

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

Name: Mitra Templin District: 38 Political Affiliation: R

Address/City/State/Zip: 32312 W 91 St., De Soto, KS 66018

Phone: 913-433-6321 Email: mtemplin@kc.rr.com

Campaign Website: MitraTemplin.com

Campaign Video Link:

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

Pharmaceutical Sales, Stay at Home Mom, volunteer, Sewing Instructor, Insurance Sales

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

De Soto City Council- elected for 2 terms
Johnson County Library Board- Appointee for 2-4 year terms

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. Adequate funding of Public Education
2. Repeal the tax cuts of 2012
3. Prioritize local control for municipalities and counties

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

Bringing growth through new jobs and expansion should be rewarded with tax breaks. There are over 300,000 entities that are not contributing to the prosperity of the state but are being rewarded by not having to pay earnings taxes. Growth and expansion should be rewarded, we shouldn't assume that cutting taxes will cause it. This has put our state into deficit spending and reduced funding for the basic necessities that make families want to life in KS: good schools, good roads, opportunities for retirement. The state tax policy adopted in 2012 has been a failure and used up \$700 million in reserve & borrowed against all healthy funds.

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):

Repeal the tax changes of 2012.

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):

It has not been fully funded since before the recession. Priority is to increase state revenue with 2012 tax cut repeal to begin the process of healing the damages caused by a failed policy.

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

It is proven that students tend to stay in the area where they go to school; the reason why schools offer scholarships is to keep the best and brightest local. By continually reducing aid to higher education, we make it harder for bright students to stay in the state, we lose quality higher ed teachers and researchers and the economic dollars that go into the communities supporting those institutions. Cutting state aid hurts KS.

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

Public education is an equalizer of race and incomes. Taking money away for private schools creates a greater divide in those that can afford education and those that cannot and lessens the quality of education the state can provide to all students.

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

Take away the assumption that job growth will automatically happen if you reduce taxes. I would support tax breaks for those actually proving their ability to create jobs and income for the state.

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):

Keep project priorities in the hands of the experts in transportation that know the best options for Kansas. Legislature will make project decisions based on political decisions and favors instead of what is in the best interest of the state. Maintain the dedicated sales tax transfer and the current system for allocation of 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):

We should be promoting ways to make people citizens so they can contribute to the state economically. Workforce shortages should be met with our higher education initiatives to create a stronger work force already in the state.

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

Besides discrimination and health and safety standards, it should be up to employers to determine the level of benefits offered to their employees. But I do believe health and safety standards do apply to setting a minimum wage above the poverty level. I would also like to see some type of incentive program for employers that offer extra benefits.

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

Destroying public schools and depleting highway funds is destroying the state. We are losing many of our brightest to states with better support for education. When we lose our best, we also lose our future residents due to deficit spending brought on by a failed tax policy. We are losing construction jobs which destroys families as our residents look for jobs elsewhere. The current tax policy is the biggest issue destroying KS and it needs to be repealed to bring taxes of 330,000 wage earners back on the books.

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

My opponent is a puppet for special interest that votes 98% of the time with Brownback and failed policy. His decisions are based on the funding he receives from special interests and does not educate himself on key issues. What distinguishes me is that I will listen to those in my district by reaching out to cities and schools. He doesn't talk to the people he represents, does not respond to emails, and only shows up in the district when it is an election year. Transparency and listening is the key to good representation.