

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas Governor Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Laura Kelly

Phone: 785-422-6283

Political Party Affiliation: Democrat

Email: laura@laurakellyforkansas.com

Street Address/City/State/Zip:

Campaign Website: laurakellyforkansas.com

5330 SW 17th St

Campaign Video Link: N/A

Topeka, KS 66604

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

State Senator District 18 (2005-present), Executive Director of the Kansas Recreation and Park Association (1986-2004)

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:

Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, North Topeka Business Alliance

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

Assistant Senate Minority Leader, Ranking Minority Member of Senate Ways and Means, Kansas Leadership Center Board of Directors, Kansas Children's Cabinet, and other boards

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

Investing in public education, expanding Medicaid, and making Kansas an innovative business destination.

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

The failed Brownback-Colyer tax experiment severely damaged our state, decimated our schools and hurt our communities. It resulted in our tax system being completely out of balance. Sales and property tax have been pushed far too high for the working men and women of Kansas. I helped lead the bipartisan effort to reverse the tax experiment so we could once again invest in our schools, roads and other important priorities. I will focus on providing property and sales tax relief. This will benefit businesses and families alike.

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

I would invest in higher education, including technical and trade schools, and job training programs so that all graduates in Kansas have the skills needed to enter the workforce. I will focus on promoting partnerships to ensure businesses can find the trained workers they need in their industry and schools (high schools and technical schools) are providing the skills training needed by our business community.

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

For the last eight years, I've fought Sam Brownback's efforts to cut our schools. I supported legislation this year to fix the funding formula and invest more than \$530 million for our schools. As

governor, I will make our K-12 schools a priority again. I will work with educators, experts, parents, and the business community to develop a plan to make sure our schools are the best in the nation.

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

My top priority for a transportation plan will be to support and enhance the economic climate in Kansas. That means making sure roads in urban areas are the best they can be to support area businesses, expanding 4-lane highways in rural areas, and creating good paying jobs.

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)

More than \$2 billion have been swept from the State Highway Fund in order to fill budget holes caused by the Brownback tax plan. We must fix this. It is critical that the dedicated sales tax once again be put back into the fund and used to improve our roads.

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

We need to invest in public schools, higher education and job training programs, fund the State Highway Fund to improve roads and create jobs, create innovative programs similar to the Kansas Bioscience Authority to expand new industries, and improve the public perception of Kansas by preventing discrimination of any kind.

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)

Immigrants play an important role in Kansas agriculture, which is a top economic driver in our state. We need to find ways to legally support them, such as employment-based immigration reform.

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

Due to state funding cuts, tuition has gone up at an alarming rate. This year, I led the fight to restore 64% of funding to higher education. I will continue to work with the Board of Regents to address the rise in tuition and provide relief for Kansas families.

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

All Kansans, no matter where they live, deserve access to quality, affordable health care. Expanding Medicaid will provide health coverage to more Kansas families and create thousands of jobs in the process. As governor, I will advocate for and sign legislation to expand Medicaid in my first year.

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

Education is the most pressing issue right now. To fix our education system, we must invest in early childhood programs, fund K-12 schools and support technical and higher education.

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

Last year, I led the bipartisan effort to reverse the disastrous Brownback-Colyer tax experiment and put Kansas on the road to recovery. This bipartisan vote has made it possible for Kansas to reinvest in K-12 schools, early childhood education, higher education, and roads.

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

I'm the only candidate in this race who spent the last eight years fighting the devastating policies of Brownback-Colyer Administration. Their policies decimated our schools, hurt our hospitals and clinics and stalled our economy. I am uniquely qualified to bring people together and lead the Kansas recovery.