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## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF KANSAS**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Kansas Governor's Tax Proposal: Wealthy Kansans Pay Less, Poor and Middle-Income Kansans Pay More**

The bottom 80 percent of the state's earners would collectively see a tax hike under the Governor Brownback plan, while the Kansans in the top 20% income bracket would see substantial tax cuts. Those making a million dollars or more per year in Kansas would have a tax cut of over \$16,000. However, his plan (that eliminates the earned income tax credit) impacts a single mother with one child who is working full time earning \$9.60 per hour –she would experience an annual Kansas tax increase of \$442.

For most middle- and low-income Kansans, the tax break from the income tax rate cuts would be completely off set in total taxes by the loss of income tax credits and itemized deductions, as well as a higher sales tax rate. This information is from the Institute on Tax and Economic Policy which has released an analysis of the impact of Governor Brownback's plan for income tax and sales tax plan. (attached)

The governor's cut in the state's income tax further causes many questions about where the money will come from to make the investments in education, transportation, public safety (or the hint of restoring arts funding) and other areas crucial to making the state attractive for families and businesses.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has researched experiences in other states. Those without income taxes have high property and sales taxes, or have other sources of income: Texas has oil and shipping. Florida has a sales tax that captures foreign tourist dollars, Wyoming has coal, and Washington State has home-grown Microsoft and Boeing.

Will schools have the resources they need to provide an education that helps people compete for good jobs in today's global economy? Will a reduction in state support throw the responsibility onto local property taxes? Can Kansas effectively run a health care system by putting it into the hands of the private sector?

Governor Brownback has in mind fundamental changes in how Kansas raises and spends money and the income tax which is the fairest of the types of state taxes, seems a strange place to start when he has said that his plans would be income neutral for the state. They will NOT be income neutral for the middle and lower income Kansans—they will be hurt by his tax scheme.

Ernestine Krehbiel  
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