

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Peggy Galvin

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Political Affiliation: Republican

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District: 29

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Campaign Video Link: N/A

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

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City Appeals Dept. Broker Source (Bukaty Companies) Aug 2015-June 2018 Licensed Health Insurance Agent.

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:

Served on the Greater KC Chamber Kansas State Affairs Committee. Served on the board of the Kansas Association of Health Plans (Pres 2004-2006)

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

Retired Lobbyist: Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Kansas City Bishop Miega Alumni Association, PTA Board, choir Active at grandchildren's elementary school (Pawnee, Sunflower)

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

*School funding for K-12. *A stable budget and tax program structure that will attract new businesses to Kansas and further our economic growth. *Adequate, affordable healthcare for all.

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

The sales tax in Kansas continues to rise. As a result, many Kansans go to neighboring states to buy their groceries, etc., where the taxes are lower. With the recent court decisions on sports betting and internet sales tax, I would support both, and after a full year of implementation, I would use these revenues to lower the food sales tax rate. I do not support a return to Brownback's "March to Zero" tax plan which my opponent voted time after time to sustain. Stability between income, sales, and property taxes will create an environment where businesses can thrive.

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

Training opportunities would assist in the advancement of employees by improving their areas of expertise and cross-training would assist employees and employers to diversify the workforce. I support an expansion of technical and career training, as well as an increased focus on developing entrepreneurs who create and grow new businesses.

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

Adequate funding for public K-12 should not be up for debate. The only way a school can obtain qualified teachers, supplies and the tools required is for the funding to be provided from the state. Local funds should be for supplemental programs in response to local demand. Had the state simply

funded the levels judged constitutional in the 2005 funding formula, the plaintiff districts would not have had to sue.

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

Kansas transportation and infrastructure projects have been put on hold due to funds being appropriated to other areas. To attract businesses and population, the transportation infrastructure must be expanded and well-maintained. Funds earmarked for these projects must be restored. These issues have a direct impact on our economy.

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 support maintaining the current dedicated sales tax transfer to the State Highway Fund. However, the legislature must have a part in it due to needed funding for so many other issues. They must determine how to pay for current infrastructure maintenance and growth, as well as future transportation needs.

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

Maintaining our quality of life (schools, roads, safety, adequate access to healthcare) is the primary economic development tool we have as a county. I will also support HPIP and PEAK employment incentives for high wage jobs, and STAR bond projects.

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)

Immigrants are vital to our economy, work hard, pay taxes, and are our neighbors. We need to find a path that recognizes our history as a country of immigrants, the reality of our economy, and the state's role. I support employment-based reforms, but not business mandates like E-Verify.

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

The cuts in higher education funding in recent years should be restored. The state must invest in higher education and keep the cost down for students as much as possible. Increased tuition is cost prohibitive for a fair portion of high school graduates which may lead to increases in unemployment.

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

The number of citizens who cannot afford preventative care is increasing and, when they have no healthcare coverage, they go to the Emergency Room which is not cost effective. Kansans are already paying for Medicaid Expansion, but the states which have expanded are reaping the benefits while we wait.

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

The state government should ensure all Kansans have an equal opportunity for gainful employment based on qualifications not ethnic background, financial background, sexual orientation, etc., but

after federal requirements are in place, the state should let the marketplace govern benefits to the extent reasonable.

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 funding and access to healthcare are what I hear from voters. It boils down to funding. The legislature has dozens of stop-gaps in place to ensure school funding is efficient, but the same needs to be done with Medicaid so we are ready for once expansion passes.

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

I spent years helping raise funds for scholarships so all students whose parents choose a Catholic education had the opportunity to do so. I've always supported our public schools, and now get to work with them close-up through my grandchildren and bringing my skills to work for them in Topeka.

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

I've lived in Kansas all my life, in Overland Park for the last 44 years. I raised two children here and now have two grandchildren here. My roots are here. My primary opponent has lived here five or six years, my general opponent for two. I have watched my home-town grow into a wonderful place to live. I have first hand experience in the progress we have made. I am proud to be a lifer!