

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:75 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Angela Justus Schweller

2. Political Party Affiliation

Democratic

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

House 14

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 20905 w. 90th Terr.

City/State/Zip : Lenexa

5. Phone Number

9137101146

6. Email Address

Angela4KS@gmail.com

7. Campaign Website

Angela4KS.com

2. Candidate Background

8. Occupation/Work History (last 5 years - 25 words or less)

I've been a residential Realtor for the last 14 years, with my licenses currently being held by Keller Williams Key Partners, LLC office.

9. If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list which organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held.

I have been a member of the Olathe Chamber of Commerce.

10. Other recent political/community experience? (25 words or less)

Leader of March Forward KC, precinct committeewoman, and state delegate for the Kansas Democratic Party; I'm a room parent, mentor, and classroom volunteer as well.

3. Issues and Policy

11. As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues? (30 words or less)

My priorities are to protect public school funding, to increase healthcare coverage and reduce costs, and to improve the trust and transparency of state government.

12. How would you propose to balance the state budget? What specific budget cuts would you support and what revenue

enhancements would you consider, if any? (100 words or less)

I have supported Governor Kelly's leadership in balancing the budget and would look to her for guidance as we go through the unprecedented challenges posed by this pandemic.

13. What are your views on state tax policy, being as specific as you can? (75 words or less)

The high tax rate on groceries and other essential items in Kansas makes our tax system one of the most regressive in the country. The income tax cuts during the Brownback administration also forced local governments to rely heavily on property taxes. We need to return to a "three-legged stool" model that provides a better balance of sales, income, and property taxes.

14. What are your views on K-12 public education funding? (75 words or less)

After years of litigation, due to the inadequate funding of public education according to our Kansas Constitution, the 2019 legislature finally fixed the deficiency. We must protect this investment in our state's future from continual attacks and pressures to divert tax dollars to private schools.

15. What are your priorities in the new statewide Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program? (75 words or less)

The Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program was created so the state can address the most pressing needs in our transportation system, selecting projects every 2 years as opposed to the previous programs of every 10 years. With K-10 going through the middle of District 14, I would advocate for the modernization and expansion of that highway, which has seen too many accidents, oftentimes fatal.

16. What types of economic development policies will you support to encourage job growth and business expansion in Kansas? (75 words or less)

As a residential Realtor, it's my job to keep up with housing trends, and studies show that in recent years the state has been losing skilled and educated workers to other states, at an unprecedented rate. We need to invest in higher education and digital infrastructure and promote policies that encourage diversity, inclusion, and racial justice to encourage young workers to stay and work in our state.

17. What would you do to grow and develop the state's workforce? (75 words or less)

In addition to the answer I gave in #16, implementing pro-labor policies, such as "Prevailing Wage" or "Responsible Bidder", would also help retain and grow Kansas's workforce. As a state, we should be awarding bids to contractors who are ethical, safe, and treat employees fairly. When we encourage these policies, we promote our local workforce and prevent out-of-state firms from undercutting our workers.

18. What are your views on the state's role with respect to ensuring access and affordability of post-secondary education? (75 words or less)

Higher education funding has dropped dramatically, while costs continue to rise. It is making it impossible for families to keep up. Because a well-educated workforce has always attracted businesses to Johnson County, we must reinvest in higher education. We must also recognize that spending power increases when people have degrees, creating economic growth.

19. What are your views on healthcare policy and Medicaid expansion? (75 words or less)

As a state, we have continually failed at getting Medicaid expansion passed, turning away over \$4 billion in tax revenue. This is fiscally irresponsible. Not only would it bring our tax dollars back to be invested in our state, passing Medicaid expansion would help 150,000 hard-working Kansans gain access to healthcare, create over 13,000 jobs, decrease the infant mortality rate by more than 50%, and help rural hospitals stay open.

20. What role should state government have in determining workplace employment practices and benefits offered to employees? What workplace changes, if any, would you support? (75 words or less)

State government should work to ensure that all employers are following the law, and should enforce rules regarding employment, benefits, and wages. Employers should strive to offer wages and benefits that enable their workers to contribute to our local economies and, in turn, create more jobs.

21. How control over decision-making is divided among the state legislature and local governments (including local school boards) on issues such as taxation, economic development, and education has been a matter of debate. What are your views on this issue? (75 words or less)

Issues should be evaluated individually to determine if state or local control is best. For example, local communities should be allowed to enact environmental protection ordinances that are supported by their residents, but education funding is best coordinated at the state level to ensure equity.

22. What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race? (50 words or less)

I will be a representative who listens to and communicates clearly with constituents. I believe in listening to people on both sides of the political aisle and making decisions based upon evidence-based problem solving instead of partisan ideology.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

Candidate responses will be posted at www.VoteJoCo.com once advance voting begins.
