

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

Name: Don McGuire District: SD 8 Political Affiliation: D

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Phone: 913-206-4448 Email: don.m.mcguire@gmail.com

Campaign Website: mcguireforkansas.com

Campaign Video Link: none

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

Quintiles contract pharm sales representative

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

Overland Park Neighborhood Conservation Council

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. Fair tax structure and fiscal responsibility
2. Adequate and equitable funding for public schools
3. Work for economic growth and development

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

Kansas is not obtaining sufficient revenue to function. The tax structure since 2012/13 has become less fair as income taxes have been cut or eliminated for some, and the sales tax increase has partially replaced the income tax cuts.

I am for repealing the recent tax cuts and I am for scaling back the sales tax increase. These actions would increase revenue and also be more fair, because everyone would be participating and taxation would be more progressive

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):

I would be in favor of raising income taxes progressively, both personal and corporate, and eliminate the LLC exemption. If that is not an option, I would reluctantly look to cut spending that will do the least damage to the Kansas economy and Kansas citizens.

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):

Some districts have more resources than other districts. We need to be equitable so that every child has an opportunity for a good public education. The block grant funding formula is not transparent or flexible if a district's needs change. I want to replace block grants with a more transparent and flexible funding formula. We also need to restore funding to the level of funding before the recession.

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

A well educated workforce is an economic asset. This asset is being jeopardized by the yearly hikes in tuition and other costs that are either making college out of reach for many, or are placing enormous debt on graduates ( which is also damaging to the economy). I believe that increased state support of higher education is a tremendous economic benefit.

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

I am opposed to tax credits or vouchers for private school tuition. That would divert money that public schools need.

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

Expand Medicaid coverage and accept Federal funding which will add hundreds of millions annually to the Kansas economy. Support wind energy to a much greater degree. Fund research universities and support public private cooperation. Work in unity with the KC Metro to encourage business expansion in the area.

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 the dedicated sales tax transfer to the state highway fund. If these funds were not dedicated, it would be tempting for the legislature to use them for general funds in times of budget shortfalls.

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):

Immigration is basically a Federal matter. I would support immigration reform to assist with workforce shortages for highly skilled workers in cases where a shortage exists.

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

The role of the state government should be to ensure fairness and balance between employers and employees on issues that are not covered by federal employment oversight.

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 reduction in state revenue since 2013 has resulted in every year since a scrambling to balance the budget. The result is under funding of schools, no rainy day fund, selling off state assets, cuts to the universities and transportation, cuts to the social safety net, and deferred payments to KPERS. These policies have damaged the Kansas economy.

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

I will work for better economic policies than my opponent. My opponent has supported the agenda of the last four years. I will work to restore funding to public schools, I will work to cooperate with the entire KC area to increase economic development, and I will work to maximize economic opportunities by embracing both medicaid expansion and renewable energy.