

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Michael Kerner

**Phone:** 913-488-8856

**Political Affiliation:** Libertarian

**Email:** Mike4freedom.campaign@gmail.com

**District:** 17

**Campaign Website:** N/A

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

15515 W. 80th Street  
Lenexa, KS 66219

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

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

Currently retired. Previously I worked for 49 years as an engineer for Honeywell.

**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):

I am the Secretary of the Executive Committee for the Libertarian Party of Kansas.

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

1. Get school funding disaster resolved, hopefully by creating a competitive system to improve quality and lower costs. 2. Legalize Marijuana 3. Lower taxes

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

Taxes are now high enough so as to discourage new business investment. I want to change the school funding process so that no state income tax is needed. School boards will collect their own taxes to support their local schools as their voters want. This will require a constitutional amendment but so will any fix to the school funding process now in a death spiral.

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

More capital investment is the only way to growth in prosperity and opportunity for jobs. We have to stop discouraging that investment with high taxes.

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

We are in a death spiral right now. School boards never say enough and the court keeps saying more, more with no real end point. I would get the state out of the process altogether, thus permitting the end to the state income tax. Individual school districts tax as much as their voters want to fund their schools. A district can decide to spend more without having to bring the whole state along.

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

New roads should be built based on realistic demand forecasts. Both new road construction and all maintenance should come from dedicated fuel taxes and tolls and NOT general funds.

**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)**

State Highway fund should be funded by dedicated taxes from road users. That means fuel taxes and tolls. We do have to figure out how to tax electric car users on a comparable basis.

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

All the state must do is get out of the way with their taxes and regulations. A truly free market will attract the investment and people we need.

**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)**

Immigration enforcement should not be the business of state government. It might be appropriate for the state to negotiate with the Federal government to bring in workers with specific qualifications to help with labor shortages.

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

Public universities should cover their costs with tuition. We will need constant monitoring of the spending to try to stop the waste. Separate scholarship funds can be set up by private interests to help the underprivileged.

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

I do not favor Medicaid expansion. There is no money available to finance it (even during the period when the federal government is subsidizing it). The potential recipients will benefit from the lower taxes that would not be possible if we adopted it.

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

The state has no business controlling the relationship between employer and employee. That is a contract that should be completely controlled by the parties.

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

Runaway spending and taxes are in a death spiral. The state needs to get out of education funding altogether and push it down to individual school districts to finance their schools.

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

In my 49 year career as an engineer, the most significant product I worked on was a collision avoidance system for aircraft. It was a large team and it took several years so I am not claiming personal credit but I knew that was an important safety improvement.

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

I put individual freedom first above all other considerations. For example, I support your right to keep and bear arms with no conditions or exceptions. My opponents will surely weasel their support with conditions. I consider a progressive income tax as fractional slavery, punishing the most productive individuals. Do you really think that does not discourage productivity? I want to completely legalize marijuana, not just for medical use. Prohibition was never justified.