

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: *Kellie Warren*

Political Affiliation: *Republican*

District: *28*

Address/City/State/Zip: Phone: *14505 Falmouth Street, Leawood, KS 66224 (913) 717-9947*

Email: *kellie@kelliewarrenforkansas.com*

Campaign Website: www.kelliewarrenforkansas.com

Campaign Video Link: *Coming soon*

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

Attorney / Property Law Firm; Leawood, Kansas

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:

My firm, Property Law Firm, is a member of the Leawood Chamber of Commerce and I am the point of contact person.

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

*Blue Valley High School PTO Executive Board, Vice President Activities
Prairie Star Elementary School PTO Board, Secretary
Assistant Coach daughters' softball teams
Volunteer - school functions*

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

- 1. Ensure K-12 funding reaches classrooms benefitting students, retain good teachers*
- 2. Spending discipline reducing property taxes, income taxes, and bonded debt*
- 3. Reassert stringent legislative oversight of agencies for accountability and transparency*

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

Our state tax policy is incompatible with growing our state economy and creating opportunities for families to prosper. Since 2016, Kansas is one of only three states to have negative economic growth. In concert with that decline, Kansas has become the highest tax state in the region, putting our state a competitive disadvantage to attract businesses and new jobs. Meanwhile, residents are bearing an ever-increasing sales, income and property tax burden, making Kansas financially difficult for many to raise a

family and maintain a home, hitting particularly hard seniors on fixed incomes. This tax and spend mentality must change.

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

Reform K-12 and college curriculums to prepare students with needed skills for the modern workplace. K-12 should encourage vocational exploration, preparing students to pursue, as applicable, further technical or academic education to pursue a vocation in which they have developed an interest. Further, we need to make college tuition more affordable by streamlining course offerings to focus on degree programs addressing a real world need and providing students with real employment opportunities.

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

K-12 is an investment, and as such we should have an expected return. Currently, barely half of each dollar on average reaches the classroom. Students should get the full benefit of every K-12 tax dollar, and teachers should be fairly compensated. Given the billions going to K-12, teachers should not have to buy class supplies from their own pocket. My take on K-12: fund it well and invest those funds well to benefit student learning.

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

Regionally require projects completed timely. Endless, perhaps poorly planned, projects drive up costs to taxpayers, and unduly impact motorists and commerce. Infrastructure is a critical investment, but must have robust oversight and meet reasonable expectations, particularly this program as it is funded with a sales tax paid by all Kansans.

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)

Fluctuating revenues do not dictate highway needs. Revenue may fall short or exceed transportation needs. The legislature should never turn on the money machine and just leave the room. However, we must take seriously road funding obligations. Like K-12, we should fund it well and invest it wisely.

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

We must foster an overall inviting economic climate for all job creators, negating need for incentives in the first place. Incentives are often costly to taxpayers and disadvantage current businesses. But, an overall low tax, low cost of doing business climate, is positive for all businesses and taxpayers.

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)

If our goal is attracting more Americans to sciences, engineering and other technical fields, and growing entry-level opportunities for young people, we must stop depressing wages by importing cheap labor. Legitimate gaps may currently exist, but gaps will persist if we continue policies creating the gaps in the first place.

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

Tuition increases due to lacking fiscal discipline in a system that extorts students' credit to fund irresponsible spending. More stringent state oversight is needed to achieve affordability through narrowing degree offerings to those with real world job prospects for graduates; requiring full-time teaching from professors; and consolidating duplicative administrative functions.

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

Medicaid expansion financially devastated every state that tried it. Projected cost to Kansas taxpayers exceeds \$1 billion. However, actual costs in adopting states has far exceeded projections. Further, studies show no improved health outcomes, while accessibility actually declines. Kansas cannot afford \$1 billion-plus in new spending for a proven failure.

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

The state generally should not interfere with the workplace, benefits or compensation offered to employees of private companies, except to the extent those practices are intentionally discriminatory in violation of law, or that create a hazardous workplace likewise in violation of industry standards or regulated by law.

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

Dysfunction. The legislature must stop lurching from one crisis or controversy to the next and focus on a long-term vision for our state. Kansas governance right now an unreliable partner for families and job creators, pushing them to neighboring states that focused to create attractive economic opportunities and quality communities.

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

A recent project was protecting resident property rights. On behalf of affected residents, we successfully won a Kansas Supreme Court ruling establishing that compensation due residents when the state takes

property includes compensating for the value of infringed covenants and restrictions that governed the property prior to the taking.

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

My opponent believes in retroactive tax increases, I am against them. My opponent opposes local control of schools, I support it. My opponent wants to increase non-school spending, I want to hold the line. My opponent is in the wrong primary, as she financially and vocally supports Democratic causes and candidates, while I support Republicans. Finally, I support depoliticizing our schools, while my opponent is dependent upon groups who are largely responsible for politicizing schools.