

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Johnson County Commission Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** LeEtta Felter

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**District:** 5

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**Campaign Website:** www.votefelter.com

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

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

AAG Investments LLC Co-founder/Vice President, Investment Management Division. In '97 started business in Olathe grew to 7 dealerships in 5 States with 260 employees.

**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:**

I serve on the Olathe Public Schools Board of Education and we are members of: Olathe Chamber of Commerce Lenexa Chamber of Commerce Overland Park Chamber of Commerce. I have my MBA.

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

'11 elected to Olathe Schools Board of Education (VP in '14 & President in '15). Cabinet Member KS Children's Cabinet. LinkedIn has all service info.

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

(1) Maintaining our Quality of Life while providing Value for the taxes our citizens pay; (2) Public Safety; (3) Mental Health & Quality Services.

**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):

We have an unsustainable budget model for JoCo. KS's fiscal mess has put pressure on our county budget, shifting costs to the county while eroding local control. High property taxes harm growth & economic development while negatively impacting our families & businesses. Sales tax is a volatile revenue stream & parts of JoCo have some of the highest rates in the country. I will work to produce more efficient, effective continuity strategies going forward.

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

Regionalism could certainly reduce duplication of effort and potentially yield cost savings, and efficiencies. However, I believe the best government is closest to the people. Local control is a major reason JoCo is a fantastic place to live, raise a family, work and retire. Good governance is

particularly important at the local level, where governments interact w/ citizens & communities on a daily basis. If specific coordination made sense then I would support it.

**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):**

I believe in policies that are fair. Fair= distribution of costs that are spread according to the services provided. KSleg overreached into local control when they imposed limits on annexation making county governance more expensive. Unincorporated areas benefit from JoCo services & need to pay their fair share.

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

The coordinated efforts of our visionary leaders from the past have provided us with an excellent infrastructure that enhances our quality of life. As we continue to grow we will need to work together to seek innovative solutions for the demand. CARS is an asset to JoCo.

**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)**

JoCo citizens tell us that social-services have suffered in recent years. The short-sighted shifting from state funding to local funding by KSleg for mental health/health care/disability services had a major impact on JoCo...limiting the services & increasing our costs. I'll be a voice of advocacy in these areas for JoCo.

**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) Public Safety/ Emergency Management/ Courts (2) Social Services (i.e. mental health/seniors/healthcare/disabilities/ human services, etc) (3) Quality of Life Issues (i.e. Parks & Rec, infrastructure, transit, libraries, arts & cultural opportunities, Meals on Wheels, health & environment, museums, etc) (4) Administrative (valuations, taxation, documentation, archives, licenses, motor vehicle, permits, etc.) (5) Elections

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

I am most proud to have been a part of a small group that stopped Governor Brownback from securitizing the Children's Initiative Fund (CIF). The CIF is a non-tax revenue source (averages nearly \$60M/yr) that is protected for vulnerable children in Kansas. It would have been gone forever if securitized.

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

My opponent shows a lack of judgement, a lack of vision, and a lack of even the most basic understanding of the role of a board member. He is a roadblock to innovation and a threat to the quality of life here in JoCo. He is pushing the same failed Brownback-era policies in JoCo that brought devastation to Kansas. As a policy maker I have a proven track record of good governance and stellar accomplishments.