

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 U.S. Congressional 3<sup>rd</sup> District Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Sylvia Williams

**Email:**

**Political Party Affiliation:** Democrat

sylvia@sylviawilliamsforcongress.com

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

**Campaign Website:**

14567 Granada Circle  
Leawood, Kansas 66224

www.sylviawilliamsforcongress.com

**Phone:** 913-634-0351

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

**Occupation/Work History** (last 5 years – 25 words or less):

I worked for 29 years, in regional banking/finance. I was the first female in my field to become a Managing Director and Department Head.

**If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list what organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held:**

As a Managing Director for regional banks, we were involved in the issuance of state and local municipal bonds. We were subject to conflict of interest regulations.

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

Member in League of Women Voters, United Methodist Women, Girl Scouts of America Leader, MOMS Demand Action, Building Better Moms, Kansas Democratic Women

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

Solutions for our Health Care system (reducing costs and improving access) Preserving Social Security and Medicare Women in the Workplace (Equal Pay and Paid Family Leave)

**What are your views on the federal tax policy changes approved last December, known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act?** (100 words or less)

In the short term, it has been beneficial for business. Long term, I see it as an opportunity to partner with the private sector on certain programs that are currently driving the federal deficit. First, we can lift the cap for FICA on large employers in the private sector. That would reduce deficit spending towards that program. Second, we can ask more of private employers on health insurance. For those who self-insure, require that all full-time employees have access to affordable insurance. A potential premium cap as a percent of earnings for lower earning employees.

**What are your views on long-term funding solutions for transportation infrastructure?** (75 words or less)

We need to upgrade and improve our infrastructure. Maintaining a partnership between federal, state, and local governments is an important factor in finding funding solutions. I oppose privatizing any portion of our infrastructure. That could set up a scenario where prioritizes are not aligned with the public. I would be open to all ideas that involve funding for public transportation infrastructure projects.

**What are your views on international trade and tariffs?** (75 words or less)

The Kansas economy relies on international trade, especially in agriculture. I think wide-spread tariffs are a terrible path and I would support legislation that reverses our current course.

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

I support the federal government's role to set reasonable guidelines over practices and benefits. While I support employers right to set their own benefit plans, I do support regulations that require access for all employees. Equal pay and family leave are still a challenge for many and should have oversight.

**What are your views on national environmental policy?** (50 words or less)

I support environmental policies. I believe we need to encourage investment in renewable energy sources. This is also an economic issue for Kansas. Kansas is home to one of the leading companies in this sector. It is also a revenue source for landowners due to land leasing deals.

**What do you see as the federal government's role in workforce development?** (50 words or less)

It is important to invest in training programs for skilled workers. I support funding the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. As the needs of our society shifts, it is important for displaced workers to have access to retraining programs.

**What are your views on national immigration policy? Do you support employment-based immigration reforms to assist with workforce shortages in specified industries?** (50 words or less)

We need comprehensive immigration reform. It needs to cover all aspects of immigration. It needs to set parameters to achieve legal status and offer a path to citizenship under defined guidelines. While we need to support workforce shortages, we should also still offer asylum for those who meet the requirements.

**What are your views on the Affordable Care Act?** (50 words or less)

I support the protections under the ACA. While we work towards a better alternative, I support solving what is not working. Creating a government-sponsored option, address the cost of prescription drugs, and provide parameters on private sector plans.

**What do you believe is the appropriate balance between data privacy and national security?** (50 words or less)

The key to this answer is probable cause. U.S. citizens have a right to privacy. For the government to gain access to private information, they should have to prove probable cause to a judge.

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

My first senior management job. I took on a failing department at a young age. The expectations were to shut it down within three years. Instead at the three year mark, we were the top performing department.

**What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s)? (50 words or less)**

I have been a business leader for 29 years in the private sector. The majority of our issues involve dollars and cents. I am a problem solver who knows how to implement real solutions. Personally, I am a Kansas native, wife, mother, and active community leader. I know the district.