

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

Name: Megan England

Senate 7

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

Full time capacity as a community leader and political advisor (2010-current), including 8 years on the Roeland Park City Council

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

Roeland Park City Council 2007-2015, various city/county/metro wide boards and committees. Currently serving on Johnson County Solid Waste Management Committee

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:

Northeast Johnson County Chamber Legislative Committee Member, Leadership Northeast Graduate, Baldwin City Chamber of Commerce- Member, City of El Dorado Student Ambassador for the Butler County Community College

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

- 1. Restoring Tax Fairness for Kansas income taxpayers**
- 2. Invest in Education: Funding a new K-12 school finance formula adequately and fairly**
- 3. Respect Local Priorities: Eliminate property tax lid on local governments**

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

The Brownback income tax cuts need to be reversed, particularly the pass through “loophole” for 330,000 business taxpayers who pay little, if any, Kansas income taxes, while

wage earners continue to pay income taxes. This tax policy is not only inherently unfair but has resulted in persistent budget shortfalls and instability.

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):

It's not "if" our state faces a significant revenue shortfall in balancing its budget because we've seen revenue shortfalls month after month and year after year. These shortfalls are the direct result of Governor Brownback's failed tax experiment. We must balance the budget by adopting fair and sustainable tax policies. When Bill Graves was governor, the state tax structure was balanced between income, sales and property taxes. We should return to that kind tax parity. We should not continue to balance the budget by raiding money from KDOT or KPERS, cutting higher education or reducing necessary services for the most vulnerable Kansans.

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):

A new school finance formula must be fully funded by the Kansas Legislature. The basic problem with the previous formula is that it was consistently underfunded. A new formula needs to provide multi-year funding, differential for poverty and non-English speaking students and a hold harmless provision so that no USD loses funds during the implementation phase. It also needs to take into account the disparities in wealth as related to a USD's tax base.

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

We need to adopt fair and sustainable tax policies that provide adequate funding for higher education and stop the past practice of balancing the budget on the backs of students attending our Regents schools through tuition increases.

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 and voucher programs for private school tuition because they divert valuable financial resources needed to adequately and fairly our public schools.

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

I support restoring funds for the 2010 T-WORKS plan, which would bring about job growth that far exceeds what Governor Brownback's income tax cuts were supposed to create.

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 would support such reforms. In addition, the Legislature should not repeal the law that allows children of undocumented workers to pay in-state tuition to pursue a post-secondary education at a technical school, community college or Regents University.

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

State government has a responsibility to ensure employees are working in safe, healthy work environments with opportunities to take time off, especially when they are sick or expecting. Additionally, state government should stop employers from using unscrupulous hiring practices.

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 strongly support the current sales tax transfer to the state highway fund. I also support full implementation of the 2010 T-WORKS plan, which was estimated to create 175,000 jobs over the ten years of its existence. In the past six years, Governor Brownback and his allies have raided \$2.7 billion from the highway fund to balance the budget due to shortfalls caused by his failed tax experiment. We must restore his funding.

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 the most pressing issue is establishing a fair, sustainable tax policy that provides revenue to fully fund K-12 schools, to give pay increases for state employees who have not received an increase in five years, and to reverse cuts to critical services while reducing the burden on hardworking Kansans, especially those with low- and fixed-incomes.

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

Unlike my opponent, Barbara Bollier, I will never support unconstitutional funding of K-12 schools as she did when she voted for 2016 House Bill 2655. Additionally, I will never support budgets that rely on fund transfers, reductions of KPERS contributions, or cuts to early childhood education to maintain Governor Brownback's failed experiment. Finally, I will not support any legislation that seeks to underfund the judiciary or undercut their responsibilities as an independent branch of government.