

2016 State Senator/State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Cindy Holscher

District: HR 16

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Occupation/Work History (last five years - 25 words or fewer): *Have served as a volunteer in the community for the Harvestor's BackSnack program and the PTA. With the PTA I served as president of our local elementary school as well as a state representative.*

Other recent political/community experience (25 words or fewer): *Have made various trips to Topeka advocating for public schools. Most recently, my oldest daughter and I gave speeches from the Capital steps regarding needed legislative action to fund our schools.*

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: *Have attended various Chamber after hours and breakfast events in Olathe and Overland Park*

As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues? (10 words or fewer per issue): 1. 2. 3.

1. *Grow the economy by working to increase jobs in the state*
2. *Fund public education*
3. *Reverse the Brownback tax structure (so the lower and middle class taxpayers will not have to have an unfair tax burden due to the exemptions that have been granted to some of the wealthiest Kansans by the Brownback administration)*

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

*-Our current state taxes are unfair, unbalanced and unsustainable. The wealthiest in our state have benefitted from tax breaks and exemptions while the poorer and middle class families are paying more*

*(through loss of exemptions and higher sales taxes). The LLC tax exemption approved in 2012 has created a huge revenue hole in our state.*

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):

*- We must reverse the LLC exemption that was put into place in 2012. We cannot sustain ourselves with over 330,000 people not paying income taxes.*

Campaign Video Link:

Political Affiliation: Democrat

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):

*-We must ensure we are investing properly in our schools; this means looking at cost per pupil spending (which has decreased over the past several years). Class sizes have been growing, programs are being eliminated and we are losing teachers. We need to reverse these trends and get Kansas back on a winning path. This is important to our economy as we need to work to ensure students will be “job ready” when entering the market.*

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 must be accessible to Kansas students. With the recent hikes in tuition, that is becoming more difficult, plus we are burdening our kids with even more student debt. Again, it plays a part in ensuring our citizens are job ready and helping build our economy.*

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 such vouchers and “scholarships.” They are a violation of the very important separation of church and 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):

*-I support the current dedicated sales tax transfer as currently legislators would likely not fund adequately.*

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

*-I am not "married" to any particular policies, but rather, would look to local chambers and professionals in economic development to help develop such plans.*

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 immigration reform and recognize we need to attract people to our area to add to our workforce.*

What role should state governments have in determining workplace employment practices and benefits offered to employees?(50 words or fewer): *I believe in the need for a livable wage as it eliminates so many other issues (poverty, sluggish economy, etc.), but I recognize this likely would need to be addressed somewhat locally as we have variances in the economies (in terms of cost of living) of our communities in Kansas.*

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

*- We currently have the sixth worst job growth rate in the country. We have to ensure we are attracting people/businesses to our state; this is accomplished in part by having strong public schools and attractive communities which provide strong job opportunities.*

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

*-I am a strong supporter of public schools, having served as a volunteer in the classroom and by leading our local PTA. My opponent (who home schools her children and is the head of the education budget committee) has consistently voted the opposite of what is good for our public schools. My opponent adheres to the principles of ALEC, AFP and other outside organizations, while I feel it is an elected official's duty to serve the people of the state of Kansas and the constitution.*