

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

Name: Liz Meitl District: 19 Political Affiliation: Democ

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Campaign Website: lizforkansas.com

Campaign Video Link:

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

Currently - Technical Assistance Specialist for CEEDAR (an OSEP funded education-based initiative) and a PhD student at KU in Education; Past - high school English teacher and tutor

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

I am our precinct chairwoman for the Democrats; I am active in the Neighborhood Conservation Program in OP; in the past I was an NEA rep

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. Education - returning to our commitment to excellence for all students
2. Health - expanding KanCare and creating healthy communities and Kansans
3. Fiscal Responsibility - everybody (people and businesses) need to support the services that support all of u:

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

Our state is in a fiscal crisis because of the 2012 changes to our tax policy. We need to return to the pre-2012 levels or come up with a new, even better plan to equitably fund schools, responsibly maintain our infrastructure, and adequately and compassionately support all Kansans.

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 will inevitably see continued significant revenue shortfalls. We need to return to the pre-2012 tax levels.

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):

K-12 school funding should be adequate to support all students and teachers, and it should be equitable so that all Kansas kids receive a high-quality education, no matter where they live or what their parents do to earn a living. I believe the reason Johnson County is such an enviable place to live begins and ends with the amazing public schools within its borders. Our schools were built on forward-thinking funding and community support, and my priority is to return to that paradigm, and to find ways to make all of Kansas a place where high-quality schools are the norm.

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

The state benefits in a variety of ways from having excellent institutions of higher education, thus the state should be vigilant and generous in protecting and ensuring the prosperity of colleges and universities.

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

I do not believe individual tax credits or vouchers are a good idea or a valuable tool for creating a socially and civically responsible society.

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

I believe that companies want to set up shop in places with good roads, strong schools, well-educated employees, and socially just and reasonable tax policies, and so I will encourage job growth and business expansion by trying to enact legislation that improves the quality of life for all Kansans.

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 sales tax transfer to the state highway fund, and I believe the raiding of the highway fund that has happened in the last three years is unacceptable.

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 want to live in a state that is welcoming to all. The state's role is to provide resources and supports so that the people in the state can thrive, and immigrants have as much to offer to us as we do to them. Workforce shortages are one example of the ways in which creating forward-thinking policies regarding immigration can enrich everybody's lives.

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

The government, at all levels, has a responsibility to protect its citizens from exploitation and discrimination, and to that end has a substantial role in determining workplace employment practices.

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 most pressing challenge we have today is that we are in a fiscal crisis that will eventually cripple our state in ways that will impact everybody's quality of life, and we have to address it immediately. I endorse a return to pre-2012 tax levels.

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

My opponent, Stephanie Clayton, has been a consistently impressive legislator. She has worked to support schools and she has not supported the disastrous tax policies that have landed us in this crisis. She supports legislative transparency, and she does a great job of communicating with constituents. Her only major political flaw, in my opinion, is her membership in the Republican party and the necessary allegiances and alliances that are implicit in that membership.