

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

Name: Patty Markley District: Hse 8 Political Affiliation: R

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Campaign Website: <http://pattymarkley.com>

Campaign Video Link:

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

For the last several years, I have been a stay-at-home mom to our two daughters, Jane and Ella.

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

Staff of Senator Jack Danforth in KC and DC, Councilmember: Prairie Village City Council, PTO President, Oak Hill Elementary

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. Economic and revenue reform
2. Support for equitable and adequate public school funding
3. Local control

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

Ideally, state tax policy would result in the revenues necessary for a limited, efficient state government to provide essential services and maintain an appropriate reserve. Tax policy should aim for sustainable, practical, budget-balancing outcomes. The March-To-Zero state tax experiment of the governor, my opponent and many other extremist members of the legislature has failed and left the state finances in disarray. I will work for common sense, workable tax policies that minimize the burden on taxpayers without cannibalizing the government services essential to our communities and families.

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):

Eliminating real inefficiencies and waste is the first component of any solution. Given the budget reductions that have already occurred throughout state government and state programs, a significant revenue shortfall may also require real revenue reform, which should assess all or part of the 2012 income tax cuts and closing the LLC loophole.

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):

Public education is a worthy investment for state government. K-12 school funding throughout the state must satisfy constitutional requirements. If local communities wish to fund their schools above the constitutionally mandated level, they should be able to do so. The new formula must be rigorous in its student achievement standards, keep control of curriculum in the hands of the State Board of Education and local school boards, and funded at a constitutionally adequate and equitable level.

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

We must work to keep our state funded colleges and universities a viable, affordable option for Kansas students. Universities have had no choice but to raise tuition to make up for funding cuts, one of many unfortunate consequences of the failed outcome of our current tax policy.

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

The Kansas State Constitution specifically prohibits state educational funding for religious schools. The tax credit scholarship program is no more than an inventive work around that diverts tax money to private schools, many of which are religious. I support school choice. I do not support the siphoning of public dollars to pay for that choice.

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

Research shows that supporting the growth of new businesses is the best way to create jobs and ensure a brighter economic future in Kansas. I support the use of common-sense incentives (like the Angel Investment Tax Credit) that leverage private resources to spur the creation and growth of Kansas businesses.

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 maintaining a dedicated sales tax transfer to the state highway fund. The last few years have been marked by our elected officials siphoning upwards of \$2 billion from KDOT to fix funding deficits in the general fund. With their track record, I do not trust the current legislature to adequately fund the state highway fund on its own. Furthermore, while dedicating funds to the state highway fund has not prevented the current legislature's actions, it has increased the visibility and transparency of those acts and the underlying problem.

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):

Immigration is the first responsibility of the federal government. The state's role should be to assist the federal government in enforcing immigration laws. Where immigrants are needed to fill workforce shortages, states and private employers should work through existing federal procedures to address that need.

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

Federal law governs many aspects of workplace employment practices and benefits. State government has the power to augment those regulations, but in my view state government should be hesitant to impose additional regulatory burdens on our businesses.

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 issue is the restoration of fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget as a Kansas value. Our current tax policy is broken, punishes hard working Kansans and rewards a select few, leaving the state insolvent and resulting in borrowing and deficit spending unlike any time in our history. We must change course and be truly fiscally responsible. I will take a balanced approach to ensure the basic services Kansans support, and from which we all benefit.

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

My opponent has voted in lock step with the Governor on virtually every issue. He supports extremist ideology over the needs of his constituents and the reality of our current fiscal crisis. He is virtually invisible in the community. I will work to bring real revenue reform to the state. I support adequate and equitable funding of our public schools. I will elevate the importance of constituent services and I will listen to and respond to the will of the governed.