

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

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Political Affiliation: Democrat

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

VML High Rank Websites Siege Media

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):

N/A

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

Public education funding Medicaid expansion Public safety (no guns in schools)

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

The combined sales tax in Kansas is almost a full percentage point higher than it is in Missouri. To those living on the eastern edge of Johnson County, this is all the incentive they need to purchase their gas or groceries across the state line. I believe that lowering the sales tax will boost consumerism in Kansas, thereby helping the overall economy.

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

Discuss introducing a series of worker's rights legislation, to show that Kansas will protect everyone, no matter their salary. This could encourage more teachers, restaurant workers, laborers, etc. to work in Kansas if they happen to live in Missouri along the border.

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

I think it's not enough; studies have shown that we need \$1 billion more to maintain a 90% graduation rate. I would seek creative solutions to solve the funding crisis before relying on tax increases. Legalizing marijuana would be one of the first avenues to look at increasing revenue.

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

Fiscal responsibility. Getting the work done right the first time.

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 that there is a risk of bias if legislators are given control and final say over the transportation budget. Independent entities, using independent studies and investigations, should be issuing recommendations when budget delineations in regards to infrastructure come into play.

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

Promote fair practice by encouraging businesses to provide good wages and benefits to decrease turnover and keep workers here in Kansas.

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)

There are 75,000 undocumented immigrants in Kansas, and we have to make sure every one of them have equal access to work, education, and fair pay. They contribute millions to our economy, so yes, I do support immigration reform.

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

I believe that the state can ensure that revenue is distributed and used correctly. If it's earmarked for education, then it needs to go directly to the students, supplies, building infrastructure, teacher retirement benefits, etc., before it ever goes to superintendent salary.

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

It's necessary. Too many people can't afford the premiums and deductibles when healthcare is actually accessible, but a lot of people can't access quality healthcare even if they wanted to.

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

I think they should be able to instill a list of checks and balances to ensure that businesses are providing adequate benefits and a safe working environment to all of its employees.

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

I believe that the cost of healthcare is out of control. Far too many people worry about going bankrupt just to afford adequate care. Medicaid expansion would significantly ease the spending burden for the most crucial necessity for most Kansas citizens.

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

I usually volunteer for Red Bag every year, which collects Christmas gifts for underprivileged children from donors.

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

I don't want to just make things adequate; I want to provide more than is required for Kansans so that our quality of life is as good as it can possibly be. If healthcare and education is more affordable, then Kansans will be able to reinvest in our state.