

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Abraham Rafie

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**Political Affiliation:** Republican

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**District:** 48

**Campaign Website:** abrahamrafie.com

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

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

14513 Floyd Street

Overland Park, KS 66223

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

Diagnostic Radiologist

**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):

State Representative District 48

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

Economic growth in Johnson County and state wide. Transparent healthcare policy that effectively meets patient needs with optimal resource utilization. Improving the affordability of higher education.

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

Good tax policy has a fair, broad base which allows for the lowest rates possible. I believe reform of the state's sales tax exemptions will be an important topic to address in the coming legislative session.

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

The Kansas workforce needs more skills and training applicable to the current digital information age economy. Lowering the barriers and mitigating risks associated with obtaining advanced training and education will be critical for development of our state's workforce.

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

I, like most Kansans, highly value K-12 education and know the difference it makes in children's lives. The educational opportunities I've had in my life have been absolutely essential in allowing me to be a productive citizen. I support K-12 education funding.

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

I believe stability in state transportation funding is critical for the most efficient use of state resources. In addition to stability of funding, an appropriate level of transportation infrastructure funding is vital to our state's long term economic health.

**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)**

I believe a forward looking legislative appropriations process is necessary for the long-term health of our state transportation infrastructure. Steady majorities of legislators that see the economic value of infrastructure investment are important for our state's future development.

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

State policies that facilitate advanced training and education for our state's workforce are of great importance in my mind. Businesses are drawn largely by the accessibility of a highly trained workforce.

**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 with societal integration is good for both citizens and immigrants. I strongly support federal immigration reform that is rational, balanced and facilitates meeting our domestic workforce shortages.

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

A key aspect in addressing higher education access and affordability is facilitating greater information for students and parents as they consider education investment value. I believe policies that help reduce the risk of students graduating with crushing debt and an inability to repay will reduce educational attainment disparity.

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

I introduced a bill in 2018 to allow for medical price transparency in Kansas. I believe greater transparency and accountability in healthcare will lead to cost containment and an ability for our healthcare resources to meet the needs of Kansans.

**What role should state government have in determining workplace employment practices and benefits offered to employees? (50 words or less)**

I believe in a light touch from the state to support rather than inhibit economic activity in Kansas.

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

The opioid epidemic has harmed many individuals and families in Kansas. There is no single simple solution however I believe this issue can and should be addressed in our state through well reasoned policy involving the medical profession, law enforcement, patients, and communities.

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

I was very glad to have the opportunity to introduce a healthcare cost transparency bill to the House Health Committee. I believe the hearing was informative and encouraged discussion on this issue. The State Employee Health Plan will be running a pilot program to gain experience with this concept.

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

My wife Ashley and I have two young sons and understand the pressures of modern life on families. I believe my neighbors want state government to function properly with civility and respect. During my first term in the Kansas House I was proud to be a part of legislative solutions. If given the opportunity to serve again, I will work hard for the good of District 48 and the whole of Kansas.