

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas Governor Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Ken Selzer

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Political Party Affiliation: Republican

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Campaign Website:

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Occupation/Work History (last 5 years – 25 words or less):

Kansas Insurance Commissioner 2015-Present Executive Managing Director, Aon Corporation
1993-2014

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:

President of the Rotary Club of Leawood, Chairman of the Kansas Society of CPAs Educational Foundation, and President of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Heart of America Chapter. Leadership Kansas Alumnus

Other recent political/community experience? (25 words or less)

Current Kansas Insurance Commissioner President of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Heart of America Chapter.

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

Make Kansas Grow Lean in on Costs Leverage tax dollars with successful public/private partnerships.

What are your views on state tax policy, being as specific as you can? (100 words or less)

We will not allow property tax rate increases from the state. We will lean in on costs to avoid the pressure to do so. The Kansas tax environment is now unfavorable relative to our neighboring states. We will always focus in on controlling costs to avoid further tax increases.

With record low unemployment rates, what would you do to grow and develop the state's workforce? (75 words or less)

We will encourage public/private partnership, establish policies to slow out-migration of workers from Kansas and support fully screened legal immigration. We will make sure Kansas companies have the tools to expand their business.

What are your views on funding K-12 education? (75 words or less)

We will demand more accountability throughout the educational system including early childhood education, K-12, technical schools/community colleges/Regents universities and worker retraining programs. We will work hard to better align the output of graduates from these important education segments with the needs of the next level and/or the local business communities they serve.

What would your priorities be in any new statewide transportation plan? (50 words or less)

We will achieve greater efficiency and productivity in the operations of KDOT, dedicating savings in operations to new infrastructure projects. We will also work to restore and statutorily protect a portion of the funds being swept from highway funds.

Do you support maintaining the current dedicated sales tax transfer to the State Highway Fund for the purpose of funding transportation infrastructure, or should transportation be subject to the appropriations process where legislators determine funding levels entirely? (50 words or less)

See above, #9

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

Businesses want a stable tax policy and a favorable and predictable regulatory environment. They want to focus on building their business, not meeting obscure and poorly defined regulatory requirements. We will always work towards creating an environment where business can grow and thrive in Kansas.

What are your views on the state's role regarding immigration and do you support employment-based immigration reforms to assist with workforce shortages in specified industries? (50 words or less)

We support fully screened legal immigration. We will support longer, sponsored ag visas, desperately needed by the Kansas ag community.

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

We need more emphasis on public/private partnerships, especially in the educational areas. We will support the expansion and better alignment with the needs of the local business community by technical schools and community colleges.

What are your views on healthcare policy and Medicaid expansion? (50 words or less)

We strongly prefer to not expand Medicaid due to its cost, as well as the competition that a new governmental entitlement program would provide to the private sector. We need to far better manage the current KanCare program before expansion is considered.

What do you believe is the most pressing issue or challenge facing Kansas today and how would you address it? (50 words or less)

Kansas was the 4th worst performing economy in the United States in 2017, and the very worst in our region. We will never be able to invest in appropriate infrastructure, education, corrections and other important programs if our overall state doesn't grow.

What project have you been most proud to work on? (50 words or less)

The public/private partnership initiated by the Kansas Insurance Department creating the highly successful 12 Hour Insurance Certificate working with 6 Regent's Universities and private companies. We started with 55 students in 2015 and now have 482 enrolled for the Fall of 2018.

What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s)? (50 words or less)

I am a CPA with a successful business and government track record. In the last four years, we have reduced costs and sharply improved productivity and customer service in the Kansas Insurance Department. Our businesslike approach of managing government is needed in Kansas.