

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas Secretary of State Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Keith Esau

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Political Party Affiliation: Republican

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Campaign Video Link:

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

I am a software designer and developer with over 35 years of experience. I am self-employed as a Software Consultant.

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:

N/A

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

State Representative, District 14, 6 years Chair of the House Elections Committee Joint Committee on Information Technology, 6 years Government Technology and Security Committee

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

Improve security/functionality of the office's computer systems. Provide data more efficiently for business services and other state/county agencies. Continue deterrence of voter fraud through effective prosecution of voter crimes.

What do you believe is the biggest challenge currently facing the Secretary of State's Office? (75 words or less)

The biggest challenge to the office is improving the security and efficiency of the computer systems while not increasing the overall budget. The systems in the office are still using decades old technology that need to be upgraded, improvements should be considered to the online access for business users, and a review of security should be done at every place that data is exchanged both inside and outside the office.

Why are you seeking this public office? (50 words or less)

I want to ensure and improve the security of our elections and business records. I want to upgrade and enhance our online access for business filings and reporting I want to work with our county clerks and election commissioners in improving and standardizing our tabulation and reporting systems.

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

This year, I helped complete a two-year effort to require random auditing of election results to confirm that machine counts match exactly with the paper trail count. It also requires that any new

machines purchased provide a voter verifiable, paper ballot. It's a low-tech, high-security way of certifying our elections.

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

I am the only candidate that has the experience as a lawmaker to make changes to protect Kansas's data, the IT knowledge to recognize where cyber-threats might come from and help make businesses access online better, and an understanding of the grassroots to keep me responsive to Kansas's citizens.