

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Chris Croft

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Political Affiliation: Republican

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District: 8

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

30 Year Army combat veteran; Executive Director, Center for Army's Leadership (last four years); Columbia University Fellowship; Army Enterprise/Senior Leader (last 10 years)

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:

Executive Director, Center for Army Leadership Board Member, American Fallen Warrior Memorial Foundation Board Member, Army Week Association

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

Spend last five years traveling to Allied countries and assisting them in establishing leadership centers similar to the U.S. model.

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

1) Reduced taxes (income and property) and wasteful government spending 2) High-quality education - ensure K-12 funding reaches the classroom 3) Improve Kansas infrastructure

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

Kansas has become the high-tax state of the Midwest. Our current state tax policy puts Kansas at a competitive disadvantage for attracting new businesses and creating jobs. I want to see an environment that facilitates opportunities for businesses to grow and families to prosper. We cannot regulate and tax ourselves into prosperity. The mindset in Topeka MUST change. We need to get leaders in Topeka!

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

Growing our workforce requires more than empty jobs. Making tax rates competitive will provide tangible incentives for people to move here for work. Educating Kansans for yesterday's jobs will not help us compete with surrounding states. In a world of innovation and technology, our education system must constantly adjust to teach skills our children and our future, need to succeed.

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

K-12 education is the key to the success of Kansas, it is an investment in our future. In far too many cases, teachers and parents are buying supplies for their classrooms. I believe education is about the students. We need to ensure our K-12 education system is producing the outcomes needed. I believe teachers are the key, they must be fairly paid, treated as professionals, and have their classrooms adequately furnished.

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

As a transportation officer in the Army, the transportation infrastructure is extremely important to me. An effective transportation system relies on quality planning, reliable funding and absolute accountability. As the geographical center of the country, Kansas's infrastructure is crucial. We must fund and support transportation infrastructure programs in Kansas.

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)

The Kansas transportation infrastructure is extremely important. The Kansas Legislature likes to spend money as proven by record spending levels. I question whether the current legislature has the leadership and willpower to spend the money where it is needed instead of pet projects.

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

I believe four things will support job growth and business expansion: 1) Low (but equitable) tax burden 2) Friendly regulatory environment 3) High-quality education (K-12, Post Secondary, and Technical) 4) Quality infrastructure

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)

I believe American's want to work and we should make every effort to provide those opportunities. I also believe we are a nation of immigrants and I also support the efforts of those who legally immigrate to America. I do NOT support giving rights and benefits to illegal immigrants!

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 everyone does not need to go to college. I have many friends who are extremely successful who earned a high school diploma. I am concerned we are funding illegal immigrants in college while not supporting Kansans who attend the same colleges. College debt is a huge problem.

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

Medicaid expansion has negatively impacted every state that has tried it and Kansas cannot afford to spend over \$1 billion to prove the point. Studies have shown declines in accessibility without improving health outcomes. I am concerned specifically about preexisting conditions and the impact it is having our elderly.

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

I believe the state should set the guidelines and get out of the way. If an employer's practices are discriminatory, illegal or hazardous, then the government should interfere. Otherwise, the state should generally have little involvement inside companies.

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

Lack of leadership in the Kansas Legislature. Legislators focus on projects of little importance and abdicate their role in other key areas like education while blaming the judicial branch. It is time the legislature takes charge and leads Kansas to its rightful place of leadership in America!

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

1) Being able to serve our Nation for 30 years in the Army 2) Lead America's sons and daughters in combat to support our Nation's objectives and return them home safely. 3) The Army's Strategic Broadening Program: 500+ Army leaders each year explore issues outside their normal everyday experiences.

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

My proven record of Leadership.