

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Jason Darby

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Political Affiliation: Democratic

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District: 78

Campaign Website:

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Campaign Video Link: N/A

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

I am a pricing coordinator at Ball's Price Chopper in Olathe since 2006

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:

I currently have no other affiliation with the Chamber of Commerce.

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

Since 2016 I have been a Democratic Precinct Committeeperson in Olathe 01-05.

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

1) Restoring Fiscal Sanity 2) Adequate Education Funding 3) Investing in Renewable Energy

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

While repealing the LLC tax exemption and many of the other Brownback tax cuts was a step in the right direction, we must continue this pathway by reducing the sales tax on food, potentially adding a fourth tax bracket for high income earners, and restoring local control to property taxes and bond issues.

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

Record low unemployment rates could be deceiving. We need to examine also the level of underemployment within the state, offer more comprehensive training for new century jobs and expand the workforce in more diversified industries such as biotech and renewable energy production.

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

I support the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas in saying that current levels of education funding are inadequate, and must be increased. This is the foundation of the Kansas economy and identity, and must be maintained at all costs.

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

I would be opposed to further expansion of toll roads or other "pay to play" infrastructure measures. Infrastructure maintenance and repair is one of the fundamental jobs of the state government.

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 current sales tax transfer is a good base for Infrastructure spending. However, future legislative sessions are going to have to be dedicated to restoring the monies swept out of the Highway Fund during the Brownback years.

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

We will naturally expand business opportunities in this state by both encouraging and actively investing in renewable energy industries. Kansas is uniquely positioned to get on the ground floor of these industries, and it's not too late to start the ball rolling on that.

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)

Generally speaking immigration is the pervue of the federal government. That being said, the state should not support the policies of the Trump administration in the separation of families or in racial profiling of Latino and Asian communities for the purposes of "immigration checks."

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

Trade Schools and Community Colleges should operate at little to no tuition for all in-state students. We need affordable education at the secondary level, and I support a tuition increase freeze for the future until a more affordable solution can be found.

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

I support expanding Medicaid in the state of Kansas. Furthermore, we need to reform Kancare to make it more user-friendly or, barring that, eliminate the privatized Medicaid system altogether.

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

The state should obviously have a minimum wage at or above the federal level. Businesses should not be allowed to discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion as deemed by law.

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 budget is still the biggest issue facing the state today. Education funding, Medicaid expansion, highway funding, all of it stems from that. Restoring fiscal sanity to Kansas should be the top priority of anyone running for office in the state.

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

In high school, I volunteered for the Olathe Youth Court as a Defense Attorney for Three Years, acting as a case manager for several minor first-time offenders in a diversionary manner.

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

I am not someone who comes from a lofty political background, nor am I someone who is very acquainted with special interest groups and dark money PAC's in the state. If elected, I serve at the behest of the people who elected me, rather than at the beck and call of those same special interest groups who funded my campaign.