

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Brett Parker

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Political Affiliation: Democratic

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Campaign Video Link: N/A

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

Kansas House 2017-18, Olathe Public Schools 2013-2018

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):

Olathe NEA Vice President

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

Funding education, Medicaid expansion, continuing to build a stable budget/revenue situation for the state

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

I believe the new income tax policy is working and should be maintained. If additional revenue is needed to continue responsible budgeting, we should look at internet sales tax and possible revenue from sports betting. If our positive revenues continue while funding core services, we should look to lower sales tax incrementally.

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

It is essential that we continue to restore cuts to higher education. Additionally, we must stop undercutting the improving fiscal reputation of our state with extreme legislation based on social ideology.

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

K-12 funding is essential to the economic success of our state. While progress was made in the 17-18 sessions, it was a mistake to continue unconstitutional funding levels. Finally funding schools and ending the lawsuit must be top priority in 2019.

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

The new plan must be sustainable and followed through on. The continued raiding of the current highway fund undermines confidence in our budgeting.

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 support the dedicated sales tax. No matter the mechanism though, the essential piece is that infrastructure is funded.

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

I have been supportive of HPIP, PEAK, and Angel Investor Tax Credit. I also support data collection on those and other programs so we can best determine what is most effective.

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)

Attracting and maintaining a qualified workforce must be a priority. Enacting common sense immigration reforms should be a part of attracting the needed workforce.

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

Our universities have been hit hard by Gov. Brownback's tax disaster and we must continue to restore their lost funding.

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

Medicaid expansion will bring our Kansas tax dollars home to increase access to healthcare, keep our hospitals open, and benefit our economy. I carried the Medicaid expansion amendment in 2018 and will continue to work for it as long as I hold office.

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

Whenever possible, these decisions should be made at the local level.

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

Continuing to repair the damage to our budget and reputation caused by Brownback and Kobach is the top issue facing the state. The bipartisan coalition in the legislature has done great work to this end but it must be sustained.

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

I am proud of the bipartisan work I did with Rep. Clayton on transparency and with Senator Bollier on healthcare.

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

I have lived the effects of the Brownback tax failure as a teacher. I not only voted on the repeal of that tax policy but spent countless hours coordinating with colleagues across the aisle to build consensus.