

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

Name: Donald R. Roberts District: 43rd Political Affiliation: R

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Campaign Website: www.Roberts4Kansas.gov

Campaign Video Link:

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

26 Years with the City of Gardner as the Water Treatment Plant Superintendent

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

Current Mayor of Edgerton (7 yrs), KS, Past Councilman in Edgerton (8 yrs)

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:

Gardner Edgerton Chamber of Commerce (Secretary), Southwest Johnson County EDC (Executive Board Member)

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

1. Balanced Budget
2. Transportation funding
3. School Funding and quality education.

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

The State has to collect enough money to operate efficiently and to make sure services are functional. Although I do believe in lowering taxes when possible, we must improve our state's economy. We can no longer live with the experiment that is currently destroying the future for our children and grandchildren.

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):

My long term plans would be to build back up our reserves so when there are short term dips in revenues we have something to fall back on. It is unacceptable and irresponsible to continue to sweep funds to the SGF. Revenues and expenditures have to balance going forward along with the start to paying off our ever increasing debt.

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 is important that we keep per pupil funding and increase our level of funding to have the best educational system we can. I am also opposed to funding private education because it is a choice and public education is a constitutional obligation. Funding of K-12 is funding for our future and pays back when we do provide a high level of education.

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

Higher education has become more and more unaffordable. We need to make sure that young adults can afford to go to college.

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

I oppose individual tax credits for private education.

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

I support tax policies and incentives that add to the Kansas economy through job growth, higher wages, and great community partnerships. I oppose incentives for State Line jumpers that do not add to the value of the region.

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 support maintaining dedicated funds. It is the most transparent form of taxation. I also support raising and lowering any taxes we need to make dedicated revenues the funding source for the reason we collect the taxes in the first place.

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 support legal immigration and believe it to be what our country was formed on. I oppose illegal immigration but do believe the system needs to be looked at and improvements should be made.

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

The government should allow the private market to determine what is best for them.

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 Budget is the number one issue today. We have to balance the budget and stop borrowing money at an alarming rate. We can not start really fixing the States other problems until we have a budget that will allow us to do what is best for Kansas Citizens instead of special interest.

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

My local government experience has taught me how important it is to represent the people and how it shouldn't be done. It is important to build partnerships with many people to include people I disagree with to make better decisions. I make my self available to the citizens, I get involved in my community, and I care about our future. Government can be difficult for a lot of people and a good representative will work to help everyday citizens to be informed. I will be going to Topeka to represent the people not a party or the Governor.