

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Wendy Bingesser

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**Political Affiliation:** Republican

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**District:** 30

**Campaign Website:**

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

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12548 Brougham Dr  
Olathe, KS 66062

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

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

Fitness Attendant and Instructor; Olathe Community Center

**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):

1. Assistant Supervising Judge; Johnson County Election Office 2. Elementary Sunday School Teacher; Grace United Methodist Church 3. Volunteer; American Cancer Society

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

1. Preparing our kids for college and the workforce. 2. Fighting for innovations in cancer research. 3. Creating an environment that encourages business growth and job creation.

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

We have already seen two large tax increases over the last couple of years. The legislature should avoid raising sales and income taxes during the next legislative term. I am also in favor of reducing sales taxes on food products to ensure that Kansans can more easily afford their grocery bills. As a legislator, I would oppose efforts to increase the gas tax. Gas prices can rise and fall too quickly to provide stability for the pocketbooks of Kansas commuters. Property taxes have recently risen by as much as 20%. I support capping this tax to protect Kansas families.

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

The best way to grow and develop our state's workforce is to give our kids the opportunities that they need to stay competitive in today's economy. I am proud of the Olathe School District's 21st Century Academies and believe they should be a statewide model for how Kansas should move forward in preparing our kids for their futures in both higher education and the workforce.

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

I believe in our Olathe and Shawnee Mission Schools. I have served on the board of Citizens for Excellence in Olathe Schools and will be a strong advocate for our Olathe and Lenexa kids in Topeka. Investing in good teachers, implementing college readiness programming, and expanding

career and technical learning opportunities will help to grow the Kansas economy by preparing our students for successful futures.

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

I oppose additional transfers from the State Highway Fund. This restored funding should be used to enhance the completion of projects that are already in-progress and then should be used to enhance freight movement and other transportation priorities that reduce fuel costs and improve commutes for Olathe and Lenexa residents.

**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 am disappointed that our state legislature has continuously chosen to transfer funds from the State Highway Fund. I support improving our state's roads and I am optimistic that President Trump will follow through on his plan to rebuild America's infrastructure. I support prioritizing on-going and future improvements to I-70/I-435.

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

In the legislature, I will be a strong advocate for job growth and business expansion. Growing the Kansas economy is achievable through pro-growth policies that emphasize fiscal responsibility and less burdensome regulations. I will oppose efforts to subject professional services to sales tax.

**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)

Federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court, have consistently found that immigration is a federal issue. It is up to Congress to come up with an immigration reform plan that adequately addresses deferred action for childhood arrivals, border security, and workforce shortages.

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

Higher education is an important aspect of the Kansas economy. I support Senate Bill 155, the law signed in 2012 that provides tuition reimbursement for high school students taking college-level career and technical education courses. I also believe that additional dual-credit opportunities will reduce the cost of higher education.

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

I am a strong supporter of healthcare research and would make this one of my main legislative priorities in office. My family is dedicated to cancer advocacy and awareness and demonstrate this through our volunteer service with the American Cancer Society and my sister-in-law's foundation, Outpacing Melanoma.

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

The state government should encourage workplace practices that are free from discrimination and sexual harassment. Having a work environment that is conducive for productivity is essential for economic growth.

**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 challenge facing Kansas is the college degree brain drain. The loss of Kansas' college graduates to other states is a problem that we must act to solve. In 2014, less than half of those who had earned bachelor's degrees in Kansas were still employed in the state.

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

The project I am most proud to have worked on was the 2008 Olathe school bond that moved 9th Grade from middle school to high school. This move helped to enhance educational opportunities in foreign languages, computer-aided drafting, and business education that were not available in the middle school setting.

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

I am the only candidate in this race recognized as being pro-life by Kansans for Life. Olathe has been my home for nearly my entire life. This is a community that has supported and raised to be the person that I am today. My children graduated from the school district that I graduated from back in 1989. I will be able to confidently represent Olathe and Lenexa because they know me, and I know them.