

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Stephen Wyatt

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**Political Affiliation:** Democrat

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**District:** 19

**Campaign Website:** N/A

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

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

8304 Riggs

Overland Park, KS 66212

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

The last several years I have worked at a pharmaceutical company dealing with insurance, commercial, Medicaid and Medicare and financial assistance for patients.

**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 previously ran for the Overland Park City Council.

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

My top three policy issues are school funding, Medicaid expansion, and equality for every individual.

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

The current state tax policy has left Kansas with a budget crisis. The small override of the previous tax plan has helped but more needs to be done. Tax rates for large corporations and high income earners need to be raised. The middle and lower class tax rates are inequitable. Kansas has one of the highest food sales tax rates in the country, which adversely effects those low income earners.

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

Raise the Kansas minimum wage. This will provide low income workers with more money. This will be spent on essential services and goods, expanding the need to increase the workforce.

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

Education is the key to a society advancing. I am a former educator and believe that the state needs to fund education so each public school district has the resources it needs for every student.

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

My priority would be to replace the funds that have been taken from the State Highway Fund so roads can be replaced.

**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 in maintaining the current State Highway Fund sales tax transfer.

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

Kansas is at the forefront of renewable energy. Developing policies to allow manufacturing plants and those high tech jobs that are associated with these renewable energy will expand business growth in Kansas.

**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 forefront in our current climate. Many farmers pay immigrants, whether they have come here legally or illegally, to complete jobs that many Americans do not want to do. Providing these workers with temporary work visas will allow them farmers to continue to use these workers when needed.

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

Public higher education is becoming inaccessible for many individuals. As other states have done, Kansas can provide low cost access to community college or trade schools for recent high school graduates.

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

Healthcare is a human right. Expanding Medicaid is a must for Kansas. This will allow residents to get the life saving healthcare or medications they need. This will also be an economic boost to state as more money will be brought into the state.

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

The state needs to mandate discrimination, equal gender pay, and paid time off policies. Many companies are falling behind in these areas.

**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 pressing issue is funding Education and how to complete this vital area. This may require repealing previous tax cuts to make sure schools are funded. An educated populace will allow more advancement in the state.

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

I have worked on multiple projects to allow low income or unemployed individuals to be provided the life saving medications that they need.

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

My progressive beliefs are what distinguishes me from my opponent. I believe that every individual has the right to live their life and have the opportunities to advance themselves.