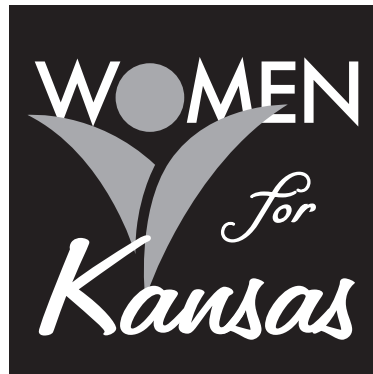


# Voter's Guide

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**for the 2018 November 6  
General Election**



[www.WomenforKansas.org](http://www.WomenforKansas.org)

# Table of Contents

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**Introduction to a Voter's Guide for the 2018 November 6 General Election .....2**

Primer on the issues .....3-4

- Tax Policy
- Public Education
- Health Care
- Judicial Selection & an Independent Judiciary
- Voter Rights
- Aid to Needy Kansans
- Transparency in Government
- Renewable Energy
- Guns
- The Environment
- Immigration & Refugees
- The Arts
- Congress and the Senate

Candidates for Kansas Governor .....5

Candidates for Kansas Secretary of State ..... 5

Candidates for US House, KS District 1 ..... 5

Candidates for US House, KS District 2 ..... 5

Candidates for US House, KS District 3 ..... 5

Candidates for US House, KS District 4 ..... 5

Candidates for Kansas Senate ..... 5

Candidates for Kansas House of Representatives .....6-8

*Special thanks to those who have been instrumental in the creation and preparation of this guide.*

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# Introduction to a Voter's Guide for the 2018 November 6 General Election

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2018 is another very important election year for Kansas. In 2012, Governor Brownback took aim at moderate Republicans in the legislature and managed to defeat many of them. This enabled him to pursue his disastrous tax “experiment” from which Kansas has yet to recover. In the four years that followed, our state veered sharply in the direction of radical solutions to issues affecting every Kansan.

In 2016, however, moderates regained much of their lost ground and were able to put Kansas finances on a sounder footing and move toward more sensible approaches in other areas, including education and health care. But consolidating those gains and moving further in the direction of common sense government, will depend on the outcome of this general election.

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, judicial independence and other questions (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. share these views in the hope that they will help to inform your decisions in the upcoming November general election.

And we urge you to vote.

# A Primer on the Issues for the 2018 November 6 General Election

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**Tax policy.** The 2016 legislature reversed the deep tax cuts Governor Brownback had championed for our most affluent fellow citizens and which had been signed into law following the 2012-13 session. Since then, the ruinous deficits of the Brownback “experiment” have gradually been reduced, and some of the most severe budget cuts stemming from that experiment have been restored. But much remains to be done to make up for the harm inflicted on the state’s fiscal position and its essential services by Brownback’s radical tax policy. Nonetheless, some organizations (Kansas Chamber of Commerce, Americans for Prosperity) have worked to restore Brownback’s disastrous approach to taxation and to government.

**Public education.** Education funding for Kansas students was one of the most significant casualties of the Brownback experiment, resulting in reduced per-pupil spending, inadequate pay for Kansas teachers, and lowered educational outcomes. Brownback’s “block grant” system was eliminated in the last legislative session and an additional \$500+ million over five years was approved for Kansas public schools. The Supreme Court has yet to rule on the adequacy of that increase in the context of the constitutional requirement that the legislature fund schools “adequately” and “equitably” in order to provide quality education to Kansas students. Nonetheless, the funding increase was a step in the right direction.

**Health Care.** The Brownback/Colyer Administration’s refusal to expand Medicaid imposed serious financial burdens on Kansas hospitals, particularly in rural areas— and denied some 150,000 Kansans access to good medical care. It has also cost the state more than \$2.7 billion in federal reimbursements—Kansas taxpayer dollars which have gone to other states instead. The 2016 Legislature voted in favor of Medicaid expansion, but Brownback’s veto was narrowly sustained. Governor Colyer, following in Brownback’s footsteps, has expressed strong opposition to Medicaid expansion. Each day, the loss from foregoing Medicaid expansion increases by \$1.8 million.

**Judicial Selection and an Independent Judiciary.** The Brownback Administration politicized our courts by allowing the political appointment of judges to the state Court of Appeals. It also sought to undermine the independence of the Judiciary by limiting the authority of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to administer the court system, and by threatening its funding. In 2016, the Brownback Administration supported a campaign to recall senior judges. Those efforts failed but are likely to be revived in the future. So too are proposals to remove the Supreme Court from school finance decisions.

**Voter Rights.** Kansas has been in the forefront of efforts to discourage eligible voters from going to the polls through unnecessary, unwarranted (and arguably illegal) proof of citizenship requirements. These and other efforts by Secretary of State Kobach, with the support of Governors Brownback and Colyer and numerous members of the legislature, to suppress the vote were an embarrassment to our state and an affront to democracy.

**Aid to Needy Kansans.** The Brownback/Colyer Administration 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, Colyer and their supporters seem to believe that if Kansans are poor, they have only themselves to blame. They and their 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.

**Transparency in Government.** The workings of Kansas government, both in legislating and in policy and administrative actions, have become increasingly secretive in recent years. Controversial legislation is advanced through such tactics as “gut and go.” Committee hearings are either eliminated or staged to ensure that only one point of view is presented. Policy has often been developed in closed meetings with lobbyists present—a stark violation of “open government” principles. In reaction to all this, a “transparency pledge” was circulated in the 2016 legislative session. Some improvements have been made, but much more needs to be done.

**Renewable Energy.** Renewable Energy Standards—RES (sometimes called “Renewable Portfolio Standards—RPS) is another important issue for the state. In the 2013-14 legislative session, a bill was narrowly defeated which would have repealed our existing standards (20 percent of Kansas energy should come from renewable sources by 2020). This would have been a major setback for our growing wind energy industry. The 2016 legislature did not take up the issue, but proponents of rolling back renewable energy standards are likely to pursue that objective again.

# A Primer on the Issues for the 2018 November 6 General Election

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**Guns.** Support for the 2nd Amendment should not preclude sensible rules for gun ownership. But in Kansas in recent years, the legislature, with Governor Brownback's blessing, expanded the parameters for gun ownership in the state—for example, approving concealed carry for all Kansans 21 and older with no permit required, and concealed carry on the campuses of state colleges and universities, despite the opposition of most students, their parents, and faculty.

In the 2017-18 legislative session, a proposal to lower the age for concealed carry in the state from 21 to 18 was approved by the House, but not the Senate. Legislation was passed and signed into law that will seek to prevent people who have been convicted of domestic violence from owning firearms. Issues such as an assault weapon ban, expanded background checks, or limitations on high capacity magazines, were not addressed in this last session, despite renewed public interest in the subject following the Las Vegas and Florida high school killings.

**The Environment.** In addition to the issue of renewable energy standards, Kansas faces threats to our clean water and air that must be addressed. Some progress has been made in reducing as much as possible depletion of the Ogallala aquifer, but those efforts should be expanded. In the absence of leadership from Washington, Kansas should work with its neighbors to address clean air, clean water, soil conservation, endangered species and climate change issues—rather than dragging its feet, litigating at taxpayer expense, and usually losing.

**Immigration and Refugees.** There are more than 200,000 immigrants in Kansas, roughly seven percent of our population (the figure nationally is 13 percent). In 2014 they earned \$5.6 billion and paid \$405 million in state and local taxes. More than 31,000 Kansans were employed in companies owned by immigrants. Immigration—in Kansas and in the nation as a whole—is a positive and constructive phenomenon, and a major contributor to our economy.

Illegal immigration is down nationally, but is presented by some politicians as a growing threat, and as a pretext to oppose all immigration. Immigration and refugees are often conflated, with the latter also treated as threatening—as in the Brownback/Colyer administration's decision to bar Syrian refugees from our state. Secretary of State Kobach has contended that hundreds of undocumented youth receive in-state tuition at our public universities. (If true, most of them probably are "Dreamers"—i.e., young people brought here as children, and their parents pay state and local taxes.) In general, an effort is being made to dramatize and demonize immigration as an issue in the 2018 election.

**The Arts.** The Brownback Administration, with the support of the Legislature, essentially eliminated public funding for the arts in Kansas—the only state in the Union to have done so. Not only did this affect the quality of life and the cultural horizons and heritage of Kansans, especially those living in rural areas, it cost the state jobs and severely damaged its reputation nationally. Those negative effects far outweighed the very minor cost-savings Brownback achieved.

**Congress and the Senate.** While the foregoing list of issues is primarily the responsibility 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.

In addition, we have a right to expect our Congressional candidates to understand and support wise approaches to the following:

- A foreign policy which maintains and strengthens America's global leadership, in contrast to Trump's "America First" mirage.
- Immigration reform and a refugee policy in keeping with American values.
- A sensible (and non-alarmist) approach to the terrorist threat and homeland security.
- The need to examine and correct the relationship between our representatives and the powerful special interests seeking to bend public policy toward their own ends.

## Candidates for Kansas Governor

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Laura Kelly	A	Jeff Caldwell	-
Kris Kobach	F	Rick Kloos	-
Greg Orman	A		

## Candidates for Kansas Secretary of State

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Rob Hodgkinson	B	Scott Schwab	-
Brian "BAM" McClendon	A		

## Candidates for US House, KS District 1

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Alan LaPolice	A	Roger Marshall	F
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## Candidates for US House, KS District 2

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Paul Davis	A	Steve Watkins	-
Kelly Standley	-		

## Candidates for US House, KS District 3

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Chris Clemmons	-	Kevin Yoder	F
Sharice Davids	A		

## Candidates for US House, KS District 4

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James A. Thompson	A	Rep. Ron Estes	F
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## Candidates for Kansas Senate

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Sam Habjan	-	Richard Hilderbrand	-
Bryan Hoffman	A		

# Candidates for Kansas House of Representatives

1	Michael Houser	F	21	Jerry Stogsdill	A
2	Kenneth Collins	F	22	Nancy Lusk	A
2	Adam J. Lusker Sr.	A	23	Linda Gallagher	A
3	Terry Calloway	-	23	Susan Ruiz	A
3	Monica Murnan	A	24	Jarrold Ousley	A
4	Lawrence Forback	A	25	Melissa Rooker	A
4	Trevor Jacobs	F	25	Rui Xu	A
5	Lasey Murphy	-	26	Deann Mitchell	A
5	Mark Samsel	A	26	Adam Thomas	-
6	Jene Vickrey	D	27	Nicole Rome	A
7	Richard J. Proehl	C	27	Sean E. Tarwater Sr.	D
8	Chris Croft	F	28	Brian Clausen	A
8	Michele Lobitz	A	28	Kellie Warren	D
9	Kent L. Thompson	-	29	Robert Firestone	-
10	Eileen Horn	A	29	Brett Parker	A
11	Jim Kelly	D	29	James Todd	D
12	Doug Blex	D	30	Wendy Bingesser	F
13	Larry P. Hibbard	A	30	Brandon Woodard	A
14	Charlotte Esau	F	31	Louis E. Ruiz	A
14	Angela Justus Schweller	A	32	Pam Curtis	A
15	Chris Haulmark	A	33	Tom Burroughs	A
15	John Toplikar	F	33	Jason Conley	-
16	Cindy Holscher	A	34	Valdenia C. Winn	A
16	Susan "Sue" Huff	-	35	Broderick Henderson	A
17	Tom Cox	A	36	Chiquita C. Coggs	-
17	Michael Kerner	-	36	Kathy Wolfe Moore	A
17	Laura Smith-Everett	A	37	Stan Frownfelter	A
18	Eric Jenkins	-	38	Willie Dove	F
18	Cindy Neighbor	A	38	Stuart W. Sweeney	A
19	Stephanie S. Clayton	A	39	Michael Bolton	A
19	Stephen Wyatt	-	39	Owen Donohoe	F
20	Becky Barber	-	40	Debbie Deere	A
20	Jan Kessinger	A	40	David W. French	F

# Candidates for Kansas House of Representatives

41	Tony Barton	F
41	Jeff Pittman	A
42	Jim Karleskint	A
42	Thea Perry	A
43	Pamela Finley	A
43	Bill Sutton	F
44	Barbara W. Ballard	A
45	Mike Amyx	A
45	Cynthia Smith	C
46	Dennis Highberger	A
47	Ronald B. Ellis	-
47	George Hanna	A
48	David L. Benson	A
48	Abraham Rafie	D
49	Darnell W. Hunt	-
49	Megan Lynn	-
50	'Down River' Dan Brennan	A
50	Fred C. Patton	B
51	Ron Highland	F
51	Noah L. Wright	A
52	Brenda S. Dietrich	A
52	Toni Scalia	-
53	Jim Gartner	-
54	Sarah Coats	A
54	Ken Corbet	F
55	Annie Kuether	A
56	Michael J. Snowden	F
56	Virgil Weigel	A
57	John Alcalá	A
58	Vic "T-Bone" Miller	A
59	Blaine Finch	B
59	John Hall	B

60	Mark Schreiber	B
61	Francis Averkamp	F
62	Melvin L. Baker	-
62	Randy Garber	F
63	John R. Eplee	B
64	Susan L. Carlson	A
65	Lonnie Clark	C
66	Sydney Carlin	A
66	Edgar Chambers	-
67	Alex Van Dyke	A
67	Tom Phillips	B
68	Dave Baker	B
69	J.R. Claeys	F
69	Garrett Morris	A
70	John E Barker	F
70	Jo Schwartz	A
71	Diana Dierks	B
72	Tim Hodge	A
72	Steven G. Kelly	-
73	Les Mason	C
74	Stephen Owens	-
75	Will Carpenter	F
76	Eric L. Smith	-
77	Kristey S. Williams	F
78	Jason K Darby	-
78	Ron Ryckman	F
79	Cheryl Helmer	-
79	Ed Trimmer	A
80	Bill Rhiley	-
81	Blake Carpenter	F
81	Shala Perez	A
82	Danette Harris	A
82	Jesse Burris	-



# Candidates for Kansas House of Representatives

83	Henry Helgerson	A
83	David J. Robbins	-
84	Gail Finney	A
85	Monica Marks	A
85	Michael Capps	F
86	Jim Ward	A
86	Jim Price	F
87	Renee Erickson	F
88	Elizabeth Bishop	A
89	KC Ohaebosim	A
90	Steve Huebert	F
91	Emil M. Bergquist	-
91	David Loomis	-
92	John Carmichael	B
93	Clifton Beck	A
93	J.C. Moore	A
94	Dan Stiffler	-
94	Leo G. Delperdang	F
95	Tom Sawyer	A
96	Brandon J. Whipple	A
97	Rebecca Jenek	-
97	Nick J. Hoheisel	A
98	Steven G. Crum	A
98	Ron Howard	-
99	Kristi Kirk	A
99	Susan Humphries	F
100	Jennifer Winn	A
100	Daniel Hawkins	F
101	Joe Seiwert	F
102	Jason Probst	A
103	Ponka-We Victors	A

104	Paul Waggoner	F
105	Brenda K. Landwehr	F
106	Bill Pannbacker	-
107	Brian Bombardier	-
107	Susan L Concannon	B
108	Steven Johnson	D
109	Troy L. Waymaster	F
110	Kim Thomas	A
110	Ken Rahjes	F
111	Eber Phelps	A
111	Barbara K. Wasinger	F
112	Tory Marie Arnberger	D
113	David W. Curtis	-
113	Greg Lewis	B
114	Shanna Henry	A
114	Jack Thimesch	F
115	Boyd Orr	B
116	Kyle D. Hoffman	F
117	Leonard A. Mastroni	B
118	Don Hineman	B
119	Bradley Ralph	-
120	Jerry Hill	B
120	Adam Smith	-
121	Nick Gill	-
121	John Resman	-
122	J. Russell Jennings	D
123	Pedro Rodriguez	-
123	John P. Wheeler Jr.	B
124	Martin (Marty) Long	C
125	Shannon Francis	B