

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Johnson County Commission Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Becky Fast

**Phone:** 785-550-5891

**District:** 1

**Email:** beckyforjohnsoncounty@gmail.com

**Street Address/City/State/Zip:**

**Campaign Website:** www.beckyfast.com

P.O. Box 2452

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

Mission, KS 66201

**Occupation/Work History** (last 5 years – 25 words or less):

Currently an Adjunct Professor at Washburn University, Executive Director of the KS Association of Social Workers. Previously - an Aide to Congressman Moore and teacher.

**If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list what organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held:**

Current Member of Northeast Johnson County Chamber, Graduate of the 2013 Leadership Training Class and a Training Facilitator for the 2017 Leadership Class

Previous - Greater Kansas City Chamber Federal Affairs Public Policy Committee Greater Kansas City Chamber State Affairs Committee

**Other recent political/community experience?** (25 words or less)

Roeland Park City Council, Two-term President of Council. Board service: KC Regional First Tier Suburbs Coalition, National League of Cities Communities & Economic Development Committee.

**As a candidate, what are your top three priorities for Johnson County** (10 words or less per issue)?

Smart economic growth including addressing green space, housing affordability, and infrastructure investment Tackling our mental health and substance abuse crisis Maintain strong commitment to public safety, libraries, and our parks

**Johnson County continues to grow dramatically. Recognizing that county government must respond to our county's continued population growth and the need to invest in services and infrastructure while, at the same time, dealing with state-imposed limitations on funds and revenue sources available to local units of government, please describe how you would approach managing the county budget** (75 words or less):

Commissioners must be active participants in the legislative process speaking up on behalf of our communities in Topeka. I have working relationships with legislators across the state and will be a voice for our County. However, until we can make changes at the state level, we must work closely with our citizens to solve the problems they see as priorities. We can't allow a state policy to hold our future in Johnson County hostage.

**There has been much discussion about regionalism. Please explain your views on regional cooperation** (75 words or less):

The border wars must end, there is no benefit to our cities, counties, or citizens. With continued

reduction in state support cities and counties must look to collaborate with our neighbors to deliver the services our citizens need and demand while saving taxpayers money. While regionalism won't work for every service, we owe it to our citizens to expand those that show promise and pilot new ones to make government as efficient as possible.

**Describe your views on the balance between the distribution of costs and services between incorporated and unincorporated areas of Johnson County (50 words or less):**

Managing the growth in the western and southern areas of the county is a challenge, but we must realize that area may account for the most job growth in the future. With strong leadership and public engagement with citizens and the business community this challenge can become an opportunity.

**What are your views on the County-Assisted Road System program (CARS) and other county/city infrastructure partnerships? (50 words or less)**

I believe that CARS is one of the most successful partnerships between the county and our cities and is an efficient way to maintain our roads. I believe that stronger partnerships can be undertaken in the areas of storm water, sustainability efforts, and mental health to better serve our citizens.

**Describe your views on the county's support of social services and the increased demands on the county created by limited state funding? (50 words or less)**

Social services for seniors, developmental disabilities, housing, and mental health have endured large budget cuts while a need for those services has increased. We must reinvest in areas critical to our citizens' well-being whether or not the state does if we plan to attract people and businesses to our community.

**What would you describe as the top five functions of county government? Please list them in your order of priority. (75 words or less)**

1) Smart growth and economic development initiatives rely upon housing affordability, skilled workers, and infrastructure investment. 2) Mental health and substance abuse are pressing health issues and must be expanded. 3) Maintain strong commitment to public safety (Law Enforcement, Fire, Emergency Management). 4) Parks and recreation system that supports parkland, green space, fitness and wellness. 5) Remain committed to investing in health and human services as well as cultural programs including libraries and museums.

**What project have you been most proud to work on? (50 words or less)**

1) Led the initiative to transform Roeland Park's blighted parks to being a regional park hub for tennis, biking, and hiking. 2) Organized a citizen effort to save a community center from demolition. 3) Championed the effort to preserve neighborhood libraries when the masterplan called for consolidation of NE libraries.

**What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race? (75 words or less)**

I bring fresh ideas as my opponent has been in office for three decades. We can't rely on the status quo to move us forward. I have demonstrated in my elected position the capacity to bring citizens together across the political spectrum to solve problems. I engage citizens through digital

communications and organize meetings to solicit input. Progress can't be made in the boardroom alone it must be made in our neighborhoods across the county.