

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Jan Kessinger

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Political Affiliation: Republican

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District: 20

Campaign Website: JanKessinger.com

Address/City/State/Zip:

Campaign Video Link: N/A

12605 Walmer St.

Overland Park, KS 66209

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

Sales and management consultant, HKC, Inc.

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:

N/A

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

Congregational Care Minister, Church of the Resurrection; Member Governor's Council on Travel & Tourism Current State Representative District 20

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

Public Education Infrastructure investment Local control

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

We took a big step in rectifying the bad tax policy of recent years in 2017 when we restored much of the wreckless tax cuts from the Brownback tax plan. That improved our credit rating immediately and is generating revenue over estimates. We can look to further enhance revenue with online sales tax and the prospect of sports betting generating up to \$75 million. Even with court-ordered additional education funding, we will be able to fully fund KPERs, KDOT while looking at reducing our high food sales taxes.

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

Invest in employer-specific education in community colleges and trade schools. This will attract a workforce for companies looking for specific skills. Continue to invest in public school education to enhance family lifestyle that attracts workers.

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

Public education is the greatest asset of Kansas. Nothing brings a greater return to our state than investment in our children. I respect the Kansas Supreme Court ruling on education funding.

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

State transportation plans need to actually be funded after being prioritized. Those plans should focus on enhancing infrastructure in areas where business is growing. The idea of 105 projects (1 per county) is wasteful. We must invest where the need is greatest.

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 sales tax is a protection of transportation funding and is greatly supplemented by the appropriations process - though that funding has been transferred out of late. Fund transportation and keep it there.

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

STAR bonds can be effective in creating economic growth. HPIP programs, PEAK and other tax incentives attract business and employees. The key is to have a clawback to protect the public.

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 nation is built on immigrants and we should continue to embrace new Americans. They should be given a path to citizenship as they provide a vital workforce in many industries.

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

The cost of higher education is pricing many out of the college opportunity. KU and JCCC have a three-year education plan that dramatically lowers costs. Ideally, tuition, board, books would total what a student can earn via parttime work plus fulltime in the summer. Work to be done on that.

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

I support Medicaid expansion.

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

We do not need multiple layers of government making policies for workplace. The state should be involved in minimum wage and a few other areas, otherwise it should be left to local government control. (recognizing federal labor laws)

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

Balancing the budget while having a balanced tax model and funding vital services (i.e. education, public safety, transportation). Maintain tax structure, invest in the vitals and be vigilant in spending.

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

Work on 2017 tax plan; creating balanced budget via appropriations committee.

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

Experience in government - house of representatives; Kansas Racing & Gaming Commission; Governor's Council on Travel & Tourism. 25 years small business owner, MBA. 34 year Overland Park resident, three Blue Valley graduate children. Active volunteer in community.