

Johnson County Public Policy Council
Senator/State Representative Candidate Questionnaire

Name: [Shelee Brim](#) District: [39](#) Political Affiliation: [Republican](#)

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Campaign Website: www.sheleebrim.com

Campaign Video Link: [NA](#)

Occupation/Work History (last 5 years, 25 words or fewer) [For the past 17 years, I have taught in the De Soto School District. In addition, I am also a realtor at Keller Williams in Shawnee.](#)

Other recent political/community experience (25 words or fewer): [My community experience includes: volunteer coaching, Westside Family Church - children's worship leader, first impressions team, and South Africa mission work.](#)

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: [NA](#)

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

- [1.Education](#)
- [2.Fiscal Responsibility](#)
- [3.Public Safety](#)

What are your views on the state tax policy? (100 words or fewer): [Kansas has failed to maintain an equitable and stable tax structure by overreliance on sales tax and by exempting too many from income taxes and allowing too many tax exemptions more generally. The changes made in 2012 have been a devastating blow to the state as a whole.](#)

If Kansas faces a significant shortfall in meeting its budget, how would you propose to balance the budget. Please be specific. (100 words or fewer): [I would first look at repeal of the LLC wage exemption. I would next review all tax exemptions and tax credit programs that are currently in place in Kansas, beginning with those exemptions originally proposed to be repealed when the 2012 tax plan was enacted. Finally, if all else had failed, I would consider an increase in the individual tax rates to pre-2012 levels to fill any income gaps.](#)

What are your views on K-12 funding? In anticipation of a new funding formula/process, what are your priorities? (75 words or fewer): [As a recently retired teacher, I have felt the impact of educational budget cuts. These cuts have teachers spending their own money, writing grants to fund basic projects or omitting lessons due to lack of materials. Our teachers, and more](#)

importantly, our students are feeling the impact of these cuts. Addressing the inequities in funding and increasing funding without taking from existing sources of funding are my priorities.

What are your views on the state's role with respect to access and affordability of public higher education? (50 words or fewer): Higher education trains the highly skilled workforce Kansas needs to progress into the future. While identifying solutions to stabilizing higher education funding is more complex than can be described in 50 words, insuring that there is appropriate funding and access for Kansas students to the very best higher education opportunities will be a priority of mine as a Representative, including those from lower income households.

What is your position on individual tax credits and other voucher-like programs for private school tuition? (50 words or fewer): The income tax cuts passed in 2012 need to be reevaluated to create revenue for the state. Kansas needs to create and implement a sustainable tax policy immediately. This should include requiring that all wage-earners be taxed on their income, whether passthrough or wage-based, and should not include tax credits for private school tuition - choice made by parents for which taxpayers should not foot the bill.

What type of economic development policies will you support to encourage job growth and business expansion in Kansas? (50 words or fewer): Creating new jobs in Kansas is important to keep commerce in our state. I support efforts to create and keep new jobs in the state. Among other things, I would fight for the preservation and expansion of our current incentive programs, such as HPIP, PEAK, and STAR Bonds.

Do you support or oppose maintaining the current dedicated sales tax transfer to the highway fund for the purpose of funding transportation projects, or should transportation be subject to the appropriations process where legislators determine funding levels entirely? Explain (75 words or fewer): I support dedicated funding sources for highway and transportation projects in Kansas. The continued raids of these funds to balance the state budget threatens the very infrastructure of the state, and does not satisfy the state's purported goals of creating and maintaining employment.

What is your policy position on the state's role regarding immigration and do you support employment-based immigration reforms to assist with workforce shortages in specified industries such as engineering? (50 words or fewer): Immigration is a federal issue, and should be dealt with and regulated at the federal level. I do not oppose green card programs in targeted industries that lack qualified employees.

What role should state governments have in determining workplace employment practices and benefits offered to employees? (50 words or fewer): The state has a role to play in determining workplace employment practices, such as maintaining Kansas' position as a right to work state. Individual benefit programs are the purview of the individual employer, and the state has no role in legislating to the contrary.

What do you believe is the most pressing issue or challenge facing Kansas today and how would you address it? (75 words or fewer): The most pressing issue in the state of Kansas is education. Budget cuts will have serious consequences including the inability to provide a high quality education for our children and the inability to attract and retain highly qualified teachers and administrators. Our children will not be provided with programs, will have larger class sizes, and will lag behind in technological skills if something doesn't change.

What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race? (75 words or fewer): Many members of my community are looking for a candidate that will listen to their needs and put education first. As a recently retired teacher, I was sought out by my community. Knowing the state of education from behind school doors and professionally feeling the impact, I feel that a fresh voice is needed. I am that voice!