

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Eric Jenkins

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**Political Affiliation:** Republican

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**District:** 18

**Campaign Website:**

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13308 W. 56th Terrace

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

Shawnee, Kansas 66216

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

Retired US Army Colonel (active duty and reserves-34 years), Retired Federal Emergency Management Agency 30 years. Shawnee City Council last three years. President, PRMit Consultants.

**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:**

Member of the Shawnee Economic Development Council

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

NW Advisory Board to Board of Education, 20 years Shawnee Planning Commission, JOCO Charter Commission, Shawnee City Council

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

Find permanent solution to school funding issue. Grow Kansas business and jobs. Proponent of Public Safety and Infrastructure quality.

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

I am not a proponent of tax increases. I have signed the no tax pledge. I liked the small business tax breaks that were rescinded last year. I feel they should have been better defined and adjusted so they were not a tax dodge for rich people but there for new entrepreneurs and small businesses that need help in the early years of their establishment.

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

I would like to address the paradigm for the education system in Kansas. I would like to see more efforts in vocational and tech fields that prepare those who are not college bound for with skills that meet our employers needs and the needs of our young men and women.

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

I believe that \$13,000 average expenditure per student is very "adequate". Kansas is #2 in the nation in education spending per capita. I believe the Legislature should consider establishing parameters for fund allocations by school boards. Money earmarked for students and teachers continues to be redirected at capital improvements, administration and poor management.

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

I would prefer to answer this question after I have had access to the existing data and had an opportunity to examine current priorities. This is an enormous issue and I do not care to make pronouncements without greater study and access.

**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)

Regardless of the level of government, it is important for the legislative body to be able to look at the budget in the context of current needs and priorities. Flexibility must be there to make smart appropriations in a ever-shifting set of priorities. Our legislators are held accountable by voters.

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

Minimize regulatory requirements that are unnecessarily burdensome. Use incentives, but only in situations where it becomes a win/win. Currently, government subsidies and tax waivers are being abused in many cases. Taxpayers and development must share fully in the benefits of the new development.

**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 for the purpose of employment must be legal. Instead of accepting illegal immigration, let's make the process of coming here to work a streamlined One where documenting immigrants can be done quickly but can be controlled. If you are here, you are documented and duration of stay is managed.

**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 public higher education is already appropriately funded. There are a myriad of education grants, scholarships and assistance programs. I am not of the mind to raise taxes to support additional programs at this time.

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

I do not favor Medicaid expansion. It is presented as "free" federal funding, however, experience by other states has been that the cost to the State is vastly understated and costs can be 3X or more estimates. That can result in reducing services to those who truly depend on it.

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

I do not believe the role of the State is to insert itself into determining workplace practices and benefits. I believe market labor needs and smart business management is the best place to address these issues.

**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 elephant in the room is the school funding issue. I support the currently floated proposal to amend the KS constitution to remove the courts from the role of directing how much state resources are considered "adequate" for education. They are abusing the separation of powers provisions.

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

I most enjoy serving on the Shawnee Downtown Partnership Council and working with businesses to energize and grow a vibrant Shawnee downtown. We are making some excellent progress.

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

I believe in less government, tax rates that people and business can accept, transparency and the recognition that we are there for our CONSTITUENTS and should be there for them to listen and work for them