



## **Poll finds that Kansans believe the economy is headed in the wrong direction**

### ***Kansans want the cash reserves spent on addressing high sales and income taxes.***

As the Kansas legislature wraps up the 2022 session, legislators continue to face big questions surrounding how best to use the Kansas budget surplus.

According to a recent poll conducted on behalf of Kansas Policy Institute by SurveyUSA, 44% of Kansans, a plurality in the state, is headed in the wrong direction when it comes to the economy.

James Franko, President of Kansas Policy Institute says, “Politicians often talk about getting our fiscal house in order, but rarely do they have the courage to do so. While they find it hard to say no to somebody’s wish list, Kansas families have to work that much harder to put gas in the tank and food on the table.”

In the poll, 44% of Kansans want the state to devote the cash reserves to reducing sales taxes while 24% would like to see the cash reserves used to reduce income taxes.

The latest revenue data suggest roughly \$3 billion in unspent reserves are in state coffers.

“The key for lawmakers is to use the surplus to promote long-term responsibility and economic health. Paying down debt and rainy-day funds are exactly right, one-time rebates and mega-incentive programs are, at best, misguided,” says Franko.

The poll data shows that many voters in Kansas seem satisfied with the way their state and local government handled various policy decisions surrounding the pandemic. However, when asked how they thought the federal government handled COVID issues, 51% said they thought issues were handled poorly.

“It’s easier to be mad at DC politicians than the ones from your hometown. It’s important to keep local authorities accountable as they are in control of a lot of the decisions that directly impact our businesses in Kansas,” says Franko.

Kansans were also asked a variety of other policy questions, including questions on mandating the Coronavirus vaccination. When asked if state and local health officers should have the authority to order vaccinations against Coronavirus for people based on their field of work, 50% of voters said yes, while only 36% of voters thought state and local health officers should be able to order the vaccination for the general public.

When asked if Kansans affected by public health orders should be able to challenge those orders in court, 46% of voters said yes, while 25% said no.

Kansas voters were also asked if public employees should be allowed to end their union membership and stop paying dues whenever they wish. 54% of voters feel that they should be able to end their union membership while only 20% said a union member should not be able to end their membership.

Franko concluded, “Political vitriol is bad enough in its own, but it also betrays a short-term view of politics. This entire poll points to Kansans demonstrating a desire for long-term solutions, politicians thinking beyond their next election, and a presumption of liberty.”

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