

Primary Senate District 24 Candidate Questionnaire 2010

This survey is requested by the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce — Governmental Relations Committee. We ask that you review the questions and submit your answers by July 19th as the information will be posted on our website and made available to both the membership and the press. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this survey.

Candidate Name: Anthony Sykes
Office of Candidacy: Senate District 24
Contact Number: 405-473-5430
Contact Email: senatorsykes@yahoo.com
Candidate Website: www.sykes4senate.com

Why are you running for State Senate District 24?

To continue to improve Oklahoma's business and job environment, especially for small businesses; and build upon the government reform, transparency and modernization measures passed in the last few years.

Briefly describe the qualifications and/or experience you possess that make you the best candidate for this office?

Having represented many of Oklahoma's business owners—I know what is straining their efforts to create and maintain jobs in Oklahoma. This session, I was the Senate Author of HB 2650—the bill that addressed the Parret decision.

Have you ever owned or operated a business?

Yes.

How do/will you make sure your peers in Newcastle are aware of, and supportive of, your work to gain support for local issues?

I do a weekly video update and utilize Facebook to update constituents on issues.

How will you leverage and utilize the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce as a resource should you be elected?

I would encourage the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce to put together a legislative agenda.

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VISION FOR NEWCASTLE/MCCLAIN/OKLAHOMA

What policies will you support to encourage job creation?

Further workers compensation reform that moves toward a system that lowers costs and maximizes dollars going to treat the injured worker.

What is your opinion of incentives offered to companies to provide jobs in OK?

Oklahomans deserve a return on their investment. These incentives must yield measurable results—jobs.

What do you think of OK's tax structure?

Oklahoma's tax structure has remained static for several decades.

Considering the continuing budget shortfalls we are experiencing, what is your solution?

Cut spending and focus on the core areas of state government such as Public Safety, Education and Infrastructure (e.g. Transportation and Hospitals).

Please provide additional comments on the following issues:

REFORM (such as SQ747, SQ748)

I supported both SQ 747 and SQ 748. My SB 1759 is the premier transparency bill of the 2010 session.

TAXES

I stand by and support SQ 640 that was adopted in 1992. SQ 640 amended the Oklahoma Constitution to require a vote of the people or a 75% super majority of the legislature to raise taxes. I have never voted in favor of such a tax increase.

EDUCATION (such as SQ744)

Although I support changes to our state education policies, SQ 744 is not the answer. Ensuring that the highest percentage of dollars possible reaches the classroom is a more appropriate priority.

TRANSPORTATION (such as HWY37 exchange)

Roads and bridges are vital to a state's economy, and I am dedicated to preserving funding in this area. The analysis conducted by ODOT at my request showed that the HWY 37/62/I-44 interchange runs afoul of federal regulations and will have to be addressed at that level.