



**Testimony to Education Budget Committee
February 13, 2012**

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the budget of the Kansas State Historical Society.

AGENCY MISSION:

To actively preserve and share Kansas history by collecting, preserving, and interpreting materials and information pertaining to state government and history for the purpose of enhancing government transparency, providing economic development assistance, and educating the students and families of Kansas.

AGENCY OVERVIEW:

The Kansas State Historical Society was established in 1875. In FY 2011 agency programs and services drew nearly 6,000,000 people. Our collections and services are accessed in person and virtually through a variety of web-based resources. Historical Society programs are diverse and serve a large number of the state's population as well as out-of-state patrons. The agency plays a critical role in state government by being the repository and caretaker of state records. We also administer both state and federal historic preservation programs that bring economic development to communities across the state. The Kansas State Historical Society is the state agency that provides curriculum materials on state history to our K-12 schools helping them to meet their state-required coursework. The agency also plays a significant part in the state and local economies through its museums and historic sites.

GOVERNOR'S PRIORITIES:

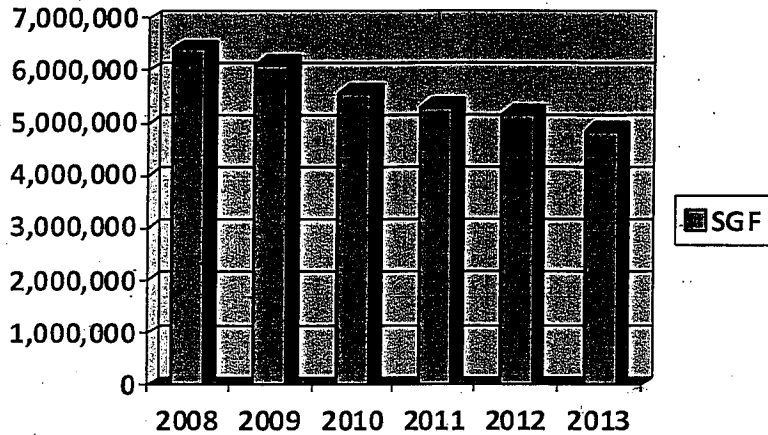
<i>Roadmap for Kansas Goals</i>	<i>Agency Response</i>
Increase private sector employment.	In FY 2011 the agency created 1,769 jobs through historic preservation tax credits and generated \$85,998,639 in gross state product. In FY 2011 the Heritage Trust Fund created 65 jobs and generated \$3,155,000 in gross state product.
Increase the percentage of 4th graders reading at grade level.	The agency assists school districts in the teaching of Kansas history and government by providing curriculum materials. <i>Read Kansas!</i> is an innovative program that promotes reading and language arts skills using Kansas history content.

	For the sesquicentennial of statehood the agency produced 150 famous Kansan trading cards and a 4 th grade workbook (<i>Kid's Kansas</i>).
	Students in Kansas and across the nation struggle with reading expository texts. History consists of expository writing. The agency provides curriculum assistance to teachers involved in teaching expository comprehension.
Increase the percentage of high school graduates who are college or career ready.	Critical thinking and research skills are important to those entering college or a career. The agency makes research materials available online and works with teachers to develop curriculum materials that teach critical thinking skills.
	On an annual basis the agency adds more than 50,000 images of new material to <i>Kansas Memory</i> (online collections).
	In FY 2011 the agency created an online encyclopedia called <i>Kansapedia</i> to aid high school students in their research.
Increase government accountability through transparency.	The agency operates the state archives, making government records available to the public. This is a critical step in providing transparency in government.
	Working with all three branches of government the agency initiated KEEP, an enterprise wide trusted repository of Kansas government digital records.

Additional Goals	Agency Response
Recognize notable Kansans and major events in Kansas history.	Between August 18 and September 15, 2011 the Governor and the agency announced 25 Notable Kansans at five different locations in the state. The purpose of this program was to promote discussion of the achievements of Kansans and to remind the citizens of our state that Kansas is, and has always been, a leader in the nation. The message to schoolchildren is that you can do great things in Kansas and influence the country and the world.
	The twelve most significant events in Kansas history were unveiled on January 24, 2012 with a publication aimed at high school students.
	On September 30, 2011 the Governor unveiled the first inductee into the Kansas Walk of Honor at the State Capitol, Senator Bob Dole.

Budget:

The agency has seen a significant reduction in its State General Funds (SGF) over the past six years. Currently approximately 62% of the agency's annual budget comes from SGF.



Funding Source	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 Gov Budget
SGF	\$ 6,410,165	\$ 6,109,791	\$ 5,573,652	\$ 5,316,809	\$ 5,178,465	\$ 4,843,949
Federal	\$1,073,744	\$ 720,305	\$ 1,504,851	\$ 816,547	\$ 794,321	\$ 641,497
Heritage Trust Fund	\$ 898,144	\$ 1,149,615	\$ 3,538,504	\$ 1,070,625	\$ 1,076,845	\$ 1,078,489
Fees & Grants	\$ 850,358	\$ 1,066,061	\$ 1,078,993	\$ 845,431	\$ 1,284,463	\$ 1,382,004
Total	\$ 9,232,411	\$ 9,045,772	\$11,696,000	\$ 8,049,412	\$ 8,334,094	\$ 7,945,939

In the recent past the Historical Society has had its SGF funding reduced by 25%. To address reduced resources the agency has met with other organizations to make sure there is no duplication of services. We also strive for partnerships with other government agencies and with the private sector. Only private funds and donated services were used during the 2011 State Sesquicentennial commemoration. Over the past few years the agency has reduced its staff and eliminated programs that are not directly tied to our statutory obligations. Recently many part-time positions (temporary) were eliminated to fill critical full-time positions (FTE) with technically skilled staff that are necessary to take the agency into the digital world. Our budget now reflects a philosophy of increased earned income for such programs as the museum and historic sites. State General Funds used for operating expenses are directed primarily to pay for fixed costs such as utilities, SMART fees, computer fees, and postage.

Governor's Budget 2013

The Governor's budget for 2013 reduces the agency's SGF budget by \$330,785 (\$258,737 reduced services + \$72,048 for staff who took the retirement incentive). Our concern is with the 5% reduction due to the adoption of the reduced services budget.

During the past year we reduced positions in the administration, archives, cultural resources, education, and museum divisions of the agency. I made a decision not to touch positions in the historic sites division because I had challenged our sites employees to increase earned income and move towards a more self-sustaining model. In doing so, I wanted to give them some financial

stability for a few years while they worked to increase their audience. With a \$258,737 reduction the agency has no choice but to reduce state historic sites to seasonal hours.

In December TIAK (Travel Industry Association of Kansas), a group not connected with the Kansas State Historical Society, delivered a proposal to the Governor to enhance tourism product development within Kansas. In doing so they offered five project solutions to increase the over \$7.2 billion economic impact tourism has on Kansas. Solution #2 reads "Enhance nine heritage sites within the boundaries of Freedom's Frontiers National Heritage area." These nine sites are all properties of the Kansas State Historical Society. TIAK's stated goal for this solution is in part as follows:

"The needed support from the state includes dedicated funding for these nine sites via the Kansas State Historical Society and improved resources including consistent staffing and hours. Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area has the ability to help these sites gain prominence nationally, but it is imperative that they be supported by the state to make that happen."

With the continued decrease in state funds the agency has no choice but to eventually reduce hours and days the state historic sites are open to the public. This has a negative affect on the local economies in which the sites are located as well as the state economy as a whole. According to TIAK, "Building these sites into strong, sustainable destinations is good for all of our communities – both urban and rural – and the state's tax income."

Conclusion:

The mission of the Kansas State Historical Society is unique in state government. We are the only agency assigned to preserve and make accessible the records of our state activities and state government. Maintaining authentic records is a critical function of government. We use these records to provide schools with materials that teach our children critical thinking skills and civic responsibility as required by law. We also assist with the economic development of the state by providing financial incentives for communities and businesses to rehabilitate and repurpose their historic resources. Finally, we educate all Kansans and visitors alike of the important role Kansas has played in our nation through the Kansas Museum of History and the state historic sites.

We request your support of the Governor's budget for the Kansas State Historical Society for FY 2013. We would also respectfully ask you to consider the restoration of \$ 258,737 in light of TIAK's proposal. These funds could be a beginning step to stabilizing the operations of the state-owned historic sites. As an agency we are committed to raising funds through earned income and private donations. However, we are dependent on SGF funds to meet our statutory obligations.

Thank you for your past support and I appreciate the opportunity you have given me today to address the agency's plan and budget.

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