

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Kansas Governor Candidate Questionnaire

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**Political Party Affiliation:** Independent

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

I'm a serial entrepreneur. Over the last five years, I've built or turned around half a dozen businesses, including many in the Kansas City area.

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

N/A

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

In 2014, I ran as an Independent candidate for U.S. Senate, earning 43% of the vote. I've served on numerous political reform and charitable boards.

**As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues?** (10 words or less per issue)

Growing and diversifying the Kansas economy. Improving education with continued emphasis on workforce development and closing the achievement gap. Healthcare access and affordability.

**What are your views on state tax policy, being as specific as you can?** (100 words or less)

With the repeal of the Brownback/Colyer experiment, I believe that we should maintain a stable tax policy as we assess the revenue implications of the repeal. All academic research on the experiment suggested it led to significant tax avoidance behavior, the repeal of which should lead to more tax revenues than current consensus estimates.

**With record low unemployment rates, what would you do to grow and develop the state's workforce?** (75 words or less)

Create better pathways to technical education, including loan funds for certificate programs and support for public/private partnerships in technical education. Build a coordinated program to encourage military personnel who serve in Kansas to stay in Kansas. Create better alignment between industry and the Regent's system to encourage more commercialization of research initiatives. Address the state's reputational deficit and actively promote Kansas' quality of life. As Governor, selling Kansas will be a top priority.

**What are your views on funding K-12 education?** (75 words or less)

The recent court decision acknowledged the legislature's efforts to adequately and equitably fund schools but the work remains incomplete. I will work with the courts and legislators on both sides of the aisle to remedy the remaining adequacy concerns. Schools are the economic engine of our state,

and I will work to ensure every student, regardless of where they come from or which school they attend, receives the best education Kansas can provide.

**What would your priorities be in any new statewide transportation plan? (50 words or less)**

Kansas should be the distribution and intermodal manufacturing capital of America. The full expansion of 169 to 4 lanes and, in southwest Kansas, Hwy 54, 400, and 81 expansion. We should target funding to regions willing to enter into local regulatory compacts to streamline the permitting process.

**Do you support maintaining the current dedicated sales tax transfer to the State Highway Fund for the purpose of funding transportation infrastructure, or should transportation be subject to the appropriations process where legislators determine funding levels entirely? (50 words or less)**

We've seen the impacts of a state highway fund depleted to pay for the failed Brownback/Colyer tax policy. Repairs to key infrastructure have been ignored, and new transportation projects that would drive economic expansion have been put on hold. Funding should be protected.

**What types of economic development policies will you support to encourage job growth and business expansion in Kansas? (50 words or less)**

It's the government's responsibility to create an environment that's conducive to private sector growth. Rather than simple tactics, Kansas needs a proactive economic development strategy that leverages the state's strengths and addresses regional obstacles to growth. We will be releasing a detailed economic development plan by the end of July.

**What are your views on the state's role regarding immigration and do you support employment-based immigration reforms to assist with workforce shortages in specified industries? (50 words or less)**

Legal immigration, particularly among skilled labor that meets industry needs, should be expanded. We should also allow people working here on an undocumented basis to continue to do so as long as they register with ICE, pay a small fine, hold down a job, pay taxes, and obey our laws.

**What are your views on the state's role with respect to access and affordability of public higher education? (50 words or less)**

At the federal level we spend \$100 billion annually trying to make education more affordable but then allow universities to do whatever they want with prices. Kansas must restore funding for higher education, but we have to hold universities accountable and ensure costs increases don't exceed the rate of inflation.

**What are your views on healthcare policy and Medicaid expansion? (50 words or less)**

We need to expand Medicaid in a responsible way and ensure some level of patient participation in the costs as their incomes rise. We should also move to a population health approach that aligns provider incentives with outcomes not simply activities.

**What do you believe is the most pressing issue or challenge facing Kansas today and how would you address it?** (50 words or less)

Outmigration and demographic trends facing Kansas will continue to challenge state government to deliver services in more innovative and cost-effective ways. Ultimately, expanding the economy and creating a regulatory environment that drives growth will allow us to meet those obligations while building one of the most dynamic economies in America.

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

I'm most proud of my work to move our country away from the political tribalism that has ground problem solving to a halt and threatened our status in the world, our standard of living, and the very existence of the middle class in America.

**What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s)?** (50 words or less)

I've spent my life in the private sector building and fixing businesses. I'm the only candidate to run an organization the same scale as our state government agencies. I have a demonstrated track record as someone who knows how to get better outcomes for less money. I understand business's needs.