

Local candidates

Many primary election races will be decided on Aug. 3

By Karen Krien

The Primary election will see a number of candidates vying for different offices, especially at the local level.

The candidates featured on this page are those who have races in the Primary. The winners will be featured again in the General election with their opponents in the different parties.

There are four offices which do not have any opposition: These include Clerk, Terry Miller; Treasurer, Dolores Jenik; Regis-

ter of Deeds, Mary Morrow. In the District Magistrate Judge District 15 position, there is a race for the Republican seat with Robert Van Allen and William Fiedler Jr. both vying for the title. However, Jolene Dodd, who is a Democrat, is running unopposed in the Primary.

Consequently, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Jenik, Mrs. Morrow and Mrs. Dodd have not been featured this week but will be featured nearer to the General election.

Those local candidates featured below are: Commissioner District

2: John L. Finley (R), St. Francis; Ray Lee (R), Wheeler; Ronald Loudon (R), St. Francis; Kelly Morris (R), St. Francis; Commissioner District 3: Andy Beikman (R), St. Francis; Ron Krien (R), St. Francis; Sheriff: Eddie Dankenbring Jr. (R), St. Francis; Chuck Kribs (R), Bird City; Gary Morris (R), St. Francis.

District Magistrate Judge District 15 Position 1: Robert Van Allen (R), Wheeler; William Fiedler Jr. (R), St. Francis.

Commissioner, District 1 —

Farmer wants to maintain budget

John Finley is running for Cheyenne County Commissioner, District 2.

When Mr. Finley was asked why he was running for commissioner, he said, "I have always wanted to help the county be progressive."

Mr. Finley has been involved with the county helping with the county fair for most of his life. He has recently become a state Farm Bureau member and feels that, if elected, his knowledge gained from Farm Bureau will be beneficial in running the county.

He is not an advocate for raising taxes and plans to maintain the county on the same budget, however, he was cautious in saying that he really can't make any promises or predictions until he "gets his feet wet," by serving as a commissioner and knowing more about budgets

and departments.

However, he does think that it is important to plan projects ahead and know exactly what the county can afford and put money away for those things that are needed.

As a commissioner, Mr. Finley would like to see the tax money provide as many services as possible with no increases in taxes; provide the best possible road system, strive to attract a value-added industry to the county, thus adding to the tax base and lowering the mill levy. He would also like to see more students in the school systems.

Mr. Finley thinks adding some



Finley

kinds of industries in the county would benefit the entire county.

"I would say we need industries that deal with wheat, corn or livestock," he said.

He said there is already a small industry in the county that not many people know about and that is Nick Ketzner's "High Noon" show feeds. He said it is a good feed which he and his family uses and thinks it will grow.

Mr. Finley, a farmer/rancher, is semi-retired and feels that he has time to devote to the county as a commissioner. He thinks it is important to commit more than two meetings a month.

"Commissioners are responsible to listen and make wise choices in funding, and if I am elected, to be a good commissioner by listening and studying issues," he said.

Commissioner, District 2 —

Beikman runs for commissioner

Andy Beikman, St. Francis, decided to run in the last commissioner race being defeated by only 14 votes so decided to try it again, filing for commissioner of the 3rd District.

"I thought it was time for a change," said Mr. Beikman.

One of his goals is building the county's development so kids can come back to their hometown and make a living.

"There is nothing to keep many of our young people here. The farms are getting bigger and the farmers are hiring fewer people. There is just less money to be spent in the county," he said.

He is an advocate of using grant money. He realizes it takes a grant writer who can use the right words to show the needs but there are communities around Cheyenne County who have benefited greatly from grant money.

"It (grant money) is the easiest money we can get," he said

And with that money, maybe businesses and small manufacturing plants can be established.

Mr. Beikman thinks taking care of the senior citizens is also important, especially since Cheyenne

County has a large population of senior citizens. He is a g a i n s t d i s t r i c t i n g which could someday force people to go to Colby or even Hays to get even a driver's license renewed or pay their taxes.

Districting has already affected the older and poorer population of the county when the county Social Rehabilitation Service office was moved to Goodland.

"I would like to see something established to help our older population when they have a problem," he said.

Mr. Beikman is self employed in his ag repair business and says that it is run on a budget. While it is small numbers compared to the number of dollars used to run the county, both need to have a balance that is planned for and is "out of the red."

"I have earned my own way and I have an idea what it is to stay within a budget," he said.

He looks at U.S. 36 highway as a

way to bring more business and tourists into the county.

In Missouri, U.S. 36 is a four-lane highway and that four-lane highway extends into Kansas, Mr. Beikman said. If that four-lane highway would go across Kansas and into Colorado, many people would travel it instead of Interstate 70.

"I think there is a lot to be made with the traffic that comes down a good highway," he said.

Keeping the county's landfill is something Mr. Beikman thinks need to be constantly working on. He thought it was good when the county put in the scale and began controlling items put into the landfill.

"Waste oil and tires were not good for the landfill. We need to keep the landfill available for the public as long as we can."

Mr. Beikman recently moved his business from Bird City to his farm home southeast of St. Francis.

"I felt that it was important to have my business within my district and, being closer to St. Francis and being self employed, I will be able to be on hand when needed as your commissioner," he said.



Beikman

Ron Krien seeks re-election

Ron Krien is finishing his second term as Cheyenne County Commissioner, District 3. He said he feels that his experience is valuable especially in hard times like now when it is tough to budget the money. To make money matters worse, there is less federal and state money coming in.

After almost eight years as a commissioner, Mr. Krien feels that he understands the budget and has helped make important decisions in cutting back expenditures and tightening the budget which has saved the county money.

He has 44 years experience in the construction business, owning his company for the last 24 years. Through his business, he has worked with the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Keeping our landfill open is a one of my goals as it will benefit the people living in the county now as well as our children and grandchil-

dren," Mr. Krien said.

"If we allow our landfill to not pass regulations or fill up, we would have to haul our trash to as far away as Topeka or Wichita. That would really be expensive."

He knows how fast a landfill can fill up so he supports the city's recycling center and the recycling efforts of the residents. Each year, recycling saves tons of items being taken to the county landfill.

He served on the Four-County Landfill Committee and the Hazardous Household Waste Committee, attending meetings regularly for over seven years.

He would also like to see the county continue to improve roads, buildings and equipment but, at the

same time, keeping the budget under control.

Mr. Krien thinks that it is important to keep abreast of state and federal issues as well as county issues. While he doesn't approve of commissioners and other county employees attending a large number of meetings, he does think that some of the meetings are extremely important for training and information. He makes an attempt to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

"We need to let the government in Topeka know that there is a Cheyenne County and we are just as important as the other counties in the state," Mr. Krien said.

If re-elected, Mr. Krien said he plans to continue being a responsible commissioner and seeing a lot of things through that he has seen started in the county.

"I would like to see them (projects) through," he said.



Krien

Former sheriff runs for office

Former Cheyenne County Sheriff Ray Lee is now vying for a seat on the board of county commissioners, District 2.

"I have lived in Cheyenne County since 1949 except for two years that I was in the Army," said Mr. Lee. "I have extra time and plan to be around all year to devote my time to the people of the county."

"I was sheriff for 28 years and I never let a phone call or letter go unanswered."

Mr. Lee thinks it is important to watch how the tax money is spent and be conservative. Consequently,

one of his goals is to keep taxes down and not let them get higher. However, he notes that until he is in office, it is hard to say exactly what he will do.

He is a firm believer in a balanced budget.

"Never while I was sheriff was my department in the red," he said, noting that when the Dr. Naramore case was tried in the county, he



Lee

might have been in the red but that was a case that was not budgeted for when the budgets were set.

He said he cares about Cheyenne County.

"I raised my kids here and now, one of my biggest concerns is to keep the courthouse in the county," he said.

Mr. Lee still works as a deputy in the sheriff's department and thinks his former experience along with his present experience in the courthouse, even though in a different department, will help him to be a good commissioner.

Sainty resident brings new ideas

Ron Loudon is running for Cheyenne County Commissioner, District 2.

He thinks it is important to "step back every once in awhile and look at the overall picture." And, if he is elected to the District 2 commissioner seat, he feels that he will bring experience and new ideas to the board.

Ron and his wife Betty were residents of St. Francis in the 70s and early 80s and, then moved to Colorado for 17 years. However, five years ago they moved back to St. Francis to retire.

"Betty and I both believe and have commented that Cheyenne County is very unique. The people are so friendly and extremely caring in time of need. If they ask about your health, they really want to know and are interested — they are not just passing the time

of day," he said.

"If you don't think this friendship and caring is important, just move to a different community where these character traits do not exist. You will soon see people with the 'I/me' syndrome. Then the whole community becomes a 'what's in it for me' community. I have seen it and it isn't pretty."

"For the above reasons, I would like the opportunity to give back to this unique county, with people that have caring and friendship, and use my experience and abilities to do whatever I can, whenever I can, wherever I can, for as long as I can."

Mr. Loudon said that he feels Dis-



Loudon

trict 2 Commissioner Tim Raile has done a good job including the strong efforts to keep county roads in good condition.

He said that, in dealing with the administration of the county, his guiding principle will be to simply "maintain and improve the infrastructure of the county."

"Without a solid infrastructure, the county will not have an opportunity to 1) provide adequate and reasonable services for its citizens, and, 2) have a chance to attract people or small businesses to Cheyenne County."

"If I prevail in this election, our winter-time trips to the south will have to be put on hold. Betty and I have talked about this and we will probably plan a tour of 10 days or less. We used to live in Cheyenne County for the winter — we can do it again!" he said.

Morris wants population growth

Kelly Morris, St. Francis, is running for Cheyenne County Commissioner, District 2. He believes that it is time that he take an active part in the county by stepping up and filling the position of county commissioner.

Mr. Morris said he has a lot of ideas including applying and receiving grants for rural communities and counties.

"We need to draw small businesses and small factories or manufacturing businesses which would hire five to 10 people. These businesses may grow to employ more people which would add need population to the cities.

"We need to bring people in and keep them here. I love farming but we need to keep our young people here and many people can't just farm any more.... it takes a second job."

Mr. Morris knows all about farming as he was born and raised on a farm north of Wheeler. Today, he and his wife Connie have a small farm and he supplements the income by running Morris Plumbing.

"Northwest Kansas is the best located area in the state. We are only 180 miles from Denver which has more people in the metro area than we have in all of northwest Kansas. Because of our location, we can

draw people and business from Denver if we can just get the word out and they see what we have to offer — a place to get out of the rat race!"

He points out that Goodell's Floral ships plants all over and Milton Lampe is making coffins to ship out.

"These are just a few of the small businesses which are producing in Cheyenne County... there are several others."

"Instead of continually looking at 'down sizing,' we need to look at 'up sizing.'"

Mr. Morris realizes that federal dollars are not coming in as they once did.

"We need to make cuts and probably combine services where they overlap," he said. "We have already combined law services with the county and Bird City. We may need to look at working out something



K. Morris

with the city of St. Francis."

He noted that he is conservative when he mentions "combining services" as that often means cuts in jobs and he doesn't want to see that happen.

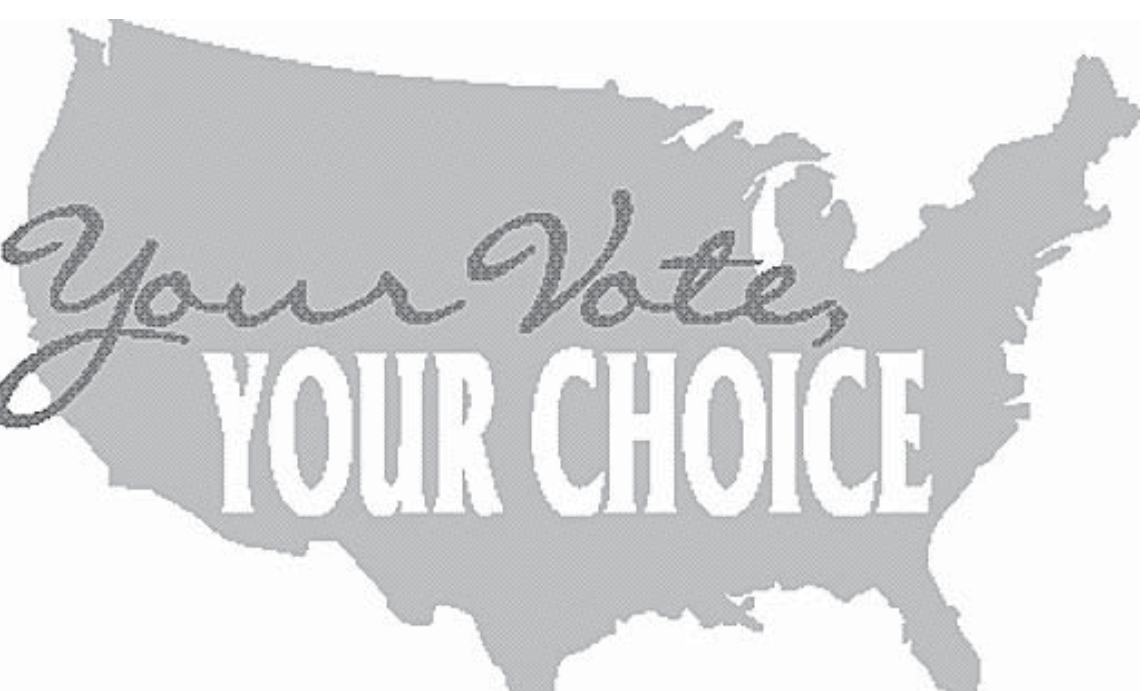
"I don't want to see the county or departments go in the 'red.' The county and every department needs to be run like a person would run their checkbook."

One of Mr. Morris' goals is to listen to everybody — not just in his district but throughout the county.

"I want to hear both the complaints as well as their ideas. We have to work together."

Mr. Morris said he is young, but has had a great deal of experience in his businesses working with architects and engineers. He has also feels that he can bring in new, fresh ideas.

"I think that our county Development Corporation could bring in a lot of grants for the county as well as small and big businesses wanting to locate here. I just want to keep rural America and Cheyenne County alive!"



Sheriff —

Morris comes back to hometown

Gary Morris, a Cheyenne County man, growing up north of Wheeler, has always wanted to come back to St. Francis. When his parents became ill and needed help, he and wife Patricia, moved back to the family farm.

While he still runs his business, "Six Toes Estimating," a construction estimating business which he brought from Garden City where he previously lived, he would like another job which would help buy the farm.

People started talking to him about running for county sheriff shortly after he returned a little less than a year ago. He had talked to his family and prayed about the decision before filing. He said in just a couple of days he had enough signatures on his petition which he felt the public support was encouraging.

Mr. Morris retired from the Air Force in 1993. Among his duties was working in electronic security and he thinks that this duty alone will have value in being a sheriff.

He also worked with many different kinds of people and knows that he can work with the public as well as managing those working in the sheriff's department. He thinks it is important to work closely with the law enforcements and the county attorney, seeing each case completed. Among his goals are:

- To stay within the budget.
- Enforce the law with common sense. He has seen felonies ruin the lives of people and knows that every case is different.
- Work with all available resources such as churches, organizations and educational programs as they can often help people in trouble.
- Do the job in a quick, orderly way.
- Work in limiting the use and sale of drugs and alcoholic.
- Establish fairness in the way offenders are handled.

"When a person is caught (doing a crime), he should be treated the same as any other person, no matter what their last name is or who they are related to," he said.

"Work with kids to help them earn respect for the law."

He and Mrs. Morris will continue to live at the farm and his daughter, son-in-law and children are moving back to help take care of his dad.

If he is elected sheriff, he promises the people of Cheyenne County that he will do the best job possible and bring respect to the sheriff's office.



G. Morris

Dankenbring seeks another four years

Eddie Dankenbring will be seeking re-election in the primary.

His main priority is working with the youth of Cheyenne County, to keep them alive, safe and drug free.

He would like to see more drug and alcohol-free educational programs for kids.

"I have given talks on drugs to several organizations and I'm always willing to give more," Sheriff Dankenbring said. "If only one kid listens, then it is worth it."

A bike safety class is being planned, maybe in the fall when it cools off.

"We will continue to fingerprint the children of Cheyenne County, if they would like us to do so."

With the recent acts of terrorism in school, he and other law officers will be having a local training so they learn the layout of the schools in the county.

He said that he has enjoyed the three and one-half years he has spent as sheriff and feels that every day is a learning process with the laws and paperwork always changing.

Sheriff Dankenbring says he works on an average of 60-plus hours every week.

"We're working on drug cases almost every day."

He finds the law process slow at times but said five people have been prosecuted for drugs and sent to prison during his time in office.

Sheriff Dankenbring said that federal and state government are trying to cut expenses so more of the burden falls on the county which has limited money. The challenge is always the budget and employees.

"We are one of the lowest paid departments in the state and with training a new officer for 14 weeks, there is double expense," he said.

Sheriff Dankenbring said his budget is tight but pointed out that when

he came into office, there were not sufficient weapons to safely protect the county. The sheriff's office now has officers adequately equipped to do their job.

"We hope we never need to use them, but you never know," he said.

Several years ago, a semi truck broke down near Riverside Recreation. When a search was run on the driver, it was found that he was on the terrorist watch list.

"Like I said, you never know!"

The sheriff's department also has three vehicles, all of them purchased locally as used vehicles.

"We have to have four-wheel drive and good, used, low-mileage vehicles are much cheaper. Right now, we only receive \$10,000 per year for vehicle purchase and we have one vehicle with over 150,000 miles."

In January, 2004, an agreement was worked out with Bird City to have the sheriff's office cover Bird City along with their coverage of the county. To make this possible, another deputy was hired and his training at the police training academy will be completed in August. The sheriff's department has Sheriff Dankenbring, one deputy, and one part-time deputy covering Cheyenne County.

"When I graduated from the academy, they told us within two years, 44 percent of the class would no longer be in law enforcement," he said, noting that most officers quit because of "burnout."

"If re-elected, I will continue to have good working relations with the St. Francis Police Department



Dankenbring

Retired executive seeks sheriff office

A retired executive, now living just north of Bird City is seeking the position of sheriff of Cheyenne County.

Charles W. Kribs has come a long way from his birth in Canada. He moved to the United States when he was 1-week old, became a U.S. citizen when he was 14 and, since then has seen a lot of the States as well as a number of foreign countries.

The most commonly asked question is, "After having an exciting career and seeing much of the world, why did you choose to move to Bird City?"

Mr. Kribs said that he was about to retire and was working in downtown Los Angeles.

He had gone pheasant hunting in the Bird City area for years and he thought, "I want to go to Cheyenne County!"

He called Phyllis Carson, ended up buying a house without seeing it, and eventually was a resident of Bird City and remained a resident for the last 16 years.

Mr. Kribs attended San Jose State College and Denver University. He was a guest lecturer at Sloan School Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is a Navy veteran.

His work throughout the years was in management. He worked for Martin Marietta (now Lockheed Martin) where he was part of a team who took over organizations (government and private) which were in trouble. Through his years of management, he has worked with county and federal agencies, serving police, sheriff and emergency service organizations. He budgeted, planned, staffed and operated the agencies. He has acted as consultant to city police and county sheriff officers

and disaster reaction centers.

His goals as sheriff include:

- Operating the department to the budget and thinks that adequate funds are available to do so.
- Spend the time on the job to provide the leadership and control the taxpayers and voters deserve.
- Develop and publish a policy on drugs which will be enforced with everyone being considered 'equal in the eyes of the law.'
- Work closely with other law enforcement agencies to build a team approach, sharing resources wherever possible to provide better services and control costs.
- Complete the process for every case to closure.
- Communicate with the public.

"If the people tell me that I'm not doing a good job, then I will not run for a second term but I do plan to serve as sheriff for at least two terms," he said. "I want to be the sheriff and I know I can do a good job!"

Mr. Kribs and his wife Diane live 6 miles north of Bird City where they have some Arabian-Appaloosa jumpers. Mrs. Kribs commutes from her job in Boulder and hopes to find employment closer to the area in the near future.



Kribs

Judge —

Van Allen seeks fairness

Robert Van Allen, Wheeler, is running for the seat of Magistrate Judge, District 15.

Mr. Van Allen was one of the three Cheyenne County residents who interviewed for the District 15 appointment with Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

"I had thought about running for the position for some time and would like to help the community to make a difference," Mr. Van Allen said.

"I think the position would be a 'challenge' and I would like the challenge. I know the position will be demanding."

He sees the magistrate judge's responsibilities as:

- Upholding and enforcing the law.
- Making decisions based only on the law and the facts pertaining to the case.
- Maintaining proper decorum and legal procedures.

The owner of Van Allen Implement, Wheeler, for the last 30 years, Mr. Van Allen has learned a lot about making important decisions and dealing with people.

"I enjoy people," Mr. Van Allen said. "I am also good at analyzing

situations."

Mr. Van Allen said he had talked to other judges in the area before running.

"They were very supportive and said anytime I needed advice, I could call on them."

"I want to be a working judge," he stated, noting that he will constantly be learning but it is something that he is looking forward to doing.

"I have maturity and good common sense and I want to get down to the issues and see court cases closed in a timely manner," he said. "I think it is important to work with the county attorney, whoever he or she may be."

"As magistrate judge, I plan to work for the people who elected me, making integrity and responsibility my highest priority in the performance of my duties," he said. "I will also do my utmost to be fair and impartial in my decisions."

"The most important thing is to get it right!"



Van Allen

Fiedler wants integrity

Born and raised in Cheyenne County, William "Bill" G. Fiedler Jr. wants to see honesty and integrity brought to the District Magistrate Judge's chambers.

Running on the Republican side of the ballot, Mr. Fiedler said he has been interested in politics for a number of years, first becoming intrigued with politics while listening to talk shows on the radio in his 18-wheeler. But, he really wanted to be a part of Cheyenne County and his hometown, St. Francis.

"I've seen a lot, done a lot and been a lot of places, but this (Cheyenne County) has always been home — I care about the county, communities and the people," Mr. Fiedler said.

"There just seemed to be a vacancy of integrity in the position of judge," he said.

"I heard there was trouble in that office and people were unhappy but no one did anything about it."

For the last 15 years, Mr. Fiedler has driven a 18-wheeler over 1.5 million miles.

"Driving that truck for Frozen Food Express out of Dallas has taught me dedication and I will bring that same dedication to this job," he said.

"The local judge doesn't need to be at the discrepancy of the lawyers but of the voters who they are representing."

"I have had limited time to campaign due to my present job keeping me on the road. My lack of campaigning does not represent a lack of interest.

Earlier this year, the judge position was filled by the governor. Mr.

Fiedler was among those selected to interview with the panel of gubernatorial-appointed people.

"I knew I didn't have much of a chance but I wanted the experience."

When asked about "diversion," Mr. Fiedler said that diversions are okay when used right but, are often misused.

"Sometimes they (diversions) shouldn't be handed out but are because the judge doesn't want the grief to enforce the charge," he said.

And, if a person does receive a diversion, the pay should be partly community service. He told about a town in Texas where those doing community service were assigned their work detail on Saturday afternoon, mostly picking up trash at tired in a bright orange vest.

"It wasn't long before there wasn't crime in the high school."

"I will not be intimidated by 'last names!' The job of the District Judge is to make judicial decisions based on the rule of law.

In 2002, Mr. Fiedler was in a serious accident.

"I shouldn't probably be here but I decided God wasn't through with me yet," he said.

He has done a lot of serious thinking and has decided that he should be doing something that will benefit the county and the people and feels that serving as Magistrate Judge will be a good start.



Fiedler

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— Doug Mays, House Speaker

Are these your values?	John Faber	Doug Sebelius
The definition of marriage is a significant public concern. Of these two statements, which one is closer to your position?	The Kansas Constitution should define marriage as it is traditionally understood, a union between a man and a woman	An amendment to the Kansas Constitution to define marriage is unnecessary to protect traditional marriage.
Do you believe homosexual individuals or couples should be permitted to adopt children?	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS
Do you support recognition of domestic partnerships or civil unions for same sex couples?	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS
Should taxpayer dollars be used to pay for abortions?	OPPOSES	UNSURE
Judges exceeding their historical role and legislating from the bench has become a great public concern. Do you support measures that would hold judges more accountable for their actions?	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES
Should it be easier to remove a judge from office?	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES
Should illegal immigrants be allowed to obtain a Kansas drivers license?	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS
Do you favor legislation that would permit the posting of the Ten Commandments in public places including public schools?	SUPPORTS	OPPOSES
During the debate in the Kansas Senate regarding HCR5033, (Marriage Amendment to the Kansas Constitution), Senator Lana Oleen offered an amendment that would have permitted unmarried couples and same sex partners to receive the same benefits as married couples. Do you support the proposal offered by Senator Oleen?	OPPOSES	UNSURE
The United States Supreme Court just ruled that laws intended to protect children from internet pornography violated the Constitution's free speech provisions. Do you agree with the Supreme Court's ruling?	OPPOSES	SUPPORTS

Kansas Christian Coalition candidate survey

Paid for by the Campaign to Elect John Faber, Ed Carson, Treasurer