

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Aaron Young

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Political Affiliation: Republican

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Campaign Video Link: N/A

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

Graduated UMKC law school in 2015, have operated a private consulting firm since then.

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):

I served on the Falcon Ridge HOA board in 2016

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

Taxes and government spending Education (finance and curriculum) Improving access to healthcare

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

Taxes are driven by spending, so the only way to meaningful tax reform is through a reduction in the size and cost of government. Additionally, a fair and stable tax structure is one that is broad-based and equitable to both individuals and businesses alike. I support lowering or eliminating sales tax on necessities such as groceries in concert with a value-based tax on non-necessities. I also support a reduced state business tax that with more broad inclusion. I support the fair valuation of commercial properties for assessment purposes, and I support a cap on year-over-year increases in personal property assessment.

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

We need to end the myth that the only path to a stable, successful career is via a 4-year degree.

There are a wealth of skilled trade jobs available, and that number will only increase. Most of these jobs come with excellent training, benefits, and compensation, and don't require the debilitating debt that a bachelors degree does. And employers often guarantee job placement when training is completed.

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

The courts have no place in the adequacy argument. We've spent too much time and money litigating something that is solely the providence of the legislature. And before we ask for more

money, we need to be certain that the money is going to the right places. Only half of our education budget is spent in the classroom, and this needs to change.

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

Part of the appeal of our area is as a distribution point for retail products and raw materials. Maintenance and improvement of the highways is a crucial element in maintaining this appeal and establishing relationships with new commercial partners.

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)

I support maintaining the dedicated transfer in order to retain our appeal as a distribution hub for retail products and raw materials.

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

I support the fair valuation of commercial properties for assessment purposes in order to make property tax stable and somewhat predictable.

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)

I support employment-based immigration, but only as a supplement to efforts to train and employ Kansas residents in areas with workforce shortages. The state's role in immigration is to insure that immigrants can be self-supporting and are willing to assimilate as necessary into local communities.

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

I believe that we are too aggressive in pushing the agenda that a bachelors degree is necessary for success. We should shift some of our focus in both secondary and higher education to educating young students about the value and opportunities in the skilled trades.

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

Healthcare access can be improved by opening insurance markets to allow purchase across state lines, and by removing/avoiding regulations that create a barrier between doctors and patients. I do not support expansion of Medicare due to significant uncompensated costs and a probable overall decrease in availability and quality of care.

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

The government's role should be to insure that employment practices and benefits are administered in a non-discriminatory way, but much like the court's role in education funding, the government's

role should not include dictating quantitative elements of benefits or specific means and methods of employers beyond the aforementioned discrimination prevention.

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

The most pressing issue Kansas faces is a lack of stability. Fiscal instability and continuous litigation have caused us to govern in a reactionary way. I would push for policies with an objective of long-term stability like a broad-based tax structure, predictable property taxes, and classroom-focused educational funding systems.

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

I am proud of the many local infrastructure projects I designed, but I am most proud of my work on the Independence Events Center because of the impacts, both economic and social, that the facility has had on that community.

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

I am educated in the law and have a more intimate understanding of constitutional issues and the intended role of government. I have kids in the public schools and a spouse that works in health care, so I have a vested interest in a vast majority of these issues. And I am a conservative Republican that is also a pragmatist. I won't let perfect be the enemy of good.