Kris Kobach

Personal Information

Kris William Kobach



Work Experience

Counselor To U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft

University Of Missouri-Kansas City School Of Law, Professor

Kansas Republican Party Chairman

Kansas Secretary Of State

Political Affiliation

According To GOP Data Center, Kris Kobach Is Listed As A Registered Republican Voter In Wyandotte, Kansas. According To Nexis, Kris Kobach Is Listed As Registered In Wyandotte, Kansas. (GOP Data Center and Nexis, Accessed 11/19/16)

Political Contributions:

According To Open Secrets, Kris Kobach Has Donated To The Kansas Republican State Committee. (Center For Responsive Politics, Accessed 11/19/16)

Contributor	Occupation	Date	Amount	Recipient
KOBACH, KRIS W DR	STATE OF KANSAS	9/12/12	\$300	Kansas Republican State Cmte (R)
KOBACH, KRIS W DR	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI AT KANSAS CITY	7/13/07	\$1,100	Kansas Republican State Cmte (R)

Lobbying

No Record Found.

Revolving Door

No Record Found.

Bankruptcy

No Record Found.

Liens

No Record Found.

Criminal Filings

No Record Found.

Social Media

Facebook

Twitter

LinkedIn

QUESTIONS FOR KRIS KOBACH

Political Vulnerabilities

Campaign Finance Issues

Background: In 2011, Kobach's Kansas Secretary of State campaign received a \$5,000 fine for inaccurately reporting (underreporting) more than \$75,000 in contributions and expenditures from the 2010 election cycle.

- Is there anything additional that went unreported about the past campaign finance issues you 2010 campaign faced?
- Is there any likelihood that additional issues related to your previous campaign's finances that could arise?

Employee Termination Claims

Background: A former Kansas state employee filed a federal wrongful termination lawsuit against Kobach and his assistant secretary of state, Eric Rucker. The lawsuit alleges that the employee's dismissal was founded on her refusal to attend bible and prayer services in Kobach's office.

- Is there anything we need to know about employee termination claims, both filed and/or could be filed?
- Would you feel the need to bring religious services into the culture of your specific department should join the administration?

Overtly Political

Background: While serving as Secretary of State, Kobach faced criticism for controlling a Super-Pac that gave to local conservatives "primary-ing" fellow republicans if they were seen as moderates.

• Did you feel your history of overtly staunch conservativism and your support for Republican on Republican 'violence' would interfere with Mr. Trump's desire to set a cohesive and bi-partisan tone for this administration?

White Supremacy

Background: past political opponents have accused Kobach of allying himself with groups that had connections to white supremacist groups.

- Do you have any past or current affiliations to white supremacist groups?
- If you were to join the administration, would you willing to publicly denounce such groups if called upon to do so?

Policy Questions

General Department of Homeland Security-Related Policy

• As the top government official who advises the President on protecting the homeland from both internal and external threats, what would be your top priorities at DHS?

- Given that many of Mr. Trump's campaign promises are related to policies and activities overseen by DHS, do you feel you will be able to appropriately manage all of DHS's responsibilities, such as Disaster Preparedness & Response?
- How would you advise the President on certain less politically sensitive though pertinent issues, such as Cyber-Security?

Immigration Hardliner

Background: Kobach has campaigned around the country working to strengthen immigration policies. He also has a history of representing organizations and individuals in lawsuits that challenge policies that benefit illegal immigrants.

- Would you ever allow your support of policies that 'strengthen' immigration enforcement conflict with bipartisan compromise legislation negotiated by a Trump administration?
- Given your history of campaigning on immigration politics, do you believe you have an ability to strike the appropriate tone should you end up in a prominent public position representing the President?

Creator Of "Provide Proof Laws"

Background: Kobach is credited with helping draft the controversial immigration law allowing Arizona state and local officials to check the immigration status of individuals they stopped (much of the law was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2012). He is also credited with designing the Kansas law that requires voters to provide proof-citizenship documents when registering to vote for the first time.

 Would your willingness to participate in a Trump administration be contingent upon your right to advocate for some of your more controversial immigration policies, beyond border security and enforcement measures, at a federal level?

Immigration/Visitors Registry

Background: In an interview with Reuters this week, Kobach said Trump's immigrant transition team proposed drafting executive actions to reinstate a post-9/11 era program that registered immigrants and visitors from countries designated as havens for extremist activity.

• How do you envision such a registry operating? Who would be required to register?

PATRIOT Act

Background: Kobach has advocated for use of a technicality within the Patriot Act, that would potentially force Mexico to 'pay for the wall' by holding hostage the millions of dollars that Mexican nationals in the U.S. send home to family each year.

• Is the idea expressed your primary recommendation for making Mexico 'pay for' a U.S.-Mexico border wall?

TRUMP-PENCE CRITICISM

In July, The Associated Press Referred To Kobach As "Trump's Most Prominent Kansas Supporter." "The selection of Pence for vice president drew praise not only from Trump's most prominent Kansas supporter, Secretary of State Krish Kobach, but also from delegates who are pledged to vote at the convention for Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio." (John Hanna, "Kansas Delegates See Trump s VP Helping With GOP Skeptics," The Associated Press, 7/16/16)

In October, Kobach Criticized Trump's Lewd Comments Made On The Access Hollywood Tape Describing Them As "Reprehensible," But Kobach Went On To Defend Trump Saying "People Make **Mistakes."** "The controversy over Donald Trump's lewd comments in an 11-year-old tape has not deterred one of his most prominent backers in Kansas, Secretary of State Kris Kobach. 'Trump's comments are reprehensible, but people make mistakes,' Kobach said in an interview." (Bryan Lowry, "Trump Comments 'Pale In Comparison To Issues Facing Country, Kobach Says," *The Wichita Eagle*, 10/11/16)

CONTROVERSIES

Kobach Was Faced Criticism For Speaking At What Some Called A "White Nationalist" Conference. "Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach shot back Tuesday at criticism that he participated in a conference run by a 'white nationalist' group. Kobach was a presenter at a writers workshop last week for The Social Contract Press, a publishing house that the Southern Poverty Law Center includes on its list of hate groups under the category 'anti-immigrant.'" (Edward Eveld, "Kris Kobach Rejects Criticism For Speaking At A 'White Nationalist Conference," The Kansas City Star. 11/3/15)

While Serving As Secretary Of State, Kobach Faced Criticism For Controlling A PAC That Gave To Local Conservatives Primary-ing Fellow Republicans If They Were Seen As Moderates. "Kobach, a leader of the state's conservative Republican faction and the chief elections officer in Kansas, has been making donations from his Prairie Fire PAC to conservatives challenging moderates for Senate seats in Tuesday's Republican state Senate primary. The primary climaxes a bitter civil war between conservative Republicans, who control the state executive branch and the state House of Representatives, and moderates, who control the Senate, to determine Senate control for the next two years." (John Celock, "Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary Of State, Criticized For PAC Donations," *The Huffington Post* 8/6/12)

In 2012, The Obama Campaign Saw Kobach's Endorsement Of Romney As A Political Victory As They Used It To Tie Romney To Kobach's Hardliner Record On Immigration. "Another major victory for which Obama's team now takes credit is increasing the visibility of Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who helped draft the unpopular Arizona law that would allow law-enforcement officials to arrest suspected illegal immigrants. Romney campaign trumpeted Kobach's support in January. 'When he chose Kris Kobach, he wasn't really that known,' an Obama campaign official said. 'Everybody now knows who Kris Kobach is. ... We made sure it didn't go unnoticed.'" (Emily Schultheis and James Hohmann, "Obama s Bold Push To Win Latinos," *Politico*, 11/10/12)

Critics Have Said Kobach's College Thesis Praised Apartheid In South Africa

Kobach's Senior Thesis At Harvard Was "On The Efforts During The Apartheid Era Of South African Business To Evade The Effects Of Sanctions." "Kobach, who is now 48, grew up in Topeka. He went to Harvard, where he studied under Samuel Huntington, who at the end of a long and glorious career, had become obsessed himself with the threat that immigrants from the south posed to American civilization. Kobach wrote a prize-winning senior thesis on the efforts during the apartheid era of South African business to evade the effects of sanctions." (John B. Judis, "America's Worst Republican Could Soon Lose His Office," *The New Republic* 9/19/14)

Critics Such As The Kansas Democratic Party Have Said Kobach's Thesis "Provides A Defense Of Apartheid In South Africa." "Two seasoned opposition researchers who recently published a tell-all on the 'oppo' business have come forward to identify Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach as a subject of their investigations, citing his connection to Mitt Romney's presidential campaign as the reason that they are breaking their silence. ... The Kansas Democratic Party and others have also pointed to a quote from Kobach's Harvard thesis as evidence that Kobach 'authored a book that provides a defense of Apartheid in South Africa." (Dylan Byers, "Oppo Men Break Silence On Kris Kobach," *Politico*, 2/10/12)

Kobach: "Clearly, Reform Has Become The Clarion Call Of So Many Businesses Because It Is Seen As A Means Of Achieving Stability. Yet, Strict Verwoerdian Apartheid Enforced With An Iron Fist Can Also Be Seen As A Route To A More Stable South Africa." (Dylan Byers, "Oppo Men Break Silence On Kris Kobach," Politico 2/10/12)

In 2015 Kobach Said Obama Could Stop Enforcing Criminal Statutes On African Americans After He Stopped Enforcing Immigration Law

In 2015 Kobach Said It Wouldn't Be "A Huge Jump" For President Obama To Stop Enforcing Criminal Statutes On African Americans Because He Stopped Enforcing Immigration Laws.

"Secretary of State Kris Kobach stands by his comments to a caller on his weekly radio show Sunday that although he thought it unlikely, it would not be 'a huge jump' for the Obama administration to call for an end to the prosecution of African-American suspects. A caller to the Kris Kobach Show on KCMO Talk Radio asked if Kobach thought that, based on President Obama's instruction against the enforcement of some immigration laws, it would be possible that one day the president would announce that 'any black person accused of a crime, charged with a crime, is not going to be prosecuted, regardless of the crime." (Bryan Lowry, "Kobach Stands By Remarks To Radio Show Caller About Obama," Kansas City Star, 3/5/15)

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

In 2004, Kobach Ran For Congress

In 2004, Kobach Launched A Bid For Kansas's Third Congressional District, Where He Won The Party's Nomination. "After all, the state hasn't supported a Democratic presidential candidate since 1964. But much to the chagrin of the GOP, Kansas' deeply Republican 3rd Congressional District has been in Democratic hands since 1998. Trying to turn the district back over to the Republicans, Vice President Dick Cheney on Tuesday made his second trip to Overland Park in three years to campaign on behalf of a challenger to Democratic U.S. Rep. Dennis Moore. This time Cheney stumped on behalf of law professor Kris Kobach. Cheney touted Kobach as an asset in the war on terrorism and derided Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry as soft on terrorism." (Brad Cooper, "Cheney Lends A Hand To Kobach," The Kansas City Star, 8/25/04)

As A Part Of A Line Up Of Congressional Candidates From Across The Nation, Kobach Spoke
At The GOP Convention. "Republican challenger Kris Kobach said Monday that Democratic Rep.
Dennis Moore "placed American citizens at risk" by voting against a proposal to allow troops to
patrol U.S. borders. Kobach gave a 47-second speech to the Republican National Convention as
part of a lineup of congressional candidates from across the nation." ("Kobach Talks Security During Brief GOP
Convention Speech," The Associated Press, 8/30/04)



- Kobach "Called For Militarizing The Country's Borders With 20,000 National Guard Troops." "Coupling the threat of terrorism with illegal immigration, Kobach called for militarizing the country's borders with 20,000 National Guard troops." (Brad Cooper, "Moore Knocks Off Kobach," The Kansas City Star, 11/3/04)
- During The Campaign, Kobach's Opponent Tied Him To White Supremacists Groups. "Moore took to the airwaves, spending thousands of dollars, saying that Kobach was allying himself with groups that had connections to white supremacist groups. The Moore attack ad focused on the Federation for American Immigration Reform, also known as FAIR. Last summer the organization FAIR retained Kobach to challenge a law that gives the children of undocumented immigrants instate tuition under certain circumstances." (Brad Cooper, "Moore Knocks Off Kobach," The Kansas City Star, 11/3/04)

Kobach Was Defeated. "Democratic U.S. Rep. Dennis Moore on Tuesday cruised to his biggest margin of victory in six years, turning back Republican Kris Kobach. Moore decisively won his fourth term representing Kansas' 3rd Congressional District, collecting 53 percent of the vote with 93 percent of the vote counted. Kobach, a 38-year-old law professor and former adviser to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, had 46 percent." (Brad Cooper, "Moore Knocks Off Kobach," *The Kansas City Star*, 11/3/04)

Kobach Served As The Chairman Of The Republican Party Of Kansas

As Chair Of The Kansas Republican Party, Kobach "Alleged Widespread Voter Fraud." "He said he is concerned by Republican candidate Kris Kobach, a former Kansas Republican Party chairman who has alleged widespread voter fraud in the state." (Fred Mann, "Former Journalist Mmay Run For U.S. Senate Seat," *The Witcha Eagle*, 9/26/09)

As Secretary Of State, Kobach Faced Criticism For His Work Nation Wide On Immigration Laws

In 2010, Kobach Ran For Secretary Of State In Kansas. "Kansas secretary of state...Kris Kobach, R - Kobach was the counsel to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft from 2001 to 2003. He has been a policy adviser to presidential candidates Mitt Romney and Fred Thompson, as well as a member of the Republican National Committee and a chairman of the Kansas Republican Party." (Cristina Janney, "Some 2010 Races Already Crowded," *The Newton Kansan*, 11/6/09)

Kobach Asked Multiple Times For The State Legislature To Give The Office More Power To Weed Out Voter Fraud. "The conservative Republican has said he will again ask the Legislature to give his office the power to search out and prosecute suspected cases of voter fraud. Let's hope lawmakers turn him down, as they did the last time he asked." ("The Star's Editorial Just Say 'No To Kris Kobach, The Secretary Of Distractions," *The Kansas City Star*, 12/3/12)

Voting Rights Activists Called For His Resignation Arguing He "Had Neglected His Official Duties While Politicking Around THE Country For Voter ID And Immigration Laws." "A coalition of voting-rights activists on Tuesday called on Secretary of State Kris Kobach to resign, saying that he had neglected his official duties while politicking around the country for voter ID and immigration laws." (Dion Lefler, "Voting Rights Coalition Calls For Kansas Secretary Of State's Resignation," The Wichita Eagle, 11/13/12)

CONTROVERSIAL POSITIONS

Kobach Has Backed Certain Controversial Anti-Illegal Immigrant Policies

Kobach Is "Credited With Selling Mitt Romney On 'Self-Deportation' In 2012." "Coulter has not always gotten her way with the candidate. At Mar-a-Lago that evening in March, she lobbied unsuccessfully for him to pick as his running mate Kris Kobach, the secretary of state of Kansas, who is credited with selling Mitt Romney on 'self-deportation.' And her book tour for 'In Trump We Trust' hit a momentary snag when Trump told Sean Hannity that he would be open to "softening" his immigration stance, though Coulter chose to believe that, as she told me, 'it was Hannity badgering him.'" (Dave Helling, "Ann Coulter Wanted Kris Kobach On Trump s Ticket, NYT Says Kobach 'Honored, But Supports Pence," The Kansas City Star, 9/29/16)

In 2010, Kobach Helped Draft The Controversial Immigration Law Allowing Arizona State And Local Officials To Check The Immigration Status Of Individuals They Stopped. "In 2010, he helped draft an Arizona law that required state and local officials to check the immigration status of individuals stopped by police. Parts of the law, which was fiercely opposed by Hispanic and civil rights groups, were struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2011." (Mica Rosenberg and Julia Edwards Ainsley, "Immigration Hardliner Says Trump Team Preparing For Wall, Mulling Muslim Registry," *Reuters*, 11/15/16)

• The Much Of The Law Was Struck Down By The Supreme Court In 2012, But The Ability For Law Enforcement Officials To Check An Individual's Immigration Status Remained In Tact. "The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday struck down key parts of an Arizona law that sought to deter illegal immigration, but let stand a controversial provision allowing police to check a person's immigration status while enforcing other laws." (Tom Cohen and Bill Mears, "Supreme Court Mostly Rejects Arizona Immigration Law Gov Says 'Heart Remains," CNN 6/26/12)

In 2013, Kobach Designed The Kansas Law That Required "Voters To Provide Proof-Of-Citizenship Documents...When Registering For The First Time." "Kobach was also the architect of a 2013 Kansas law requiring voters to provide proof-of-citizenship documents, such as birth certificates or U.S. passports, when registering for the first time." (Mica Rosenberg and Julia Edwards Ainsley, "Immigration Hardliner Says Trump Team Preparing For Wall, Mulling Muslim Registry," Reuters, 11/15/16)

• "A U.S. Appeals Court Blocked That Law After Challenges From Civil Rights Groups." (Mica Rosenberg and Julia Edwards Ainsley, "Immigration Hardliner Says Trump Team Preparing For Wall, Mulling Muslim Registry," Reuters, 11/15/16)

While Serving In The Justice Department Following The September 11th Attacks, Kobach Helped Design The Highly Controversial National Security Entry-Exit Registration System, Which Required People From "Higher Risk" Countries To Undergo Interrogations And Fingerprinting Upon Entering The U.S. "Kobach helped design the program, known as the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System, while serving in Republican President George W. Bush's Department of Justice after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States by al Qaeda militants. Under NSEERS, people from countries deemed 'higher risk' were required to undergo interrogations and fingerprinting on entering the United States. Some non-citizen male U.S. residents over the age of 16 from countries with active militant threats were required to register in person at government offices and periodically check in." (Mica Rosenberg and Julia Edwards Ainsley, "Immigration Hardliner Says Trump Team Preparing For Wall, Mulling Muslim Registry," *Reuters*, 11/15/16)

• The Program, Criticized By Civil Rights Groups For Unfairly Targeting Muslim Immigrants, Ended In 2011. "NSEERS was abandoned in 2011 after it was deemed redundant by the Department of Homeland Security and criticized by civil rights groups for unfairly targeting immigrants from Muslim- majority nations." (Mica Rosenberg and Julia Edwards Ainsley, "Immigration Hardliner Says Trump Team Preparing For Wall, Mulling Muslim Registry," Reuters, 11/15/16)

BUSINESS/ASSOCIATIONS

Kobach Has A History Of Representing Organizations And Individuals In Lawsuits That Challenge Policies That Benefit Illegal Immigrants

Kobach Represented The Federation For American Immigration Reform (FAIR). "Kris Kobach, the attorney representing the Federation for American Immigration Reform, said the law that went into effect July 1 violated federal law and was unfair to out-of-state students attending Kansas universities who are American citizens." (Jim Sullinger, "Lawsuit Filed Over Law Giving Undocumented Immigrants Kansas Tuition Break," *The Kansas City Star*, 6/19/04)

• FAIR Is "One Of The Nation's Most Active Groups Fighting Rising Immigration." "The Washington-based Federation for American Immigration Reform, one of the nation's most active groups fighting rising immigration, recruited plaintiffs by posting fliers on campuses around the country." (Oscar Avila, "Federal Suit Stirs Tuition Debate Illegal Immigrants Pay In State Prices," Chicago Tribune, 8/2/04)

• The Group Filed A Lawsuit Challenging A Kansa Law Allowing Some Undocumented Immigrants To Attend State Universities At An In-State Tuition Rate. "A Washington-based immigration reform group filed suit in federal court today challenging a new Kansas law allowing some undocumented immigrants to attend state universities at the lower, in-state tuition rate." (Jim Sullinger, "Lawsuit Filed Over Law Giving Undocumented Immigrants Kansas Tuition Break," The Kansas City Star, 6/19/04)

Kobach Continued Rallying Against The Law In California, Where He Helped Students Who Filed A Lawsuit Arguing That Out-Of-State Students Have Unfairly Paid Higher Rates In Tuition Than Undocumented Immigrants Living In The State Illegally. "The suit, filed Wednesday, charges that California educators have illegally discriminated against 60,000 out-of-state students who pay higher tuition at any of California's public colleges - up to \$17,000 per year higher - than do undocumented students living in California, who qualify for lower, in-state rates under a 2001 state law. Those students say they should be charged no more than illegal immigrants - and they want a refund... Legislation pending in US Congress, known as the DREAM Act, would repeal Section 505 of the 1996 immigration law that triggered the California lawsuit. But that wouldn't nullify the merits of the case, says Kris Kobach, professor of constitutional law at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, who is helping the plaintiffs. Their rights, he says, are still being violated under other grounds - most notably, the equal-protection clause of the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution." (Josh Burek, "California Clash Tuition For Illegal Immigrants," Christian Science Monitor, 12/19/05)

Kobach Represented Mississippi In A Lawsuit Against Obama's Executive Actions That Deferred Deportations For Young Illegal Immigrants. "Apparently unchastened by a fledgling recall effort that accuses him of being "derelict in his duties," Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach has signed on to represent Mississippi in a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security over President Obama's executive order to allow some children of undocumented immigrants to remain in the United States." ("The Star's Editorial Kobach, Abortion And The President's Power Political Fracas 2012," *The Kansas City Star*, 10/26/12)