Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:12 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Becca Peck

2. Political Party Affiliation

Democrat

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

State Senate District 37

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 14317 Melrose
City/State/Zip : Overland Park, KS 66221

5. Phone Number

913.592.9209

6. Email Address

Becca@BeccaPeckForKansas.com

7. Campaign Website

www.BeccaPeckForKansas.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Community Service Leadership for 23 years.
Assistant ScoutMaster Scouts
Financial and Medical Management for parents and son with global disabilities.

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.

Office Manager, Unity of the Heartland

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

Secretary HomeOwners Association,
Precinct Leader,
President Johnson County Democratic Women South,
Treasurer Kansas Federation Democratic Women

3. Issues and Policy

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

My top three policy issues are Medicaid Expansion, K-12 Public Education, and Economic Restoration/Job Creation with work

programs that specifically deal with improvements to roads, bridges, and broadband following COVID.

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 propose balancing the budget by refinancing existing debt, approving new revenue streams such as medicinal cannabis, and expanding Medicaid which will bring federal dollars to help with expenses for medical and mental health services. I would evaluate annual renewal procedures and extend them to renew every two or three years. I would prioritize funding for K-12 public education and infrastructure that includes broadband expansion as well as maintenance/improvements on failing roads and bridges.

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

We need to eliminate meat and produce sales tax that adversely affect hard-working low income families. Lower food taxes means families will have more disposable income to purchase other products and services. State taxing policies should be a balanced approach where each taxing revenue is equally important to the other. Currently, the state's tax revenues are out of balance relying heavily on sales and property taxes.

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

We need to follow the requirements outlined in the State's constitution concerning equitable and adequate funding for K-12 public schools. Quality education is the backbone and foundation for tomorrow's workforce and a growing economy. Providing all schools with funding tailored to neighborhood requirements benefit each child, serves families, and helps businesses. Statewide broadband would ensure each rural child receives quality distance E-learning.

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

My priorities are repairing existing roads and bridges as well as implementing statewide broadband. Infrastructure improvements create jobs. In addition, Highway 69 should be expanded in such a way that doesn't financially burden rural Kansas. Having one-lane designated as a toll lane is an interesting solution that requires exploration. Finally, we need KDOT funds separate from the General Fund.

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

I support economic policies that focus on restoring or creating jobs following COVID-19. For example, infrastructure improvements to roads and bridges allow for a thriving economy. Broadband creates jobs, allowing parents and students to work from home, and grows the rural community. I am in favor of expanding the hemp research program to the full extent the bipartisan supported federal farm legislation allows.

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

My plan to develop the state's workforce includes offering tax credits for tuition assistance and job training programs that motivate people to begin or change careers in high-demand and 21st-century jobs. The plan should also focus on inspiring Kansans to return home to work and live in their rural communities. In addition, encouraging businesses to offer employees work from home options reduces overhead and environmental impacts.

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)

I view community college and trade school certification equally as important as a four-year college degree. As such, they need to continue to be funded at current levels especially as the state moves towards economic recovery from COVID-19. I support efforts like the AO-K credentialing program offered through our post-secondary and technical schools that allow Kansans to obtain the vital education they need at an affordable rate.

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

I am a proponent of Medicaid Expansion. COVID-19 brought to light that essential workers are the most vulnerable of our population as they are exposed to contact with both healthy and contagious people within the community. However, many

essential workers do not have access to affordable healthcare let alone insurance. Essential workers should remain healthy, minimize the risk of spreading illness, and have medical coverage.

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)

At a minimum, we need to ensure that employers provide safe working environments for all employees. We need to be flexible with workplace employment practices. For example, wherever possible, we need to encourage remote employment opportunities that reduce overhead and environmental footprint. We need to encourage employers to offer tuition-assistance for continuing education, ensuring the workforce keeps up to date with technological innovation within their industries.

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)

Local control is best because governing authorities know their communities to effectively and efficiently implement policy and allocate resources. Further, decisions made at the local level have a greater impact on residents. For example, the governor made recommendations regarding wearing a mask, but delegated decision-making to city and county governments. In addition, residents in the Blue Valley School District, in 2019, overwhelmingly passed a bond issue.

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

I'm an advocate, especially with respect to Medicaid Expansion. Kansas had more than 150k residents without insurance prior to the pandemic. With COVID-19, hundreds of thousands of Kansans lost their jobs and health insurance. They lost again when the Kansas legislature and my opponent failed repeatedly to expand Medicaid.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.
Candidate responses will be posted at www.VoteJoCo.com once advance voting begins.