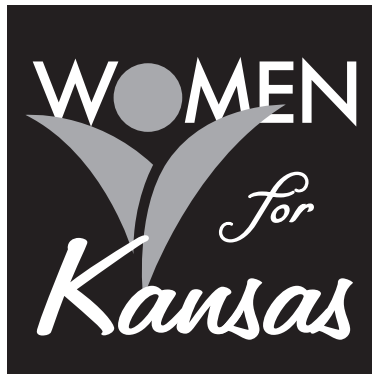


Voter's Guide

**for the 2016 November 8
General Election**



www.WomenforKansas.org

Table of Contents

Introduction to a Voter's Guide for the 2016 November 8 General Election	2
Primer on the issues	3-4
Tax Policy	
Health Care	
Support for Public Education	
Renewable Energy	
Judicial Selection and an Independent Judiciary	
Voter Rights	
Congress and the Senate	
Candidates for Kansas Senate	5-6
Candidates for Kansas House of Representatives	6-9

Introduction to a Voter's Guide for the 2016 November 8 General Election

2016 is a crucial year for Kansas. In 2012, Governor Brownback took aim at moderate Republicans in the legislature and managed to defeat many of them. In the four years since then, our state has veered sharply in the direction of radical solutions to issues affecting every Kansan.

As a result of Brownback's policies, the state is in a prolonged fiscal crisis, and our schools, our infrastructure, our healthcare and many other aspects of our lives have suffered. While the Governor is not standing for election this year, Kansas voters have an opportunity to assess his record and that of the legislature, many of whose members supported him.

In order to restore responsible approaches to the challenges confronting our state and nation, we urge support for candidates who have a broad and balanced view of those challenges and what they mean for Kansas, and who have shown that they are prepared to elevate the broad interests of Kansans over pressures from powerful special interests. This Voting Guide is intended to help restore moderate, centrist government to our state—the kind of government Kansas has traditionally enjoyed.

We have researched the voting records of incumbents and the public statements of challengers in key statewide races and all legislative contests, to see where they stand on important issues for Kansas, including tax policy, education funding, health care, renewable energy, voter rights and judicial independence (see the accompanying "Primer on the Issues" for more detail). We have also provided questionnaires to candidates and have used their responses in our assessment.

Where possible, we have given each candidate a "grade"—A, B, C, D or F—based on those votes and statements. This is our system:

- A** Candidates who have demonstrated a knowledge of the issues, a clear commitment to the broader interests of the people of Kansas, and the courage to resist special interest pressures.
- B** Candidates whose votes or statements suggest that they too will seek to work in behalf of the broad public interest.
- C** Candidates who, while they have not shown a strong commitment to the public good across the board, do not appear to be extreme in their views.
- D** Candidates who have shown no evidence that they are prepared to think for themselves on the major issues or to challenge the dictates of party leadership, and who appear to lean toward extreme positions.
- F** Candidates who have clearly shown through their voting records as well as their statements adherence to views so extreme as to render them unsuitable for elected office.
- Candidates whose single term or partial term in office has not been sufficient to produce voting records on most of the significant legislation by which other incumbents have been graded, and who have not provided public statements regarding their views; candidates about whom there is insufficient information about their views on major issues.

We have tried to be as objective as possible in assigning grades to candidates. Nonetheless, we acknowledge that we have looked at the candidates through our own subjective prism. We are proud to be called "moderates" and we strongly believe our state needs more of them in positions of leadership. We share these views in the hope that they will help to inform your decisions in the November election.

And we urge you to vote.

A Primer on the Issues for the 2016 November 8 General Election

Tax policy. Income taxes were reduced for many Kansans in 2012 and 2013, and eliminated entirely for 330,000 top income earners. Not surprisingly, there was a corresponding increase in sales taxes and local property taxes. This shifted the tax burden to the less affluent and from the state to counties, cities and school districts. Governor Brownback assured us that increased economic growth would bridge the revenue gap. Instead, that gap has widened steadily, and in order to balance the budget (barely) as the constitution requires, Brownback has imposed deep cuts on important programs. We are sacrificing our infrastructure, our once fine educational system, and our children's future. Brownback's irresponsible approach to taxation must end.

Support for public education. Reflecting those decreased revenues due to Brownback's tax cuts for the affluent, K-12 per-pupil spending is down (and class sizes are up), our universities have suffered deep cuts, and both K-12 and higher education probably face further reductions. Brownback and his legislative supporters have repeatedly shown a bias against public schools and in favor of private charter or religious schools.

The block grant system now in place not only has meant less money for K-12, but failed to solve the problem of unequal school funding. A new formula will be needed, not only to insure equity between rich and poor districts, but to provide "adequate" funding as called for in our constitution. Local property taxes have risen and will have to go up even more to adequately fund schools.

Moreover, Brownback and his supporters have repeatedly shown their disdain for public school teachers, allowing them to be dismissed at will and be replaced by unqualified individuals.

Health Care. Brownback's refusal to expand Medicaid has left more than 100,000 of our fellow Kansans—the poorest among us—without affordable health insurance. Under the Affordable Care Act, the federal government would have paid 100 percent of the cost of expansion. This means that Kansas so far has lost nearly \$1 billion in compensation from Washington—from money paid by Kansans in federal taxes. Moreover, failure to expand Medicaid—and a recent 4 percent cut in Kancare payments to hospitals—has pushed dozens of Kansas hospitals, especially those serving rural areas, to the brink of financial failure. It undoubtedly has also cost lives.

Renewable Energy. Renewable Energy Standards—RES (sometimes called "Renewable Portfolio Standards—RPS) is another important issue for Kansans. The legislature has repealed a law mandating that 20 percent of Kansas energy should come from renewable sources by 2020 (fortunately, that target will be met anyway). A renewable energy standard should be reinstated, which would be good for our growing wind energy industry and good for the environment. The Governor's and the current legislature's opposition to such a standard benefits only oil and gas interests, at the expense of the overall economy and the environment.

Judicial Selection, Judicial Retention, and an Independent Judiciary. The Brownback Administration and the legislature have undermined our courts by allowing the political appointment of judges to the state Court of Appeals, and by attempting to limit the authority of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to administer the court system, while also reducing its funding. In addition, Brownback and his supporters have targeted for defeat five members of the Supreme Court who must stand for retention this year. The objective is to eliminate independent-minded jurists and give the Governor and the legislature still more freedom of action to pursue radical policies. All these measures are designed to diminish the independence of the judicial branch. They should be defeated and where possible reversed.

A Primer on the Issues for the 2016 November 8 General Election (cont'd)

Voter Rights. Kansas has restricted the ability of its citizens to shift from one party to another for the purpose of voting in Primary elections, and has been in the forefront of efforts to discourage eligible voters from going to the polls through unnecessary and unwarranted proof of citizenship requirements. Kris Kobach's attempt to disenfranchise many voters who registered at DMV offices is currently being contested in the courts, and we hope will be ruled illegal. However, Kobach is likely to seek other ways to accomplish the same broad goal—discouraging voting by young people and minorities. These efforts by the Secretary of State, with the support of the legislature, to suppress the vote must be challenged.

Aid to Needy Kansans. The Brownback administration has tightened eligibility requirements for child care and food assistance, severely limited the length of time families may receive assistance, and imposed restrictions on the nature of that assistance. In general, Brownback and his supporters have promoted the idea that if Kansans are poor, they have only themselves to blame. He and his supporters in the legislature have advocated policies that are both uncharitable and ineffective, preferring to preach to poor Kansans rather than try to help them.

Congress and the Senate

While the foregoing list of issues is primarily within the purview of state officials to address, it is relevant for Congressional representatives as well:

- The need for a sensible fiscal policy (one that acknowledges and addresses the growing problem of income inequality).
- Adequate health care for rich and poor alike, so that where you are born does not determine how long you get to live.
- Protection of the right to vote, a hard won right, now under attack in many states.
- The promotion of renewable energy, and protection of the environment in the new age of climate change.

All these are national as well as state concerns. To this list could be added:

- Immigration reform and a refugee policy in keeping with American values.
- A sensible (and non-alarmist) approach to the terrorist threat and homeland security.
- And, more generally, the relationship between our candidates and the powerful special interests seeking to bend public policy toward their own ends.

All of these concerns should be borne in mind as we make our Congressional and Senate selections.

Candidates for Kansas Senate

1	Jerry Henry	A	17	Susan G Fowler	A
1	Dennis D. Pyle	F	17	Jeff Longbine	C
2	Marci Francisco	A	18	Laura Kelly	A
2	Meredith Richey	-	18	Dave Jackson	F
3	Tom Holland	A	19	Anthony Hensley	A
3	Echo Van Meteren	-	19	Zach Haney	-
4	David Haley	A	20	Candace Ayars	A
5	Bill Hutton	A	20	Vicki L. Schmidt	B
5	Steve Fitzgerald	F	21	Logan Heley	A
6	Pat Pettey	A	21	Dinah H. Sykes	A
6	Jason Conley	D	21	Michael Kerner	-
7	Megan England	A	22	Tom Hawk	B
7	Barbara Bollier	A	23	Spencer Kerfoot	A
8	Don McGuire	A	23	Rob Olson	F
8	Jim Denning	F	24	Donald R. Merriman	-
9	Chris Morrow	A	24	Randall R. Hardy	A
9	Julia Lynn	F	25	Lynn W. Rogers	A
10	Vicki Hiatt	A	25	Jim Price	-
10	Mary Pilcher Cook	F	26	Benjamin Poteete	A
11	Skip Fannen	A	26	Dan Kerschen	F
11	John Skubal	A	27	Tony Hunter	A
12	Caryn Tyson	F	27	Gene Suellentrop	F
13	Lynn D. Grant	A	28	Keith Humphrey	A
13	Jake LaTurner	F	28	Mike Petersen	F
14	Mark Pringle	A	29	Oletha Faust Goudeau	A
14	Bruce Givens	B	30	Anabel Larumbe	A
15	Chuck Schmidt	A	30	Susan Wagle	F
15	Dan Goddard	C	31	J. Michelle Vann	B
16	Gabriel Costilla	A	31	Carolyn McGinn	A
16	Ty Masterson	F			

Candidates for Kansas Senate

32 Don Shimkus	A	37 Kevin King	-
32 Larry W. Alley	-	37 Molly Baumgardner	-
33 Matt Bristow	-	38 Miguel Angel Rodriguez	-
33 Mary Jo Taylor	A	38 Bud Estes	F
34 Homer L. Gilson	-	39 John Doll	A
34 Edward E. Berger	A	40 Alex Herman	A
35 Levi Morris	-	40 Richard (Rick) Billinger	F
35 Richard Wilborn	-		
36 Brian G. Angevine	A		
36 Elaine S. Bowers	D		

Candidates for Kansas House of Representatives

1 Michael Houser	F	12 Jean Kurtis Schodorf	A
2 Adam J. Lusker Sr.	A	12 Doug Blex	C
3 Monica Murnan	A	13 Larry P. Hibbard	A
3 Charles (Chuck) Smith	-	14 Merlin Ring	A
4 Trevor Jacobs	-	14 Keith Esau	F
5 Doug Walker	A	15 R. Paul McCorkle	A
5 Kevin Jones	F	15 Erin L. Davis	D
6 Christy C. Levings	A	16 Cindy Holscher	A
6 Jene Vickrey	F	16 Amanda Grosserode	F
7 Richard J. Proehl	C	17 Helen M. Stoll	A
8 Ben Chociej	-	17 Tom Cox	A
8 Patty Markley	A	18 Cindy Neighbor	A
9 Kent L. Thompson	C	18 Eric A. Jenkins	-
9 Patrick McMurray	-	19 Elizabeth A Meitl	B
10 John Wilson	A	19 Stephanie Clayton	A
11 Jim Kelly	D	19 John Taube	-

Candidates for Kansas House of Representatives

20 Christopher McQueeney	A	38 Mike Fonkert	A
20 Jan H. Kessinger	A	38 Willie Dove	F
21 Jerry Stogsdill	A	38 F. Caleb Christopher	-
21 Dorothy Hughes	A	39 Angeliina Lawson	A
22 Nancy Lusk	A	39 Shelee Brim	A
23 Amber Versola	A	40 Debbie Deere	A
23 Linda Gallagher	A	40 John Bradford	F
24 Jarrod Ousley	A	41 Jeff Pittman	A
24 Rob Johnson	-	41 Tony Barton	F
25 Matt McCann	-	42 Kara Reed	-
25 Melissa Rooker	A	42 Jim Karleskint	-
26 Cheron Tiffany	A	43 Bill Sutton	F
26 Larry L. Campbell	D	44 Barbara W. Ballard	A
27 Larry A. Miller	A	44 Michael Lindsey	-
27 Sean E. Tarwater Sr.	-	45 Terry Manies	A
28 Joy Koesten	A	45 Tom Sloan	A
29 Brett Parker	A	46 Dennis "Boog" Highberger	A
29 James Eric Todd	F	47 Michael D. Caddell	A
30 Randy Powell	F	47 Ronald B. Ellis	-
31 Louis E. Ruiz	A	48 Sandy Ackerson	A
32 Pam Curtis	A	48 Marvin Kleeb	F
33 Tom Burroughs	A	49 Darnell Hunt	A
34 Valdenia C. Winn	A	49 Scott Schwab	F
35 Broderick Henderson	A	50 Chris Huntsman	A
36 Kathy Wolfe Moore	A	50 Fred C. Patton	A
36 Kevin Braun	-	51 Adrienne Olejnik	A
37 Stan Frownfelter	A	51 Ron Highland	F
		52 Brenda S. Dietrich	-
		53 Jim Gartner	A
		53 Richard Kress	-

Candidates for Kansas House of Representatives

54 Renae Hansen	A	72 Tim Hodge	A
54 Ken Corbet	F	72 Marc Rhoades	F
55 Annie Kuether	A	73 Terrance J. Krier	C
56 Virgil Weigel	B	73 Les Mason	-
56 Lane Hemsley	-	74 Don Schroeder	A
57 John Alcala	A	75 Mary Martha Good	A
58 Vic Miller	A	76 Eric L. Smith	-
59 Blaine Finch	A	76 Teresa Briggs	A
60 William L. Ballard	A	77 Kristey S. Williams	-
60 Mark Schreiber	B	78 Jason K. Darby	B
61 Lauren Van Wagoner	-	78 Ron Ryckman	F
61 Francis Awerkamp	-	79 Ed Trimmer	A
62 Randy Garber	F	80 Michelle Schiltz	A
63 W. Brett Neibling	-	80 Anita Judd-Jenkins	A
63 John R. Eplee	-	81 James W McCluer	-
64 Susie Swanson	A	81 Blake Carpenter	F
65 Lonnie G. Clark	C	82 Danette Harris	A
66 Sydney Carlin	A	82 Pete DeGraaf	F
66 Stanley Hoerman	-	83 Henry Helgerson	-
67 Tom Phillips	B	83 M. Lewis Ackerman	-
68 Laura Blevins	-	84 Gail Finney	A
68 Dave Baker	-	85 Patty Beamer	-
69 Gerrett Morris	A	85 Chuck Weber	F
69 J.R. Claeys	F	86 Jim Ward	A
70 Jo Schwartz	A	86 Christopher Drake	-
70 John E. Barker	F	86 James Pruden	C
71 Jeffrey A Zamrzla	-	87 Tonya Howard	B
71 Diana Dierks	B	87 Roger A. Elliott	A
71 Joey Frazier	-	87 Marco Giorgi	A

Candidates for Kansas House of Representatives

88 Elizabeth Bishop	A	106 Todd E. Frye	A
88 Joseph Scapa	F	106 Clay Aurand	-
89 KC Ohaebosim	-	107 Susan L. Concannon	C
90 Lou Cicirello	A	108 Kelley Menke	A
90 Steve Huebert	F	108 Steven Johnson	D
91 Greg Lakin	-	109 Troy L. Waymaster	F
92 John Carmichael	B	110 Ken Rahjes	-
93 Deb Shepard	A	111 Eber Phelps	A
93 John Whitmer	F	111 Sue Ellen Boldra	F
94 Susan K. Osborne	A	112 Tory M. Arnberger	-
94 Leo Delperdang	F	113 Greg Lewis	B
95 Tom Sawyer	A	114 Jack Thimesch	F
95 Michael Capps	F	115 Boyd Orr	B
96 Brandon Whipple	A	116 Jolene E. Roitman	A
97 Stan Reeser	A	116 Kyle D. Hoffman	F
97 Leslie G. Osterman	F	117 Leonard A. Mastroni	-
98 Steven G. Crum	A	118 Don Hineman	B
98 Steve Anthimides	D	119 Daniel L. Love	-
99 Susan Humphries	-	119 Bradley Ralph	-
100 Glen Shafer	B	120 Bonita L. Peterson	A
100 Daniel Hawkins	F	120 Adam Smith	-
101 Clifton Beck	A	121 Jason Graff	A
101 Joe Seiwert	F	121 S. Mike Kiegerl	F
102 Patsy Terrell	A	122 J. Russell "Russ" Jennings	D
102 Jan Pauls	F	123 John P. Wheeler Jr.	C
103 Ponka-We Victors	A	124 J. Stephen Alford	D
104 Betty Taylor	A	125 Shannon Francis	B
104 Steven R. Becker	B		
105 Cammie Funston	A		
105 Brenda Landwehr	F		