

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Colleen Webster

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**Political Affiliation:** Republican

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**District:** 30

**Campaign Website:** www.colleenwebster.org

**Address/City/State/Zip:**

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

15435 West 90th St  
Lenexa, KS 66219

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

In 2014, I retired from public school teaching after 31 years. I have been volunteering, working retail and teaching at two private schools.

**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:**

No

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

Lenexa Police Academy Nelson Art Gallery School Volunteer Kauffman School for Entrepreneurs

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

Funding our public schools. Medicaid Expansion/Senior Issues. Johnson County Projects/Transportation

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

Reduce the food tax. Increase tax on tobacco products, alcohol, food with no nutritional value. Get sport gaming asap. Tax the richest people in the state more so their funds can be used for programs instead of politics. Increase the gas tax to push people toward hybrids or electric cars. Consider legalizing marijuana. Cap property tax for Seniors so they can remain in their homes but the tax difference will be paid when sold. Tax online purchases.

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

Create more business & school partnerships to share data of projected employment needs, bring business leaders into classrooms, get students job shadowing opportunities early and build the good habits for school that the business world expects: stellar attendance, punctuality, work ethic, communication and social skills. Vocational education must be presented as a path to owning ones own business, hiring others and a viable alternative to a college degree.

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

We must fund our public schools. We must find the revenues to build our future workforce, create high earning taxpayers, and develop exemplary citizens and neighbors. The data is clear; if you appropriate more money for education, you attain better results. For five cycles of the Gannon

lawsuit, Kansas has been found to be insufficiently funding its schools. Strong schools attract commerce. Kansas must stop disguising KPER funds as funds going to schools.

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

We have 3 major projects in the Johnson County area. The task force will have its findings ready for the 2019 session. I assume the BSNF intermodal from Gardner to Interstate 40 will be a high priority project while the state will be starting the 20+ delayed projects.

**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)

Because the transportation needs are so numerous, I don't know if the current tax appropriation will be sufficient. The task force should provide the legislature a 10 year plan (CTP) and the means to fund these projects. Funds designated for the highway fund should not be used for other entities.

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

Highly rated school districts with corporate ties, affordable housing, quality communities with amenities within walking or biking distance, reasonable taxes, and liveable wages. Attracting businesses that provide health insurance, and encourage career promotion or educational opportunities is crucial. Our ideal, central location should make us the transportation hub of America.

**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)

The state should be proactive in knowing its employment needs and work hand in hand with educational institutions to recruit students to those fields of study. However, immigration should be reformed to allow needed workers to come here to fill immediate positions.

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

Our universities and colleges must be competitive in attracting the best faculty and students so we must fund them appropriately. However, these institutions must cut waste, be frugal and demonstrate wise hiring and firing practices. Tuition and housing are too costly and too many students and parents have loan debt.

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

We must proceed with Medicaid Expansion. It is the right thing to do. It will help so many Kansans in need especially children and the elderly, keep hospitals open, create jobs and help people get back to work or attend school.

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

Since the weakening of our unions, we must be vigilant to oversee our workplaces. We must determine if people can live in Kansas on the wages offered. Unemployment is down because the people are working 2-3 jobs. However, we want to keep free enterprise without a lot of government control.

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

Our overall reputation on the national landscape is abominable. Our lack of funding our public schools is being discussed on major media sources. Our ultra conservative politicians, seeking national attention, are putting a heinous light on our state. The failed tax experiment, the puppet regime of some wealthy businessmen...

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

I have not yet been in the legislature but I am proud of discouraging our incumbent district representative from not seeking another term. His voting record or lack of was a disgrace to this district.

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

I have lived in my district 32+ years, paid taxes, raised my children here, taught 31 years in the public schools, lived & worked in both Olathe and Lenexa. I have years of life experience in this community, friends in various occupations, involvement in kids' sports and church activities, volunteering in the schools etc. I have seen the growth of these communities and would be so proud to represent my district and serve my state.