

Johnson County Public Policy Council

2016 State Senator/State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Jason Conley

District: 6

Political Affiliation: Libertarian

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

I've worked in Healthcare as a Systems Administrator for over 5 years and am a founder of an awesome startup which I just left my full time position to pursue!

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

I'm involved in state and 3rd district politics, but fairly new.

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:

N/A

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

Education and its funding, abolishment of drug laws, elimination of property taxes (after spending cuts)

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

I like the downward direction our taxes are headed but do not agree with how our policies were implemented. A gradual cut will not gain enough attention in the short term, and not cutting expenses before taxes ensures a budget shortfall. We need to move to more voluntary taxes which can be done gradually as we cut expenses.

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):

If we look to the west, we have a model that can immediately help our Kansas budget: Cannabis legalization with a temporary consumption tax. I also support bills such as HB 2741 that allow for competition within schools and will help to highlight any wasteful spending in our school systems. It also has a side benefit of smaller public classroom sizes.

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)

I can appreciate the Kansas constitution providing each child with an education. The problem lies within there being no competition. Having a "Use it or lose it" spending mentality has our schools worrying about proper funding; they do not want to give up their funds. With private schools competing for the same tax dollars, it could bring some of this to light and our children would have a much better shot at a great education.

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 think there is a popular line of thinking that immigration is bad, and I disagree. Immigration increases our growth and tax base. Immigration is a good thing. Entitlements are a drawback and we should focus our effort on reducing those in need to encourage immigration.

What are your views on the state's role with respect to access and affordability of public higher education?

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

Governments should be involved in insuring workers are safe, but not involved in employment practices or benefits provided.

What is your position on individual tax credits and other voucher-like programs for private school tuition?

I think this is a fantastic idea and I'm pushing for it hard. Not only will it give smaller public school class sizes, but having more kids in private school will lead to more schools and thus innovation for a competitive edge.

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

I believe its education. I would push for an implementation of a voucher type system, and look for additional methods of funding for our schools such as cannabis legalization.

What type of economic development policies will you support to encourage job growth and business expansion?

I think any government involvement just gets in the way. Let's get government out of the way. I support any policy that cuts red tape surrounding owning or operating a business.

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

I have only heard good things about my opponent. The main differences between us is that I can actually get things done. I don't play party politics and that gives me a competitive advantage once I get to Topeka.

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 don't have strong opinions either way. It makes sense as a sales tax, as those roads provide the means for the sale. I would need to do more research and hear opinions from each side of the issue.