

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

Name: Chris Morrow **District: Senate District 9**

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Campaign Website: www.morrowforkssenate.com

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

I've been an employment industry professional since 1986. Most recently as proprietor at New Century Employment Services and as a self employed contract recruiter.

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

City of Gardner Kansas: Mayor from April 2013- Present. Previously on City Council from 2011-2013

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:

- Current:
 - Southwest Johnson County Economic Development Corporation:
 - Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Since 2013
 - Mid-America Regional Council: Board of Directors. (alternate) Since 2014
 - Kansas Mayors Association: Regional Chairperson. Since 2015
 - Kansas Municipal Utilities: Board of Directors. Since 2016
- Former memberships while owner of New Century Employment Services:
 - Gardner-Edgerton Chamber of Commerce - Ambassador
 - Olathe Chamber of Commerce
 - De Soto Chamber of Commerce
 - Spring hill Chamber of Commerce
 - Paola Chamber of Commerce

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

1. Fix our State's broken budget and initiate responsible revenue reform
2. Ensure Kansas public education excellence is maintained, Pre-K through Post-graduate
3. Maintain, repair and expand, our highways, bridges and interchanges

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

The 2012 tax policy, labeled as a "real live experiment" by the governor has been a failure. Subsequent tax policy initiatives involving increases in sales tax and elimination of key deductions have proven ineffective in raising suitable revenue and hit the middle class and economically disadvantaged hardest.

I favor repealing the 2012 tax policy and instituting responsible revenue reform to distribute the tax

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burden fairly between income, property, and sales taxes. I'm also against any efforts by the state government to shift tax burden to local governmental units. I'm also against a sales tax on food and professional services.

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):

I am in favor of beginning work immediately to realign our tax policy, starting with the repeal of the 2012 tax experiment which has been the wellspring of our state's budget issues. Then collaborate with other leaders to achieve a responsible revenue reform initiative to distribute the tax burden fairly between: income, property, and sales taxes. Increased state revenue from a fair and equitable tax policy will go a long way toward fixing our broken budget. Also expand Medicaid which would provide seven figure relief to the state general fund.

Political Affiliation: Democratic Party

Campaign Video Link: Coming soon

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 Kansas Constitution Article 6 Section 6(b) states: "The legislature shall make suitable provision for finance of the educational interests of the state." Our State Supreme Court has ruled that suitable funding be adequate and equitable for all public schools. My view is that the legislature stop trying to circumvent the state's constitution and highest court. Pursue school funding in a straightforward manner, provide suitably for school excellence, and funding that is constitutionally compliant.

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

Access to quality colleges and universities is a quality of life issue for Kansans, and one that impacts economic growth in our state. Our business attraction and retention efforts will be greatly improved by strengthening our higher education system. I oppose further higher education cuts that lead to tuition increases.

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

I view these efforts as a means to privatize schools and take bargaining rights away from teachers and other school personnel. They are designed to serve private interests. This will happen at the expense of public school students, teachers, staff, and administrators who deserve the best we can provide them.

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

I support enhancing economic development and workforce development programs that have been proven to be successful.

Since the top two priorities of business site selection professionals are availability of skilled labor and highway access, new economic development programs that focus on those two areas must be developed.

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):

KDOT and T-Works funding should be protected and those funds allocated for their intended uses. Period. Sweeps of dedicated transportation funding should cease and desist. Highway access is the number two economic development factor for business looking to expand or relocate. If we desire that our economy grow, we must take care of our economic lifelines, our highways, bridges, interchanges, et al.

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 policy and its enforcement is, quite rightly, an issue for the federal government. I do support employment based worker programs that allow employers to adequately fill vacant positions, but only due to shortages of American workers and not at their expense.

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

This is also primarily a federal government issue. Provisions should be allowed, however, for state and local government when businesses utilize economic development incentives to expand, relocate, or stay in Kansas. Policies such as these should benefit all initiative stakeholders to include the workforce and our citizens.

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

Lack of confidence in Kansas state government. This lack of confidence is due to strict ideological adherence to our current failed tax and budget policies. These policies are the root of the problems we're experiencing in Kansas. Our tax and budget policy must be fixed to return certainty and predictability to our capitol. When Kansas is capable of creating and sustaining confidence, we will then be capable of

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fixing our state and acheiving prosperity.

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

In my role as mayor of Gardner Kansas, I have demonstrated the ability to accomplish many things, but only through my ability to build consensus. Building consensus is only acheived through diplomatically communicating and collaborating with citizens, advisory committees, businesses, intergovernmental partners, and other members of the governing body.

My opponent has no accomplishment in consensus building. The incumbent prefers instead to work only with Governor Brownback and the ultra-conservative wing of her majority party.