

2012 JCPPC Senate or State Rep Candidate Profile

Response for: Kevin King

1 Please enter the information indicated below.

Name: Kevin King

Work Phone: 785-295-6227

Home Phone: 913-706-8372

Address: 801 Valerie Ln. Gardner, KS 66030

2 Political Affiliation: Democrat

3 District: 43rd House District

4 Campaign Chair &/or Treasurer: Brett Limer

5 Phone Number: 913-706-8372

6 Committee Name: King for Kansas

7 Campaign Website: www.kingforkansas.com

8 Campaign E-Mail: kevin.king1974@gmail.com

9 Occupation/Work History (last five years - 50 words or less):

Collective Brands, Inc. (Payless Shoesource)

Topeka, KS 66607

IT Operations 2011 to Present

Sprint

Overland Park, KS

Information Technology Services

Business Analyst 1987 to 2009

10 Most Recent Political Experience (50 words or less):

Candidate for State Representative, 43rd District - 2010 & 2012

Campaign Manager for Scott Snavely for State Representative, 43rd Dist. - 2008

Campaign Manager for Lee Urban for State Representative, 43rd Dist. - 2006

Treasurer for the 3rd Congressional District Democratic Committee - 2009 to present

Member of the Executive Board of the Johnson County Democratic Party - 2002 to present

11 Most Recent Community/Civic Experience (50 words or less):

Johnson County Emergency Communications Service - Volunteer Weather Spotter

Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) - Olathe

12 Are you, or have you been, affiliated with a local or state chamber of commerce? Please list chamber(s) and any leadership positions held:

While in High School I was Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Youth Committee for the Winfield, KS Chamber of Commerce.

13 Are you, or have you been, affiliated with any other business organization(s)? Please list organization(s) and any leadership positions held:

No

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

Education - I will work to restore funding cuts for our public schools.

Revenue & Taxes - I want to restore balance to our tax code.

Economy - Invest in infrastructure, job training programs and vocational and post-secondary education.

15 What are your views on state tax policy (75 words or less)?

I support a balanced approach between income, sales and property taxes. Changes to the tax code made in the last session will lead to revenue shortfalls that will require drastic cuts to public education, the social safety net, job creation programs and infrastructure investment.

16 If Kansas were to face a significant revenue shortfall in meeting its budget, how would you propose to balance the budget? Please be specific (75 words or less).

I believe we will face a significant revenue shortfall by 2014. We will need to roll back the changes made to the tax code in the last session and restore balance to the sources of revenue. We can't exempt the wealthy and whole groups of businesses from their obligations as citizens of this state to help maintain our quality of life.

17 What are your views on the possible imposition of a sales tax on professional services, such as architects, lawyers, engineers, doctors - a significant economic base in Johnson County (75 words or less)?

I am opposed to this. It really just shifts the burden to the users of these services and makes these professional providers less competitive in the border areas of the state.

18 Do you support or oppose limiting by law how much state or local governments can tax or spend each year, such as requiring a "supermajority" 2/3 voting requirements to approve state or local tax increases? Why (75 words or less)?

I oppose such limitations on both local and state governments. Simple majority votes are sufficient and if the voters don't like the actions of the majority, they can vote for change in their representation.

19 What are your views on fundamental reform of K-12 school funding (75 words or less)?

Whether one is for or against the current funding formula, the fact remains that the state is not meeting its constitutional obligation to adequately fund public education. Still, if the legislature decides to address the funding formula, the Guiding Principles for School Finance Reform developed by the Committee for Excellence will be a good starting point for these discussions.

20 Do you support expanding local funding flexibility and control over how education funds are raised and spent (75 words or less)?

I support local control over how education funds are spent. I also support allowing school districts to increase their LOB to a percentage higher than currently allowed, with voter approval, especially when the state is failing to meet it's funding obligations.

21 What are your views on Kansas' current toolbox of economic development incentives (75 words or less)?

I support incentive tools such as the PEAK program and STAR Bonds when businesses must locate in Kansas and hire workers in order to receive the benefits. They should also be offered, as much as possible, to encourage growth in traditionally impoverished or underdeveloped areas.

22 What types of tax and/or economic development policy will you support to encourage job growth and business expansion in Kansas (75 words or less)?

The presence of quality public schools and transportation infrastructure have been key to job growth and business expansion in Johnson County and should be a priority statewide. Continuing development of renewable energy, such as windfarms is important as is investment in public transportation. We should also provide incentives for the expansion of high speed communications infrastructure, such as Google Fiber, to lure tech and internet centered businesses to our state.

23 What kind of measures would you support to help control or reduce key business costs (75 words or less)?

State government regulations and reporting requirements need to be regularly reviewed to analyze the cost versus the benefit to the public so that those that are unnecessary can be eliminated.

24 Do you support or oppose the diversion of dedicated state highway funds for any use other than the funding of the transportation projects for which it was created? Explain (75 words or less).

Traditional funding sources for the construction and maintenance of our transportation infrastructure, such as sales taxes, fuel taxes, bonding and vehicle registration fees, need to remain dedicated to that purpose. I oppose the diversion of these funds.

25 What is your policy position on immigration mandates, such as requiring all employers to enroll in a federal government program known as E-verify to check the immigration status of all potential new hires (75 words or less)?

I would only consider requiring the use of E-verify for public employers and public contractors at this time. For farmers, ranchers and private businesses it should remain voluntary.

Meanwhile, existing employment laws still need to be enforced.

26 What do you believe is the most pressing issue or challenge facing Kansas today (75 words or less)?

Balance must be restored to the state tax code, ensuring adequate revenue for funding public schools and vital state services. The first priority of tax reform should be to ease the burden on the middle class and make certain that everyone, even wealthy corporations, pay their fair share.

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

My opponent seems to believe that the state is still spending too much on public education. He also wants to target budget cuts on medicaid and social services. He wants to eliminate the income tax altogether saying a 5.5% sales tax will cover our state funding needs.

I want to maintain our quality of life in Kansas for everyone and focus tax relief on the middle class. I will not turn my back on our children, the poor and the elderly.