

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

Name: Michael Czerniewski District: Sen21 Political Affiliation: Dem

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Campaign Website: facebook.com/Ski4KansasSenate21

Campaign Video Link: <https://youtu.be/Lgsea8cLwFE>

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

freelance videographer - previous jobs include floor maintenance, security officer, and warehouse stocker for Silpada Designs

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

Democratic precinct committeeman since 2004, ran for Overland Park City Council in 2007

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 fewer per issue):

1. full repeal of 2010 income tax cuts
2. lowering sales taxes; eliminating taxes on food
3. making sure public education funding meets constitutional muster

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

The primary reason for the state's economic problems is the 2012 income tax cuts, coupled with the raising of sales and property taxes throughout the state. Over 300,000 corporations and LLC's are now exempt from paying taxes that the average Kansan is now expected to cover.

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 very first thing that must happen is a full repeal of the 2012 income tax cuts, followed by lowering of sales tax, reverting property tax issues to the city and county level, and eliminating sales tax on food.

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):

The Kansas Supreme Court has stated that public school funding is unconstitutionally inadequate and inequitable. It's a complex issue that the majority of current legislators seem too ill-equipped to handle adequately.

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

I think access and affordability to our public colleges and universities is a must for Kansans who wish to further their studies or get certified in a particular field without the additional cost of going to school out-of-state.

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

I am strongly against vouchers. Taxpayer money should not go to private schools.

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

I support the repeal of the prohibition on communities establishing a living wage and an increase in the state's minimum wage. The surest way to stimulate a consumer-based economy is to put more money in the hands of workers, who will spend it and keep the money flowing.

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):

Highways and infrastructure projects are the lifeblood of our economy. If it isn't broken, don't try to fix it.

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 clearly think we have too many xenophobes in Topeka at the moment. If someone wants to come to Kansas for a particular job, I see no problem with it.

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

I think the state government should have some influence on employment practices, such as making sure a company's hiring practices are not overly discriminatory and that workers have safe working conditions.

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

THE top issue in the state is the tax situation, which I have already discussed in previous questions on this questionnaire.

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