

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Jarrod Ousley

Phone: 913-238-6258

Political Affiliation: Dem

Email: ousleyforkansas@gmail.com

District: 24

Campaign Website: www.jarrodousley.com

Address/City/State/Zip:

Campaign Video Link: N/A

6800 Farley
Merriam, KS 66203

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

Painter, State Representative

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:

NEJC Chamber, ex officio as State Rep

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

Incumbent, served two terms.

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

1) expanding medicaid 2) improving foster care 3) protecting public education

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

Would prefer to eliminate sales taxes on food, and implement fourth income tax tier. We've made significant improvements in last few years, but have a ways to go to protect the middle class.

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

Businesses are attracted to healthy communities with amenities that attract families - supporting public education, public parks, and increasing access to continuing education opportunities, at universities, community colleges, and labor apprenticeships.

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

I do not believe we have constitutionally funded k-12 education, and that there are additional funds that need to be directed to Special Education populations and at-risk populations.

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

To fund infrastructure maintenance, so that we can catch up on the backlog of roadwork that has been neglected during the years of the Brownback tax experiment.

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)

Support the current fund. If legislators determine the funding level entirely, I fear that funding cuts would be tempting for those who prefer to eliminate taxes for the wealthy.

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

Our neighboring states have child care tax credits, and we lack this. Providing this benefit would help increase the workforce and allow working families to more readily meet their bills.

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)

I support creating legal pathways for immigrants, and to help meet the needs of employers facing shortages. However, immigration is within the jurisdiction of the federal government.

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

We need to better fund our public universities to ensure more Kansans have an opportunity to continue their education and to increase economic output.

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

We have lost millions of our federal tax dollars by failing to expand Medicaid, and this should be a priority of our next legislature.

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

State governments should help ensure equal opportunity in employment, and provide access to training opportunities to employers to make sure they meet their state and federal obligations to their employees. The state should maintain work comp statutes and other protections to ensure a safe work environment.

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

I believe the Department of Children and Families is in serious need of policy improvements and additional funding. I created the Foster Care Task Force to review and recommend policy updates, which are to be delivered this fall.

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

The DCF Taskforce, passing my Election Audit Act, passing the Minor's Credit Protection bill, and passing a bill to protect victims of domestic violence after a first attack (previously statute required to incidents for protection orders).

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

I am unopposed.