

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Cindy Neighbor

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Political Affiliation: Democrat

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District: 18

Campaign Website:

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Campaign Video Link: N/A

Shawnee, Kansas 66203

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

Retired last two years. Prior to that, I worked in the field of dentistry.

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:

Since I currently serve in the legislature, I am part of the Chamber in Shawnee. I am a past president of the Kansas Association of School Boards and I have served on the education committee for Wonderscope.

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

SMSD Advisory Bd. - 13 years; SMSD Board of Education-21 years; State Legislator for 18th District; Committeewoman for precinct.

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

Education (sustainable school finance law) Economic Development (Rebuilding the Dept of Commerce) Infrastructure (Roads and bridges and safety in our communities. This includes mental health)

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

Now that we have done away with the Brownback tax experiment, our revenues have improved. We must continue to work to put the 3-legged stool back in place so we can start replacing lost monies to our agencies. The federal case for taxing on-line purchases has just been decided, and that may be another source of revenue. I would like to work to reduce sales tax on food, as our tax at this time is the highest.

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

We need to educate our students, not only for college prep, but we need to look at technical trades. We also need to work on re-training programs for those in the workforce as technology and automation remove jobs.

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

Education funding needs to be a top priority. Over the years, promises were made to fund our educational system, but cuts were made. Now we are trying to catch up, and KPER's is part of that

equation. An educated society is the economic engine for our state and a responsibility of the State of Kansas that needs to be taken seriously.

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

We must stop borrowing from the transportation program, as our roads and bridges will only deteriorate. A task force will be appointed to look out for 10 years and develop a plan for the state. This is a top priority.

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 dedicated funds should go to the State Highway Fund and not used to prop up the budget. The appropriation process is only taking money away because of past bad tax policy.

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

Our Commerce Department needs sound leadership that places business expansion and job growth as a top priority. Star Bonds and other incentives need to be available and reports provided to show how the incentives are being used.

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)

Immigration is a Federal issue, but states should have the right to address the concern when it controls the ability of certain businesses to do their jobs. This is very important to the agricultural industry.

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

This, again, is part of our economic engine in the state. Higher education, whether it is in the field of career tech or a four year institution, provides a quality workforce. Higher Ed funding needs to be restored so students are not in debt for years.

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

Medicaid expansion needs to happen, We have hospitals on the verge of shutting down. We have given over \$1.4 billion of our tax dollars to other states that have expanded. Many of our citizens have been cut and do not receive the needed medical care.

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

I believe the state should only look at what the Federal law requires and leave the rest to the business owner. There is not a "one size fits all".

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 must continue to work to get Kansas back on track financially. We have borrowed from every source over the last seven to eight years, and our agencies and infrastructure have paid the price. This will take all of us working together for many years to come.

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

When I served in early 2000, we passed a bill dealing with smoking in public buildings and restaurants. Not only did it "clear the air", but it addressed the terrible disease of cancer.

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

Experience. The next session will be my 5th. I have the history of how the process works. I understand the steps it takes to build consensus in order to pass good legislation. I have no personal agenda other than to do what is good legislation for my constituents and the citizens of Kansas.