



Governor Mark Parkinson

Biography

Mark Parkinson became Kansas' 45th Governor on April 28, 2009.

A successful businessman and former legislator, Governor Parkinson is a native Kansan with roots in Scott City, where the Parkinsons still own the family farm. The Governor was born in Wichita. He attended Wichita Public Schools, graduated from Wichita Heights High School and was a summa cum laude graduate of Wichita State University in 1980. He finished first in his class from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1984.

After law school, Governor Parkinson entered private practice, forming his own law firm in 1986. He is past president of the Johnson County Bar Foundation. In 1990 he was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives and two years later he was elected to the Kansas Senate. While serving in the state legislature, Governor Parkinson worked to strengthen Kansas schools and enhance local control and established a reputation for bridging party lines.

Under Mark Parkinson's leadership, wind farms have tripled in Kansas and the state has been announced as the future home of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan. His administration is working to leverage resources from the American Recovery Act to create jobs, rebuild the state's infrastructure and continue to invest in public schools.

In 2009 the Topeka Capital Journal named Parkinson 'Kansan of the Year' citing his bipartisan support and ability to move the state forward even in challenging economic times.

Governor Parkinson has been married to his wife Stacy for more than 25 years. They have three children: Alex, Sam, and Kit. The Parkinsons are active in community and charitable organizations and are members of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood.