

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Rui Xu

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Political Affiliation: Democrat

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District: 25

Campaign Website:

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Campaign Video Link: N/A

Westwood, KS 66205

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

Marketing Operations Analyst - Children International Marketing Analyst - MMGY Global
Performance Analyst - Sporting KC

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):

Marketing Committee - Literacy KC

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

1) Fully funding our public schools 2) Expanding Medicaid 3) Stable and fair tax structure

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

I think we are on the right track to a stable budget, but certain aspects (food sales tax) of the current code is still far too regressive. With a fairer tax code, we could fund what the state needs, without harming those most in need of disposable income. We could also explore additional tax revenues, such as taxes on internet sales or from sports betting.

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

Businesses are attracted to areas with great schools and high qualities of life, so we need to support public education, public parks, infrastructure to make commuting easier, and develop a quality health care system to ensure affordable care for our constituents. We also need to ensure our state does not have a reputation for discrimination, so we need to repeal the discriminatory LGBT adoption bill and put additional protections in place.

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

K-12 funding is essential to the well-being of our state, so we need to develop a sustainable school funding program to ensure that we never approach unconstitutionality again. Our schools are wonderful and efficient, but we need to ensure that the money is there for the districts to maximize our investments in our children.

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

We need to fund infrastructure maintenance that has been neglected after the Brownback tax cuts.

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)

Yes; transportation should have a dedicated fund.

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

I support funding the Department of Commerce to address this need and to analyze the data to support the programs that work and to discontinue the programs that don't work. Fully funding our public schools will also encourage job growth as businesses move here.

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)

Immigrants are an essential part of our economy, and we should do what we can to reform the system to give them the fair treatment they deserve.

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

Kansas universities have been greatly impacted by Sam Brownback's tax cuts, so we need to restore previous funding, as well as exploring future options to make public education more affordable for our students.

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

I think it is essential that we expand Medicaid in Kansas. Health care costs are one of the key drivers in keeping people poor, and with affordable access, these people can hold on their nest eggs and keep moving along the economic ladder.

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

State government needs to ensure that employment practices are fair, safe, and non-discriminatory.

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

The biggest issue, and the root cause of most issues discussed, is the continued degradation of good governance by the far-right. We need Democrats and moderate Republicans in red districts to come together and continue to fight for what we know is correct and best for the state.

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

I'm very proud to work at an organization in Children International that supports 200,000 children all over the world with the goal of teaching them the skills to rise out of poverty. These kids work so hard and are a continual inspiration to me.

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

I bring a unique perspective to Kansas politics: I am an immigrant (born in Switzerland to Chinese parents), I am data-driven (Economics degree from USC, analyst as a career), and I am middle-class. I strive for governance that truly represents the people of the district, and not special interests, and my votes will reflect as such.