

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

Name: District: Timothy James Harmon, State Representative, District 27

Address/City/State/Zip: 10900 W 164th Street, Overland Park, 66221

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Campaign Website: harmon4kansas.com

Occupation/Work History (last five years - 25 words or fewer): Harmon Construction, Inc. CEO & President since 1987. Top 25 Commercial Builder headquartered in south Johnson County.

Other recent political/community experience (25 words or fewer): CERI: Board of Directors; Boys & Girls Club (Olathe) Board; Chairman; Public Square Johnson County: Focus Group; Sigma Phi Epsilon: National Housing Board: Trustee; Olathe Bible Church: Leadership Board.

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: Chairman: Shawnee Chamber of Commerce. President: Shawnee Mission Rotary Club. Board Member: Olathe Chamber of Commerce: Economic Development Board. Chairman: Shawnee Economic Development Board: Active Member: Overland Park Economic Development Corp.

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

1. Strong education system to raise up the next generation of leaders
2. Foster a pro-business environment that creates and attracts great companies
3. Reform the state budget: Grow revenue and meet the core needs of all Kansans

What are your views on state tax policy? (100 words or fewer): I support America's founding fathers views on taxes in that less is more.

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): First I would seek to empower our state employees to improve productivity in our departments what we already have. Less red tape means processes work better and less money spent while waiting. Second would be to eliminate tax loopholes and examine itemized deductions. Third, look to other fundings sources to shift into the general budget to provide temporary support.

Political Affiliation: Republican

Campaign Video Link: n/a

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): The students.

The priority is the students. How do we train the next generation of well-rounded leaders in a world heavily influenced by technology and globalization? This is the focus. The funding should support this vision.

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 is an honor and a privilege and should be available regardless of monetary background. The millennial generation will be the best educated generation ever in terms of secondary education and this is a great thing. However, higher education is not a right and should not be completely free.

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

District 27 includes three outstanding Blue Valley High Schools and associated Middle Schools and elementary schools. Because of the great education system in the BV School District, vouchers and tax credits for the purpose of private school tuition is not needed or necessary.

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

Nationally-renowned for job growth, Dallas has excelled recently at bringing major company headquarters to Dallas, including Toyota, State Farm and more. The Legends represents an example of Kansas doing this and I will try to emulate this growth both organically and inorganically.

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):

Kansas spends the highest percentage of its budget on transportation by a substantial amount when compared to similar states such as Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa. And it shows in the high quality of our roads. Having the sales tax transfer ensures the continuity of our transportation projects, however the percentage of sales tax transfer may need reexamining.

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 am in favor of free markets and bringing the best talent to Kansas. Merging the best talent with the exceptional Kansas school systems will foster a strong business environment for growth. This being said, the people of Kansas are very important to me and I want to ensure that this growth benefits them.

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

Less than its current role as a general rule. Free markets drive our country and state economies. I am not for President Obama constantly telling people what they can and cannot do. Preventing people from thinking for themselves interferes with their ability to innovate, preventing productivity gains and keeping

our national GDP growth stuck at 2%.

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 state general budget is a constant source of instability and friction. The state simply makes too many promises with too few resources. We must prioritize, reduce waste and focus on delivery of efficient and effective core services. These are challenging times for our state, but I intend to utilize innovative tools and sound business practices. During the past 29 years as a business owner, I have utilized innovative processes, practices and problem solving skills that have resulted in new job creation and strong balances sheets for two successful Johnson County based companies.

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

Past performance is a good indicator of future performance. I have experienced success in raising a family, building two successful businesses and demonstrating servant-type leadership in our community. Family: Married for 31 years to Janet, raised five children, all graduates of Blue Valley High Schools. As a owner of two successful businesses, Harmon Construction, Inc (29+ years) and Harmon Real Estate Holdings (10+ years), I have to led and mentored many employees while winning awards like: Top 10 Small Businesses in KC, Best Places To Work in KC and one of the Fastest Growing businesses in KC area (#25). Servant Leader: Select community boards: Boys & Girls Clubs; Shawnee Mission Rotary Club, Shawnee Chamber, Olathe EDC, Millcreek Tech Center and various others.