

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Nicholas Gill

Phone: 913-229-6391

Political Affiliation: Democrat

Email: gillforkansas@gmail.com

District: 121

Campaign Website:

Address/City/State/Zip:

<https://www.facebook.com/gillforkansas>

24743 w 91st Pl

Campaign Video Link: N/A

Lenexa, KS 66227

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

Safety/Labeling compliance for an international chemical company

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):

Involvement with various Democratic interest organizations. Sacred Heart parishioner.

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

Tax cuts/simplification for working people, educational funding, and medical cost reduction

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

Kansas has a fairly regressive tax system, relying heavily on sales taxes, with a top marginal tax rate set at \$60,000. Thanks to the budget issues caused in 2012-17 it's clear that tax policy is hurting middle-income Kansans. This results in a lack of disposable income for other needs/purchases. One tax that adversely affects businesses in Kansas is a relatively high property tax rate. I would be interested in examining ways to lower this rate in return for increases in other areas to remain revenue neutral. In my district, property taxes are fairly high due to high value.

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

Increase opportunities for small business creation, make available job and business trends to high schoolers, so they can make informed decisions for their future, encourage trade employment.

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

Funding K-12 education should be in the interests of all Kansans. This allow the human resources of the state to reach their full potential. I don't want to lose out on the next Einstein because of a poor public school system.

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

Maintenance. Due to disinvestment, street quality is decreasing, which affects working Kansans. Regionally, encouraging distribution centers and the intermodal stations is a priority due to the

state's central location. Until the state's revenue situation improves new projects will continue to be sidelined.

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)

I see no reason to change it, though I would need further study, as I am not well informed on this issue. The upside to keeping it is to keep track of how much the legislature is taking from the SHF each year.

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

Infrastructure support to allow for business expansion, especially in my district is a priority. JOCO is an attractive place to live, so keeping that true brings population and dollars to local business concerns. As mentioned the property tax rate could be a disincentive to new business.

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)

As we have 'record low unemployment' government interference is probably not needed (#7). I prefer to 'grow' local human resources to meet business needs. Businesses and educational facilities should work together to the future benefit of both groups.

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

Affordability is the biggest part of access. Encouraging the junior college system, JCCC, is a great local example, is one way to make higher education more affordable. On the spending side, the state needs to make sure administrative bloat is kept low so dollars stay with core needs.

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

If someone gives me 90% of something I'm going to have to pay for anyway, I'd be remiss not to take it. Medicaid is a highly efficient program, and should be expanded in Kansas.

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

I think the state has a role to play. For example, the sharing economy and the rise of flexible work/independent contracting needs to be regulated so that a fair playing field for existing industry occurs. Hotels vs Airbnb for example or food trucks vs traditional restaurants.

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. The state dug a hole for itself in the tax experiment, and the results of that decision

continue to be felt. When another recession comes we need to make sure that the state is in a position to weather the shock.

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

In my job as a labeling specialist, there was a situation where our Wuxi, China warehouse was having regulatory trouble, and I took a lead role in coordinating with the affected international sites to arrive at a compliant solution that prevented sales stoppages to that country.

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

We have a fundamental disagreement on the philosophy of government. I hold that Kansas state government is a net plus to society, and has a role to play in our lives. If you want an effective government that works for you, then you have to elect a person who believes that government isn't the problem.