

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

**Name: Stephanie Clayton Political Affiliation: Republican District: House 19**

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**Campaign Website: www.clayton4kansas.com**

**Campaign Video Link: n/a**

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

**Other Recent Political/Community Experience (25 words or less): Legislative Liaison for the Johnson County Commission on Aging,**

**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:**

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

- 1. Tax reform and a responsible approach to budgeting**
- 2. Creation of a sustainable school funding formula**
- 3. Pursuit of a business-driven plan to expand Medicaid.**

**What are your views on state tax policy?**

**It is clear that state tax policy is in desperate need of reform. We have seen attempts to move to a so-called “consumption-based” tax plan; this has failed to generate stable revenue, and penalizes individuals for making purchases, which harms local businesses. We need a balanced tax plan that will draw from multiple revenue sources, and will be stable and sustainable.**

**If Kansas faces a significant revenue shortfall in meeting its budget, how would you propose to balance the budget?**

**The Legislative operating budget is my top priority for cuts. Politicians serve the public well when we minimize our own expenses first, and this has not been done. Those cuts, combined with revenue reform, will restore order to the state budget.**

**What are your views on K-12 school funding? In anticipation of a new funding formula/process, what are your priorities?**

**My top priority for a new funding formula is to come to an agreement on a formula that would provide a realistic, long-term fix. This formula would need to garner majority votes in both chambers, and would need to satisfy both the State and U.S. Constitutions. It is especially important to note that a funding formula is worthless unless it is funded.**

**What are your views on the state's role with respect to access and affordability of public higher education?**

**Consistent cuts to Higher Education have made higher education less accessible to average Kansans. It does not benefit our economy to have most young workers starting their adult lives with massive student loan debt. If the state properly funds higher education, businesses will have the strong, educated workforce that they need in order to succeed.**

**What is your position on individual tax credits and other voucher-like programs for private school tuition?**

**I have voted against, and will continue to vote against programs that take tax dollars and send them to institutions that discriminate against Special Needs students, and lack budgetary transparency.**

**What types of economic development policies will you support to encourage job growth and business expansion in Kansas?**

**I have consistently supported, and will continue to support the traditional economic development toolbox which includes programs such as TIF, TDD CID, and STAR Bonds. I will work for increased funding for recruiting FTEs in the Kansas Department of Commerce (as per the suggestion of the recent Alvarez and Marsal efficiency study), and believe that a review and renewed effort into the KIT and KIR programs would also benefit the state. In addition to these programs, I subscribe to the philosophy that a state that properly funds education, and conveys stability will have a prosperous 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?**

**I support maintaining the current sales tax transfer.**

**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?**

**I believe that immigration policy is best determined by the Federal Government.**

**What role should state government have in determining workplace employment practices and benefits offered to employees?**

**I support current state policies on this matter.**

**What do you believe is the most pressing issue or challenge facing Kansas today and how would you address it?**

**The most pressing issue facing Kansas today is our budget crisis. How this issue will be remedied depends on a merging of ideas from legislators across the state. A bipartisan, cross-factional solution is not likely to occur unless it comes from the center of the political spectrum. Revenue Reform is in our grasp, but all parties need a place at the table in order to craft the ideal plan. Any potential tax plan should go through the proper legislative process, with public input and hearings in both chambers, and full vetting by both the House and the Senate. Proper process will create the proper solution to this crisis.**

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

**My experience in the legislature, and my political position in the center best qualifies me to negotiate between various factions to find workable solutions to the myriad problems that face our state.**