

# Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:55 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

### 1. Candidate Name

Brandon Woodard

### 2. Political Party Affiliation

Democrat

### 3. District Number of Office Being Sought

30

### 4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 9051 Renner Blvd Apt 3002

City/State/Zip : Lenexa, KS 66219

### 5. Phone Number

913-335-0919

### 6. Email Address

woodardforkansas@gmail.com

### 7. Campaign Website

www.WoodardForKansas.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

Associate Development Director, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, KU Endowment Association. August 2015-present.

### 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.

Council for the Advancement and Support for Education (CASE)

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

Chair, Johnson County Young Democrats (2017-18), Vice Chair, Johnson County Democratic Party (2017-2018), Lenexa Vision 2040 Task Force, Johnson County Citizens Academy

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

- 1) Expanding Medicaid
- 2) Fully funding our public K-12 and higher education systems
- 3) Criminal justice reform

### 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)**

Revenue enhancements: sports wagering, collection of sales tax for online purchases, streaming services tax like 33 other states, medicinal marijuana, and expanding Medicaid. We do need a comprehensive overhaul of our tax structure to create a more balanced, fair, predictable system in Kansas.

Budget cuts: To balance the budget, it'll be necessary to scrutinize our targeted investments for new programs, while maintaining services.

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

As a state, Kansas is relying too heavily on sales tax which disproportionately impacts lower-income individuals. We need a new tax structure that is fair and attractive to businesses, while ensuring that Kansans are paying their fair share. I would support additional tax brackets for higher-income earners in Kansas, beginning at the \$250,000 level.

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

Strong public schools are Kansas' version of "oceans and mountains." People come here for the great jobs and quality of life, and they stay for our strong public K-12 schools. We must meet our obligation to fully funding our institutions of learning.

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

District 30 encompasses I-435, I-35, and K-10. I support any effort to repair the highly damaged portion of I-435 north of my district, as well as ensuring we expand I-69, and ensure that District 30 residents can safely get to work, school, and wherever they need to go.

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

Further investment is needed in our higher education system. Prior to COVID, our entire higher education system was set to graduate less people from our universities, community colleges, and career/technical programs than the number of jobs that were available. I support expanding our training capacity, and ensuring our Department of Commerce has the incentive opportunities to attract businesses to Kansas, while ensuring we're growing our own workforce.

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

In addition to supporting investments in higher education, we should also consider tax credits for student debt relief to retain and attract the workforce that will be necessary to rebuild the "next normal" in Kansas after the pandemic. We should use this time to assess what the future of higher education looks like in Kansas and how we can ensure career readiness for our graduates.

**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)**

Over the last two decades, Kansas and most states have shifted the cost of a post-secondary education from an investment by the state, to a cost for the student and their families. I support balancing this with additional investment in our higher education system, targeted innovation for what higher learning looks like online and through distance learning, and working on ways to ensure all Kansans who want to, have the opportunity to attend post-secondary institutions.

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

I believe we must support expanding Medicaid. To date, Kansans have forfeited more than \$4 Billion of our tax dollars to states like Indiana where, then Governor Mike Pence, signed expansion into law. Expanding Medicaid is common-sense policy that will greatly benefit the Kansas economy.

**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)**

The Kansas Legislature should ensure that all Kansans have the opportunity to earn a living wage and have the benefits they need to succeed and provide for their families. I support ensuring that all Kansans are welcome in Kansas. We must pass a

statewide anti-discrimination policy, ensuring that Kansans cannot be fired from their job at an employer of 4 people or more, simply because of who they are or who they love.

**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)**

I support local control. When I'm considering legislation that I know impacts the local school boards, county commission, or city council, I consult with my fellow elected officials and their representatives to ensure my vote is not taking their control away.

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

As a pragmatic Democrat, I have strived to professionalize constituent communications, transparency, and bring our state government to the neighborhoods of District 30. I am the only candidate in this race who has been involved in our community and will always work hard to represent my constituents, not political interests.

**4. Thank You!**

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**Your response has been successfully submitted.**

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