It’s not just facts and figures pointing to the failure of the 2012 Brownback tax plan; according to a recent poll, four out of five voters are informed about this issue and its impact on the state budget. Almost 70 percent of voters believe the Brownback tax plan is bad for business in Kansas and is holding back the middle class. Kansas voters overwhelmingly want comprehensive tax reform.

Will lawmakers stand with Kansans or an unpopular Governor and failed tax experiment?

Summary by the Numbers:

Kansans across the ideological spectrum feel deeply dissatisfied with both Governor Brownback and his signature tax plan.

Two-thirds of Kansas voters disapprove of the Governor’s job performance, with 67 percent who disapprove and 54 percent who strongly disapprove. Similarly, 67 percent of voters disapprove of the 2012 Brownback tax plan, with 51% strongly opposed. This disapproval spans all political ideologies. Digging deeper into the data, even a majority of registered Republicans (54 percent) oppose Brownback’s changes to tax policy.

Additionally, the more Kansans learn about the tax policy, the less they like it. When voters are informed in the survey that these changes included income tax cuts for individuals and businesses totaling over 700 million dollars a year and have led to multiple rounds of budget cuts, opposition to Brownback’s tax plan grows to 74 percent (57 percent strongly oppose, just 20 percent continue to favor).
Nearly all Kansas voters are worried the state is not investing enough in public education. Notably, almost two-thirds of Kansas voters (63 percent) are very concerned about the state’s level of spending on public education, and another 20 percent are somewhat concerned. Without comprehensive tax reform, lawmakers cannot restore funding to classrooms.

There is broad consensus that the Brownback tax plan harmed the Kansas economy and should be repealed.

Roughly 7 out of 10 voters believe these changes have harmed the state’s economy (73 percent) and middle class (70 percent). Kansas voters broadly support the Legislature’s recent efforts to roll back most of the Governor’s changes to tax policy in order to fund schools and avoid deeper budget cuts (64 percent favor, just 27 percent oppose). Even registered Republicans are majority supportive (56 percent) of rolling back Brownback’s changes to tax policy. Majorities support closing loopholes that exempt businesses from paying income taxes (55 percent favor) and creating a new top income tax rate for the highest income earners in Kansas (56 percent favor).

These findings are from a telephone survey of 700 registered voters in Kansas. It was conducted March 20-22, 2017 and commissioned by Kansas Center for Economic Growth. The overall margin of error is +/- four percent, while the margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies. Percentage totals may not add up precisely due to rounding.