

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Nancy Lusk

**Phone:** 913-648-2616

**Political Affiliation:** Democrat

**Email:** nancyluskforkansas@gmail.com

**District:** 22

**Campaign Website:** www.nancylusk.com

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

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

7700 West 83rd Street

Overland Park, KS 66204

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

I have been the representative of the 22nd House District for the last six 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:**

N/A

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

Served in the following: Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA Legislative Chair Kansas PTA Vice President of Advocacy Founding member of Kansas Families for Education

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

Tax fairness and fiscal responsibility, quality public education, and Medicaid expansion.

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

Stability and predictability in state tax policy are necessary to encourage a stable business climate. A balanced "three legged stool" approach of sales, property and income taxes has historically served Kansas the best. I am proud to have voted for the repeal of the failed Brownback tax plan, and now the state is set on a sustainable path. Because of the unknowns, for the immediate future we need to wait until the dust settles on the new state & federal tax plans before making any major tax policy decisions of cuts or tax increases.

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

An excellent public education system, both K-12 and higher education, is critical in growing and developing a well-educated, globally competitive workforce. I will continue my support of investing in our schools, and encourage an emphasis on a rigorous curriculum of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

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

I voted for the final bill to increase annual K-12 funding, but with some reservation because the new law waited five years before coupling the funding with inflation. I agree with the Kansas Supreme Court's ruling to have the legislature make that correction. More than one study commissioned by

the legislature has shown that there is a definite return of improved academic achievement connected to increased investments in our schools.

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

We need to pay for the upkeep of our roads and highways, and leave designated transportation funding alone. Over \$3.2 billion has been diverted since 2008. 2,115 bridge structures are rated structurally deficient. Our agriculture and business economies depend on Kansas roads to move goods to market each year.

**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 having the dedicated sales tax transfer and a ten year transportation plan, but either way the real problem has been the legislature has raided KDOT to fill extreme budget holes. The change to the new tax plan has given us more reliable tax revenues which should help.

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

Thanks to Tom Robinett, I have learned the value of the High Performance Incentive Program tax incentive to employers who pay above-average wages and commit to developing the skills of their workers. I am willing to support any innovative economic development strategy that has a verifiable track record.

**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 support such reforms " it is important that state industries heavily reliant on laborers, particularly agriculture, are able fill their labor shortages. According to a research brief the Greater KC Chamber released last winter immigrants in the area contributed \$8.6B to the local gross domestic product.

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

Cuts to higher education have been the primary cause of increased tuitions. This session we increased the funding for higher education funding by \$15M, but if you adjust for inflation, that is still \$84M short of the funding level ten years ago. More funding is necessary.

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

I support the expansion which would give insurance to 145,000 people who don't currently have health coverage. Kansans have already paid for 90% of the funding from paying federal taxes, yet we are receiving no benefits in return. And the expansion would provide an estimated increase of 3,800 new jobs.

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

Minimal.

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

Maintaining the reversal of the failed Brownback tax policy, and not going backwards as a couple of conservative gubernatorial candidates are pushing. Despite having made some progress in restoring revenue, the damage caused by years of budget shortfalls and risky gimmicks have left state government in extensive need of repair.

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

Nothing has been more important than last year's repeal of the failed Brownback/Colyer tax policy. I am proud that I had the good judgement to oppose it from the beginning for its unfairness and unsustainability.

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

I have gained much experience in serving for the past six sessions and have a proven record of good judgment in my consistent opposition to the failed tax policy. I am not ego driven for my own ambitions “ my goal always is to pass the best policy possible. Others have praised me for my constant bridge building efforts.