



To: Interested Parties

From: Global Strategy Group

Date: August 2026

Re: NEW POLL RESULTS: Democrat Holscher leads Republican Masterson in Kansas race for Governor

Despite weeks of attack ads against her, Democratic State Senator Cindy Holscher leads Republican State Senate President Ty Masterson by a point in the race for Kansas governor. The deeply unpopular Republican nominee's anemic support in the heavily Republican Kansas electorate stems from his personal numbers sitting underwater. Masterson is also weighed down by an environment where most are fatigued by the chaos of Donald Trump's second term. This is particularly true among the moderates who are key to winning in Kansas. At this early point in the general election campaign, moderates already hold very negative views of Masterson and favor Holscher by a huge margin.

Holscher has a record and plans that appeal to moderate voters, starting with her leading role in overturning the disastrous Brownback tax experiment and her support for a pause on building data centers until there are stronger guardrails in place to protect Kansans.

Key Findings

Holscher leads Masterson by a point with a huge advantage among moderates. Holscher starts the general election campaign ahead (47% Holscher to 46% Masterson). While she holds a big lead among Democrats (93% to 7%), one in five Republicans have already abandoned Masterson (20% Holscher to 73% Masterson), and Holscher is winning Unaffiliateds by double digits (54% to 31%).

Masterson is an unpopular figure. A majority recognize Holscher and her favorability is in positive territory (35% favorable/23% unfavorable). In comparison, Masterson's personal numbers are underwater overall (35% fav/46% unfav), and a majority of non-conservative Unaffiliateds and Republicans rate him unfavorably (20% fav/55% unfav).

Trump fatigue creates a tough environment for Masterson. The Kansas electorate tilts decidedly toward the GOP on registration (28% Democrat/52% Republican) and partisan self-identification (35% Dem/53% Rep). Likely 2026 voters also would have voted for Trump by 13 points.

Yet, Donald Trump's personal numbers are in negative territory (-8 fav), and a large majority say they would prefer a governor who "will stand up to Trump to do what is right for Kansas" (59%) over one who "will support Trump's agenda" (39%).

Brownback and data centers are toxic. Brownback remains an extremely unpopular figure overall (21% fav/64% unfav), and his numbers are worse among non-conservative Unaffs/Reps (-53 fav). There is even more bipartisan hostility toward data centers. Overall, few rate them favorably (18% fav/65% unfav), and they are extremely unpopular among Democrats (-76 fav) and non-conservative Unaffs/Reps (-57 fav).

ABOUT THIS POLL

Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 600 likely 2026 General Election voters in Kansas on August 13-16, 2026. The survey has a margin of error of +/-4.0%. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic, political, and demographic divisions of the population of likely general election voters are properly represented.