

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Cindy Holscher

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Political Affiliation: Democrat

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

Worked over a decade in the fields of budgeting, marketing and management for a subsidiary of Sprint.

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:

Have been affiliated with various chambers, but not in a leadership position.

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

Volunteer for Harvester's BackSnack program, as well as for church & local library. Classroom volunteer; led local PTA & served on state level.

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

1). Properly funding our schools 2). Ensuring access to healthcare 3). Allowing for local control on issues

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

I oppose tax structures similar to and including the Brownback experiment which predominately gave breaks to wealthier individuals. We need a structure which does not disproportionately rely on the lower and middle class earners. For that reason, we need to work to reduce or eliminate the sales tax on food.

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

Expanding medicaid would help in rural areas by preventing the loss of hospitals which provide care as well as good paying jobs. There are also other areas we need to explore for revenue and job growth such as wind power; we are the second largest produced of wind, yet we do not fully harness it. There could be a wealth fo new jobs in this field along.

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

This is the main job of the legislature. Ensuring all children in Kansas have access to a strong education is a priority as it determines their future potential as well as provides the state with a solid,

knowledgeable work force. Public education is a driver for our economy and the element that entices people to move to our state.

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

First priority would be a restoration of funds. Under the Brownback administration, revenue was swept from transportation. We need to attain a more stable revenue base to ensure we are funding this area so we can maintain our infrastructure.

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 the dedicated sales tax transfer to the State Highway Fund, hoping the legislature and future Governor will work to ensure a more stable revenue base preventing the sweeping of funds.

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

-I believe we have great potential with the wind power industry; we are second in production, yet rank in the 20s/30s in regard to harnessing it -Kansas citizens & local communities have great ideas on job growth; I think it is important we listen to them

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 have become somewhat dependent on immigrants for certain jobs, therefore it is important that we adopt policies that allow employs to address workforce shortages.

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 is becoming out of reach for many of our high school graduates. The state needs to work to dedicate more funding to this area. We also must not overlook vo-tech careers which pay well and for which there is a scarcity of applicants in some areas.

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

I support and have advocated for Medicaid expansion. We have approx. 150,000 Kansans (mainly the working poor) who do not have access to healthcare. We as taxpayers end up paying higher costs in the long run as this forces the uninsured to use more expensive emergency room services.

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

It should at least be the government's job to ensure our workers are not being exploited. There is no problem with a business or individual making as much money as they can, but not by doing it through poverty level wages to employees.

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 facing Kansas is ensuring stability in our revenue. The most ruinous parts of the Brownback experiment were eliminated in the 2017 session, however, in 2018, some of the remaining Brownback allies wanted to implement another reckless tax cut for the wealthy, which fortunately, did not pass.

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

I am a co-founder of the Women's Caucus which has worked in a bipartisan fashion to craft legislation. This group played an important role in the tax reform package of 2017, both in the elements contained and ensuring we had enough votes to override the Governor's veto of the plan.

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

I represent the people, not special interest groups. While my opponent will likely have the backing of AFP, the Koch brothers and other far right big money groups, I work for the people. As a moderate, I work in a bipartisan fashion for reasonable solutions that are not tied to ideology, but rather what benefits Kansans and our state.