

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Angela Schweller

Phone: 913-710-1146

Political Affiliation: Democrat

Email: angela4ks@gmail.com

District: 14

Campaign Website: Angela4KS.com

Address/City/State/Zip:

Campaign Video Link: N/A

19769 W. 107th Street
Olathe, KS 66061

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

I've been a residential Realtor for the last 12 years, working out of the Keller Williams Key Partners, LLC office.

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'm currently a member of the Olathe Chamber of Commerce.

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

I formed the community action group March Forward KC. I have also been a room parent, mentor, classroom volunteer, and reader in several public schools.

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

Proper funding for our K-12 schools, Investment in our infrastructure, Responsible budgets. These will help Kansas continue to be a great place to live.

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

Over the past several years, our state tax policy has become out of balance. When considering tax policy, I like to think about the "Three Legged Stool" model of Income, Sales and Property Tax. The recent decreases of income tax have forced both the state and local governments to raise sales and property taxes to cover their basic needs. This has lead to a regressive tax policy, and one of the highest food sales taxes in the country. As a state we need to bring our three legs back into balance.

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

As a residential Realtor, it's my job to keep up with housing trends, and studies show that in recent years the state has been losing skilled and educated workers to other states, at an unprecedented rate. In order to spur growth and develop the state's workforce, we should begin by addressing a few key issues that have contributed to its decline: inadequate funding for public schools, infrastructure and public safety, and LGBTQ+ discrimination

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

The Kansas Constitution instructs the legislature to properly fund our public schools. The Kansas Supreme Court has ruled this standard is not being met. A 2018 study found our schools to be 96%

efficient, among the best in the nation. It also stated increased funding will lead to increased results. It's time the legislature does their job, stops wasting the public's tax dollars in litigation, and funds our K-12 schools adequately.

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

Our current spending levels in transportation are not adequate for basic maintenance needs, which will cost us more in the future in the form of replacement. We need to prioritize replenishing funds that have been shifted out of the department of transportation, so we can spur economic opportunities.

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)

Kansas has gotten into trouble with underfunding our transportation infrastructure because money is being swept into the general fund to use on other needs of the state instead. I do support the current dedicated sales tax transfer, and sticking to it. Transportation should be kept separated from the appropriations process.

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

We should reverse policies that have created a "brain drain," and create ones that will spur economic growth such as being innovative in our technology, protecting net neutrality, and investing in digital infrastructure. This will retain workers and encourage entrepreneurship.

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)

Because immigration policy is the responsibility of the federal government, state-level policies can only decide how much of their limited resources are utilized to enforce federal law. Employment-based immigration reform is needed to address workforce shortages in the Kansas economy, in industries like agriculture and engineering.

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

Higher education funding has dropped dramatically, while costs continue to rise. It is making it impossible for families to keep up. Because a well-educated workforce has always attracted businesses to Johnson County, we must reinvest in higher education. As well, spending power increases when people have degrees, creating economic growth.

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

Not accepting our federal tax dollars back to be reinvested through Medicaid Expansion has been irresponsible. Not only would it allow over 150,000 Kansans access to healthcare, it would provide thousands of jobs, decrease the infant mortality rate by more than 50% and help rural hospitals stay open.

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

State government should work to ensure that all employers are following the law, and should enforce rules regarding employment, benefits and wages. Employers should strive to offer wages and benefits that enable their workers to contribute to our local economies and in turn create jobs.

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

I believe the most pressing issue facing Kansas is the undue influence of an ultraconservative faction that is not representative of the majority. Kansans are reasonable people, who enjoy the upkeep, safety, and values of their communities. They want to trust their representatives and I plan to offer them honesty.

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

In 2017 I started a group after the Women's March KC, called March Forward KC. The group's mission is to educate each other on issues in our local and federal government, as well as promote action. Over the past year and a half, our personal growth has been inspiring.

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

One of the reasons I'm running is to help make our legislature more representative of the people in our district, including working moms. My family is from Johnson County and we're raising our kids here. As a Realtor, I understand the importance of attracting good jobs and what makes communities great: good infrastructure, great schools and responsible budgets. I also know how to work with all kinds of people to get the job done.