

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Kristy Acree

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Political Affiliation: Republican

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District: 39

Campaign Website: Kristyacree.com

Address/City/State/Zip:

Campaign Video Link: N/A

7305 Woodland Dr
Shawnee, KS 66218

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

Retired from antique and modern furniture refinishing and design.

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 recently graduated from the Shawnee Chamber Leadership Tomorrow program.

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

PTA/PTO Presidents, SITE Councils, Booster Club Chairs, Ladies Of Destiny instructor, Drake University Football Mom organizing US travel, tailgates, banquets and recruit involvement.

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

- Fund schools for safety and excellence.
- Protect children in foster care.
- Provide tax stability for prospering businesses.

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

Our state needs to create and implement a sustainable tax policy in order to bring revenue to correct our increasing budget deficit. The three legged stool approach distributed between property, sales and income taxes lends a good balance for a solid tax base. All wage earners should be taxed on their income and we must continue the fight to fund education to grow a strong base of educated, passionate, skilled workers. Top rate teachers incite passion for future business leaders/entrepreneurs. We must stop borrowing from programs like KPERS and KDOT and find fiscally responsible ways to balance our budget.

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

With more college graduates unable to find jobs in their chosen fields, it will be important in the immediate future to expand a broad spectrum of skilled trade opportunities in secondary education. Advanced placement and apprenticeship programs are becoming more essential to creating a viable workforce. I also support the opportunity for the border region to offer incentive programs welcoming a work force across state lines. However, the incentives must be truly bi-lateral.

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

Investing in early education promotes healthy, passionate, competitive, thoughtful critical thinkers. Children must be given every opportunity to grow into productive adults despite the many social

challenges we face today. Educated people are less likely to become dependent people and more likely to become productive which is beneficial to our tax structure. We must offer fair and competitive pay, current classroom resources and a safe environment to attract the best teachers.

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

Affordable, accessible transportation is essential for a growing economy, business expansion and retention. We must not only provide safe roads and bridges, but also efficient modes of transportation. With an increasing population, emerging innovative transportation technologies are important for a traveling workforce.

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)

Our State Highway Fund has been used as an open bank account at the expense of deteriorating roads and jobs created by highway and bridge improvements. I support the dedicated sales tax transfer and prefer those funds be locked away so the legislature can't touch it for general fund expenditures.

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

I would encourage advanced placement and apprenticeship programs at the secondary level. I would support reasonable post secondary/university funding. Both will bring a highly skilled, entrepreneurial workforce. I also support truly bi-lateral incentive programs that would encourage a work force welcomed across state lines. Also providing affordable, accessible, efficient transportation.

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)

We have a responsibility to our citizens to implement immigration issues lawfully and efficiently. Immigrants have always been a necessary resource to the growth of our nation. Our state does have many workforce shortages and employment-based programs are important for the safety and legality of these people.

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

It is imperative to invest in higher education as it spurs economic growth and activity. We must become competitive and passionate in order to attract and retain the persons necessary for our state universities and junior colleges. Passionate, educated citizens will want to stay and reinvest in Kansas.

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

Healthy citizens are productive citizens. The cost of healthcare for individuals, families and small businesses is overwhelming and sometimes unattainable. Medicaid expansion would bring funds into

that gap of people on the cusp of poverty that have no where else to turn. Encouraging economic, development adding about 3800 healthcare jobs.

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

The role of state government is to be fiscally responsible, maintaining a stable but fair tax base so businesses are left with resources to be able to offer employee benefits.

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

Education is the basis for success in everything. We must have the funds to offer highly competitive teacher pay, current classroom resources and safe school buildings. Our state has to find a balance in our urban and rural cities that all Kansas children have the opportunity to exceptional education.

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

I am very proud to be the mother of three grown children, 24, 25 and 26. All three employed and own their own homes. I loved working with the Ladies Of Destiny program teaching Washington HS Seniors job and life skills culminating in a luncheon with Jenna Bush Hager.

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

First and foremost, I have never been a politician. I have always been involved in my community, mostly in the schools, and really enjoyed raising my children in the growing USD232 school district. We had many challenges and I could always be called upon to help find solutions. I am a lifelong Shawnee resident and take great pride in my community. My hope is to bring reasonable, fresh ideas in representation of District 39.