

**Remarks as Prepared
State Treasurer Dennis McKinney
Declaration of Candidacy -- June 9, 2010**

As we face challenging times in our state and nation let us not be discouraged. Local leaders in my hometown of Greensburg have set an example of how to set aside differences and keep people focused on common goals; of how to grow stronger and wiser while working through adversity. Their work inspires me to continue my leadership for the people of Kansas.

Upon becoming Kansas State Treasurer I quickly found that the women and men who work in the Office of the State Treasurer are among the best in public service. They share my passion to deliver public service of the highest quality and effectiveness with courtesy and respect for those we serve.

In the Treasurer's Office our Cash Management and Bond Services divisions continue to perform more work with fewer resources. We have adopted new technologies to increase efficiency. Our commitment comes from knowing that our work facilitates the tasks of our cities, counties and schools in providing safe streets, better health, and a well educated work force; healthy communities in which businesses can create jobs and commerce.

Over the past year we have increased the attention given to returning money to rightful owners through our unclaimed property program. We did this knowing that in a down economy we had families who needed this money. I listened carefully to the mother who came in to help with the return of her son's property. She told me that this money would be important to her son as he had just been laid off. We also did it knowing that rather than sitting in our accounts this money should be put to work in the Kansas economy creating jobs and commerce. As a result, we have surpassed the record we set last year both in the number of claims and in the dollars returned to Kansans, returning over \$14 million dollars to Kansans.

We work diligently with Kansas Credit Unions, banks, and others to improve financial literacy for students of all ages and to give parents creative tools for financial education.

In our Learning Quest Education Savings Program we now have over 55,000 Kansas investors with over \$581 million invested. We have aggressively supported this program believing that when we help families save for their children we are creating opportunities for them to move their families ahead, to obtain better jobs, and to contribute more to our economy. We understand that we are creating investments in the future of the Kansas workforce and elevating the jobs to be obtained by our children.

While we kept our Agricultural Loan Program utilized at near capacity levels we noticed that our Housing Construction Linked Deposit Loan Program was barely being used. As a result, we solicited the help of homebuilders, realtors, and bankers, meeting with leaders from those industries. With their help and the help of a number of legislative

leaders we obtained the passage of several improvements to the program. Therefore on July 1 this program will be much easier to use. It will help private sector investors initiate more housing construction and create more jobs across Kansas while helping communities meet critical housing needs.

These changes to the Housing Construction Program symbolize my pragmatic approach to public policy leadership: analyze the problem in detail, consult with leaders, especially business leaders, to gather the best available ideas, and work with everyone possible, regardless of party lines, to solve the problem. Cooperation and problem solving are most important and the people of Kansas expect that from us.

My objective is to continue our record of public service in the Treasurer's office helping to build healthier communities and stronger families. I want to do my part to help families overcome the adversities we currently face and create jobs and opportunities for investors.

In Greensburg we hope we are setting an example of what it means to first rely on our faith in God in the face of adversity, to have the vision to see opportunities in the midst of crisis, and the fortitude to build a better future not just for our community but for all of our neighbors across Kansas.

I hope to share with the people of Kansas our firm belief in the scripture that tells us in these times that we may be "hard pressed but we are not crushed, we may be perplexed but we are not in despair."

Therefore I am today announcing that I am a candidate for the office of Kansas State Treasurer. In doing this I am asking for your help and your prayers. And I remind you of the motto of the Great State of Kansas:

Ad astra per aspera.