

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Owen Donohoe

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**Political Affiliation:** Republican

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**District:** 39

**Campaign Website:** repdonohoe.com

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

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

5731 Richards Circle  
Shawnee, KS 66216

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

President of Donohoe & Associates a medical device distributorship that I started in 1989.

**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):

Kansas State Representative from 2006-2012. I served on the Education, Healthcare, Tax and Budget committees.

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

Education Funding Government Spending & ending KPERS for legislators School Safety

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

I believe we need to reduce spending and lower taxes.

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

Develop training programs for welfare recipients to move them into the workforce. Favorable tax treatment for industries to develop internal apprenticeships helping to more quickly transition high school graduates and other non-skilled workers into open positions within their companies. Businesses know what type of training they need for workers.

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

We must eliminate the Court's overreach into school funding. I would also start by having the schools spend down the over 1 billion dollars in unencumbered funds that is currently not being utilized before raising taxes.

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

Prioritize projects that have the highest impact on safety for our Kansas drivers. I would stop the sweeping of Transportation funds and ensure the funds were utilized for their designated purpose.

**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 the current dedicated sales tax transfer to the State Highway Fund.

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

Small businesses are the economic engine of our economy. KS small businesses employ 51% of the private work force, and companies with fewer than 100 employees have the largest share. We must promote tax policies that help small businesses thrive through reduced regulations and taxes and stable tax policy.

**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 is only 62.7% of labor force participation in the US currently. The rest of the labor force has dropped out, or is taking unemployment. We need to move these segments back into the workforce, then focus on immigration reforms. Businesses cannot pay artificially low wages utilizing low-cost labor to enhance profits.

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

Currently there is over 1 trillion dollars in student debt. This isn't sustainable. We have to tie tuition rate increases to a stable indicator so that is not increasing greater than the rate of inflation. We also have to look at how student loans are used to support tuition increases.

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

Healthcare should be affordable and there should be a variety of options for coverage. We should not expand Medicaid because the Federal Government is decreasing subsidies as predicated leaving the states to bear the brunt of the increased costs. This is not sustainable and does not solve the problem.

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

Private businesses should carry the most weight in negotiating benefits with their employees. Aside from workplace safety issues that fall under OSHA, the state should have as minimal input possible. One of the greatest complaints of small businesses is over regulation and over taxation.

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

Taxing away capital investments - increased taxes reduce capital businesses could otherwise utilize to grow the economy and provide jobs. In the third quarter of 2017, Kansas grew at an annual rate of 2.1%, slower than the overall US growth rate of 3.4%. We must make KS attractive for smallbiz.

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

My work in the legislature from 2006-2012. When I arrived, we were dealing with the after effects of Governor Sebilus's policies of over-regulation, over taxation, and irresponsible spending. We passed legislation to put Kansas back on the right course and overcome those deficits, but we have more work to do.

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

My opponent hasn't indicated where she stands on most issues. Nothing on her website indicates her positions, so it's hard for anyone to know. I am a fiscal conservative, Pro-life, Pro-2A, and I support taxpayers. I'm opposed to increased taxes, expanding Medicaid, and the growth of government. I think the greatest amount of control should be closest to the voters, which is why we need to stop overreach by unelected judges.