

Basic campaign speech

This is Governor John Carlin's basic campaign speech for his 1982 gubernatorial reelection campaign. He outlines his accomplishments during his first term as governor: a balanced budget, no growth in the number of state employees, and limited increases in state spending. He also identified several goals for a second administration including property tax relief, enactment of a severance tax on gas and oil producers, improvements in education, and transportation enhancements. Governor Carlin defeated Sam Hardage in the 1982 election and served a second term as governor.

Creator: Carlin, John, 1940-

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BASIC CAMPAIGN SPEECH

BETWEEN NOW AND NOVEMBER, KANSAS VOTERS WILL DISCOVER THAT
THE GOVERNOR'S RACE THIS YEAR PRESENTS US WITH A VERY REAL CHOICE.

THE ELECTION IS BETWEEN TWO VERY DIFFERENT VIEWS OF WHAT STATE
GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO AND WHO STATE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REPRESENT.

PART OF THE ELECTION WILL BE ABOUT MY RECORD AS GOVERNOR,
AND THAT'S JUST FINE WITH ME, BECAUSE MY RECORD IS ONE TO BE
VERY PROUD OF.

BUT THE MORE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES IN THIS CAMPAIGN CONCERN
WHAT KANSAS WILL BE LIKE FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS AND BEYOND. THIS
ELECTION, QUITE FRANKLY, IS AN ELECTION ABOUT THE KIND OF FUTURE
WE WANT FOR OUR STATE.

WHEN I BECAME GOVERNOR FOUR YEARS AGO, I DIRECTED MY CABINET
TO FOCUS ON THREE MAIN GOALS. FIRST, TO BALANCE THE STATE BUDGET,
SECOND, ^{TO} ~~TO~~ STOP THE GROWTH OF STATE GOVERNMENT, AND THIRD TO STOP

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THE INCREASES IN STATE SPENDING. WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ALL THREE
OF THOSE GOALS. WE HAVE SUBMITTED THE FIRST BALANCED BUDGETS IN
A DECADE. WE HAVE ZERO GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF STATE EMPLOYEES.
AND WE HAVE BROUGHT STATE SPENDING BELOW THE RATE OF INFLATION.

AND WE BEGAN THAT PROCESS IN 1979, WELL BEFORE RONALD REAGAN
MADE IT FASHIONABLE. WE'VE DONE MUCH MORE. BUT WE HAVE NOT BEEN
ABLE TO ACHIEVE EVERYTHING WE'VE WANTED, AND WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO DO WITHIN FOUR YEARS IS NOT ENOUGH. LET ME GIVE YOU SOME EXAMPLES.

I PROMISED TO DO EVERYTHING A GOVERNOR CAN DO TO HOLD THE LINE
ON UTILITY RATES, AND I HAVE. WE HAVE ELIMINATED THE SALES TAX ON
UTILITIES. WE HAVE PUSHED THROUGH A LAW TO INSURE ^{THAT} ~~THE~~ KANSAS CITIZENS
GET THE LOWEST POSSIBLE GAS RATES. AND WE HAVE SAVED OUR UTILITY
RATE PAYERS TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS.

THAT IS WHY UTILITY RATES IN KANSAS ARE AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE
ENTIRE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, A GOVERNOR CAN ONLY EFFECT ABOUT 10 PERCENT

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OF THE PRICE YOU PAY FOR UTILITIES, BECAUSE OF THE DEREGULATION
OF NATURAL GAS PRICES BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND BECAUSE OF
INFLATION AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS, WHAT YOU PAY
FOR UTILITIES HAS GONE UP.

WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY GENERAL TAX INCREASE SINCE I HAVE BEEN
GOVERNOR. IN FACT, WE HAVE REDUCED TAX RATES AND REFUNDED MILLIONS
OF DOLLARS IN PROPERTY TAXES AND HAVE INCREASED THE PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS
YOU CAN TAKE ON YOUR TAXES. THESE MEASURES WILL PUT OVER 250 MILLION
DOLLARS BACK INTO THE POCKETS OF KANSANS LIKE YOU BY THE END OF THIS
FISCAL YEAR.

BUT, WE DO REMAIN TOO DEPENDENT ON PROPERTY TAXES. AND BIG
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS HAVE KEPT US FROM MAKING THE TAX STRUCTURE
^{AS} FAIR AS IT SHOULD BE.

IN ANOTHER AREA, SINCE I HAVE BEEN GOVERNOR WE HAVE MADE OUR
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM MUCH TOUGHER THAN IT WAS. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED

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LONGER MANDATORY SENTENCES. WE HAVE ENACTED STRONGER DRUNK DRIVING LAWS. WE NOW HAVE TOUGHER JUVENILE CRIME PENALTIES. AND WE HAVE GREATLY IMPROVED OUR AGING PRISON FACILITIES.

BUT WE NEED TO MAKE OUR PRISONS MORE SECURE, TO DO MORE TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF CRIME, AND TO GET LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS MORE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF PREVENTING CRIME.

FINALLY, BECAUSE MY OPPONENT SAYS SO MUCH ABOUT IT, LET ME
TELL YOU WHAT WE HAVE DONE (to create jobs & bring industry to Kansas)
IN THE AREA OF JOBS CREATION AND INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT.

AN OBJECTIVE, NATIONAL FIRM IN CHICAGO, WHICH IS THE LEADING AUTHORITY ON THE SUBJECT, SAYS KANSAS NOW HAS THE FOURTH BEST BUSINESS CLIMATE IN THE NATION AS A WHOLE, AND THE VERY BEST BUSINESS CLIMATE IN THE MIDWESTERN REGION. THAT NATIONAL RANKING IS A 300 PERCENT IMPROVEMENT IN JUST THREE YEARS. BUT IT HASN'T BEEN DONE BY JUST TALKING. IT'S COME FROM HARD WORK. KANSAS IS A GOOD PLACE FOR

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BUSINESS BECAUSE WE HAVE LOW TAXES AND LOW GOVERNMENT SPENDING.
WE HAVE LOW UTILITY COSTS. AND WE HAVE SPECIAL PROGRAMS TO ATTRACT
BUSINESS. THIS HARD WORK IS BEGINNING TO PAY OFF. IN THE PAST
THREE YEARS, KANSAS RANKS SECOND REGIONALLY IN THE NUMBER OF NEW
AND EXPANDED FIRMS, AND IN THE NUMBER OF NEW PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS
CREATED.

BUT BEFORE WE CAN REALLY COMPETE FOR NEW JOBS AND NEW INDUSTRY,
WE NEED BETTER SCHOOLS, BETTER HIGHWAYS, AND ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX
RELIEF. THE WAY TO GET NEW AND BETTER JOBS FOR KANSAS IS NOT TO
SIMPLY FLY AROUND THE COUNTRY AND ENJOY EXPENSIVE, EXPENSE-ACCOUNT
LUNCHES. THE WORK WE NEED TO DO MUST BE DONE HERE AT HOME IN KANSAS.

TO IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS AND TO IMPROVE OUR ROADS, AND TO DO THOSE
THINGS WITHOUT INCREASING GASOLINE TAXES, OR REMAINING DEPENDENT ON
PROPERTY TAX INCREASES, WE MUST PASS A SEVERANCE TAX ON OIL AND GAS
PRODUCED IN KANSAS. I KNOW THAT MY OPPONENT, SAM HARDAGE, AND I

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DISAGREE ON THESE POINTS. MR. HARDAGE FAVORS INCREASING THE GAS TAX, OPPOSES THE SEVERANCE TAX, AND CONSEQUENTLY WOULD RATHER SEE PROPERTY TAXES CONTINUE TO CLIMB. BUT, IN MY OPINION, THE SEVERANCE TAX IS THE ONLY FAIR AND REASONABLE AND WORKABLE ALTERNATIVE. IF WE WANT TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR SCHOOLS AND HIGHWAYS, AND IF WE WANT TO DO IT WITHOUT RAISING GASOLINE AND PROPERTY TAXES, WE MUST ENACT A SEVERANCE TAX.

SAM HARDAGE'S ANSWER TO MEETING ^{THE}~~THE~~ PRIORITY NEEDS OF THIS STATE IS TO SIMPLY CUT WASTE IN STATE GOVERNMENT. WELL, CERTAINLY GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE MADE AS EFFICIENT AS IT CAN BE. ~~NOBODY~~ NOBODY CAN DISAGREE WITH THAT. BUT I WOULD POINT OUT THAT ^{EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT}~~THE~~ IS EXACTLY WHAT THE LAST FOUR YEARS HAVE BEEN ABOUT. WE HAVE CUT AND CUT, AND CONSOLIDATED, AND SCRUTINIZED EVERY DEPARTMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT. WE'VE STOPPED THE GROWTH OF STATE GOVERNMENT, AND WE HAVE STOPPED IT COLD.

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SO, IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, WE HAVE THREE OPTIONS IF WE ARE SERIOUS
ABOUT ^{TRULY} ~~REALLY~~ ADDRESSING THE NEEDS ^{OF} ~~THE~~ KANSANS.

FIRST, WE CAN LET OUR ROADS AND BRIDGES CRUMBLE, AND NOT DO
(OBVIOUSLY, THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE.)
ANYTHING TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR SCHOOLS. SECOND,
IF WE CHOOSE TO DEAL WITH THOSE PROBLEMS, WE CAN FUND THEM BY LETTING
YOU PAY MORE IN GASOLINE TAXES AND BY FORCING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO
INCREASE YOUR PROPERTY TAXES MORE AND MORE AND MORE.

OR, WE CAN HOLD THE LINE ON THE TAXES PAID BY THE AVERAGE WORKING
PEOPLE OF KANSAS AND MAKE THE LARGE OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS PAY THEIR
FAIR SHARE FOR THE RESOURCES THEY TAKE OUT OF KANSAS SOIL.

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF CONFUSION ABOUT WHAT A SEVERANCE TAX IS,
AND WHAT IT IS NOT. ALL A SEVERANCE TAX SAYS IS THAT LARGE OIL AND
GAS PRODUCERS -- AND IT DOES NOT APPLY TO SMALL, MARGINAL PRODUCERS
OR ROYALTY OWNERS -- MUST PAY A TAX TO THE STATE OF KANSAS FOR TAKING,
OR SEVERING, GAS AND OIL FROM OUR STATE. IT'S JUST THAT SIMPLE.



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THIS WILL ~~IT~~ DESTROY THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY? OF COURSE NOT. THE PRICE OF A BARREL OF OIL HAS RISEN BY APPROXIMATELY 700 PERCENT SINCE 1973. IN ADDITION, THE FEDERAL WINDFALL PROFITS TAX WILL NO LONGER BE IN EFFECT AS OF NEXT YEAR, AND WITH THIS ACTION KANSAS STRIPPER WELL PRODUCERS STAND TO MAKE OVER 100 MILLION DOLLARS MORE IN 1983 ALONE. SO THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY WILL REMAIN HEALTHY AND WEALTHY EVEN WITH THE ENACTMENT OF A SEVERANCE TAX. AND THE INDUSTRY CAN CERTAINLY AFFORD TO PAY AND OUGHT TO PAY ITS FAIR SHARE HERE IN KANSAS, WHERE WE SO SERIOUSLY NEED NEW RESOURCES TO FIX ~~EXPENSE~~ CRUMBLING ROADS AND STOP RISING PROPERTY TAXES.

OPPONENTS OF THE SEVERANCE TAX ALSO TRY TO SAY THAT THE COST OF THE TAX WILL BE PASSED ON TO KANSAS CONSUMERS. THAT IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE. 70 PERCENT OF THE COST WILL BE PAID BY NON-KANSANS. IN FACT, ONLY 5 PERCENT WILL BE PAID BY RESIDENTIAL USERS IN KANSAS. AND IT IS ONLY FAIR TO SHIFT THE BURDEN TO OTHER STATES BECAUSE WE

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HAVE BEEN PAYING FOR ROADS AND SCHOOLS IN WYOMING, LOUISIANA, OKLAHOMA,
AND TEXAS AS LONG AS WE'VE USED THEIR OIL AND GAS.

SO, THIS ELECTION COMES DOWN TO A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION. WHO WILL
STATE GOVERNMENT IN KANSAS LOOK OUT FOR? I SAY THE BIG OIL AND GAS
PRODUCERS SHOULD PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE AND THAT WE SHOULD HOLD DOWN
PROPERTY TAXES AND GASOLINE TAXES FOR AVERAGE WORKING PEOPLE IN KANSAS.

MY OPPONENT SAYS THAT OIL AND GAS SHOULD NOT PAY AND, IN EFFECT, THAT
WE SHOULD INCREASE PROPERTY TAXES AND GASOLINE TAXES, OR NOT HAVE THE
QUALITY OF LIFE WE ALL EXPECT.

WE HAVE A LOT TO DO IN KANSAS OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS -- A LOT
OF THINGS TO IMPROVE AND A LOT OF GOOD PROGRAMS TO CONTINUE.

THE QUESTION IN THIS ELECTION IS WHETHER THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY
AND THEIR POWERFUL LOBBYISTS WILL RUN THE STATE OR NOT.

I SAY NO. I SAY THE FUTURE OF KANSAS -- OUR ROADS AND BRIDGES,
OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, OUR SCHOOLS, AND OUR GOVERNMENT -- BELONGS

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I SAY THE FUTURE OF KANSAS SHOULD BE OURS.

TO THE PEOPLE. AND I AM GOING TO FIGHT UNTIL IT IS.

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