

# **Kansas Policy Survey: Fall 2001 Survey Results**

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# Kansas Policy Survey: Fall 2001

## Executive Summary

The Kansas Policy Survey for Fall 2001 (KPS-Fall01) consisted of over 90 questions that were constructed by the Director and manager of the Survey Research Center as well as from consultation with others in the Policy Research Institute at the University of Kansas. Although the survey is not inclusive of all policy issues facing the state of Kansas, it represents a number of important issues facing the state today, including economic, social, and political issues as well as national issues, especially security and terrorism following September 11<sup>th</sup>. In terms of state policy, emphasis was placed on educational issues (which were seen as important to Kansans in the KPS-Spring01) and energy issues. Additionally, respondents were asked their beliefs about public officials and on a range of other political issues.

The results of the KPS-Fall01 provide interesting and informational insights into the perceptions and beliefs of Kansans on various issues and policies. For the most part, Kansans are satisfied with the way things are going in the state, yet there is enough data to ascertain that Kansans also want certain changes in policies in Kansas. *Education tops the list of priorities of Kansans, and responses to the survey display a need and willingness to provide the resources for improvement of public schools.* The following list shows the most important and interesting findings from the Kansas Policy Survey: Fall 2001.

- Education was the main concern of respondents, followed closely by the declining economy, regardless of demographics or Congressional district. Educational programs received a higher level of support for increased spending levels than other programs. Not only did Kansans want increased funding, *a majority was willing to incur a tax increase to provide the new funding.*
- Policies that would increase social welfare received elevated support as well. In addition to public schools, programs for job training were targeted by *a majority of respondents as needing increased funding.* A plurality of respondents also stated their want for increased funding for programs to help low income families with children.
- While the perceptions of the economy compared to a year ago are not positive, the belief of the future is more optimistic. After educational issues, the economy was the most cited problem facing the state today. *While a majority of Kansans feel that the state economy has worsened over the past year, only 29 percent said their family's economic situation had done the same.* And most Kansans feel that in one year the economy will stay either in the same condition or be improved.
- A majority of respondents said they paid about the right amount of state income and sales tax, but too much property tax.
- Opinions of government officials' job performance are positive. President George W. Bush, Kansas Governor Bill Graves and the Kansas State Legislature all received good/excellent job ratings from a majority of respondents. A majority also responded that they can trust both the federal and state government most of the time or just about always to make the right decisions.

- Kansans support initiatives promoting energy efficiency, but not at their own cost. Development of wind turbines is supported by most Kansans, but there are divisions of opinion about wind turbine efficiency and effectiveness.
- Following September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, the salience of terrorism and security has increased among Kansans. Still, Kansans are not willing to give up personal freedoms and privacy in order to obtain higher security. The majority of Kansans are, however, supportive of increasing security at public places and critical infrastructures.

The survey was a stratified random digit-dial survey of households throughout Kansas. The survey was conducted by the Survey Research Center (SRC) of the Policy Research Institute at the University of Kansas, between November 6, 2001 and February 8, 2002. Of the households contacted 1,641 people statewide agreed to complete the survey for a cooperation rate of 46.7%. With the 1,641, we can have 95 percent confidence with a margin of error of +/- 1.7 percentage points. The margin of error reflects the interval in which the data collected by the Kansas Policy Survey would be within +/- 1.7 percent of the means in 95 out of 100 surveys conducted among adults in Kansas. The average interview length for the survey was just over 19 minutes. Respondents were free to discontinue at any time during the survey so not all questions will have the same number of respondents. Further information can be obtained from the Survey Research Center at 785-864-9117.

Finally, thanks should be given to the student survey researchers who conducted the survey over three months. They all conducted themselves in highly professional and effective means that are essential to collecting non-biased data. Also, as with any survey of the general population, we extend a thank you to the Kansans who gave of their time and opinions on the questions we asked.

## A: Attitudes about Economics, Public Concerns, and Efficacy in Government

### A-1: Problems Facing the State of Kansas

The Kansas Policy Survey: Fall 2001 (KPS-Fall01) asked the respondents about their views on current issues facing the state of Kansas, as well as questions on level of trust in the state government. These questions were asked at different points throughout the survey. One of the questions asked the respondents to state the problem that they perceived to be the most important facing the state of Kansas. Any answer given by a respondent was accepted.

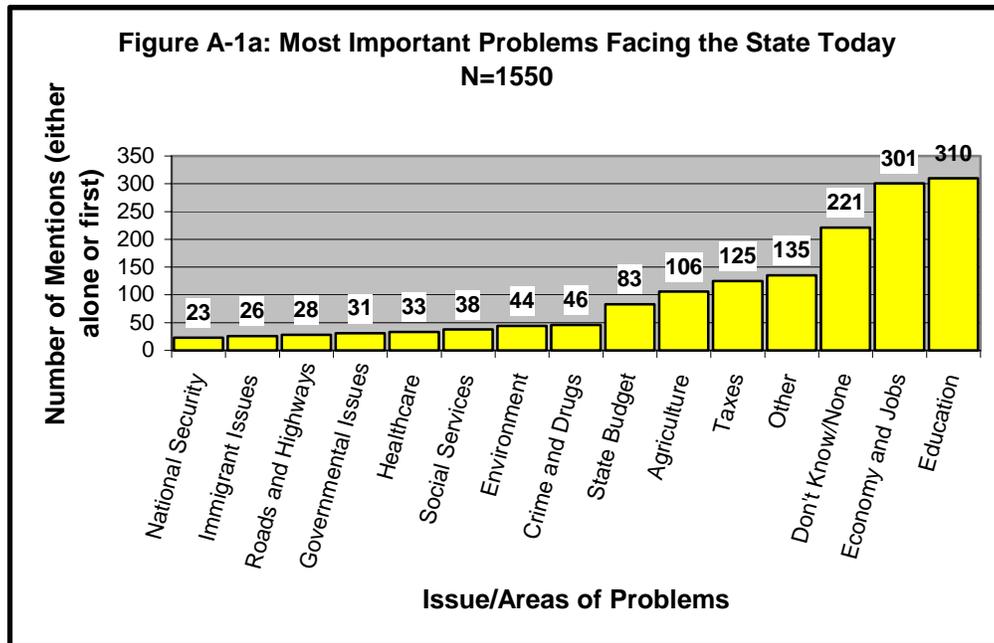
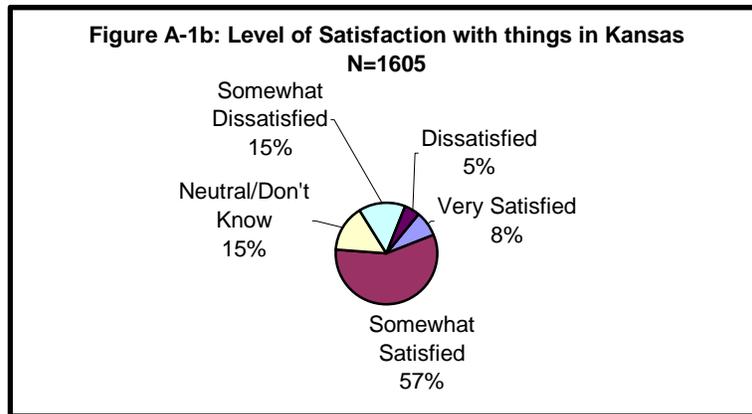


Figure A-1a above lists the responses to the question when an answer was given by itself or mentioned first in a set of multiple problems. All responses that stated some problem with government, minus the issue of the state budget, was coded Governmental Issues. Of the 1550 responses, educational issues were mentioned the most. Education was mentioned as either the most important or tied for first in importance by 310 respondents statewide, which represents 20 percent of the responses. Close in number and percentage of responses was the economy (economic issues, unemployment, general economy). The economy was cited as the most important issue facing the state by 301 respondents representing 19 percent of responses.

The remaining issues all were named at least twenty times statewide, with “Don’t know” or none as the next highest response with 221. This was followed, in order, by: other (135), taxes (125), agricultural issues (106), the Kansas State Budget (83), crime/violence/drugs (46), environmental issues (44), social services (38), health care (33), governmental issues (31), roads/highway/transportation (28), immigrant issues (26), and national security (23). (Responses that the threat of terrorism, war, and national security was the biggest problem were grouped as National Security issues.) While there were a large number of issues important to the people of Kansas, economy and education were by far named as the two most important issues.

Respondents were also asked, in general, how satisfied they are with the way things are going in Kansas. Overall, respondents felt satisfied. About 65 percent<sup>1</sup> of respondents stated that they were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied, while about 20 percent were very dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied. About 15 percent said they were in between or neutral. Regional differences in satisfaction were small, with all congressional districts responding between 59 (in the Third Congressional District) to 66 percent (in both the First and Second Congressional districts; those in Congressional District Four responded at a 64 percent rate) as somewhat or very satisfied. The level of dissatisfaction varied more across congressional districts.



The Third Congressional District, while having the lowest percentage of satisfied respondents, had the lowest percentage of dissatisfied respondents, with 5 percent of respondents saying that they were very or somewhat dissatisfied. The majority of the remaining respondents said they were in between or neutral, with 32 percent of those in the Third Congressional District answering as such, along with 6 percent who said that they did not know. In the First and Second Congressional Districts the percent of dissatisfied respondents were nearly equal with, 18 and 17 percent, respectively. These two districts had an equal percentage of neutral respondents, 16 percent. The Fourth Congressional District had the highest percent of dissatisfaction reported, with about 25 percent of respondents stating that they were either very or somewhat dissatisfied.

There were no substantial differences reported among men and women, metro or non-metro residence, or educational attainment. There was, however, a difference in the way that Republicans felt about things in Kansas as compared to those of other political parties. Republicans responded either very or somewhat satisfied about 72 percent of the time, while Democrats responded the same 62 percent of the time, as did 61 percent of Independents<sup>2</sup>. Similarly, Republicans reported some level of dissatisfaction 16 percent of the time, with about 12 percent feeling neutral about things. Democrats responded as dissatisfied 25 percent of the time, with the response of neutral 13 percent of the time, while 20 percent of Independents said

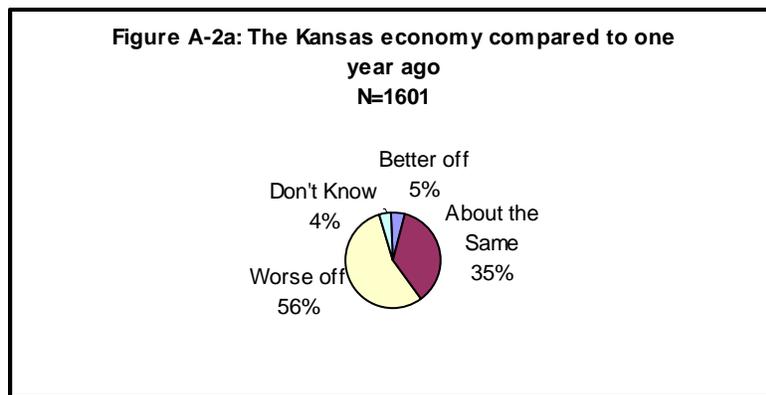
<sup>1</sup> Percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number for each response, thus total percentages may not equal one hundred percent, going slightly over or under.

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of analysis, respondents that stated they were Independent or other (not Republican or Democrat) were grouped together.

they were dissatisfied and 19 percent responded as neutral. Overall, though, the majority of Kansans were satisfied with the way things are going in Kansas.

## A-2: Economic Perceptions among Kansans

When asked how the current Kansas economy compares to the economy one year ago about 35 percent of respondents statewide said it was the same as last year, while the majority of respondents, almost 56 percent, stated that it was worse than a year ago. Roughly five percent believed that the Kansas economy was better off than a year ago (Figure A-2a).



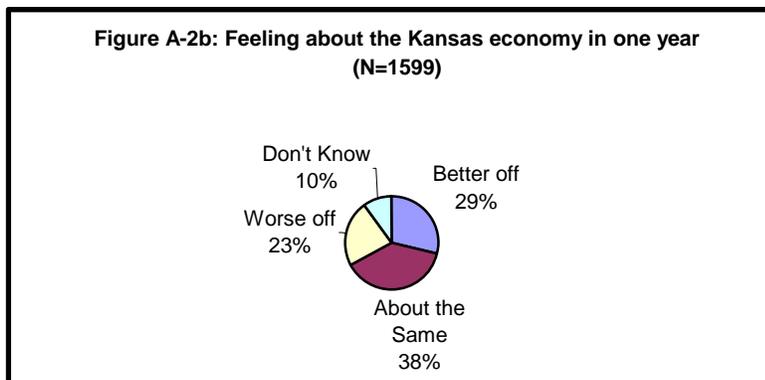
Regionally, respondents from the First, Second, and Third Congressional Districts showed no substantial difference in belief in Kansas' economy compared to a year ago. In the First Congressional District, almost 42 percent of respondents said the economy was either about the same or better off than a year ago, while 45 percent in the Second Congressional District and 41 percent in the Third Congressional District responded similarly. Those in the First, Second, and Third Congressional districts responded that the economy was worse off 53, 51, and 55 percent of the time, respectively. The responses in Fourth Congressional District showed a substantial difference, though. About 26 percent of respondents believed that the economy was either better off or about the same, while 71 percent said that the economy was worse than a year ago.

There was also difference among college<sup>3</sup> and non-college graduates. College graduates had a less optimistic view of the economy than those without a college degree. Of respondents with college degrees, 32 percent stated that Kansas' economy was either about the same or better, compared to 43 percent of respondents without college degrees. Similarly, 65 percent of respondents with college degrees believed that the economy was worse off than a year ago, while 53 percent of those without college degrees felt the same. Otherwise, no substantial difference was found among genders, metro/non-metro residence<sup>4</sup> or political party. Overall, the data

<sup>3</sup> College graduates are considered to be those with at least 4-year college degrees.

<sup>4</sup> Metro residents are considered to be those living in one of the six metropolitan (the six primary metropolitan counties as defined by the Census Bureau) counties in the state (Douglas, Johnson, Leavenworth, Sedgwick, Shawnee, and Wyandotte). Non-metro constitutes all remaining counties.

reflects a decreased sense of economic well being among the majority of Kansans. These feelings are more negative compared to the feelings of Kansans last spring (KPS-Spring2001). Last spring 40 percent said the economy was worse than a year ago (at that time) and 44 percent said that it was about the same (Kniss 2001).



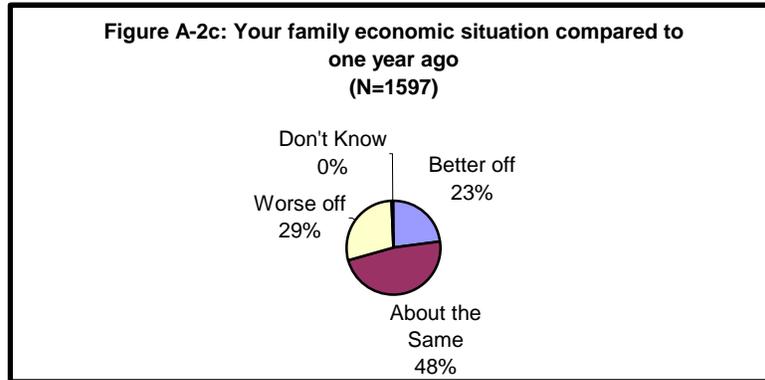
In comparison, Kansans' beliefs about the economy in one year are more optimistic. The majority of respondents felt that in one year the Kansas economy would be better off or about the same. About 29 percent of respondents felt that the economy would be better off in one year, while 38 percent of respondents believed that the economy would be about the same as now. Roughly 23 percent of respondents believed that the economy would be worse off (Figure A-2b).

Interestingly, regardless of demographics, the responses were similar. The percentage of respondents saying that the economy would be better off in a year by Congressional Districts ranged between 28 and 33. The high of the 33 percent was reported in the Fourth Congressional District that also had the highest percentage of respondents stating that the economy now was worse off than a year ago. The percentage of responses that stated that the economy in one year would be about the same ranged from 34 to 40 percent in the four Congressional Districts. The high of 40 percent was reported in the First Congressional District, which had the lowest percentage of responses believing that the economy would be better off in one year, with 28 percent. Conversely, the Fourth Congressional District, which had the highest percentage of responses stating that the economy would be better off in a year also had the lowest amount stating that the economy would be about the same in one year, 34. These data shows the little overall variance in the different regions of the state in beliefs about the future of the economy.

Similarly, little variation was seen between different demographic groups. Men and women responded nearly identically in terms of percentage in beliefs about the economy in one year, which was nearly identical to that of the full data. Those with differing political ideologies also responded similarly. Little variation was also displayed between metro/non-metro residence and college graduates and those without a college degree. The little variations among demographics show the overall feeling among Kansans that the economy will at least be no worse in a year, while many believe that it will improve.

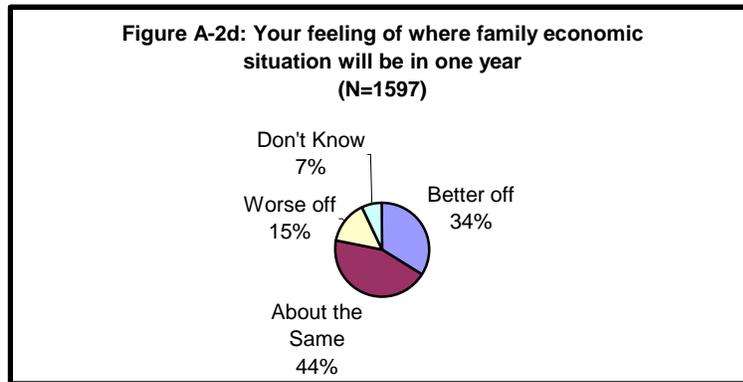
Respondents were also asked about their personal experience with the economy, as they were asked to compare their family's finances with those of a year ago and their idea of their family's financial outlook in one year. Interestingly, even though the majority of people believed

that the Kansas' economy was worse off than one year ago, only 30 percent of respondents stated that their family's economic situation had worsened in a year. Almost half, nearly 49 percent, believed that their own economic situation had remained about the same as a year ago, while 24 percent of respondents stated that their situation had improved.



Across Congressional Districts, there was little variation in these responses. Nor were there substantial differences across political ideologies or metro/non-metro residence. Men did, however, respond at a higher rate than women that their own economic situation had improved, with 25 percent of men responding they were better off compared to 18 percent of women. Women and men were nearly identical in the percentage that felt worse off than a year ago though, as 51 percent of women believed they had remained the same over the past year, as did 46 percent of men. More college graduates also reported being better off than a year ago than did those without at least a bachelor's degree. Roughly 27 percent of college graduates reported that their family's finances were better than a year ago, as compared to 18 percent of those without a college degree. A majority, 51 percent, of those without a college degree stated that their economic situation had remained about the same, as did 45 percent of college graduates. About 31 percent of those without a degree and 27 percent of college graduates believed their economic situation was worse compared to year ago. These differences still follow the overall beliefs of Kansans though, with close to a majority believing that they are about the same economically as a year ago.

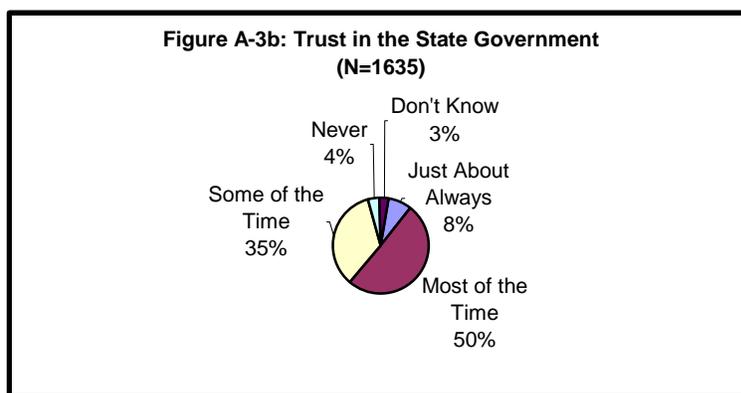
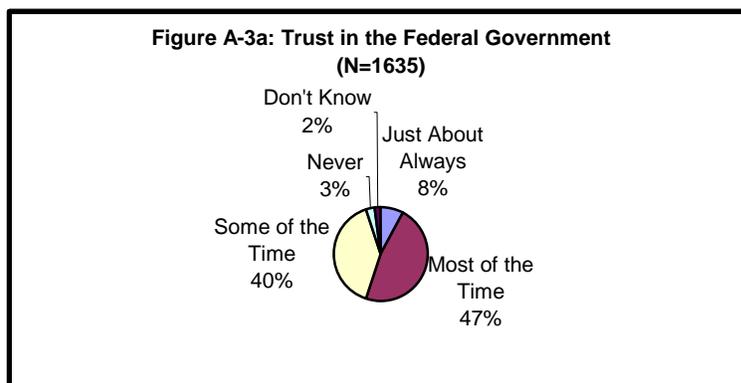
A similar number also believe that they will be in the same situation in one year, with 44 percent of respondents believing that in one year their economic situation would be about the same as it is today, mirroring their belief in the current economic situation. Optimism is evident though, as 34 percent of respondents believe that they will be better off in one year. About 15 percent believe that their economic situation will get worse in a year. Again men show more of a belief in economic growth than women, as 38 percent of men believe they will be better off in a year compared to 32 percent of women. Nearly 46 percent of women believe that they will continue at the same economic level, as did 41 percent of men.



While the responses again show little variation across demographics, some interesting differences do occur. The Third Congressional District shows a higher level of optimism than do the other districts, with 41 percent of respondents believing they will better off in one year, compared to 32 percent of respondents in the First Congressional District and 36 percent in both the Second and Fourth Congressional Districts. Similarly, the percentage of respondents in the Third Congressional District that believe that they will be worse off in a year (seven percent) is lower than that in other districts. About 16 percent of those in the First Congressional District responded with the belief that they would be worse off in a year, as did 15 percent of those in both the Second and Fourth Congressional Districts. College graduates also show more optimism that in a year their economic situation would be better off than respondents without a college degree. Roughly 38 percent of those with a college degree feel they will be better off in one year, compared to 32 percent of those with no degree. Throughout demographic differences, Kansans show more optimism for the upcoming year, with only a small percentage believing that they will be worse off.

### **A-3: Efficacy in Government**

Respondents were also asked about their trust in Kansas state government and in the federal government. The questions read “How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington D.C. to do the right thing?” and “How much of the time do you think you can trust the state government in Topeka to do the right thing?” A majority of respondents statewide said they could trust the federal government at least most of the time. About 47 percent responded that they could trust the government most of the time and eight percent stated they could trust the federal government just about always. Roughly 40 percent said they could trust the federal government only some of the time and three percent said they could never trust the federal government. Similarly 51 percent of people said they could trust the Kansas state government most of the time and eight percent said they could trust the state government just about always. About 35 percent said they could trust only some of the time and four percent said they could never trust the state government.



The differences in responses for both questions are similar. For both questions the First and Second Congressional Districts had higher levels of trust than the Third and Fourth Congressional Districts. Republicans also respond as having higher levels of trust than Democrats and Independents. Interestingly, there were no substantial differences in responses to either question among those with college degrees and those without college degrees or those who lived in cities or rural areas. Nor was there a difference between men and women. Overall, Kansans have higher levels of trust not only for the federal government but the State government as well. This is likely the result of increased trust in government following the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>. The KPS-Spring 2001 showed Kansas respondents with lower levels of trust in both the federal and state governments, with only 37 percent of respondents reporting that they trust the federal government to do the right thing just about always OR most of the time and 48 percent saying the same for Kansas state government (Kniss 2001).

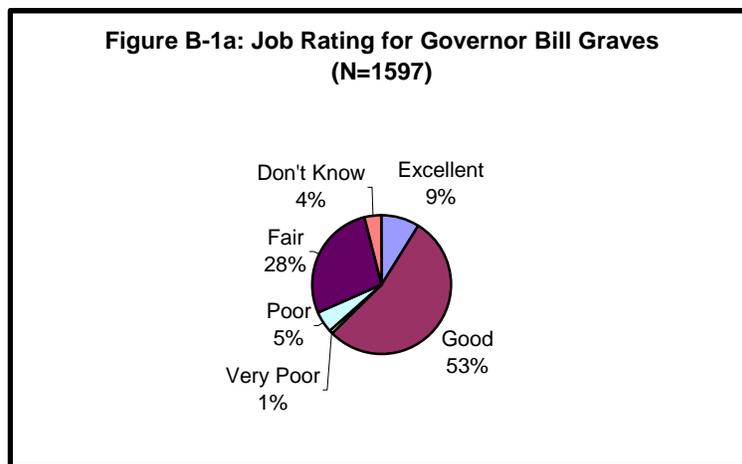
## B: Attitudes toward State Policies, Taxes, and Spending in Kansas

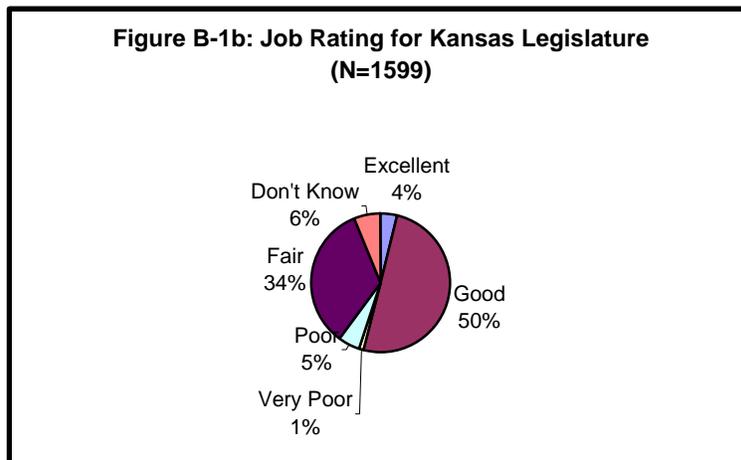
The previous section looked at the beliefs of Kansans on the problems facing the state, the economy of Kansas, and level of trust in both the federal and state governments. The next section looks at respondents' opinions on certain state policies, taxes, and spending. The survey contained a section asking first the respondents' attitudes toward the governor and state legislature. Respondents were then also asked about state taxes and spending policies.

### B-1: Attitudes on Officials and Taxes

#### Rating the Governor and State Legislature

Respondents have a slightly higher job approval rating for Governor Bill Graves than they do for the state legislature, but not significantly so. About nine percent of respondents say that the governor is doing an excellent job and 54 percent perceive him as doing a good job. The state legislature receives a slightly lower approval rating, with 4 percent of respondents stating that the legislature is doing an excellent job and 50 percent saying the legislature is doing a good job. The governor received a "fair" job rating in 28 percent of the responses, while the legislature received the same rating 34 percent of the time. Both the legislature and governor were said to be doing a poor job in five percent of the responses and very poor by one percent of respondents.





The approval rating for the governor remains fairly constant across demographics, with a few exceptions. The respondents from the First and Second Congressional Districts have slightly higher levels of approval than do those from the Third and Fourth Districts. Those in the First Congressional District said the governor was doing either an excellent or good job 64 percent of the time, while 65 percent of respondents replied similarly in the Second Congressional District. In both the Third and Fourth Congressional Districts, 56 percent of respondents say the governor is doing either an excellent or good job. As might be expected, Republicans also had an elevated job rating for the Republican governor compared to those from other political parties, even though the majority from all political parties had favorable opinions of the governor's performance. Nearly 67 percent of Republicans felt Graves is doing either an excellent or good job, compared to 59 percent of Democrats and 58 percent of Independents replying in the same fashion. No noticeable differences were observed among other different demographics, as overall the majority of Kansans approved of the job Governor Graves is doing.

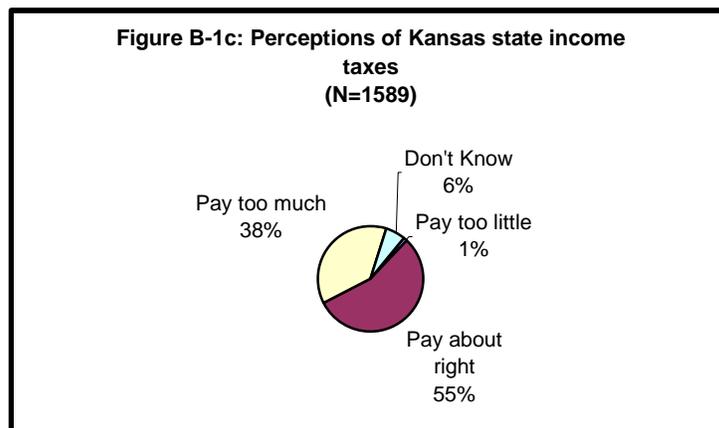
While the overall majority of Kansans also thought the Kansas state legislature was doing either an excellent or good job, the majority was not as high as Graves' and significant differences occurred in all demographic divisions. Approval ratings differed along gender lines, with 49 percent of men saying that the legislature was doing either an excellent or good job, 37 percent saying they did a fair job, and ten percent saying they did either a poor or very poor job. Women on the other hand approved at a greater rate, with 57 percent saying the legislature did an excellent or good job, 32 percent responding that the legislature was doing a fair job, while only four percent said they did a poor or very poor job. Regional differences also exist. The First and Second Congressional Districts, consistent with their attitudes on other issues in the state, rates the state legislature more favorably. About 58 percent of respondents in the First Congressional District said the legislature was doing either an excellent or good job as did 52 percent of respondents from the Second Congressional District. Nearly five percent of those in the First Congressional District said the legislature did a poor or very poor job, with close to six percent of those in the Second Congressional District responding similarly. The other districts did not look so favorably on the state legislature. Roughly 46 percent of those in the Third Congressional District and 47 percent in the Fourth Congressional District said the legislature was doing either

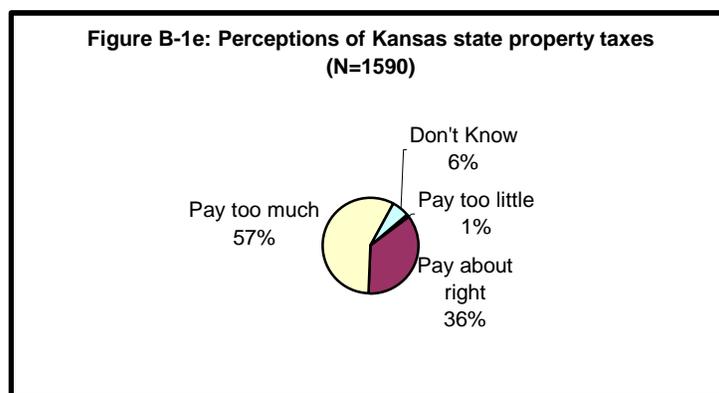
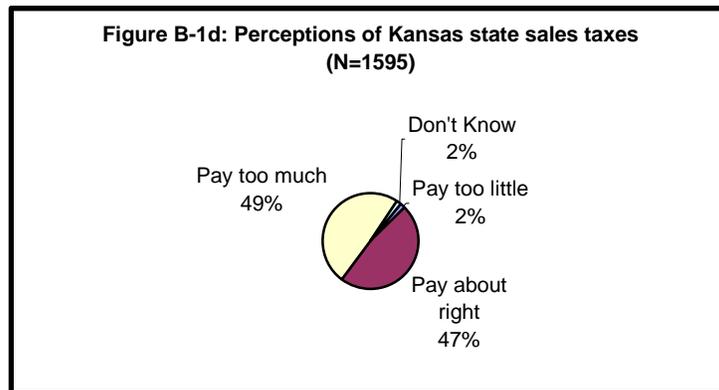
an excellent or good job. About 12 percent of those in the Third District and six percent in the Fourth said the legislature was doing a poor or very poor job.

Differences again occur along party lines, but more significantly than with the governor's job rating. About 69 percent of responses from Republicans indicated the legislature as doing either an excellent or good job, with only four percent responding poor or very poor. On the other hand, 49 percent of both Democrats and Independents stated that the legislature was doing either an excellent or good job, while eight percent of Democrats and seven percent of Independents believed the legislature to be doing a poor or very poor job. Those living in metropolitan areas also had lower ratings than those living in rural areas, with 47 percent of metro residents giving good or excellent ratings, with eight percent giving poor or very poor ratings. Nearly 56 percent of those living in rural areas responded with good or excellent ratings, with five percent saying poor or very poor. College graduates gave good or excellent 49 percent of the time and poor or very poor nine percent of the time. About 57 percent of those without degrees approved with either a good or excellent response, with five percent saying poor or very poor. Overall, even with the high variation, Kansans had at least a somewhat positive view on the job of the Kansas legislature, which is likely tied to the beliefs in efficacy of State government.

### *Public Support for State Taxes*

Respondents were also asked to assess the amount of Kansas state income, property, and sales taxes they paid. They were asked if they paid too little, about the right amount, or too much for each. The majority of respondents believed that they paid about the right amount for both income and sales taxes, but they believed they paid too much property tax. The majority of respondents in all regions and demographics believed they paid too much for property taxes, showing an overall dislike for local property taxes in Kansas. Similarly, the majority of respondents in all regions and demographic groups believed they paid the right amount for sales and income tax. Even so, sizable minorities believed they paid too much sales (34 percent) and income (38 percent) tax. These responses were similar across all regions and demographic divisions, displaying a consistent belief on taxes across the Kansas population (Figures B-1c, B-1d, B-1e).

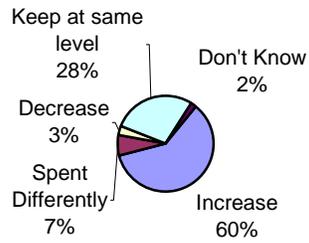




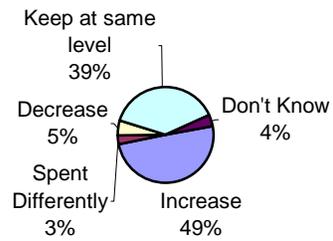
## B-2: Program Spending Preferences

The Kansas Policy Survey for Fall 2001 asked Kansas about eight different policy areas on which the state spends money: public schools (K-12), state colleges and universities, help to low income families, job training for the unemployed, environmental programs, programs for crime (including state prisons and correctional facilities) state highways and roads, and economic development programs. All respondents were asked if the program should receive increased funding, receive funding at the same level, decreased funding, or whether funding should be spent differently. Of these, two programs, public schools and job training for the unemployed, received a majority of respondents believing that program funding should increase. A plurality (48 percent) also stated the need for increased funding for programs helping low income families. These data show that overall Kansans care about the welfare of the disadvantaged. A majority of respondents believed that in the case of every program, the funding should either be increased or kept the same. The program with the most responses stating that funding should be cut is economic development with 13 percent of those who responded, followed closely by crime programs, with 12 percent stating the need for decreased funding.

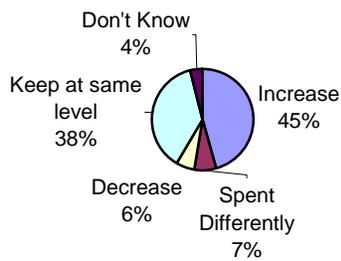
**Figure B-2a: Spending on public schools, K-12  
(N=1565)**



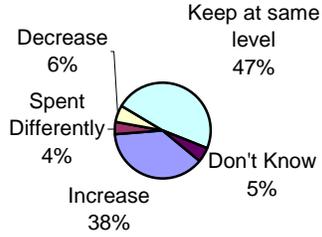
**Figure B-2b: Spending on programs for job training  
(N=1557)**



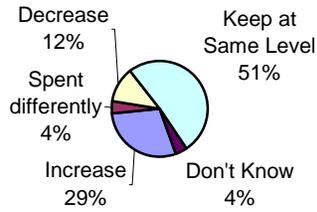
**Figure B-2c: Spending on programs to help low income families with children  
(N=1555)**



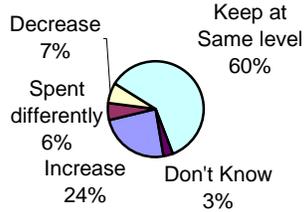
**Figure B-2d: Spending on state colleges and universities (N=1564)**



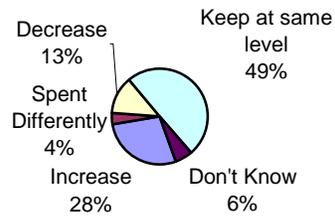
**Figure B-2e: Spending on Environmental programs (N=1559)**

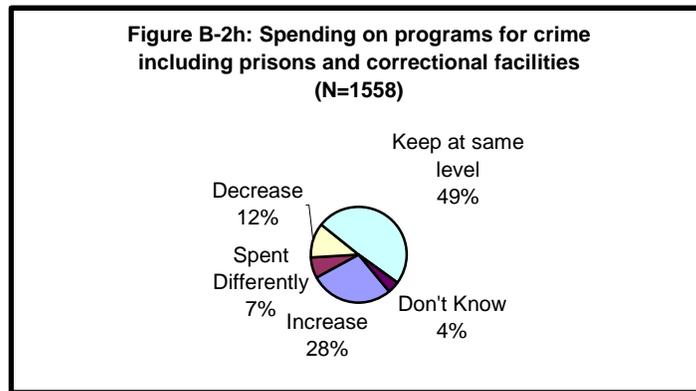


**Figure B-2f: Spending on state highways and roads (N=1566)**



**Figure B-2g: Spending on programs for economic development (N=1561)**





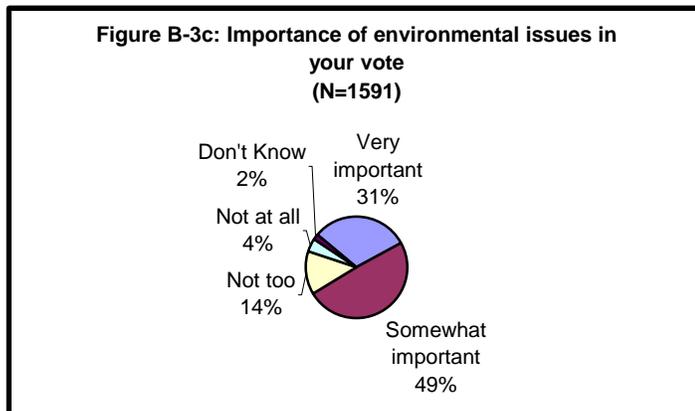
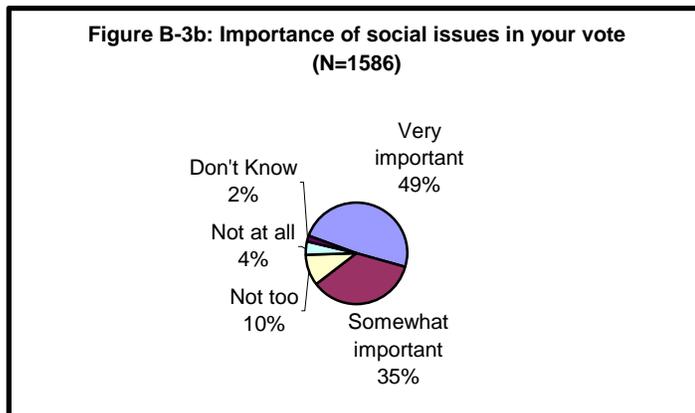
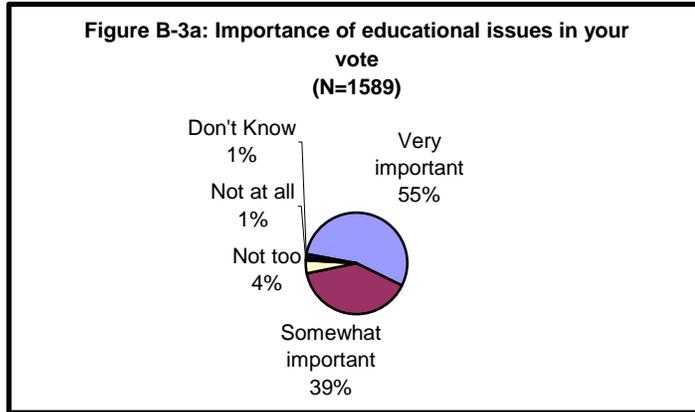
These trends continued across regional differences, but responses differed across political ideologies. In seven out of eight of the programs areas, a higher percentage of Democrats responded that program funding should be increased as compared to Republicans, the lone exception being crime programs, where 28 percent of those from each party responded as such. The greatest difference was on the question of environmental programs, with 42 percent of Democrats and 18 percent of Republicans believing in the need for increased funding. Independents also tended to respond at a higher rate than Republicans that a program’s funding should be increased. Two exceptions to this were crime and economic development programs, where more Republicans responded with the need for increases than Independents percentage-wise.

In almost all instances there were no differences between genders, college graduates and those without a degree, and metro/non-metro residence. One exception stands out, though. About 48 percent of those without college degrees stated their belief that funding for programs to help low income families should be increased, as compared to 39 percent of college graduates. This is possibly due to many without degrees belonging to low income families. The overall feeling of Kansans, though, is to keep similar levels of spending for almost all programs, with the exceptions of public education and programs supporting the disadvantaged, job training, and help to low income families, where the belief exists that more funding is needed.

**B-3: Determinant issue factors in voting**

Similarly, the KPS-Fall01 also asked respondents the importance of three issues and candidates’ position on these issues in determining their vote in state and local elections. These broad issues were educational, environmental, and social issues. Each issue was said to be either very or somewhat important by the large majority of respondents when determining their vote. As seen in previous responses, education received the largest majority of respondents stating its importance. About 54 percent said education issues were very important and 39 percent said it was somewhat important in determining their vote. Nearly 49 percent of respondents said social issues were very important, with 35 percent saying social issues were somewhat important in determining their vote. Environmental issues received the least support, although the majority

still indicated its importance. About 31 percent responded that environmental issues were very important, while 49 percent said these issues were somewhat important in determining their vote. (See Figures B-3a, B-3b, B3c)



In every instance the percentage of women respondents stating the issue was very important was greater than that of men. The largest difference came on education issues, where 58 percent of women and 48 percent of men said that education was a very important issue in determining their vote. Similarly, on every issue posed, a higher percentage of respondents in the Third and Fourth Congressional Districts stated that the issue was very important as compared to the First and Second Congressional Districts. The biggest difference was on the importance of environmental issues, where 41 percent of those in the Third Congressional District and 36 percent of those in the Fourth Congressional District said this issue was very important in determining their vote. Comparatively, 29 percent in both the First and Second Congressional Districts stated that environmental issues were very important in determining their vote.

The same pattern emerges in differences of political parties. Democrats in every instance replied that the issue given was very important at a higher rate than either Republicans or Independents. Republicans and Independents, however, displayed little variance, with the exception of environmental issues. About 42 percent of Democrats stated that environmental issues were very important in determining their vote, as did 36 percent of Independents, while 23 percent of Republicans felt the same.

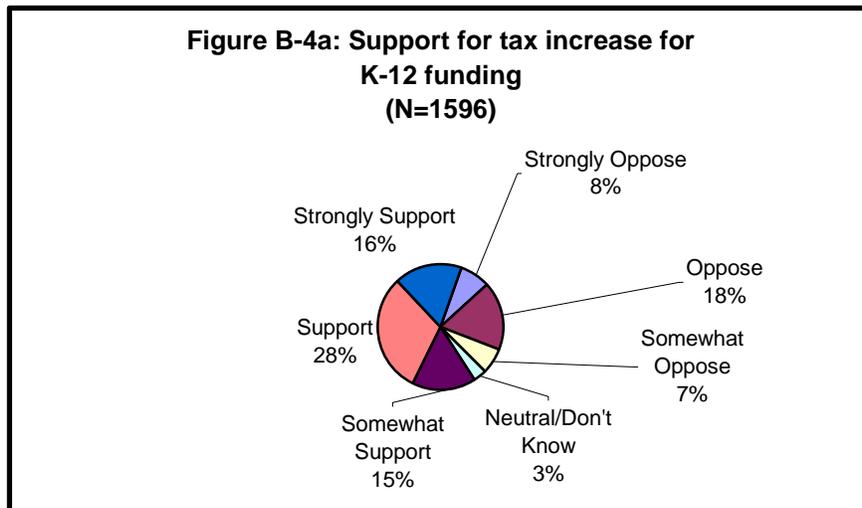
Interestingly, college graduates and those without a degree do not show any substantial difference in opinion of importance of these issues, nor did those in metropolitan and non-metro areas. Regardless of differences in other demographics, though, Kansans throughout the state place at least some importance on educational, social, and environmental issues when determining their vote.

#### **B-4: Quality of Education and Educational Funding**

Similarly, respondents were asked a series of questions focused on public education (K-12) in the state of Kansas. Kansans have shown a continued interest in education, believing it to be one of the biggest issues facing the state, and shown a belief that funding to this program, more than any other, should be increased. This was evidenced not only from the responses in the KPS-Fall01 survey but in the KPS-Spring01 survey as well. The questions asked how much the respondent supported tax increases to improve education, which tax should be increased for this added support, and the state of their local schools. The majority of Kansans support improved funding for public schools, even if that means increases in taxes.

##### *Support for increases in tax for K-12 funding*

This question was similar to one previously discussed in that it asked respondents if they support increases in funding for K-12. This question differs in that it explicitly asks if taxes should be increased to increase funding. It also provides a scale of support to differentiate levels of support within the state. The scale ranges from strongly oppose to strongly support with varying increments of support in between. Results are provided in Figure B-4a.

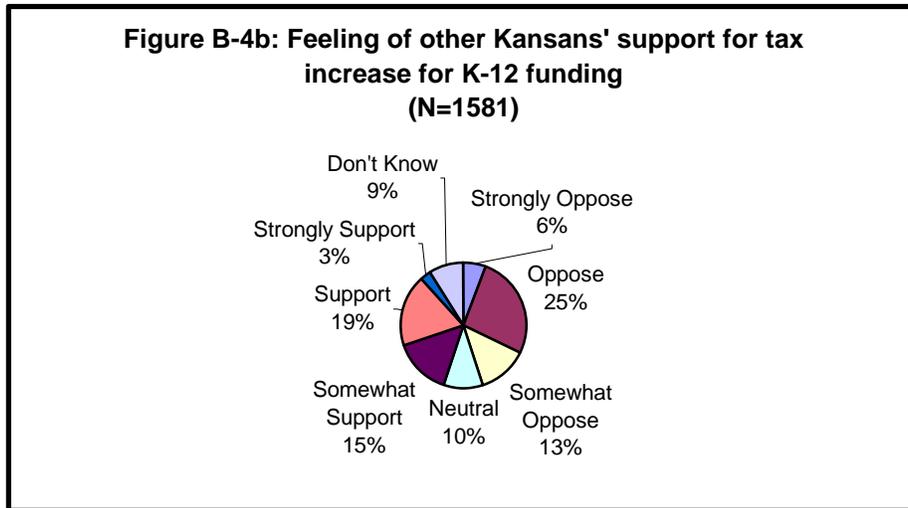


The data in Figure B-4a shows that a majority of Kansans at least somewhat support tax increases to improve funding for public schools, with the plurality (28 percent) stating they support increases, while sizeable percentages also responding somewhat support (15 percent) and strongly support (16 percent). There is however a sizable minority that at least somewhat opposes tax increases for the purpose of increased funding (with only three percent being neutral or stating they don't know). The strongest opposition among the four congressional districts are in the First and Fourth Congressional Districts with each having 31 percent of respondents stating some level of opposition (strongly oppose, oppose, or somewhat oppose). Even so, the variance between districts was not sizeable. The Third Congressional District had the smallest percentage of respondents stating some level of opposition, 25 percent, while the Second Congressional District had 26 percent of responses stating some level of opposition. The levels of support in the four regions also showed little variance, with the percentages of support ranging between 57 (First Congressional District) to 66 (Third Congressional District).

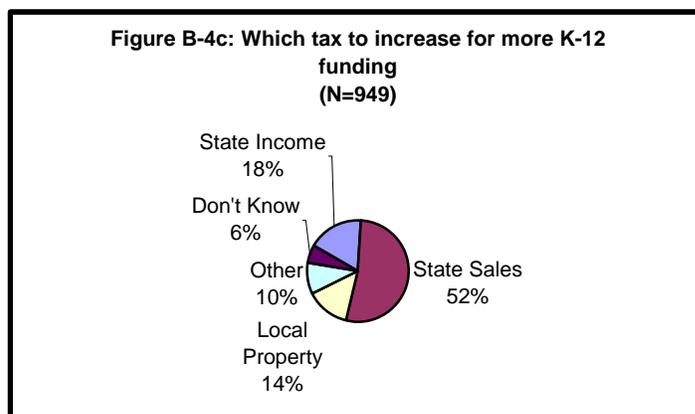
Women were also slightly more likely to support tax increases, with 61 percent stating some level of support as compared to 55 percent of men. About 67 percent of college graduates, responded with some level of support, while 55 percent of non-graduates responded similarly. Also, as seen in the previous section, Democrats also had higher levels of support for increases than Republicans did, but interestingly Independents had a slightly lower percentage of responses supporting tax increases for increased public school funding. Roughly 68 percent of Democrats replied with some sort of support, about 58 of Republicans did the same, while 57 percent of Independents responded similarly. Interestingly, though, there were little differences in metro/non-metro residence. Regardless of demographic or region, the majority of Kansans responded with support for tax increases for improved funding for public schools.

Respondents were also asked about their belief about other Kansans' support for increased taxes to improve public school funding. Contrary to the observed support of respondents, Kansans believe that support throughout the state is not as high, as seen in Figure B-4b below. Only 37 percent of respondents believe that there is at least some support among their fellow Kansans, while 46 percent stated others in the state have some level of opposition.

Nearly ten percent believed that other Kansans were neutral to the matter. The overall results are contrary to the observed belief in Figure B-4a, with the perceived support being much lower than reported levels of support.

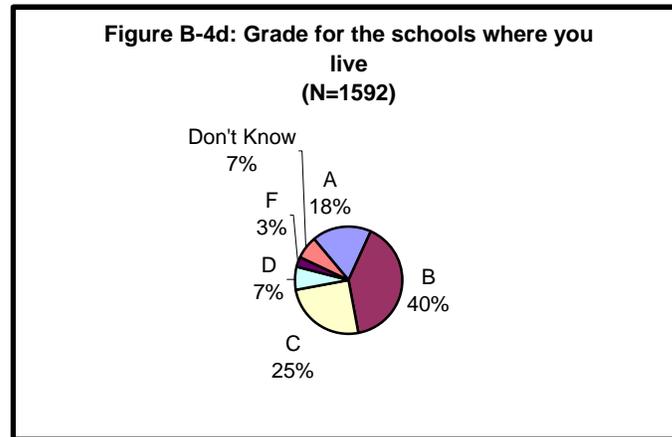


Those who responded they would support higher taxes for more public school funding were asked which tax they would want to be raised to provide this funding. Local property tax received the least support between the choices of state income, sales, and property taxes, consistent with the overall dislike of property taxes and belief that these taxes are already too high (See Figure B-1e). A majority (52 percent) responded they would pay more state sales tax, followed distantly by state income tax (18 percent). Other tax sources received ten percent of responses. The majority in all regions and demographics responded that they would pay more state sales tax, with the exception of Independents, where only a plurality (48 percent) responded as such. Independents had a higher dispersion of responses for income, property, and other taxes (19, 16, and 11 percent, respectively). There were no distinct differences between the congressional districts or demographics. Men did, however, display slightly higher favor toward increased income tax (23 percent) compared to women (15 percent). Regardless, the majority of respondents support increased state sales taxes to provide increased funding for public schools.



## Opinion of local schools

All respondents were also asked to grade the schools where they live. Possible responses were a grading scale the same as used in public schools (A, B, C, D, or F, A=excellent, F=failing). The majority of respondents believe that their local schools are above average (A or B) as seen in Figure B-4d. A plurality (40 percent) gave the grade “B” to their local schools, while 25 percent said “C” shows the belief that improvement could be made. Overall, the average letter grade assigned by respondents statewide was a low B. Still, schools are not seen to be in bad shape as only seven percent gave D, and only three percent gave a non-passing grade



(F) (Figure B-4d).

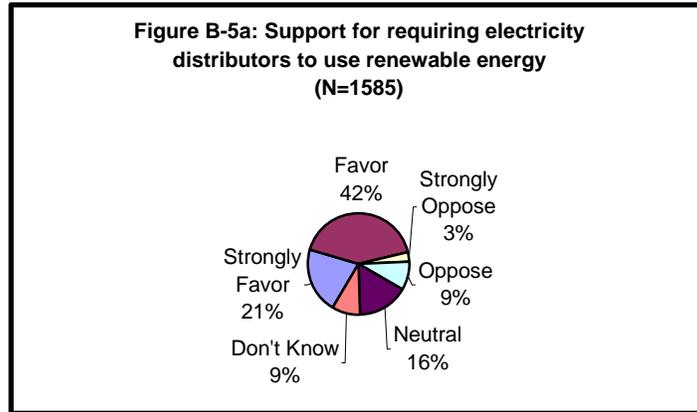
Regional breakdowns show little difference in the percentage that gave Bs as the grade to their local schools, but those in the Third Congressional District showed a markedly higher belief that their local schools achieved top marks. About 30 percent of respondents in the Third District gave their local schools the grade of A, compared to 19 percent in the First, 14 percent in the Second, and 15 in the Fourth. Thus it is not surprising that the percentage of respondents in the Third Congressional District who responded with D (five percent) or F (two percent) were lower than any other congressional district.

Republicans and college graduates also rated schools higher than their respective counterparts. Republicans gave an A grade in 20 percent of the responses, as opposed to 17 percent of Democrats and 15 percent of Independents. The difference in those with and without college degrees was greater, with 24 percent of college graduates giving the grade of A while 16 percent of those without a college degree gave the same. These differences still are not substantially different from the overall beliefs of Kansans that while schools are not performing poorly, there is room for improvement.

## B-5: Energy policy and resources

A series of questions were also asked regarding state energy policy, resources, and beliefs about energy. Many of the questions were centered on the theme of wind turbines and their viability. A plurality of Kansans had favorable views on wind turbines and renewable

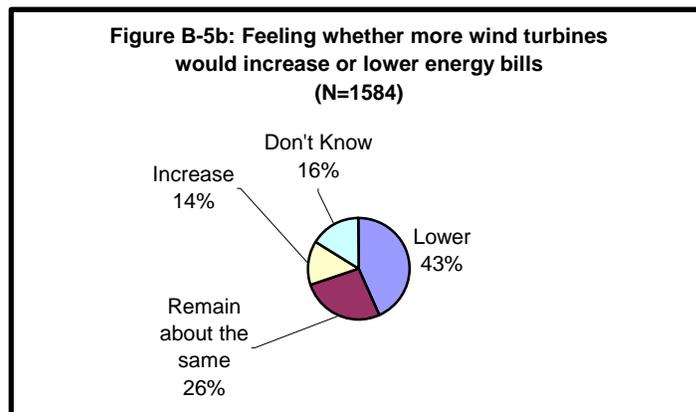
energy as a whole. No clear majority developed in many questions of energy policy though, showing a considerable amount of variation in opinions on such matters. The first question asked of respondents was the amount of support they had for requiring electricity vendors to be required to produce a certain set amount of their energy from renewable sources. The results of this question are presented in Figure B-5a.



A majority responded as either strongly favoring or favoring a requirement of energy sellers to have renewable energy. Only 12 percent responded as being either opposed or strongly opposed. Surprisingly, the variances of responses regardless of regional or demographic difference were small and unsubstancially different. The most noticeable difference was that of men strongly supporting this idea (26 percent) more than women (19 percent). Overall, though, Kansans throughout the state supported the idea of requiring energy vendors to be required to produce a certain set amount of their energy from renewable sources.

*Beliefs on Wind Turbines*

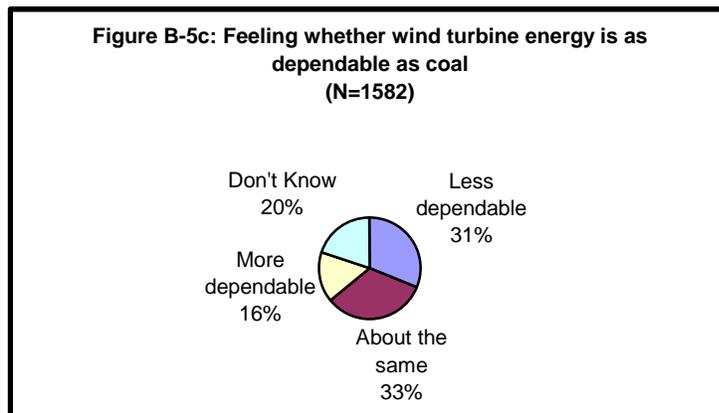
Continuing with the idea of renewable energy policy, a series of questions were posed regarding wind turbines, their costs, and their viability. The first question asked about wind turbines, was how respondents felt wind turbines would affect their energy bills. Data are shown below in Figure B-5b.



While no clear majority developed, a plurality (43 percent) believed wind turbines would lower their energy bills. About 26 percent that there would be no change, 16 percent did not know, while 14 percent thought that bills would be higher. This pattern holds across most divisions of Kansans, except for two noticeable differences. While the three other congressional districts are not substantially different from overall responses, those in the Third Congressional District are distinct in their responses. Roughly 26 percent of those in the Third District believe that bills would be lower, compared to 47 in the First Congressional District, 40 in the Second, and 44 percent in the Fourth. Nearly 28 percent of those in the Third District believe bills will be higher, in contrast with 11 percent in the First District, 18 in the Second District, and 15 percent in the Fourth District.

Interestingly, the only other substantial difference was between those living in metro and non-metro residences. About 45 percent of those in non-metro residences believed that wind turbines would lower energy bills, while 35 percent of those in metro residences felt the same. Similarly, 20 percent of those in metro residences believed bills would increase as compared to only 13 percent of those in non-metro residences. Overall, though, more Kansans believe the use of wind turbines would lower energy bills than any other scenario (i.e. increases or staying the same).

Questions on the topic of wind turbines continued with respondents being asked their beliefs on how dependable wind energy was compared to energy cultivated from coal. Responses are presented in Figure B-5c. A small percentage of respondents (16 percent) believed that wind energy was more dependable than coal. Larger portions believed that wind energy was less dependable (31 percent) or about as dependable as coal (33 percent). A sizable portion also was unsure how coal and wind energy compared (20 percent). While no consensus was seen among Kansans, it does not appear that there is a high level of confidence in wind energy compared to coal.



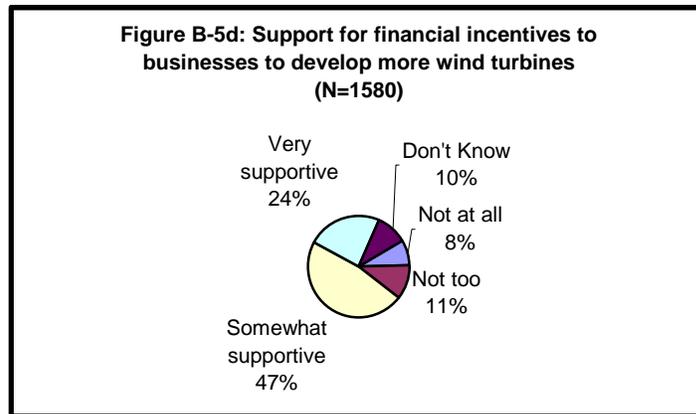
Some interesting differences occur among respondents in different regions and demographics. As might be expected based on previous responses, those in the Third Congressional District responded at a higher rate that wind energy is less dependable than coal

compared to other regions. About 40 percent in the Third Congressional District responded that wind energy was less dependable than coal, while 35 percent of those in the Second Congressional District and 30 percent of those in both the First and Fourth Congressional Districts stated the same.

Men also had less faith in wind energy compared to coal than did women. Nearly 41 percent of men stated that wind energy was less dependable than coal, while 26 percent of women said the same. There was no significant difference in the percentage of each gender that said that wind energy was about as or more dependable than coal. The remaining difference between men and women lay in those who stated they did not know, with 26 percent of women responding this way, compared to only nine percent of men.

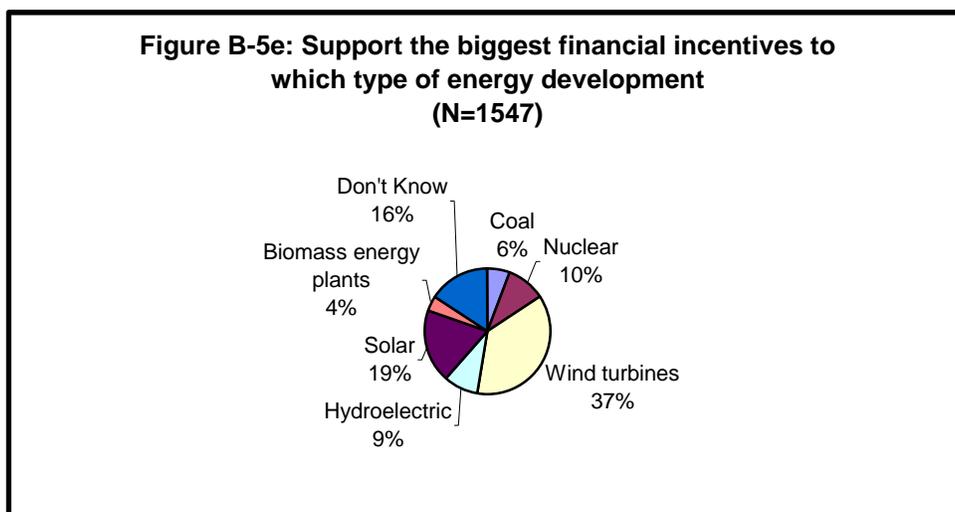
The remaining demographic divisions failed to show any significant difference in their belief on dependability of wind energy compared to coal. One small difference that did appear though was between college graduates and those without college degrees. Interestingly, 36 percent of college graduates responded that wind energy was less dependable than coal as compared to 30 percent of those without a college degree. The remaining responses showed little difference in percentage because, as might be expected, a higher percentage of those without a college degree stated that they did not know (22 percent) than did those with college degrees (15 percent). Still, regardless of demographics, Kansans for the most part fail to believe that wind energy is more dependable than energy from coal.

Following this line of questioning, respondents were asked how supportive they would be of providing financial incentives to develop more wind turbines. While there was no majority on any one response, a plurality (47 percent) stated they were somewhat supportive of financial incentives for development of more wind turbines. About 24 percent of respondents stated that they were very supportive of financial incentives for more wind turbines, showing that a sizeable majority of Kansans shows some level of support for development of more wind turbines (71 percent). Kansans throughout the state expressed similar sentiments, regardless of political party, education, or metro/non-metro residence. Once again, though, the respondents from the Third Congressional District displayed less support than other regions, with 17 percent saying they were not at all supportive and 14 percent saying they were not too supportive. Roughly 36 percent said they were somewhat supportive, the lowest percentage of any division of respondents and the only group with less than 40 percent for this response. Overall though, a large percentage of Kansans are somewhat supportive of financial incentives for more wind turbine development.



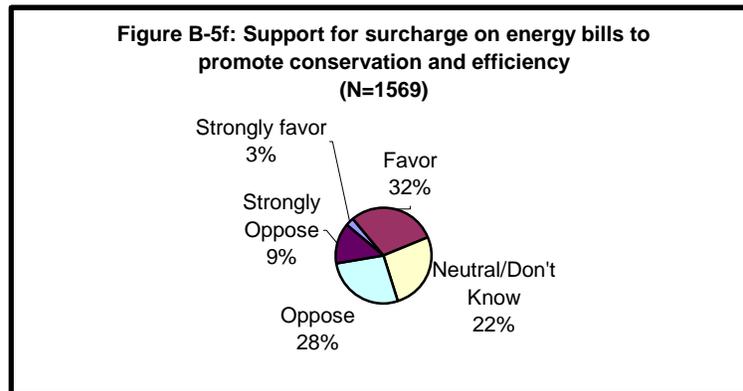
*Energy Policy*

Similarly, respondents were asked which form of energy they would support giving financial incentives for development. They were given the choices of coal, nuclear, wind turbines, hydroelectric, solar and biomass energies. Figure B-5e below displays the percentages of responses for each choice. Wind turbines received the most support (37 percent) with solar coming in a distant second (19 percent). Wind turbines have considerable support among Kansans, as the highest percentage of respondents in every regional and demographic division, including those in the Third Congressional District, stated they supported the largest financial incentives going to wind turbines. Solar energy also has considerable support, as it was also named in every division of respondents the second most times.



To obtain the beliefs of respondents on importance of energy, respondents were asked how strongly they would favor a surcharge on their energy bills to promote conservation and efficiency (Figure B-5f, below). This question targeted their financial resources specifically, so the results indicate their pragmatic rather than dogmatic preferences. It is not surprising then that fewer people either favor or strongly favor this proposition than those who oppose or strongly

oppose it. About 32 percent favor and three percent strongly favor this idea while 28 percent oppose and nine percent strongly oppose it. Nearly 22 percent neither favor nor oppose the idea.

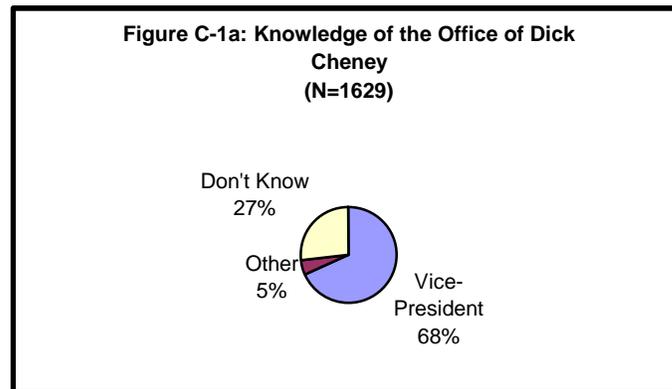


The respondents in the Third Congressional District opposed increased energy bills more than any other region or demographic. Roughly 29 percent were opposed and 15 percent were strongly opposed. About 29 percent in the Third District stated they favor the proposition, the lowest percentage of any grouping of respondents. Surprisingly, the five percent in the Third Congressional District stating they strongly favor the surcharge represented the highest percentage of all the groupings (tied with college graduates, who are most highly represented, by percentage, in the Third District). Overall Kansans are seen to be supportive of financial incentives to energy resources, especially wind turbines, but when the increases come in their personal energy bills respondents' support declines rapidly.

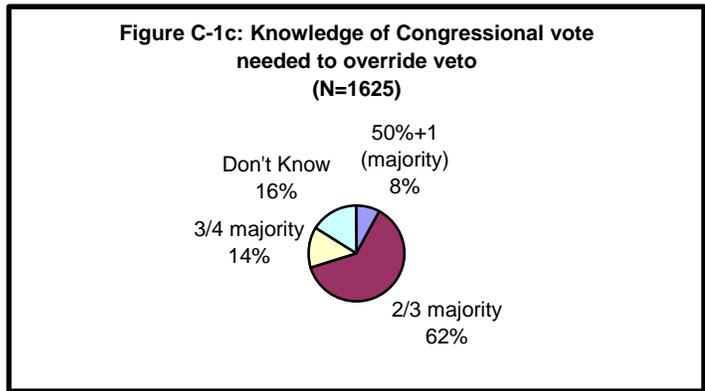
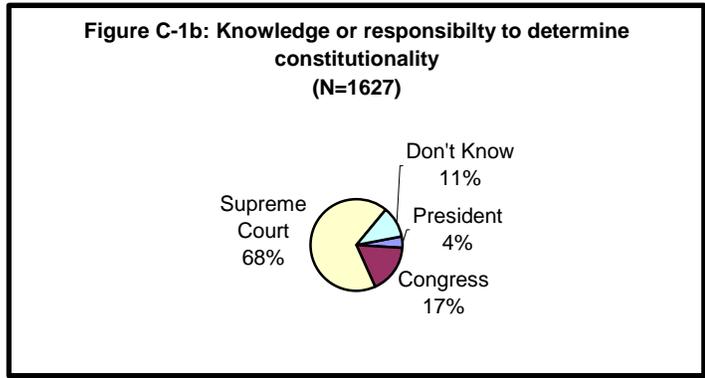
## C: Political Knowledge, The 2000 Presidential Election, Patriotism, and News Sources

### C-1: Political Knowledge

The KPS-Fall01 asked a series of questions pertaining to knowledge of the workings of government. Overall, 68 percent of the respondents knew that the office that Dick Cheney holds was that of Vice President, while five percent responded with some other office and 27 percent did not know. Results are presented in Figure C-1a. Not surprisingly, college graduates responded correctly 83 percent of the time as compared to 63 percent of those without a college degree. Republicans also had more knowledge of Cheney's office (77 percent) than did Democrats (68 percent) or Independents (57 percent). The areas with more college graduates (the Third and Fourth Congressional Districts and metropolitan counties), as might be expected, have higher correct response rates than those areas with lower percentages of college graduates (the First and Second Congressional District, non-metro).

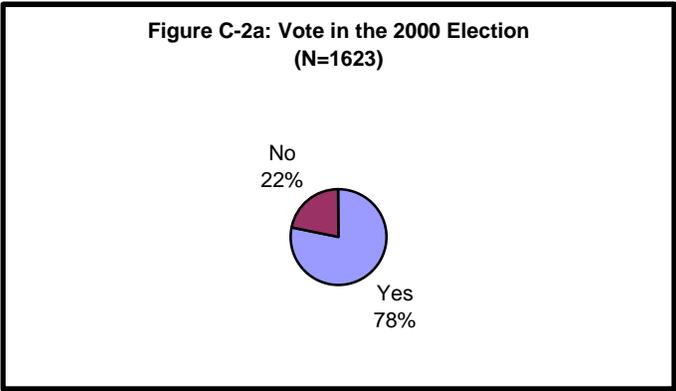


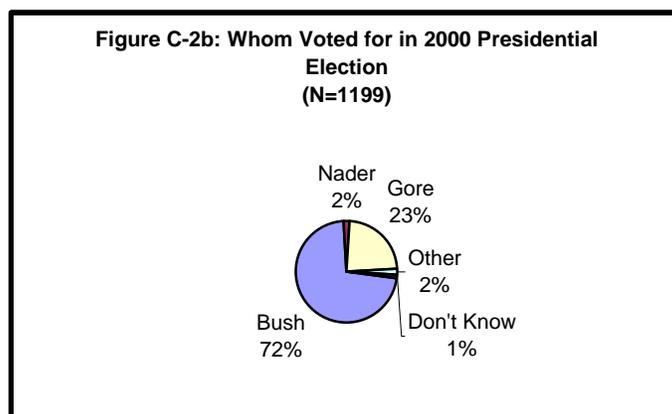
Similarly, most respondents knew which branch of government was responsible for determining constitutionality of laws (the Supreme Court) and the Congressional majority vote needed to overturn a Presidential veto (2/3 majority) (See Figures C-1b and C-1c). Once again, more respondents with a college education knew the correct answer.



**C-2: The 2000 Presidential Election**

Respondents were also asked several questions about political participation. The questions dealt with voting in the 2000 presidential election. Respondents by and large did vote in the 2000 presidential election. About 78 percent of respondents said they voted, while 22 percent stated they had not (Figure C-2a).

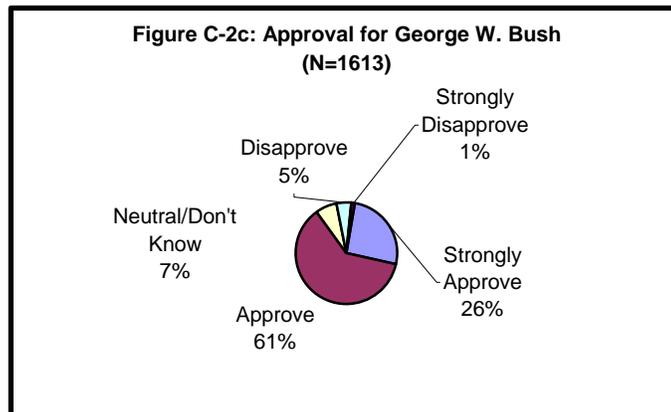




Continuing on the 2000 presidential election, those who stated they voted were asked whom they voted for in the presidential election. Figure C-2b above presents the percentages for George W. Bush, Al Gore, Ralph Nader, and other candidates (combined). As might be expected from the state with a high number of Republican, the vast majority stated they voted for Bush (72 percent). Nader and other candidates were each indicated by 2 percent of respondents. As expected, the majority of Democrats (63 percent) said they voted for Gore, although a sizeable minority indicated they voted for Bush (30 percent). Almost all Republicans voted for Bush (95 percent), and interestingly, so did the majority of those identifying as Independents (62 percent).

College graduates and those without a college degree displayed no significant differences in their voting patterns, but those living in metropolitan and those living in non-metro areas showed some minor differences. Metropolitan areas, considered to favor Democrats more, somewhat displayed this predisposition. Although the majority in metro areas still said they voted for Bush (63 percent), this was less than those in rural areas (74 percent), and Al Gore did receive a higher percentage of votes in metro areas (33 percent) than in rural areas (21 percent). Overall, though, the clear choice among Kansans in the 2000 presidential election was George W. Bush.

Related to the election of George W. Bush in 2000, Kansans were asked their opinion of the job that Bush is doing. Respondents were given a scale of approval ranging from strongly approve to strongly disapprove to choose from. A vast majority of respondents either strongly approved or approved of the job Bush is doing (Figure C-2c). About 26 percent of respondents said they strongly approve of the job Bush is doing, and 61 percent said they approve of the way Bush is handling the job. This response follows national trends following the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001. It may also be attributed to the large Republican following in the state.



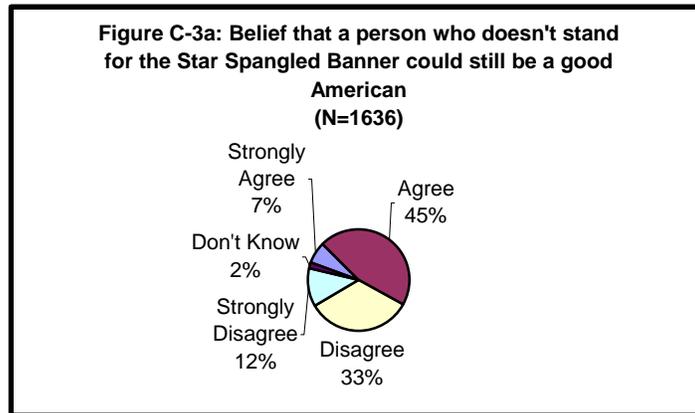
Indeed, Republicans responded with the highest levels of approval of any regional or group division. Nearly 98 percent of Republicans indicated some level of approval, as 40 percent stated they strongly approve and 58 percent said they approved of the job that Bush does as President. Only one percent of Republicans stated they disapproved and none said they strongly disapproved of Bush. While this was a significantly higher approval rating than either Democrats or Independents, although both Democrats and Independents still approved of Bush at some level. About 12 percent of Democrats and 16 percent of Independents said they strongly approve of the job Bush is doing, and 65 percent of both Democrats and Independents approved of Bush's performance. Otherwise, there were no substantial differences across demographics or regions as the clear majority of Kansans approved of Bush's performance.

### **C-3: Symbols of Patriotism**

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, patriotism in America became more evident and more of a salient issue. The KPS-Fall01 asked respondents several questions on their feelings of what many consider signs of patriotism and their opinion on criticizing government. A statement was read for each question, and the respondent was given an approval scale with the possible responses of strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree or don't know for each statement. The results provide an interesting look at the opinions of Kansans on issues of patriotism.

#### *The Star Spangled Banner*

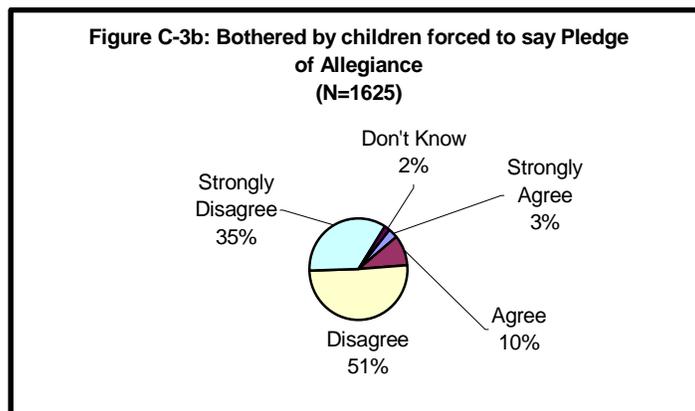
Respondents were first asked how much they agree with the statement "A person who does not stand when the Star Spangled Banner is being played could still be a good American." The division among respondents is obvious, as 52 percent said they agree with that statement at some level while 45 percent of respondents said they disagree with that statement at some level. Of those who agreed at some level with the statement, 45 percent said they agreed and 7 percent said they strongly agreed. Of those that disagreed at some level, 33 percent said they disagreed and 12 percent said they strongly disagreed. Figure C-3a displays the results.



Among regions, little variance was displayed with the exception of the Third Congressional District. Nearly 79 percent of respondents in the Third Congressional District agreed at some level, with 16 percent saying they strongly agreed and 63 percent saying that they agreed. Not surprisingly then, the lowest percentage of respondents who disagreed with the statement at some level, as 12 percent said they disagreed and 7 percent said they strongly disagreed.

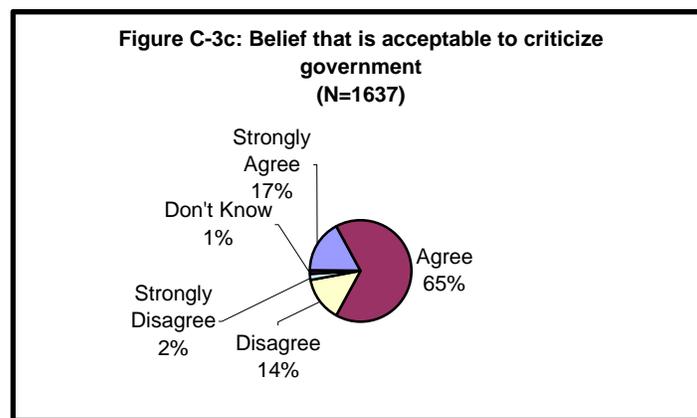
*Forcing children to say the Pledge of Allegiance and other patriotic attitudes*

Respondents were also asked how much they agree with the statement “It bothers me to see children made to pledge allegiance to the flag or sing the national anthem or otherwise be induced to adopt such strong patriotic attitudes.” There was much less divisiveness on this statement (Figure C-3b). A strong majority disagreed with this statement at some level. About 51 percent of respondents said they disagree and 35 percent said they strongly disagreed with this statement, showing that respondents have little problem with pushing children toward patriotic attitudes and actions. Only three percent said they strongly agree with this statement and ten percent stated they agreed with this statement. There was little difference from the overall data among all regions and demographics. Overall, Kansans appear not to be bothered by forcing children to say the Pledge or inducing them to adopt patriotic attitudes.



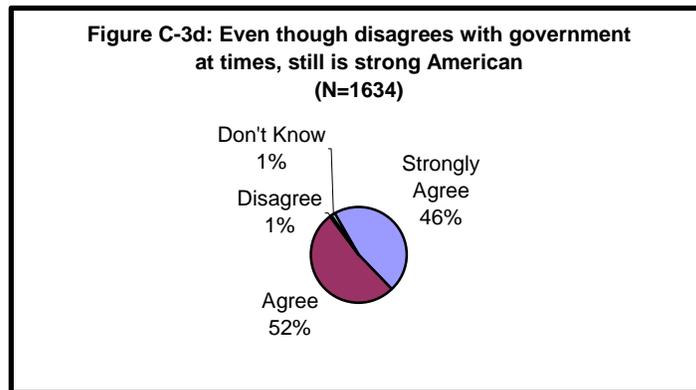
### *Acceptability of criticism of the government*

Two statements were read to respondents about the acceptability of criticizing government. They were then asked to state how much they agreed with each statement. In both instances, a strong majority stated belief that it is acceptable to criticize government. The first statement was “It is O.K. to criticize the government.” Nearly 17 percent said they strongly agreed with that statement and 65 percent said they agreed that it is O.K. to criticize government. A small minority believed that it is not O.K. to criticize government, as 14 percent disagreed with the statement and two percent strongly disagreed. These results are presented in Figure C-3c.



Several noticeable differences appeared in response to this statement among groups. Roughly 30 percent of those in the Third Congressional District strongly agreed with the statement that it is O.K. to criticize government. Only nine percent in the Third Congressional District said they disagreed with the statement, while none said they strongly disagreed. College graduates and those in metropolitan areas also strongly agreed with this statement more than their respective counterparts. About 25 percent of college graduates strongly agreed with the statement compared to 14 percent of those without a college degree. Nearly nine percent of college graduates said they disagreed with the statement and one percent with college degrees said they strongly disagreed. Those without a college degree disagreed more than their counterparts, with 16 percent stating they disagreed and three percent saying they strongly disagreed.

About 26 percent of those in metropolitan areas said they strongly agreed that it was O.K. to criticize government, while 15 percent of those in non-metro areas replied the same. About nine percent of metro residents and 15 percent of rural residents said they strongly disagreed with the statement. Roughly one percent of metro residents and three percent of non-metro residents said they strongly disagreed that it was O.K. to criticize the government. Overall, though, Kansans believe that it is O.K. to criticize government.



Similarly, respondents were asked how much they agreed with the statement “Although at times I may not agree with the government, my commitment to the U.S. always remains strong.” Nearly all of respondents agreed at some level with this statement, and the differences between groups were similar to the statement that it is O.K. to criticize government. Nearly 98 percent of respondents said they agreed that even though they sometimes disagree with the government, their commitment to the U.S. remains strong. One percent disagreed, one percent strongly disagreed, and one percent did not know (Figure C-3d).

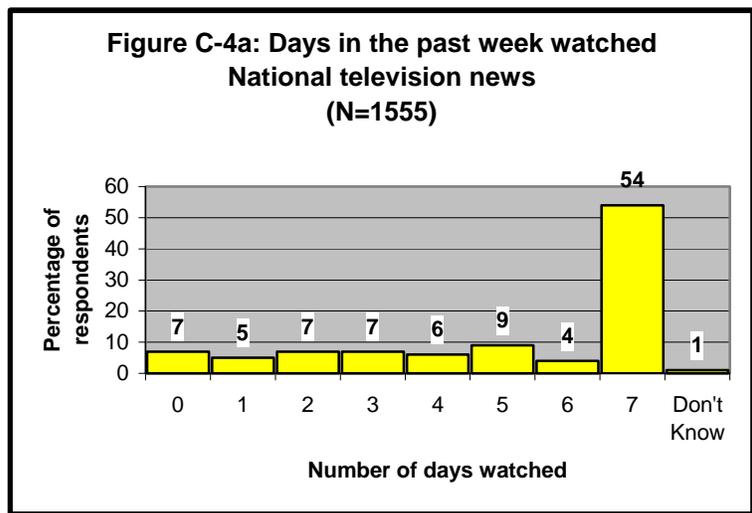
More metropolitan residents also agreed more strongly than rural residents did with the statement that he/she at times could disagree with the government and remain strongly committed to the U.S. About 53 percent of those in metro areas strongly agreed with the statement, while 45 percent of those living in non-metro areas responded the same. Roughly 45 percent of those in metro areas and 54 percent of non-metro residents agreed with the statement. Regardless of differences, Kansans statewide express the belief that it is possible to criticize or disagree with the government and still be a strong American.

#### **C-4: Sources of news and information**

To gauge where respondents learned of news and information about the state and nation, respondents were asked how many days they watched the national and local news on television in the past week, the attention they pay to TV news, and what is their primary source for state government. While information may be obtained from other sources such as family, television (or other reliable news sources) is likely to provide more information and more reliable news. The majority of respondents said they watched both national and local news on television everyday of the week. The majority also paid either quite a bit or a lot of attention to the TV news. A plurality of respondents also stated that their primary source of state government news was television. This shows the salience, importance, and effect of television news.

Respondents were first asked how many days in the past week they had watched the national news on television. A majority (54 percent) said they watched the national news all

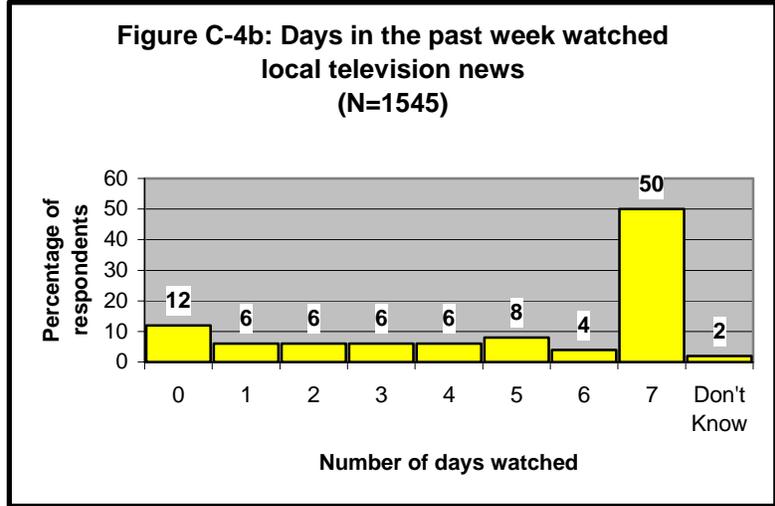
seven days of the week. No other amount of days received even ten percent, with second highest response being five days (nine percent). Results are presented in Figure C-4a.



Interestingly, and maybe unexpectedly, respondents in the Third Congressional District (the district with highest concentration of college grads) was the only region where the majority of respondents did not say they watched national news all seven days in the past week. About 44 percent of those in the Third Congressional District said they watched national news all seven days in the past week, as compared to 54 percent in the First Congressional District, 52 percent of those in the Second, and 56 percent of the Fourth.

Those who identified themselves as Independents were the only other grouping of respondents in which a majority did not state they watched the national news all seven days of the previous week. About 48 percent of Independents said they watched the national news everyday. Comparatively, 58 percent of Democrats and 56 percent of Republicans said they watched the national news on television everyday of the previous week.

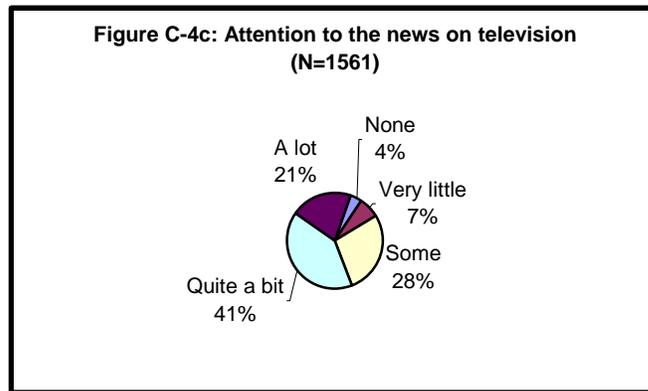
Similarly, respondents were asked how many days in the past week did they watch the local television news (Figure C-4b). About half of the respondents again said they had watched all seven days of the previous week. Roughly 50 percent of respondents stated they watched the local TV news everyday, but interestingly, the second highest number of responses was that respondents had watched the local TV NO days in the past week (12 percent).



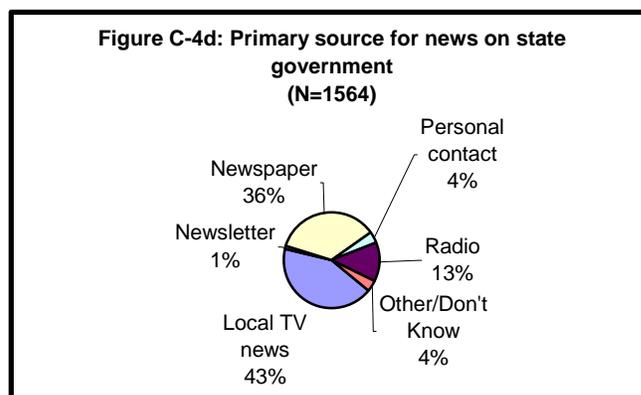
Again counter to what might be expected, college graduates and respondents of the Third Congressional District responded that they watched less local television news than did their counterparts. About 46 percent of college graduates said they watched the local news on the TV all seven days of the past week, as compared to 52 percent of those without college degrees. Those in the Third Congressional District responded they watched local television news everyday 46 percent of the time, while 49 percent in the First District, 52 percent in the Second, and 55 percent in the Fourth said the same.

Men, too, said they watched less local news than did women. Of men respondents, 44 percent said they watched everyday, compared to 54 percent of women. On the opposite end of the scale, 14 percent of men and 11 percent said they watched no local news in the past week. The only other substantial difference recorded was between Democrats and other political parties. Democrats (55 percent) responded that watched the local news everyday of the past week more than did Republicans (48 percent) or Independents (49 percent). Still, regardless of differences, a large portion of Kansas watches the local news on TV everyday.

To get a deeper understanding of the effect of television news on respondents, the KPS-Fall01 asked how much attention respondents paid to television news. The choices given were none, very little, some, quite a bit, and a lot (as well as don't know). While no response received a majority, a plurality (41 percent) responded they paid quite a bit of attention to news on the television and 21 percent said they the paid a lot of attention to TV news, showing that when respondents watch the news, then claim to be attentive. Added to this is that 28 percent said the pay some attention to news on TV, meaning a large majority paid at least some attention to TV news, showing the importance of this as a purveyor of information (Figure C-4c)



With the amount of possible alternative news sources for information on state government, especially local newspapers, respondents were asked what was their primary news source on state government. The most responses came for television (43 percent) it was closely followed by newspapers (36 percent). Radio was the third highest response (13 percent), but did not approach the prevalence of television and newspapers. Results are presented in Figure C-4d.



Men and women appear to have different preferences for their state government news source. The highest percentage of women (47 percent) said that the local TV news was their source of information, while the highest percentage of men (37 percent) stated their choice of newspapers for state government news.

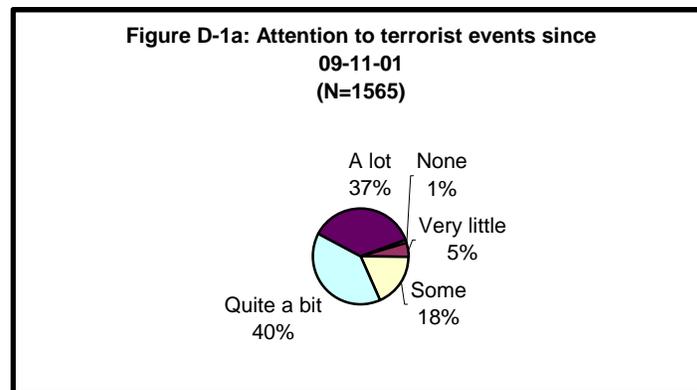
There are also differences in responses for the primary news source among political parties. Almost 53 percent of Democrats said their primary source of state government news was local television news, compared to 38 percent of Republicans and 41 percent of Independents. Republicans, like men, had about the same amount of responses for television and newspapers (38 percent), while 31 percent of Democrats and 36 percent of Independents said they chose newspapers as their primary news source for state government. Interestingly, though, no differences arose among respondents in different congressional districts. Overall, there appears to be a near even split over choice of primary news source among Kansans between newspapers and local television news, with various other news sources being chosen much less frequently.

## D: National Security and Terrorism

Following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, and the subsequent anthrax mailings, questions were added to the KPS-Fall01 dealing with issues of terrorism and national security. Respondents were asked their views on the likelihood of future terrorist attacks, their beliefs at the risk of being a victim, and the need for increased national security, even at the risk of losing freedoms and privacy. The responses provide insight as to how those in Kansas, disconnected physically from the terrorist acts, still feel the necessity for increased security and, in fact, are not immune from the “terror” that terrorists instill.

### D-1: Response to the terrorist acts

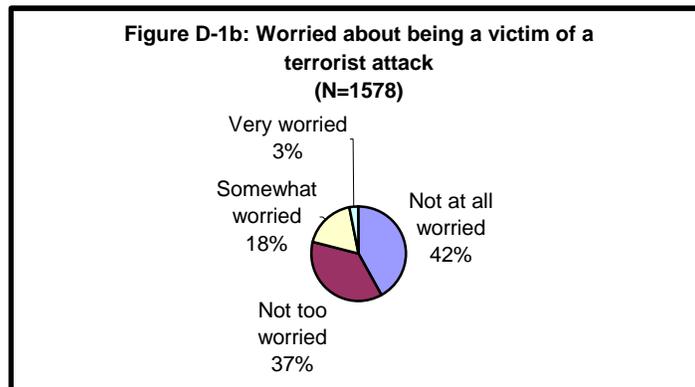
Respondents were asked several questions pertaining to the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> to gauge their feelings about the future of national security. Respondents were asked how much attention they paid to terrorist events following September 11<sup>th</sup> in order to gauge the salience of the issue. Not surprisingly, nearly all of the respondents said they paid at least some attention to terrorist events following September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 (Figure D-1a). About 37 percent of respondents said they paid a lot of attention, 40 percent said they paid quite a bit of attention and 18 percent said they paid some attention to terrorist events. Only one percent said they paid no attention while five percent said they paid very little attention.



As the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> were a national event that affected nearly everyone, it is not surprising that responses to this question varied little across group divisions. A higher percentage of women (40 percent) than men (31 percent) did say they paid a lot of attention to terrorist events. Regardless, Kansans as a whole stated their attentiveness to terrorist events following September 11<sup>th</sup>.

To determine Kansans' perceived personal threat of terrorism, respondents were asked how worried they were that they might be victims of a terrorist attack. Figure D-1b displays the results. A majority of respondents stated they worried little or not at all about being a victim of a terrorist attack. Nearly 42 percent of respondents said they were not at all worried and 37

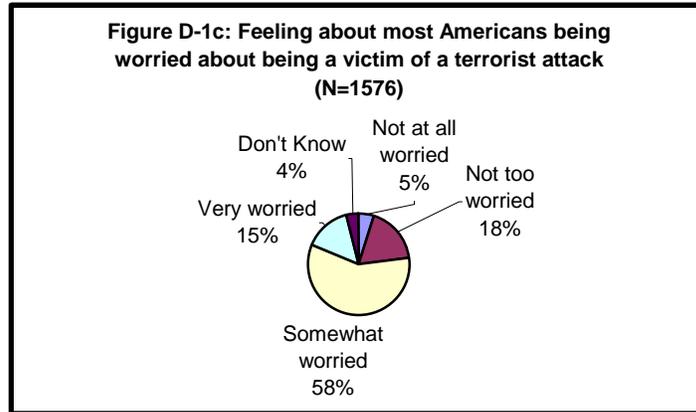
percent said they were not too worried about possibly being the victim of a terrorist attack. About 18 percent were somewhat worried and three percent were very worried.



Once again women appear to be more attuned to terrorism following September 11<sup>th</sup>. About four percent of women said they were very worried and 23 percent said they were somewhat worried of being a victim of terrorist attacks. Comparatively, only one percent of men said they were very worried of a terrorist attack, and 12 percent of men said they were somewhat worried. A might be expected then, 53 percent of men said they were not at all worried as compared to 35 percent of women saying the same.

College graduates, like men, were less worried as a whole than their counterparts. About four percent with a college degree said they were very worried about being a victim of a terrorist attack, while only one percent of college graduates said the same. Roughly 44 percent of college grads said they were not at all worried, as did 41 percent of those without college degrees.

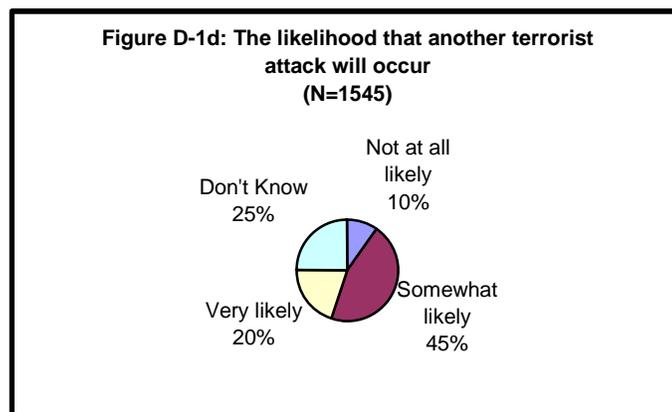
Respondents were then asked to remark on their perception that most Americans fear being the victim of another terrorist attack. The responses reflect the feeling that most Americans are more worried than those in Kansas. A majority of respondents (58 percent) felt that most Americans were somewhat worried of being a victim of a terrorist attack (Figure D-1c). Roughly 15 percent said most Americans were very worried, 18 percent said most Americans were not too worried, and five percent said they thought most Americans were not at all worried about being the victim of a terrorist attack.



About 18 percent of women and nine percent of men said that most Americans were very worried about being a victim of another attack. Similarly, 22 percent of men said that most Americans were not too worried, as did 15 percent of women. Nearly eight percent of men said most Americans were not all worried about being a victim of a terrorist attack, while four percent of women said the same. This reflects the differences in personal beliefs and worries of the two genders.

The differences in personal beliefs and worries about terrorism are reflected in college graduates and those without a college degree. Of those without college degrees, 17 percent stated their belief that most Americans are very worried about being a victim of a terrorist attack, compared to ten percent of college graduates. On the other end of the spectrum, nine percent of college grads said that most Americans were not at all worried, as did five percent of those without college degrees. Even with these differences, most Kansans display less worry than they believe other Americans do.

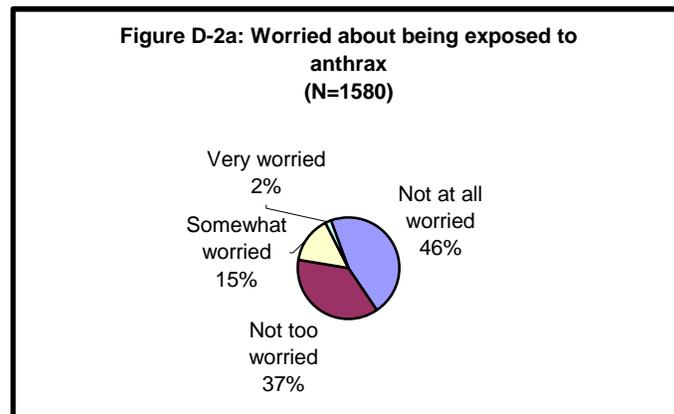
To complete the questions on terrorism, the respondents were asked how likely they felt that another terrorist attack would take place. A plurality (45 percent) believed that another terrorist attack was somewhat likely. A sizeable minority (20 percent) stated their belief that another attack was very likely, although the second largest portion of respondents (25 percent) said they did not know the likelihood of another attack. About ten percent believed that it was not at all likely that another terrorist attack would take place.



Interestingly, even though women and those without college degrees stated more worry of being the victim of another terrorist attack, their responses to the question varied little with their demographic counterpart. In fact, a higher percentage of women (28 percent) and those without a college degree (28 percent) replied at a higher rate than men (20 percent) and college graduates (18 percent) that they did not know the likelihood of another attack. Still, a majority of every group of Kansans felt that another terrorist attack was somewhat likely.

## D-2: Anthrax

Due to the anthrax attacks sent to individuals in the mail soon after the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks, the KPS-Fall01 asked a set of questions dealing with respondents' beliefs about the threat of anthrax attacks. Similar to the questions of terrorism, respondents were asked their perceptions about the threat of further anthrax attacks. First, respondents were asked how worried they were they might be exposed to anthrax. Figure D-2a presents the findings.

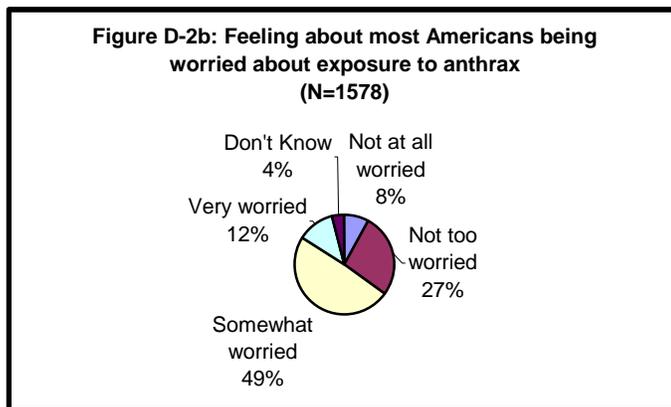


Like the threat of terrorism, the majority of respondents expressed little or no worry that they might be exposed to anthrax. About 46 percent of respondents said they were not at all worried and 37 percent said they were not too worried about being exposed to anthrax. Only two percent of respondents replied they were very worried and 15 percent said they were somewhat worried.

Also similar to the responses about terrorism, women and those without college degrees expressed a higher level of worry than their demographic counterparts. Nearly 55 percent of men said they were not worried at all, while 40 percent of women said the same. College graduates, like men, displayed less worry than did their counterparts. Almost 51 percent of college graduates said they were not at all worried, as compared to 43 percent of those without college degrees. Like the fear of terrorism, though, the majority of Kansans said they had little or no worry about being exposed to anthrax.

Respondents were also asked their perception of the amount of worry most Americans felt toward being exposed to anthrax. Again, as with similar questions about terrorism,

respondents felt that most Americans were more worried than Kansas residents. A large plurality (49 percent) stated their belief that most Americans were somewhat worried about being exposed to anthrax. Nearly 12 percent of respondents felt that most Americans were very worried (Figure D-2b).



As previously seen, women and those without college degrees view most Americans as being more worried than do men and college graduates, reflecting their own worries. Almost 14 percent of women felt most Americans were very worried and 50 percent felt most Americans were somewhat worried. On the other hand, eight percent of men stated that most Americans were very worried and 48 percent said most Americans were somewhat worried. Also reflecting their own worries, 32 percent of men believed most Americans were not too worried, while 25 percent of women believed the same. A slightly higher percentage of men (nine percent) believed that most Americans were not worried at all than did women (seven percent).

The largest difference between those with and those without college degrees came on the percentage of respondents for each group that stated most Americans were very worried about being exposed to anthrax. About 14 percent of those without college degrees said most Americans were very worried, as did seven percent of college graduates. Conversely, 32 percent of college graduates believed most Americans were not too worried, while 26 percent of those without college degrees felt the same. Even with these differences, and as with the threat of terrorism, the majority of Kansans believe that most Americans are more worried about being exposed to anthrax than those in Kansas.

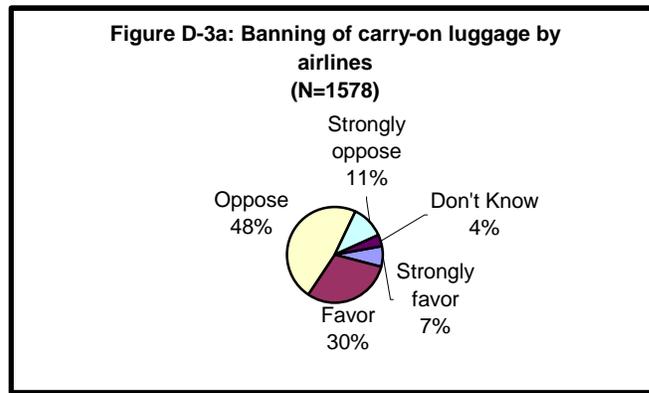
### **D-3: Security Issues**

Another effect of the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> and the subsequent anthrax mailings was that security issues came to the forefront of importance and became salient to most Americans. Because of this, several questions were added to the KPS-Fall01 dealing with respondents' thoughts and beliefs on security issues. Some questions about security had to do with increasing security by giving up some personal freedoms, especially privacy. The questions asked respondents feelings on: banning carry-on luggage; allowing police to stop and search

people at random; easing restrictions on the ability of legal authorities to tap phones or read email; requiring everyone to carry a National ID card and show it to police on demand; increasing security at public places, such as malls; and increasing security at critical infrastructures such as nuclear power plants. Overall, respondents were supportive of increased security in public areas and critical infrastructure, but were much less supportive of initiatives that would result in a loss of privacy or freedoms.

*Losing freedoms and privacy for security?*

Four questions were asked about increasing security that would have limited some personal freedom of citizens. The first asked was how strongly the respondent favored banning carry-on luggage by airlines in order to increase security. The majority of respondents stated they were either opposed or strongly opposed to the idea, apparently unwilling to give up ease of travel or believing this would not decrease security risks (Figure D-3a). Of the respondents that stated some level of opposition, 48 percent said they were opposed and 11 percent said they were strongly opposed. A sizeable minority of respondents favors the idea as 30 percent of respondents stated they favor the idea and seven percent said they strongly favor the idea.

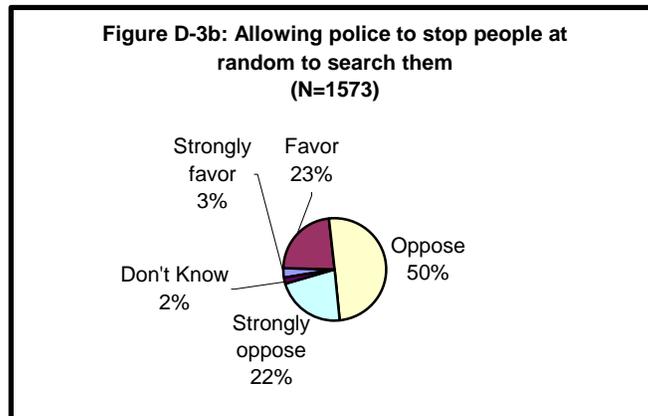


Regionally, no substantial differences arose. A higher percentage of both Independents and Democrats, however, did favor banning carry-on luggage more than did Republicans. About nine percent of both Democrats and Independents strongly favor this idea, as compared to five percent of Republicans. The trend continued as 33 percent of Democrats and 31 percent of Independents said they favor the banning of carry-on luggage, while 28 percent of Republicans did. Not surprising then is the fact that 50 percent of Republicans said they oppose the idea as compared to 46 and 48 percent of Democrats and Independents, respectively.

Another interesting difference was between metropolitan and non-metro residents. A larger portion of non-metro residents favors (31 percent) the idea to ban carry-on luggage than those in metro areas (25 percent), although seven percent of those in both areas strongly favor the idea. Nearly 56 percent of metro residents oppose a ban, as did 47 percent of non-metro residents. Interestingly, 11 percent of metro residents and ten percent of non-metro residents said they were strongly opposed, displaying that similar portions in both areas of residence either strongly favor or strongly oppose a ban, with the difference lying with those with less fervent

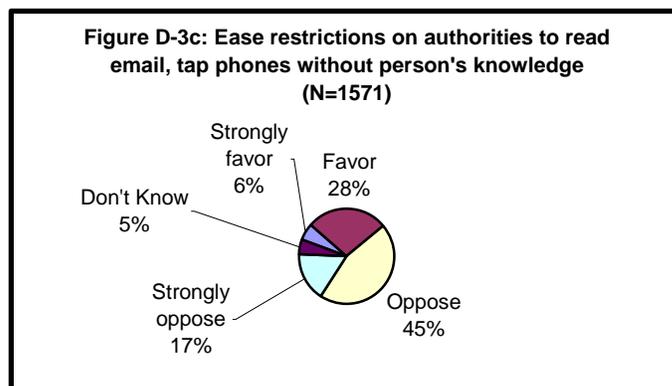
opinions. Overall, though, the majority of Kansans appear to oppose a ban on carry-on luggage by airlines, although a significant minority does favor such an initiative.

The next question asked of respondents was what was their level of support for allowing police to stop and randomly search people. A majority was opposed to this and 22 percent were strongly opposed, displaying the importance of personal freedom to most respondents. Figure D-3b displays the percentages of responses by all respondents.



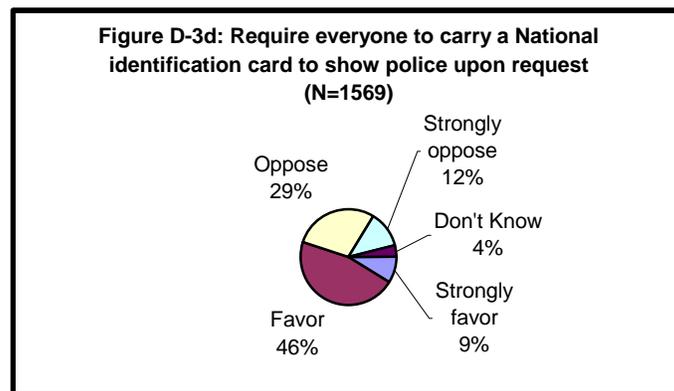
Interestingly, no substantial difference arose between any region or demographic division. Regardless of where one lives, educational attainment, or political party, most Kansans do not favor allowing police to stop and search people at random.

Another possible security measure that would also reduce personal freedoms and privacy is making it easier for legal authorities to read email and tap phones of individuals. Again, respondents appear to hold their personal freedoms and privacy as more important than any possible security gains that this initiative would provide. Roughly 45 percent of respondents said they were opposed to the idea, and 17 percent were strongly opposed. There was a larger minority that favored this idea than the idea to allow police to stop and search people at random, though. About 28 percent favor and six percent strongly favor easing restrictions on the ability of legal authorities to read emails and tap telephones of individuals (Figure D-3c).



Little difference was observed among regions and demographics, but some differences arose among political parties. Republicans showed a higher level of support than their counterparts, as seven percent of Republicans said they strongly favor the idea and 30 percent said they favor it. On the other hand, five percent of both Democrats and Independents stated they strongly favor the initiative, and 27 percent of Democrats and 24 percent of Independents said they favor the proposal. Even with these differences, the majority of Kansans regardless of grouping either strongly opposes or opposes making it easier for legal authorities to read emails or tap phones of individuals.

To end the questions on increased security respondents were asked how much they favor the idea of requiring a national identification card which must be shown to police upon request. This, unlike the other ideas to increase security, received support from a majority of respondents. About 46 percent of respondents favor and nine percent strongly favor this idea. A sizeable minority stated opposition though, as 29 percent said they were opposed while 12 percent said they were strongly opposed. Figure D-3d displays the percentages of responses given.



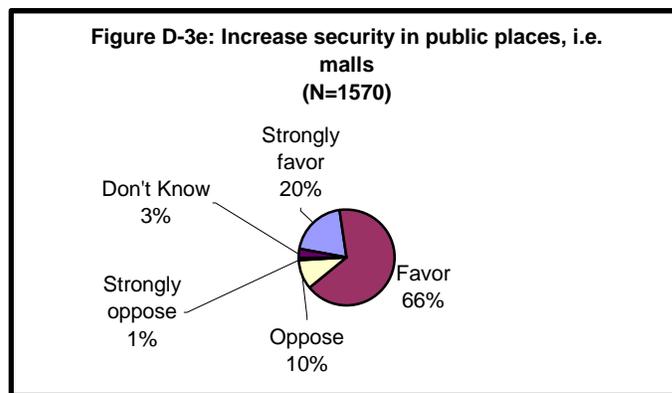
Interestingly, on this issue the Second Congressional District is significantly different from the other congressional districts and is the only region not to resemble the overall data. A strong majority stated they either strongly favor or favor this idea in the Second Congressional District, as 31 percent said they strongly favor this initiative and 55 percent state they favor requiring a national ID to be shown on request. Only six percent of respondents in the Second Congressional District said they oppose the idea and four percent said they strongly oppose it. Both of these totals are much lower than either the overall data or responses from the other three congressional districts.

While no substantial difference arose on this issue among those in different political parties, college graduates favor this idea less than those without college degrees. While the percentage of those with and those without degrees that strongly oppose and strongly favor do not differ significantly, the difference lay in those who stated they favor/oppose the idea. Roughly 49 percent of those without college degrees said they favor they initiative, while 38 percent of college graduates said the same. Conversely, 35 of college grads said they oppose the idea, compared to 27 percent of those without degrees. Even with these differences, the majority of Kansans still favor requiring a national ID to be shown at the request of police.

*Increasing security at public places and infrastructure*

In continuing with issues of security following the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, respondents were asked how they felt about increasing security at two distinct places: public places like malls and critical infrastructure such as nuclear power plants. In both instances, a large majority said they either strongly favor or favor increased security. A somewhat higher, but still small, percentage of respondents said they oppose increased security at public places than did those who oppose increased security at critical infrastructure. This may be reflective of the feelings of Kansans that they do want increased security infringing on their personal freedoms.

For the question asking respondents how much they favor increasing security in public places such as malls, 20 percent of respondents said they strongly favor the idea and 66 percent said they favor it. About ten percent said they oppose increasing security in public places and one percent stated they strongly oppose it (Figure D-3e).

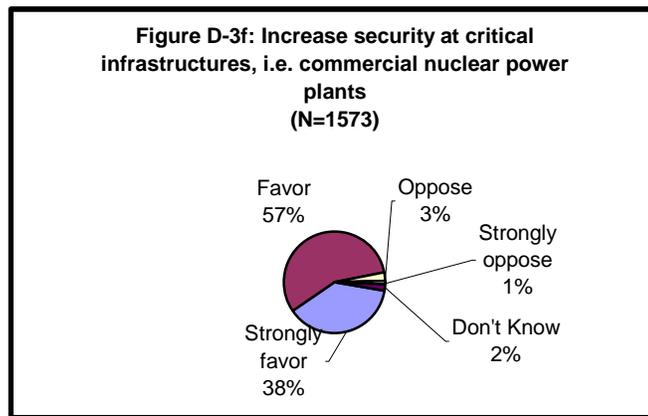


Regionally, support was similarly high among the majority of respondents, although a higher percentage of those in the Third Congressional District said they strongly favor the idea. Nearly 32 percent of respondents in the Third District said they strongly support the initiative, compared to 18 percent in the First Congressional District, 22 percent in the Second, and 20 percent in the Fourth. Still favor runs nearly equal among the four congressional districts, as the difference in the percentage responding that they strongly favor is made up in the percentage that responded they favor the initiative. While 55 percent in the Third Congressional District said they favor increasing in public places, 67 percent of respondents in the First Congressional District said the same, as did 66 percent in the Second and 68 percent in the Fourth District.

No further substantial differences were seen among demographic divisions, except that women responded favorably more than men. Around 22 percent of women responded they strongly favor the idea and 67 percent said they favor the proposal. Comparatively, 18 percent of men said they strongly favor and 65 percent said they favor the idea. Men showed more opposition with 14 percent of men saying they oppose increased security in public places, as

compared to eight percent. This may be the result of women stating more worry of possibly being a victim of a terrorist attack. Still, most Kansans favor increased security in public places such as malls.

Even stronger favor was stated for increased security in critical infrastructure such as nuclear power plants, without substantial differences between any regions or demographics. Nearly all respondents either strongly favor or favor this proposal, as 38 percent of respondents said they strongly favor and 57 percent said they favor the idea. A relatively minute minority stated opposition, with three percent opposed and one percent strongly opposed. The vast majority of Kansans appear to strongly favor or favor increased security at critical infrastructure like nuclear power plants, with little opposition.



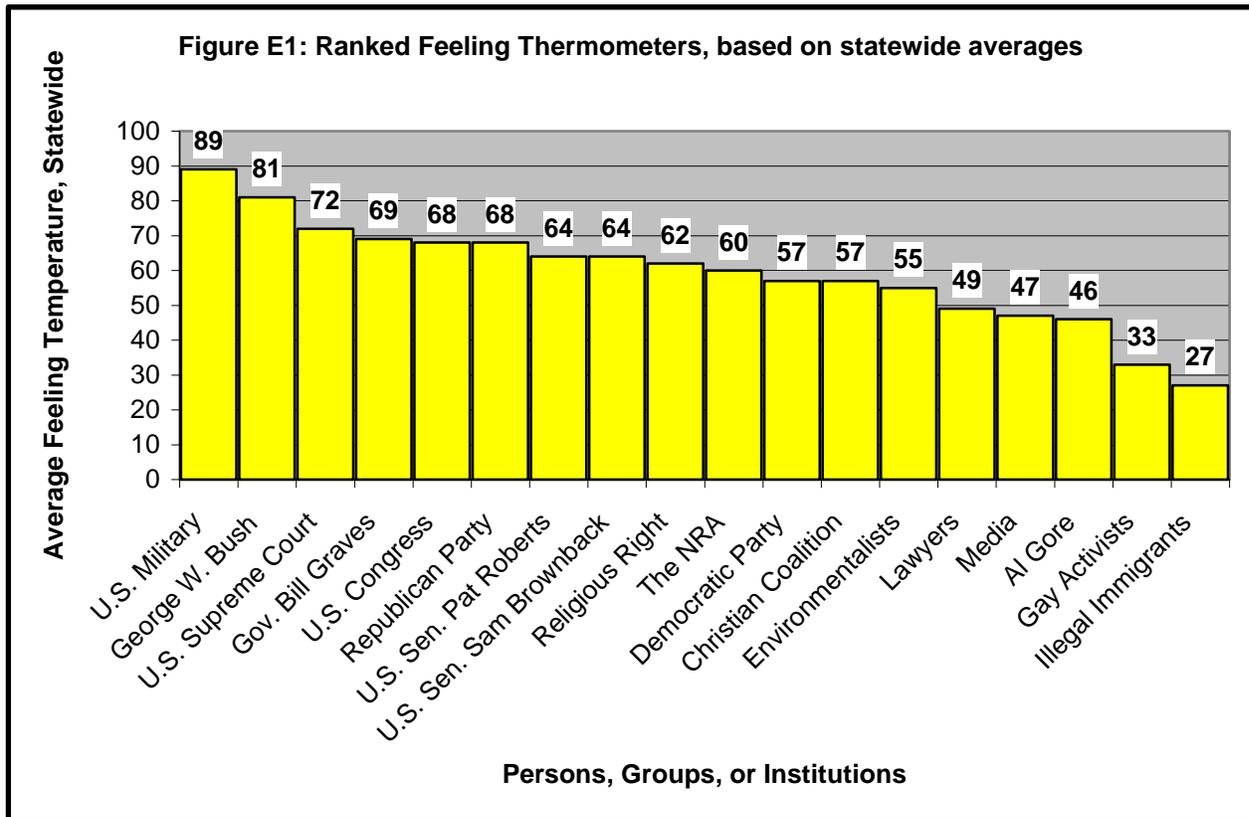
Overall, Kansans appear to want increased security, but not at the cost of personal freedoms and privacy. This is possibly due to the fact they do not appear to worry much as a whole about being victims of a terrorist or anthrax attack. They are, however, quite cognizant of terrorist events following September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, showing that while the awareness of terrorism is high, and worry has been raised, they are still unwilling to part with many of the traditional freedoms that they have enjoyed.

## **E: Political attitudes toward individuals, groups and institutions in society**

Respondents were also asked a series of questions to determine attitudes toward individuals, groups and institutions in American society. For each individual, group or institution respondents were asked to rate their feelings toward that item on a scale of 0 to 100. The warmer/higher the number the more positive the feelings for each item, while the colder/lower the number the less favorable the respondents felt toward each item.

Figure E1 ranks the 18 items according to the average feeling thermometer ratings of respondents. Any item with an average temperature greater than 60 is fairly warm or perceived favorably by the respondents, any temperature between 40 and 60 is considered lukewarm or fairly neutral, and any temperature between under 40 is fairly cold or an unfavorable attitude of respondents toward that group. Respondents had the most positive feelings toward the U.S. Military with an average rating of 89. Illegal immigrants received the lowest average temperature of any of the groups with 27.

Since the thermometer scale used to measure respondents' feelings was restricted to 0 through 100, the midpoint or neutral temperature is 50.5. The data in Figure E1 show 10 of the 18 items received an average temperature statewide of 60 or higher. Only two had averages lower than 40: gay rights activists and illegal immigrants. Illegal immigrants (27) are rated below the freezing point (32) and gay rights activists are close (33) to that point, showing that these two groups of people are quite disliked by Kansans. The remaining six groups, people, and institutions receive neutral ratings.



Of the three government institutions asked about, all three received favorable ratings. The military received the highest average rating of all items, with an average of 89, but the Supreme Court (72) and Congress (68) both received high average ratings as well. Similarly, President George W. Bush (81), Kansas Governor Bill Graves (69), and U.S. Senators Pat Roberts (64) and Sam Brownback (64) all received favorable average feelings statewide, giving all government institutions and officials high ratings. This may be a result of the rally-around-the-flag phenomena seen during wartime and national tragedy, both of which accurately describe the terrorist events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. It may also be associated with the strong feeling that the Republican Party (68) receives, which then extends to Republican officials such as President Bush, Governor Graves, and national Senators Roberts and Brownback.

The conservative nature and support for the Republican Party of Kansas (see section F) also explain the remaining groups that received higher/warmer ratings. The Religious Right (62) and the National Rifle Association (60) are the two groups remaining that on average are perceived fairly favorably throughout the state. They are also two groups that are usually supported more by Republicans and conservatives than Democrats and liberals.

Conversely, the Democratic Party (57) and Al Gore (46) receive lukewarm/fairly neutral feelings statewide. Also receiving fairly neutral ratings were the media (47), lawyers (49),

environmentalists (55), and the Christian Coalition (57). Given the support for the Republican Party and the conservative nature of the state, it is not surprising to see the groups receive only neutral feelings, although the feelings for the Christian Coalition would not necessarily be explained by this hypothesis. Conservatism may also explain the low opinion on average that Kansans have toward gay rights activists and illegal immigrants, although illegal immigrants are usually not a popular group regardless of state ideology.

Regionally, opinions of these groups are consistent with the overall beliefs of Kansans, with two exceptions. The mean temperature of the Religious Right among those in the Third Congressional District was 51, lower than any of the other congressional districts. The mean temperature for the Religious Right in the First Congressional District was 64, in the Second it was 59, and in the Fourth it was 60.

Similarly, those in the Third Congressional District had a lower opinion of U.S. Senator Pat Roberts than did those in other districts. The mean temperature in the Third Congressional District for Senator Roberts was 51, while it was 68 in the First District, 59 in the Second, and 58 in the Fourth. This probably is related to the higher concentration of Democrats in the Third District, although similar disparities in opinion do not occur on Senator Brownback or other Republican government officials.

As is the case within the congressional districts, the opinion of the Religious Right differs among those in metro and non-metro residences. Those in non-metro counties have a higher opinion of the Religious Right than those in urban counties. Those in non-metro residences have a fairly warm (64) opinion of the Religious Right, while those in urban areas have a neutral (52) view on the group.

Other differences in opinion occur between rural and urban areas as well. The National Rifle Association is viewed more favorably in non-metro areas (61) than in metro areas (54). Interestingly, the only other significant difference between metro and non-metro areas is in opinion of illegal immigrants. Metro areas have a slightly elevated opinion (32) of them than non-metro areas (26); however, both are still at or below the freezing mark, showing a clear dislike for illegal immigrants among Kansans.

The differences between men and women are more pronounced. The National Rifle Association was more popular among men (66) than women (56). Conversely, women displayed a more favorable opinion toward lawyers, the Religious Right, environmentalists, and the media. The mean temperature for lawyers among women was 51, while it was 44 among men. The Religious Right's mean temperature among women was 65 and was 57 among men. Environmentalists also received a similarly higher rating among women (58) than they did with men (51). The media received a neutral rating (50) with women, but was lower among men (43).

Similarly, many differences among parties appeared. As might be expected, Republicans had a higher opinion of Republican officeholders Senator Pat Roberts (70), Senator Sam Brownback (72), Governor Bill Graves (73), and President George W. Bush (89) than did Democrats (mean temperatures 56, 56, 64, 71, respectively) and Independents (mean temperatures 53, 56, 63, 72 respectively). Similarly, Republicans had a higher opinion of the Republican Party (80) than Democrats (52) and Independents (58). Conversely, Democrats

expressed a higher opinion of the Democratic Party (75) than Republicans (53) or Independents (47). Along these lines, Democrats have a higher opinion of former Vice-President and Democratic Presidential Candidate Al Gore (64) than did Republicans (34) and Independents (45).

Differences in opinion on several other groups appeared among party affiliation as well. The National Rifle Association is more highly regarded among Republicans (65) than among Independents (60) or Democrats (50). Similarly, the Religious Right was viewed more favorably by Republicans (66) than either Democrats (54) or Independents (57). Additionally, the Christian Coalition received a higher rating among Republicans (63) than among Democrats (48) or Independents (53).

Democrats, on the other hand, had a higher opinion of gay activists (42) than Republicans (25) and Independents (35). Democrats also gave a higher temperature for environmentalists (64) than either Republicans (47) or Independents (59). Democrats also had a higher opinion of the media (55) than did Republicans (44) and Independents (43).

Interestingly, college graduates displayed little difference in opinion from those without college degrees, with two exceptions. Those without a college degree had a higher opinion of both the National Rifle Association and the Religious Right than did those with college degrees. The mean temperature among those without college degrees for the National Rifle Association was 62 as compared to a 54 within college graduates. The Religious Right received a mean temperature of 65 among those without college degrees and a 54 from college graduates.

## **F: Demographics**

### **F-1: Overview**

The demographic results of the KPS-Fall01 are listed in Appendix B, along with comparable data from the 2000 Census where available (second column). The sample drawn by the survey differs from the population as a whole in a few ways. First, 63 percent of respondents were women, while the true Kansas population is made up of a little over 50 percent according to the 2000 census. Those who consider themselves to be Caucasian were also over-represented in the survey according to the Census, as 95 percent of those surveyed considered themselves to be Caucasian as compared to the 86 percent the 2000 Census reports to be the percentage. Accordingly, other racial groups are underrepresented in the survey.

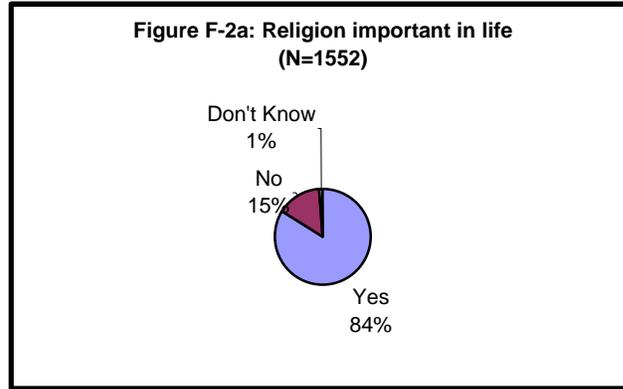
The median age of respondents in the KPS-Fall01 was 52.5, while the median age of residents of Kansas is 35.2 according to the Census. Respondents also had attained a higher educational level than the overall population. About 94 percent had at least a high school or GED degree compared to the 87.7 reported in the 2000 Census. The percentage reporting a four-year college degree or higher were also above the overall population, as 30 percent of respondents said they had a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to the 26.9 percent of the overall population. Therefore, those with less than a high school diploma/GED are underrepresented in the survey. The household median income was between \$40,000 and \$49,999 for the year 2000. Additionally, nearly two-thirds of respondents reported that they were married while 13 percent stated they had never been married.

Geographically, the highest number (127) of respondents came from Sedgwick County, the most heavily populated county in the state. However, only one county, Johnson, of the next five most represented counties is also one of the five most populated in the state. The four counties with the most respondents following Sedgwick and the number of respondents from that county were: Saline, 98; Ellis, 82; Johnson, 64; and Montgomery, 52. In terms of congressional districts, there were 923 respondents from the First Congressional District, 306 from the Second, 113 from the Third, and 279 from the Fourth.

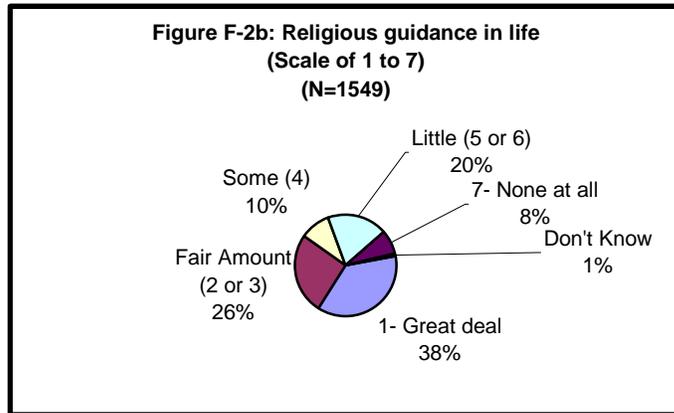
In addition, the data from the KPS-Fall01 were also divided between metropolitan/urban and non-metropolitan/rural counties in the state. Six counties were labeled metropolitan counties, according to the Census Bureau's definition, and were also the six most populous counties in the state. They are Douglas, Johnson, Leavenworth, Sedgwick, Shawnee, and Wyandotte. Roughly 18 percent of respondents came from metropolitan counties, while 81 percent of respondents resided in rural counties. The distribution of respondents is therefore disproportional, weighted toward rural areas and the First Congressional District (where all counties therein are rural). There were 20 respondents that did not give which county they lived in and therefore are not included in regional breakdowns but are included in statewide data.

## F-2: Religion in the lives of Kansans

To better understand the belief system of respondents and where ideas and opinions may have originated, the KPS-Fall01 asked two questions about religion in respondents' lives. The first was the simple question of whether religion was important in their lives. The large majority (84 percent) said that religion was indeed an important part of their life, while 15 percent said it was not important and one percent said they did not know (Figure F-2a). The only substantial difference among demographics was that a significantly higher percentage of women (89 percent) stated the importance of religion than did men (76 percent).



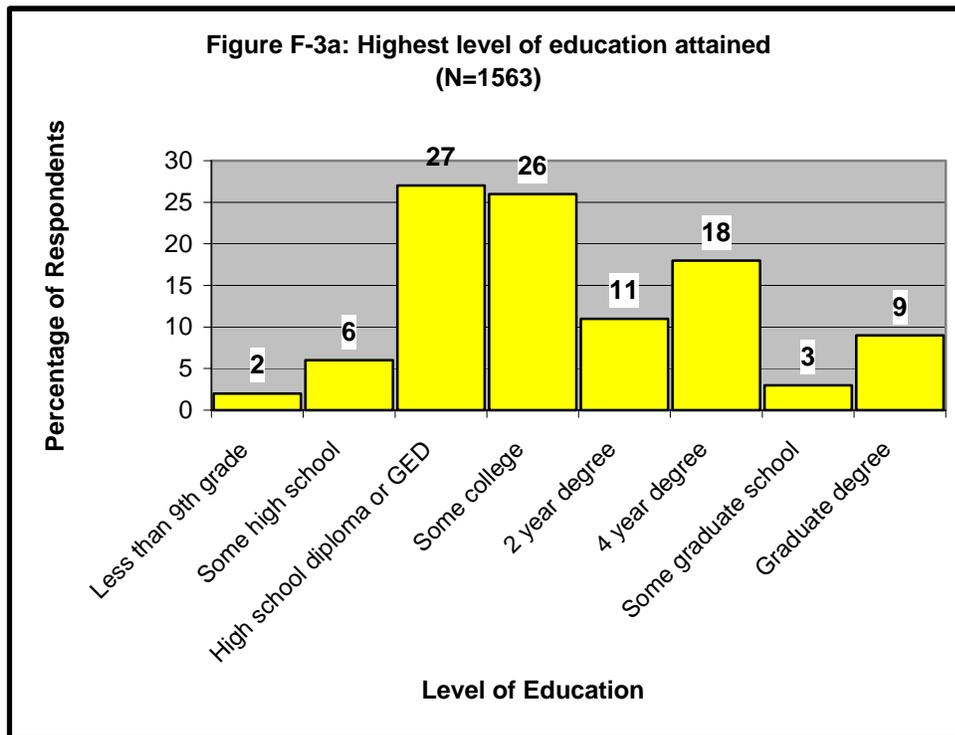
To obtain a better understanding of the importance of religion in respondents' lives, a follow up question was asked of all respondents asking, on a scale of one to seven (1=a great deal, 7=none at all), how much guidance religion provided in their life. In order to analyze the results, we consider two and three to equal a "fair amount", four represents "some" guidance, and five and six equal "little" guidance. The largest number of respondents said that religion guided their lives a great deal (38 percent), followed by those believing religion provided a fair amount of guidance as 15 percent responded two on a scale of seven, and 12 percent said three on a scale of seven. Eight percent said religion played no part in their life, while 20 percent responded in the range of little guidance (10 percent each for 5 and 6 on scale of 7). Figure F-2b displays the results. As might be expected following the previous question, a greater proportion of women (46 percent) than men (25 percent) said religion provided a great deal of guidance in their lives.

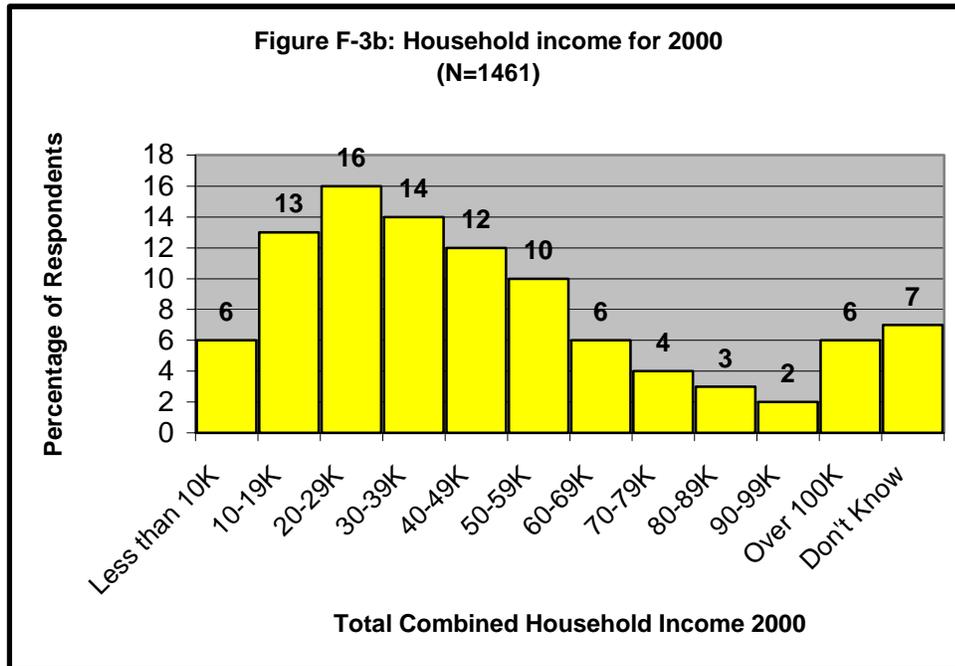


From the data it can clearly be seen that religion plays an important in the lives of most Kansans and they believe that religion plays at least some part in guiding ones' life.

### F-3: Educational Attainment and Household Income in Kansas

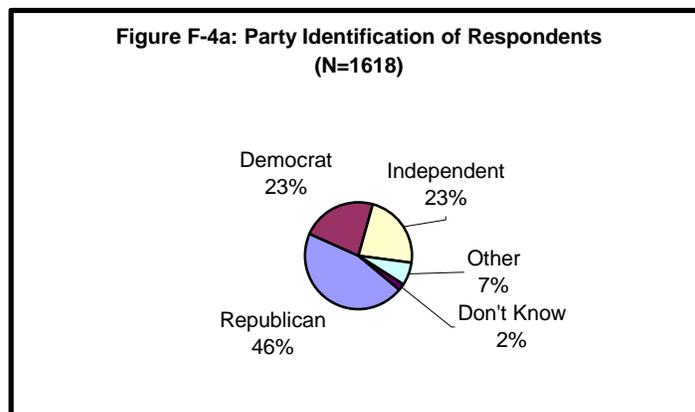
Figures F-3a and F-3b show the data about respondents' educational attainment and their household income for 2000. Respondents also had attained a higher educational level than the overall population. About 94 percent had at least a high school or GED degree compared to the 87.7 reported in the 2000 Census. The percentage reporting a four-year college degree or higher was also above the overall population, as 30 percent of respondents said they had a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to the 26.9 percent of the overall population. Therefore, those with less than a high school diploma/GED are underrepresented in the survey. The household median income was between \$40,000 and \$49,999 for the year 2000.



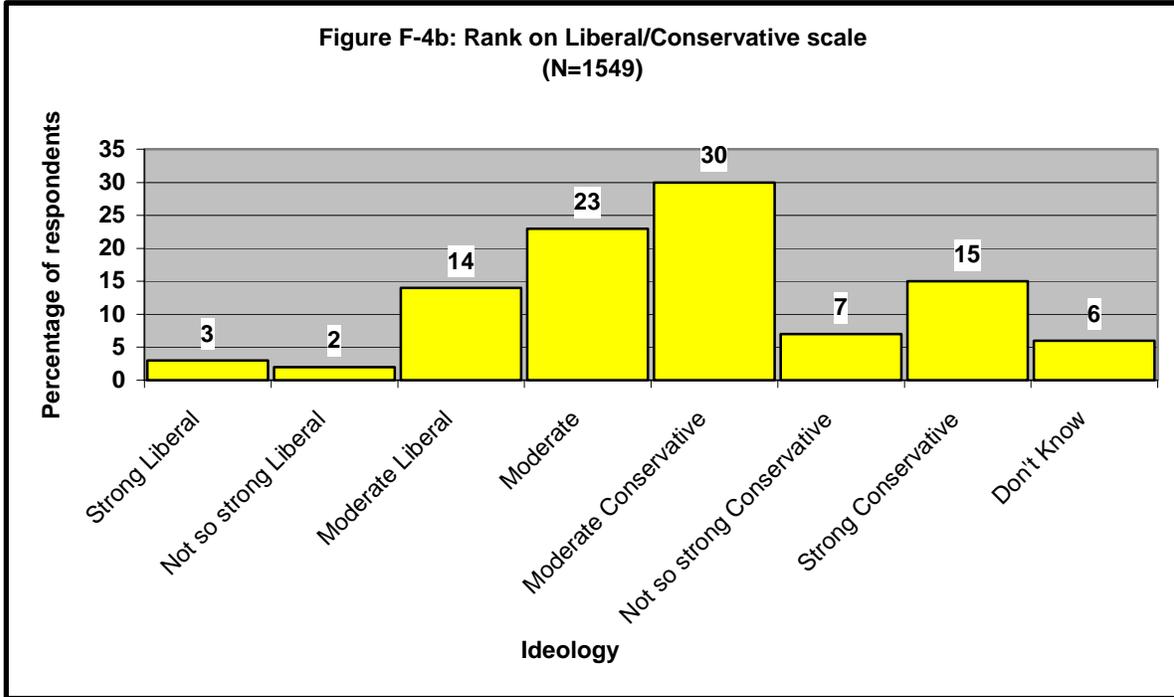


**F-4: Party Identification and Political Ideology among Kansans**

The KPS-Fall01 also asked respondents two questions regarding their political orientations. One question asked which party respondents identified with and the other asked where respondents lie on a political ideology scale. Results are presented in Figures F-4a and F-4b. A plurality (46 percent) of respondents identified with the Republican Party, while both the Democrat Party and Independent were replied by 23 percent of respondents each. All parts of the state are more likely to identify themselves as a Republican than any other party.



When asked to where on an ideology scale (strong, not so strong, or moderate liberal, moderate, or moderate, not so strong, or strong conservative) respondents consider themselves to fall, the largest portion of responses was moderate conservative followed by moderate.



## Conclusions

The results of the KPS-Fall01 provide interesting and important information about the policy preferences of Kansans. For the most part, Kansans are satisfied with the way things are going in the state, yet there are enough data to ascertain that Kansans also want certain changes in policies in Kansas. *Education and the economy are the two issues that rank highest among Kansans that need addressing.* Kansans provide overwhelming support especially for upgrades in the public school (K-12) system. Although Kansans for the most part did not believe that schools in Kansas were bad, they believe there is room for improvement. *Strong majorities of respondents stated their belief that public schools should receive increased funding and their willingness to pay higher taxes to achieve this goal.* Education was the most important issue most respondents stated determined their vote, suggesting public officials should pay heed to Kansans wants for improved public schooling.

Another area of focus for the Kansas Policy Survey: Fall 2001 was alternative energy issues. Clear divisions in beliefs about the effectiveness and cost efficiency of wind turbines were seen. However, *more Kansans favored development of wind turbines than development of any other energy source and more than two-thirds of respondents favored giving business financial incentives to develop wind turbines,* although they were not willing to incur charges on their energy bills to promote energy efficiency. Regardless, nearly *two-thirds* of respondents favored requiring electric companies to have some sort of renewable energy source.

Clearly, between educational issues and energy issues, Kansans feel more strongly about education. No other issue carried as much support for change in policy than did educational issues at the primary school level. Kansans, traditionally loath to tax increases, are willing to bear the costs for improved schooling, while no such opinion arose about energy. *The support for improving education is clear.*

One other issue that was put in the forefront of all Americans', including Kansans', minds was terrorism and security following the tragedy of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. *Kansans do not appear to worry too much about being a victim of a terrorist attack or exposure to anthrax, and their willingness to give up personal liberties for increased security reflect that.* No security initiative that would infringe upon a citizens' individual freedoms and privacy was supported by a majority of respondents, with the exception of requiring everyone to carry a national ID to be shown to police upon request, for which few freedoms and privacy would need to be surrendered. Kansans did, however, *overwhelmingly support proposals to increase security that would not come at the cost of individual freedoms.* Adding security at public places (such as malls) and critical infrastructure would receive little opposition and carry heavy favor with Kansans.

Overall, support for policies that would benefit the well being of society received the highest support among Kansans. This was especially true if no added costs were placed upon the citizens of the state. The clear exception of this was for education, which stands as the most important policy issue to those in the state.

## References

Kniss, Chad J., with Donald P. Haider-Markel and Steven Maynard-Moody. 2001. *Kansas Policy Survey: Spring 2001, Survey Results – Long Version*. Policy Research Institute – University of Kansas: Lawrence, KS.



## Appendix B

### Demographic Comparisons of the Kansas Policy Survey: Fall 2001 to the 2000 Census

<b>Table: Demographic Comparisons KPS-FALL01 and 2000 Census</b>		
	<b>KPS-FALL01</b>	<b>2000 Census</b>
<b>Racial Identification</b>		
White or Caucasian	94.6	86.1
Black or African American	1.9	5.7
Asian	0.2	0.9
Native American	1.0	1.7
or some other race	2.2	3.4
(N=1549)		
<b>Ethnic Identification</b>		
Hispanic/Latino	3.3	7.0
Non-Hispanic	95.7	93.0
(N=1544)		
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	63.5	50.6
Male	36.5	49.4
(N=1609)		
<b>Median Age</b>	49.1	35.2
(N=1560)		
<b>Age Ranges</b>		
18 to 24	9.9	7.1*
25 to 34	13.8	13.0
35 to 44	17.5	15.6
45 to 54	20.9	13.2
55 to 64	15.0	8.2
65 to 74	14.7	6.5
75 and over	8.2	6.7
(N=1560)		
<i>(* the comparable age range in the 2000 Census is 20-24)</i>		
<b>Level of educational attainment</b>		
less than a high school diploma	7.3	12.3
high school diploma/GED	92.7	87.7
four year college degree	29.3	26.9
(N=1563)		
<b>Median Total Combined Household Income \$30,000-\$39,999</b>		\$36,488
(N=1353)		
<i>Source: Kansas Policy Survey: Fall 2001 and 2000 Census.</i>		