

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Kansas State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Rochelle Bird

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**Political Affiliation:** Republican

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**District:** 27

**Campaign Website:** www.RochelleBird.com

**Address/City/State/Zip:**

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

13431 W 173rd Terrace  
Overland Park, KS 66221

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

Managing Partner, Gemini Financial Advisors

**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):

First Chairman of the Conservative Republican of Southern Johnson County (CRSJC)

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

1-Reducing spending and tax rates 2-Making Kansas a competitive place for attracting businesses and job growth. 3-Protecting our constitutional rights and religious freedoms.

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

The current tax schedule is counter productive to job growth and makes Kansas less competitive for attracting businesses here. First, we need to become leaner with our spending, looking for ways to provide quality service in more efficient ways. Second, we need to reevaluate our tax schedule.

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

It is the responsibility of the individual to prepare themselves to be competitive for the workforce.

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

Students should always be the top priority. Money must be allocated to the classroom not administrators and facilities. We must establish sustainable funding levels to ensure we keep our promises to the students.

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

Funds that are bonded for KDOT transportation projects must not be used by the legislature to fund other projects.

**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)**

Need to research more in depth.

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

No corporate welfare, the free market works. Government needs to get out of the way of private sector's success.

**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)**

Immigration is a Federal issue. However, I support E-Verify for Kansas.

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

Unfortunately it is counterproductive to increase public funds for higher education. It simply increases the cost at the same or greater rate.

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

Kansas cannot afford to expand Medicaid, when the federal funds dry up, it would be a budget busting disaster.

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

None.

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

Taxes and the unsustainable levels for school funding. I believe we need a constitutional amendment addressing the chaos created by the Supreme Court legislating from the bench. The Legislative Branch is responsible for financial management of the State. Government needs to become more efficient and reduce spending.

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

I have been a small business owner for the past four years. It has allowed me the opportunity to help others live more secure lives with less stress and fuller purpose.

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

I have a passion for serving others and making a positive contribution to the community. My experience in the public sector as a Legislative Aide and council member will prove useful in

Topeka. I know how to build coalitions to forward legislative goals. In addition, I am a financial advisor and understand the unintended consequences of taxation and spending that can negatively impact the public.