

By Rebecca Aistrup Gerber

Dodge City Daily Globe

Pat George is currently running for the 119th District seat in the Kansas House of Representatives.

He is currently involved in real estate management and development and was previously owner/manager of a new car dealership for 25 years.

George was born and raised in Dodge City, and he graduated from Dodge City High School in 1974. He graduated from Benedictine College with a degree in psychology and from the Division of



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GM School of Management. He is married and has three children.

Although George does not have any previous political experience, he has been involved with various clubs and organizations.

He is past president of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Council, chairman of the board at Western Plains Medical Complex, past president of New Chance Inc., president of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, board member of Valley Hope Association and a past board member of United Way. He has



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been involved with the Chamber of Commerce's membership drive and is a Cub Scout leader.

The Daily Globe recently visited with George about his campaign.

Q: Why did you want to run for the 119th District seat in the House of Representatives?

A: I was approached by friends and community leaders. It has not been an aspiration of mine to enter politics, but after looking into it and having support from the community as well as my wife and kids, it is a chance to give back to the community.

I feel my business experience and community leadership would be an asset to the office. I also feel through community involvement, I am in touch with a lot of different walks of life. Having three kids in elementary school and the challenges we have in education, I hope I can be part of the solution. I have the ability to work with legislators to make sure western Kansas gets its fair share.

Q: What changes, if any, would you support in the school finance formula?

A: I feel the funding formula needs to be looked at. It is a problem. I am for doing the right thing when it comes to spending money for kids, our most valuable asset. I am not in favor of raising taxes in any area, including education, without a complete review. After a review, if it is needed, then I would support it.

Q: Should Kansas increase taxes for public schools?

A: Kansas already has a large tax burden. I would rather see us (the state) be more efficient

with money to help drive the economy. Sales tax is the fairest tax. I feel property tax has gotten out of hand.

Q: Do you favor amending the state constitution for banning same-sex marriage?

A: I favor having an amendment put on the ballot for people to vote on. I feel we need to listen to their wishes, but I also feel the people of the state should vote. I follow the teachings of the church that marriage is between one man and one woman. I would support voting for an amendment being put on the ballot.

Q: Should the state do more to encourage the development of renewable energy programs, such as wind farms?

A: I am 100 percent behind it. I am looking into renewable energy, and there is some encouragement at the federal level and some tax credits. We need to take advantage of the resources we have.

Q: Do you favor the implementation of the state's irrigation transition assistance program, and where should the money come from to fund it?

A: I support it. The idea is to make some kind of payment to farmers. We are using water at a faster pace than it is being replenished. This is a key element to help with our water issue, but there will have to be a funding mechanism.

Q: Is there any other issue you would like to discuss?

A: I think affordable health care is on everyone's mind. I feel we need to bring all the players together (medical facilities, doctors, insurance companies).

Q: Do you anticipate a difficult campaign?

A: I have learned a lot in the past 60-plus days. It involves a lot of time and effort. It has been educational, and a lot of people have helped me out.