

**1. Please provide some basic information about yourself.**

**Name:** Annette Turnbaugh

**Position you're running for:** Missouri State Representative, District #37

**2. Please briefly tell us why you are running for public office.**

I am running for office because it is important that the people in my community have a reliable voice that will show up for them every time in Jefferson City. I will fight for jobs, COVID-19 relief, and better education funding for all students.

**3. (State & Federal) Over the past decade, Kansas City has started to become recognized as a midwestern technology hub. There are multiple programs in place to allow this to happen, which should lead to high quality, high paying jobs. If elected, what types of policies would you support or advocate to continue the creation of startups, growth of the industry, and/or attraction of technology companies looking to relocate or expand to the Kansas City area?**

I am all for the creation of more jobs in the Kansas City area. I will support policies that bring jobs to the area and ones that will incentivize companies to establish locations here. Jobs are an important issue right now because of COVID-19, and this must be prioritized by the legislature.

**4. (State Only) During the past few legislative sessions, education funding has been prioritized through new reforms to computer science and STEM education, allowing qualified courses to count as a high-school graduation credit. Due to COVID-19, funding proposals for computer science and STEM initiatives are in jeopardy. What, if anything, do you think needs to be done regarding education funding? How would you fund your ideas?**

Education funding should not be cut. STEM and computer science programs are vital to so many students in Missouri, and cutting these would be detrimental to schools. Education funding should not, under any circumstances, be cut to save the state a few bucks in the long run. Quality education for all students is irreplaceable and should be far more important to the legislature than how it is treated now.

**5. (State & Federal) Finding talent is one of the most critical challenges that Kansas City technology companies face. Workforce development programs and STEM education are two ways in which the state can help address this concern. What do you believe can be done to fill the void to ensure companies can find the qualified workers they need?**

The state should not cut funding to workforce development programs, as these are crucial for the development of qualified workers. STEM education also needs to be funded in schools so students are able to learn about potential career paths that could suit them.

**6. (State Only) COVID-19 significantly changed the budgetary landscape we faced at the beginning of 2020. Though we are all hopeful for a speedy economic recovery, funding will have to be prioritized in the meantime. What are your top three budget priorities, in order of importance to you? Please include a brief description of each priority.**

1. Unemployment - legislators should understand that many families are hurting right now because of unemployment, so it is important that we prioritize unemployment benefits within the budget.

2. Medicare and Medicaid - for so long, the state has tried to reduce these programs that many Missourians rely on. It is vital that everyone has access to affordable healthcare.

3. Education - every child deserves a quality education. I will always support increasing funding for education, because it is the foundation for many other important issues.

**7. (State & Federal) Regarding the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, how important is the technology business community to economic recovery, and which measures can speed the positive impact of this industry on the economy?**

The technology community provides millions of jobs, so it is incredibly important to economic recovery.

In order to speed the positive impact, the state must continue funding STEM resources and not cutting them, and consider incentives to attract more start up companies to establish locations, which will boost job growth in the area.

**8. (State & Federal) If the federal government makes additional funds available for infrastructure, where would you prioritize that spending? Alternative energy, repair bridges, increase freeway capacity, increase airport person and freight capacity, smart infrastructure, public transportation, or other?**

I would prioritize not only roads and bridges, transportation, and highways, but also making sure digital infrastructure is progressing with our always changing digital age. How we operate digital infrastructure cannot be the same as it was in 2010 as it is now, and I would support moving with the times, in terms of (but not limited to) broadband and Internet access for everyone

**9. (State Only) In 2019, the California general assembly successfully passed the California Consumer Protection Act. This legislation regulates how companies can collect, store, and sell consumer data. Federal pre-emption is looming and will likely mirror similar legislation to the General Data Privacy Rights passed by the European Union in 2017. If more states continue to pass similar legislation, compliance could become a difficult and expensive task for any online business. Do you support state legislation on this issue or would you prefer a Federal privacy law to preempt states' laws and to cohesively protect American consumers and businesses? If you prefer a Federal law, do you support giving the FTC the resources and authority it needs to be the enforcer of the federal law, or do you believe plaintiffs' attorneys should be empowered to bring class-action lawsuits against companies?**

I would prefer a federal law to protect American consumers on this issue. The federal government would have the opportunity to make this uniform practice, since the Internet is a global issue, not one that is secluded to a few states.

**10. (Kansas Only) The Kansas Angel Investor Tax Credit program was not renewed in the 2020 legislative session and must be renewed in the 2021 session to continue. The return on this investment has been exceptional and provides the necessary capital to grow new companies and attract outside investors to Kansas companies. What is your view on the Kansas Angel Tax Investor Credit and other economic development incentive programs?**

N/A

**11. (Missouri Only) In the last legislative session, funding for the Missouri Technology Corporation (MTC) was significantly decreased - allocating just \$1 million in this fiscal year. In 2016, MTC funding totaled \$17 million. MTC programs include MissouriTechLaunch (co-investment program), Seed Capital Co-Investment, and the Missouri Building Entrepreneurial Capacity program (MOBEC Grants). These programs will struggle to remain, if at all, with the cuts in necessary funding. Would you support future funding increases for MTC, or do you have recommendations for policies the state of Missouri can adopt to support the future of new tech businesses and startup support organizations?**

I would support funding increases for MTC so these programs can be more accessible to everyone. And to support the future of new tech business, there should be incentives in place to attract companies and startups.