

Candidate Questions (October Forum)

- What, in your opinion, is the state's role in attracting new businesses and creating jobs in our district?

The role of the state is to provide infrastructure and a strong educated workbase. One of the strengths of Kansas is its many small, locally owned, businesses. Growing and strengthening small businesses should be prioritized over poaching large businesses that have no loyalty to the workers of this state.

- How will you ensure that the state's tax policy is fair while still promoting economic growth?

The state should get out of the business of giving away tax incentives to recruit new, out of state businesses, but should rather focus on small Kansas owned businesses. One of the fastest growing states in terms of business is Texas. Texas is one of nine states that does not have an income tax, an important incentive to workers and businesses that we should implement in Kansas.

- What policies would you support to help small businesses recover and grow in the post-pandemic economy?

The best policy is to get the government out of the way. The government is the one that created the problem and it is way too slow and arduous to meaningfully fix the problem at this time. If there are areas that the state can cut red tape it should do so.

- What will you do to ensure adequate funding for public schools in both urban and rural areas of the state?

We need to return authority and responsibility for local schools, back to local authority. The state has done a terribly inefficient job of managing schools throughout our diverse state. The state can help in the formation of public/private partnerships. The state should continue to license online resources for free use for our homeschoolers and for local school districts to use.

- How do you plan to address teacher shortages and improve teacher retention in our state?

The state needs to do away with KPERS 3 and return to just KPERS 1&2 formulations. The state needs to remove many of its unnecessary requirements that ultimately increase the number of administrators necessary for each school district to just complete testing and statistical data gathering.

- What role should the state legislature play in making higher education more affordable for students and their families?

The state needs to create further guidelines for the board of regents to reign in the continually rising cost of tuition at state schools. State support of tech schools and smaller community colleges should be evaluated in correlation to spending for universities.

- What is your position on Medicaid expansion in Kansas?

The current state of healthcare is a monstrosity, taking on the worst of public/private engagement. Unfortunately most of this problem was created at the federal level and will take federal action to fix it. While I hate the idea of growing government in any area, all children

deserve access to healthcare in this great country, and so therefore I would agree to Medicaid expansion.

- How will you work to improve access to healthcare, particularly in rural areas of the state?

One of the major challenges facing healthcare right now is the lack of educated providers. The state's role is to encourage and develop educational opportunities for our youth to enter the healthcare field. We need to develop more opportunities for our high schoolers to complete vo-tech programs while in school.

- What are your priorities for improving transportation and infrastructure in our district?

For the most part, our district has above average roads, however we have many older bridges that, while functional, are undersized for today's use. Additionally, we need to continue working on completing high speed broadband access throughout the district.

- What are your plans to ensure the state's infrastructure is prepared for future growth?

We need to have a true discussion/debate about the future of water in Kansas. Additionally, we need to develop a plan for how we are going to fund our roads, as we move towards an electric vehicle future, eliminating much of our tax base for roads.

- What is your stance on gun laws, and how would you balance public safety with Second Amendment rights?

As a gun owner and former U.S. Marine Corps marksmanship instructor, I am a strong proponent of the Second Amendment, however there is a place for appropriate red flag laws, and for accountability for adults who leave their weapons unsecured leading to tragedies with youth.

- What specific changes, if any, would you propose to the state's tax structure?

We need to eliminate state income tax in proactive stages. We need to return many elements of government back to local authority. There are nine other states that have completely eliminated state income tax and many others that are well on their way.

- How will you ensure that the state budget is balanced without cutting essential services like education, healthcare, and public safety?

Changes need to be done in coordination and purposefully with local authorities. We need to transition the control and cost of education back to local school districts, this will take time and grace to be successful. Additionally we need to evaluate the budget and mandates of the Highway Patrol, and the Attorney General/Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

- What steps would you take to support Kansas farmers and the agriculture industry, which is vital to our state?

We need to address the driving up of farm land prices by private equity firms and foreign corporations. Additionally we need to evaluate if there is a role for the state government in the right to repair litigation. Water rights are another issue that needs to be continually evaluated for the maintenance of our farm and ranch lands.

- How will you address the challenges faced by rural communities, such as population decline and lack of economic opportunities?

Small community challenges are all unique and best addressed locally. Small business manufacturing and high speed internet are key elements for the regrowth of our smaller communities.

- What role do you believe your office should play in addressing the potential Jeffrey Energy Center closure?

We need to work with the energy regulators to ensure that Evergy has sufficient power output to overcome the peaks and valleys that occur with the green energy solutions that they are transitioning to.

- Do you support further investment in renewable energy sources like wind and solar? Investments need to be exactly that, investments, not corporate welfare. If there is a true investment opportunity for the state to make a good return on investment then it should be evaluated.

- What steps will you take to address the lack of affordable housing in our district and across the state?

Again, for the most part, the private market is best situated to deal with this issue with assistance from local communities. The state's role would be fairly limited to assisting in the education of carpenters and contractors through vo-techs and other programs.

- How would you work with local governments to ensure housing policies are fair and accessible to all Kansans?

There is a need for more accessible housing for our aging population. I would work with local governments to see what impediments are restraining their communities from achieving accessible housing. If there are state regulations that are in the way we should work to remove those challenges.

- How do you plan to improve healthcare, education, and job opportunities for veterans in the state?

As a Marine Corps veteran and father of two veterans, I understand how important the transition process can be when getting out of the military whether to college or the workforce and how a lifetime of medical care can affect the quality of life for our veterans. I would continually work with our federal legislators to push for appropriate funding for our veterans.

- How will you support workforce training programs that prepare Kansans for the jobs of the future?

As a vo-tech instructor I understand the importance of this moment we are living in. We are in a time where students can leave high school, gain a trade skill in a year or two and become part of a well paying workforce that can easily lead to self employment. Our workforce training

programs need to shift away from just training workers for large corporations, but into well rounded entrepreneurs who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

- Why do you believe you are the best candidate to represent this district in the state legislature, and what is the one key issue you would prioritize if elected?

I believe that my diverse experiences in the military, healthcare, education and sales make me a well rounded candidate who will continually evaluate my role as a legislator in both short term and long term perspectives for the benefit of District 61 and The State. Two key areas I wish to work on are lowering taxes and education reform.