

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2016 State Senator/State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Skip Fannen District: 11 Political Affiliation: Dem

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Campaign Website: www.skipfannenforkansas.org

Campaign Video Link:

Occupation/Work History (last five years - 25 words or fewer):

Attorney, retired May 2012. Prior to May 2012, I was a Claims Counsel with Zurich North America Insurance Company and managed plaintiffs and claimants with catastrophic injuries.

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

Not applicable

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:

Not applicable

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

1. Responsible revenue reform to grow the Kansas economy.
2. Fund public education K-12 and public colleges and universities
3. Balance the budget without using KDOT dollars and withholding KPERS.

What are your views on state tax policy? (100 words or fewer):

I believe the 334,000 LLC's tax exemptions should be repealed, the state sales tax reduced, the "tax lid" for cities and counties should be removed and to retain the constitutionally mandated "Homerule" with county and city taxes returned to them.

If Kansas faces a significant revenue shortfall in meeting its budget, how would you proposed to balance the budget? Please be specific. (100 words or fewer):

The budget can be balanced responsibly if the failed tax policies are repealed as described above in question 3. Also, it requires not taking money out of KDOT and withholding KPERS funding. If Kansas would expand Medicaid (KanCare), the money that Kansas citizens have already paid to the federal government would come back to the our state which would be good for our economy and help balance the budget.

What are your views on K-12 school funding? In anticipation of a new funding formula/process, what are your priorities?(75 words or fewer):

K-12 funding must meet the Kansas Supreme Court's determination of what is Constitutional. I believe it will take a task force with input from the State Board of Education, the local Boards of Education, Administrators, Teachers and elected Officials to determine what is equitable, equal and adequate to educate the children of our state.

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

I support keeping quality students in affordable public colleges and universities. We must keep our higher education facilities affordable in order to keep excellent professors who bring in research grants to do important work which in turn keeps our well educated students here in the state in jobs and professions which help grow our economy.

What is your position on individual tax credits and other voucher-like programs for private school tuition? (50 words or fewer):

I do not support individual tax credits or voucher-like programs for private tuition.

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

I would support the Renewable Energy Standards to encourage more development of Kansas' wind and solar potential. Kansas should reap the benefits of renewable energy, It leads to cleaner air, reliable power and growing economies. We should also re-establish our state arts agency in order to harness creative assets to help revitalize rural regions and improve their ability to compete in the economy.

Do you support or oppose maintaining the current dedicated sales tax transfer to the state highway fund for the purpose of funding transportation projects, or should transportation be subject to the appropriations process where legislators determine funding levels entirely? Explain. (75 words or fewer):

I believe the state highway fund should have a dedicated sales tax transfer because otherwise legislators and politics will control funding.

What is your policy position on the state's role regarding immigration and do you support employment-based immigration reforms to assist with workforce shortages in specified industries such as engineering? (50 words or fewer):

I believe the state should not restrict categories or ethnic groups but should perform due process reviews of individuals. Specific industry workplace shortages should be filled by the most qualified employee. If the specific industry is unable to hire a qualified American then they should be able to look to a qualified foreign born employee.

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

State governments should only be available to increase workplace employment practices beyond federal parameters. I do not believe in "Right to Work" laws. It takes protections away from workers.

What do you believe is the most pressing issue or challenge facing Kansas today and how would you address it? (75 words or fewer):

I believe the most pressing issue facing Kansas is responsible revenue reform. The failed tax policies of the current administration has starved the state of revenue. Without responsible revenue reform, the state will not be able to grow the economy, fund public education and balance the budget.

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

My opponent has shown that he is in lock-step with Governor Brownback and his failed policies. Tough decisions have to be made going forward. However, all of our citizens need to be treated fairly and equitably in order for us all to prosper. The children of our state deserve an excellent education by dedicated teachers, so that families and businesses will want to come to Kansas because of the quality of life.