

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Stephanie Clayton

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Political Affiliation: Republican

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District: 19

Campaign Website:

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9825 Woodson Drive

Campaign Video Link:

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

Legislator and consultant

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:

Ex-officio member of Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce Board since 2013

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

N/A

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

Fully funding K-12 Education, Fully restoring cuts to Higher Education, Continued stabilization of revenue stream

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

Kansas needs to continue with a balanced tax plan that moves to significantly reduce, and eventually fully eliminate the sales tax on food and human dignity products. This plan shall be crafted with the input of local municipalities and local businesses in order to ensure revenue stability at all levels of government.

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

Work with businesses to make sure that sustainable jobs with competitive wages and benefits are being created. Continue to fund all types and levels of education, including early education, K-12, Higher Ed, and Tech Ed, in order to supply the workforce needed to fill the aforementioned positions.

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

Kansas businesses need and deserve a stable environment with a fully educated workforce, and, as such, should expect the legislature to fully fund education without any deadlocks, histrionics, or necessary political theater.

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

Johnson County is the economic engine of the state, and needs a stable funding source for all current road maintenance and future road development plans. Other areas of the state also need this maintenance and development, but Johnson County transportation is my priority.

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 system, and, if needed, would support a modest revenue increase in order to sustain it.

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

I support the current economic development toolbox, and will continue to do so. I support staffing increases to the Commerce Department, and will support any revenue increases needed to restore the drastic cuts to this department.

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 is a Federal issue, and, as such, I think that immigration policies should be determined at that level. I trust local industries in Kansas to manage workforce shortages as they see fit.

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

If the State is to be a good partner with our business community, it is incumbent upon us to fully fund higher education and technical education.

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

I support Medicaid Expansion, and will continue to vote accordingly.

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

The state should strongly encourage businesses to pay employees a living wage with strong benefits.

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 most challenging issue facing the state is that many budgetary issues have long gone without remedy, and these groups are rightfully concerned. It is imperative that legislators continue to restore funding to these areas that have been neglected for so long, including schools, higher education, transportation, and social services.

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

The project on which I was most proud to work was the development of the reformed tax plan in 2017. The work was collaborative, tremendously challenging, and has resulted in the stabilization of the State's budget. It was a joy to fulfill this campaign promise.

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

I believe that my experience as a stabilizer and a negotiator distinguish me from my opponent. I am strong and outspoken when I feel strongly about an issue, but when work needs to be done, I am able to put aside partisan differences and complete the task at hand.