

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Kansas Governor Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Tyler Ruzich

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**Political Party Affiliation:** Republican

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2223 W. 73rd Terr.

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

Prairie Village, Kansas 66208

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

Cashier

**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:**

I have no affiliation with any chamber of commerce or business organization besides my current employer, HyVee.

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

2 year member of the Prairie Village Teen Council, Co-Founder of the Teen council summit, Member of the Kansas Youth and Government Executive Office

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

Increasing funding for Kansas public schools, ensure that Kansas families and small businesses face no tax increases, and advocate for bipartisanship and compromise in Topeka

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

Kansas families already face a high tax burden from federal income taxation and county property taxation. Thus, it's time that we give Kansas families and small businesses a break at the state level. As Governor, I promise to not increase taxes on families, individuals, and small businesses, but rather, I will have the big corporations pay just a little more so that they can contribute to the common good of Kansas. Then we can finally give families and small businesses the tax break they deserve.

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

Small business and education are the bedrocks of this state's economy. Thus, when we keep taxes low for small businesses, we provide a pathway for them to grow and succeed in an increasingly competitive market. Additionally if we put more money into our children's education then our schools will finally be able to afford the resources they need to help students succeed and remain competitive in the workplace.

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

As a public school student, education is personal to me. That's why I believe that if we don't put more money into our schools, then our children will struggle to find a job, get accepted into their

dream school, or even struggle to stay in school. If we want to do well and be prepared for whatever the future may hold, we must invest more into public education.

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

My main priority is to make sure that transportation and infrastructure funding is protected. Many times, the dollars that are supposed to go into transportation or infrastructure end up getting in the state general fund and not transportation and infrastructure. Funding must be protected and direct.

**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)

The appropriations is the most proper way to determine funding, however, that money must be used responsibly and should not be subject to reallocation or any general fund.

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

Once again, it's about giving small businesses the tax break they deserve. If small businesses don't have to worry about tax hikes from the state, they can focus their efforts on expansion and growth which creates jobs. Investing money in infrastructure is another way to create jobs and improve commerce.

**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 are nation of law and order. If you are undocumented and you have committed a violent crime you should be deported. However, if you work, pay taxes, get an education, or contribute to the common good of Kansas, you will be protected and welcomed with open arms.

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

While the specifics will have to be worked out and coordinated with state colleges and universities, I believe that all students who complete a four year degree should not have to leave school with more than \$35,000 of debt on their shoulders.

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

Medicaid should be expanded especially in the area of telemedicine so that it is easier for the elderly and/or rural Kansans to have access to Medicaid services. We also need to ensure that Medicaid funds are protected and are not put into any form of a general fund.

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

We have to meet in the middle, polarization and partisanship continue to tear our state apart. Kansas needs moderate in the governor's office that will put people before party.

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

I have been most proud to work on creating the Teen Council Summit. The Summit brought so many youth leaders from multiple municipalities together to help discuss ways to improve their community. It helped me and my peers realize how powerful our voices are and how we can make change.

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

It's my perspective, I'm the only public school student in this race and I provide ideas that can best help us prepare for tomorrow. I might be young but I am in it to win it.