saw price increases. Arkansas, Kentucky,

### Help Wanted

**Head cook at the Riley Co. Sr. Services Center 6 hours M-F. Benefits are sick leave, holidays, paid vacation.**

**Application and job description at the Riley Co. Sr. Ctr, 301 N 4th Street, Manhattan, KS.**

**Send resume to 401 Houston, Manhattan KS 66502**

**Call 1-800-432-2703 for information. EOE/AA**

## Fort Riley Officials Honor Eisenhower

ABILENE, Kan. — June 14, Fort Riley Garrison Commander, Col. Andrew Cole, Jr., and Sgt. Maj. Ancel Bartlett will lay a wreath on former president Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's tomb, inside

the Place of Meditation at the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home, Abilene, Kan. Cole and Bartlett will place the wreath on Eisenhower's grave in honor of the Army's 239th birthday.

### New England Fall Foliage Tour

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Tues., June 24  
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1641 Anderson Ave.

**EMPORIA**  
Wed., June 25  
7 PM  
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## What Happened To April And May Kansas Revenues?

Critics recently accused the Department of Revenue of "misrepresenting" research about the state's revenue shortfall in April and May.

We at the Department of Revenue stand behind our prior statements contained in our April and May tax receipts reports. We have established metrics to track results and limit speculation. These are part of our contribution when we meet with the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group.

Instead of speculative guessing and accusations here is the analysis we've used that shows the effect capital gains shifts from tax year 2013 to tax year 2012 had on Kansas tax receipts.

Many sources have highlighted the difficulties experienced by states in forecasting the tax year 2013 revenue drops due to the federal tax policy changes. Just this week the Federation of Tax Administrators reported for January through April 2014, based on data from 35 states, total individual income tax collections, as well as estimated and final payments, all showed revenue drops.

While the April and May revenue receipts are a concern, this is a temporary issue and should not distract from Kansas' many positive indicators of economic progress: unemployment is down from 6.8 percent in 2011 to 4.8 percent as of April 2014 and the state had two record years in new business filings.

Starting January 2013, Kansas income tax rates decreased 14 to 24 percent. The corresponding decrease in withholding taxes was factored into subsequent consensus revenue estimates. Due to the rate reductions, in 2013, we anticipated a 15 percent drop in withholding and saw a 13.6 percent drop. January 1st of 2014 there was another reduction in income tax rates of 10 percent and we anticipated an additional 5 percent drop in withholding, and for the first five months we have only seen a 4.2 percent drop. The money didn't disap-

pear; Kansans have more money in their pockets.

There are two primary indicators that show the revenue drop in April and May 2014 is attributable primarily to declining capital gains income. The state saw an 11.1 percent increase in federal adjusted gross income reported on tax year 2012 returns, compared to the prior tax year. Kansas income taxes are determined using the federal adjusted gross income amount as the starting point, subject to certain modifications. The federal adjusted gross income amount is not affected by any Kansas tax policy changes. With the tax year 2013 returns received to date, the total federally adjusted income amount has fallen 22 percent from the 2012 high.

Balance due payments (final payments) increased for tax year 2012 by 19.8 percent but fell 47 percent in tax year 2013 compared to 2012. These payments are primarily attributable to capital gains and dividends income.

We issued our April and May tax receipts reports after the April 17, 2014 meeting of the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group, which develops the official revenue forecasts on which the State Budget is built. This group meets twice a year, in November and April, to forecast revenues for the current and next fiscal year. At the time of the April meeting, our tax receipts were exceeding the November 2013 forecast for fiscal year 2014 revenues by \$130 million. As discussed above, our withholding tax receipts were also performing well. At that meeting, the group increased the FY 2014 forecast for individual income tax receipts by \$25 million.

There have also been allegations that the Department underestimated the impact of the non-wage business income tax exemption.

Based on tax returns processed so far, we calculate that businesses have saved between \$140 and \$150 million in Kansas income taxes because of the

## The Conservative Side...



non-wage business tax exemption, which at this point is less than the \$160 million that we previously projected.

Ninety-eight percent of Kansas businesses are 100 or fewer employees. Eliminating non-wage busi-

ness taxes gives these owners needed capital to reinvest in their businesses through new employees and equipment.

As with all tax years, we won't have the final figures until all returns are processed. This will not

happen until after the October deadline for people who filed extensions. Only then will we be able to do a comparison with the prior year.

In November, once the full picture is known, the Consensus Revenue

Estimating Group will reconvene and make any necessary adjustments to the estimates upon which the budget will be based.

**Kansas Revenue Secretary Nick Jordan**



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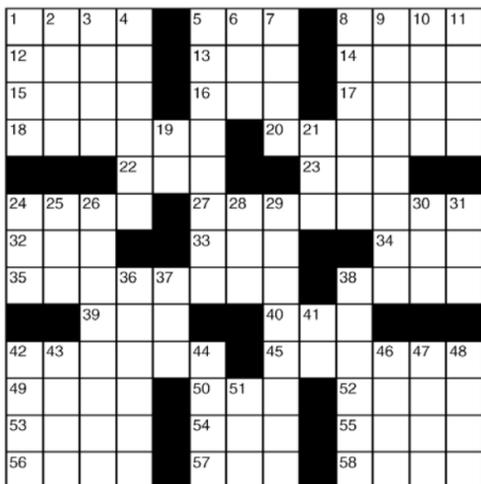
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Hot tubs
  - 5 Bottom line?
  - 8 Bedouin
  - 12 Exist
  - 13 Exploit
  - 14 Brightest star in Lyra
  - 15 Ear-related
  - 16 Needlefish
  - 17 Blue hue
  - 18 Nogoodnik
  - 20 Locations
  - 22 Fawn's mama
  - 23 Chowd down
  - 24 Use a paper towel
  - 27 Clerics' vesting place
  - 32 Melody
  - 33 Ring
  - 34 Ball prop
  - 35 Bishop, often
  - 38 Now, on a memo
  - 39 Pitch
  - 40 Understood
  - 42 Mountain range
  - 45 Whole
- DOWN**
- 1 Unkempt one
  - 2 Pocket bread
  - 3 Eager, and then some
  - 4 Withdraw
  - 5 Hints at
  - 6 "Born in the —"
  - 7 Griffin of old TV
  - 8 Forward, in Florence
  - 9 Asks
  - 10 Malaria symptom
  - 11 Sheepish
  - 49 Comedy Central's Daniel — de deux
  - 52 Paradise
  - 53 "Beetle Bailey"
  - 54 Perch
  - 55 Coaster
  - 56 Nasty stinger
  - 57 Type squares
  - 58 "— of the D'Urber-villes"
  - 19 With 41-Down, continue
  - 21 Listener
  - 24 Bankroll
  - 25 Midafternoon, in a way
  - 26 Disapprovers' demonstrations
  - 28 Alias (Abbr.)
  - 29 Creates a jam
  - 30 Earl Grey, for one
  - 31 "Uh-huh"
  - 36 Drive-in staffer
  - 37 Blunder
  - 38 Authenticate
  - 41 See 19-Down
  - 42 Pack away
  - 43 Greek vowel
  - 44 Cathedral feature
  - 46 Between jobs
  - 47 Roger of "Cheers"
  - 48 Tackles' teammates
  - 51 Intention



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## Honey Bun Cake

Honey, this cake was made for you! A rich layer of brown sugar, cinnamon and pecans bakes in a golden yellow cake.

- Ingredients**
- 1 box Betty Crocker™ SuperMoist™ yellow cake mix
  - 2/3 cup vegetable oil
  - 4 eggs
  - 1 container (8 oz) sour cream (1 cup)
  - 1 cup packed brown sugar
  - 1/3 cup chopped pecans
  - 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
  - 1 cup powdered sugar
  - 1 tablespoon milk
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Directions**
- 1 Heat oven to 350°F (325°F for dark or nonstick pan). Grease and lightly flour 13x9-inch pan, or spray with baking spray with flour.
  - 2 In large bowl, beat cake mix, oil, eggs and sour cream with electric mixer on low speed 30 seconds, then on medium speed 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Spread half of the batter in pan.
  - 3 In small bowl, stir together brown sugar, pecans and cinnamon; sprinkle over batter in pan. Carefully spread remaining batter evenly over pecan mixture.
  - 4 Bake 44 to 48 minutes or until deep golden brown. In another small bowl, stir powdered sugar, milk and vanilla until thin enough to spread. Prick surface of warm cake several times with fork. Spread powdered sugar mixture over cake. Cool completely, about 1 hour. Store covered.

### That's The Brakes

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## Answers On Page 4

### HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below. Number is missing. 5. Box top is reversed. 6. Fall is missing. 4. Differences: 1. Fence board is moved. 2. Cap is reversed. 3. Tag is missing.

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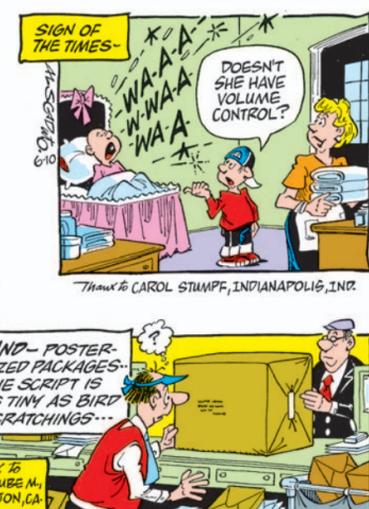
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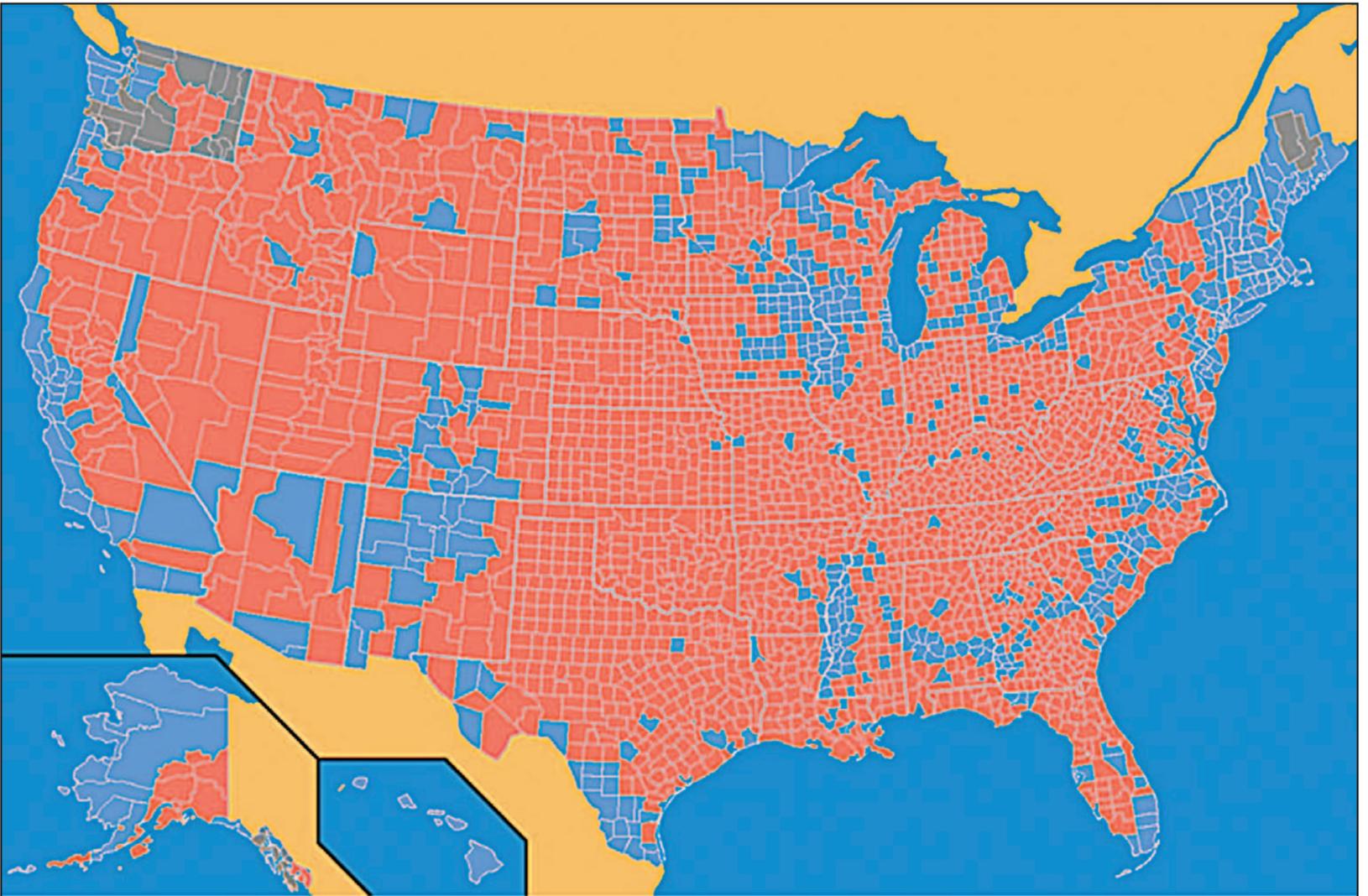
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This is a map of the United States showing how each county in each State voted. Most counties in most States voted for Romney but the large cities went to Obama. In Pennsylvania Obama only won 10 of the 67 Counties. In Philadelphia Obama won 85.2% of the votes. In Ohio, won by Obama he only had 50.29% of the vote.

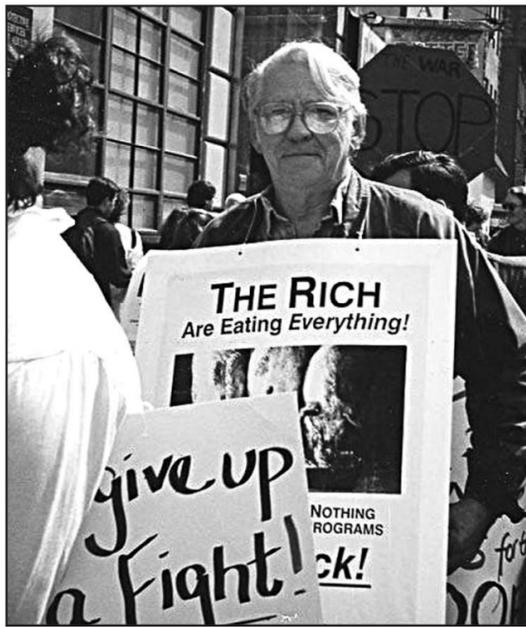
# Was The 2012 Presidential Election The Result Of The Cloward - Piven Political Strategy?

From Wikipedia  
The free encyclopedia

The Cloward-Piven strategy is a political strategy outlined in 1966 by American sociologists and political activists Richard Cloward and Frances Fox Piven that called for overloading the U.S. public welfare system in order to precipitate a crisis that would lead to a replacement of the welfare system with a national system of "a guaranteed annual income and thus an end to poverty". Cloward and Piven were a married couple who were both professors at the Columbia University School of Social Work. The strategy was formulated in a May 1966 article in the liberal magazine *The Nation* titled "The Weight of the Poor: A Strategy to End Poverty".[2]

The two stated that many Americans who were eligible for welfare were not receiving benefits, and that a welfare enrollment drive would strain local budgets, precipitating a crisis at the state and local levels that would be a wake-up call for the federal government, particularly the Democratic Party. There would also be side consequences of this strategy, according to Cloward and Piven. These would include: easing the plight of the poor in the short-term (through their participation in the welfare system); shoring up support for the national Democratic Party then splintered by pluralistic interests (through its cultivation of poor and minority constituencies by implementing a national "solution" to poverty); and relieving local governments of the financially and politically onerous burdens of public welfare (through a national "solution" to poverty)[citation needed].

**The strategy**  
Cloward and Piven's article is focused on forcing the Democratic Party, which in 1966 controlled the presidency and both houses of the United States Congress, to take federal



Richard Cloward picketing in NY.

action to help the poor. They stated that full enrollment of those eligible for welfare "would produce bureaucratic disruption in welfare agencies and fiscal disruption in local and state governments" that would "deepen existing divisions among elements in the big-city Democratic coalition: the remaining white middle class, the working-class ethnic groups and the growing minority poor. To avoid a further weakening of that historic coalition, a national Democratic administration would be constrained to advance a federal solution to poverty that would override local welfare failures, local class and racial conflicts and local revenue dilemmas." [3] They wrote:

"The ultimate objective of this strategy—to wipe out poverty by establishing a guaranteed annual income—will be questioned by some. Because the ideal of individual social and economic mobility has deep roots, even activists seem reluctant to call for national programs to eliminate poverty

by the outright redistribution of income.[3]

Michael Reisch and Janice Andrews wrote that Cloward and Piven "proposed to create a crisis in the current welfare system – by exploiting the gap between welfare law and practice – that would ultimately bring about its collapse and replace it with a system of guaranteed annual income. They hoped to accomplish this end by informing the poor of their rights to welfare assistance, encouraging them to apply for benefits and, in effect, overloading an already overburdened bureaucracy." [4]

#### Focus on Democrats

The authors pinned their hopes on creating disruption within the Democratic Party. "Conservative Republicans are always ready to declaim the evils of public welfare, and they would probably be the first to raise a hue and cry. But deeper and politically more telling conflicts would take place within the Democratic coalition," they wrote. "Whites – both working class ethnic groups and many in the middle

class – would be aroused against the ghetto poor, while liberal groups, which until recently have been comforted by the notion that the poor are few... would probably support the movement. Group conflict, spelling political crisis for the local party apparatus, would thus become acute as welfare rolls mounted and the strains on local budgets became more severe." [5]

#### Reception and criticism

Howard Phillips, chairman of The Conservative Caucus, was quoted in 1982 as saying that the strategy could be effective because "Great Society programs had created a vast army of full-time liberal activists whose salaries are paid from the taxes of conservative working people." [6]

Liberal commentator Michael Tomasky, writing about the strategy in the 1990s and again in 2011, called it "wrongheaded and self-defeating", writing: "It apparently didn't occur to [Cloward and Piven] that the system would just regard rabble-rousing black people as a phenomenon to be ignored or quashed." [7]

#### Impact of the strategy

In papers published in 1971 and 1977, Cloward and Piven argued that mass unrest in the United States, especially between 1964 and 1969, did lead to a massive expansion of welfare rolls, though not to the guaranteed-income program that they had hoped for. [8] Political scientist Robert Albritton disagreed, writing in 1979 that the data did not support this thesis; he offered an alternative explanation for the rise in welfare caseloads.

In his 2006 book *Winning the Race*, political commentator John McWhorter attributed the rise in the welfare state after the 1960s to the Cloward-Piven strategy, but wrote about it negatively, stating that the strategy "created generations of black people for whom working for a living is an abstraction." [9]

According to historian Robert E. Weir in 2007, "Although the strategy helped to boost recipient numbers between 1966 and 1975, the revolution its proponents envisioned never transpired." [10]

Some commentators have blamed the Cloward-Piven strategy for the near-bankruptcy of New York City in 1975. [11][12]

Conservative commentator Glenn Beck referred to the Cloward-Piven Strategy often on his Fox News television show, Glenn Beck, during its run from 2009 to 2011, reiterating his opinion that it had helped to inspire President Barack Obama's economic policy. On February 18, 2010, for example, Beck said, "you've got total destruction of wealth coming ... It's the final phase of the Cloward-Piven strategy, which is collapse the system." [13]

Richard Kim, writing in 2010 in *The Nation* (in which the original essay appeared), called such assertions "a reactionary paranoid fantasy ..." but says that "the left's gut reaction upon hearing of it—to laugh it off as a Scooby-Doo comic mystery—does nothing to blunt its appeal or limit its impact." [14] *The Nation* later stated that Beck blames the "Cloward-Piven Strategy" for "the financial crisis of 2008, healthcare reform, Obama's election and massive voter fraud" and has resulted in the posting of much violent and threatening rhetoric by users on Beck's website, including death threats against Frances Fox Piven. [15] For her part, Piven vigorously continues to defend the original idea, calling its conservative interpretation "lunatic". [16]

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