U.S. Senate 2020

Response ID:19 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Brian Matlock

2. Political Party Affiliation

Republican

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 512 N Thompson St
City/State/Zip : Kansas City

4. Phone Number

9139630697

5. Email Address

brian@matlockforsenate.com

6. Campaign Website

www.matlockforsenate.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Teaching/researching economics at UMKC. Before that, my background is in nonprofits: homeless shelters, mental health case management, and community development.

8. 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 was an advisory board member of my neighborhood association for 4 years, and an Entrepreneurship committeemember of the Econ Ave. Community Development program run by the Federal Reserve Bank of KC.

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

I have been a marshall/participant at several Black Lives Matter protests.
Helped to design & conduct a housing conditions survey.

3. Issues and Policy

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

Economy- Locally Administered Job Guarantee program.
Healthcare- Medicare for All is by far the most evidence based plan to increase care and reduce costs.
Immigration- decriminalize, path to citizenship

11. What are your views on the national economy? (75 words or less)

Prone to crisis- we need programs that stabilize the economy through programs like a Job Guarantee but support local

priorities and decision-making.

Corporations have centralized too much wealth & power and prey off of vulnerable communities. Government rolls out the red carpet for corporations but the red tape for local business. We should support local finance & business, especially cooperatively owned and operated to have more robust local economies and control over our lives.

12. What are your views on federal tax policy? (75 words or less)

Federal tax policy has too many loopholes for abuse by the super wealthy, but often unequal and overcomplicated application for the rest of us. It should be at a rate that supports a healthy and growing economy while maintaining stable prices, should be simplified where possible and should achieve our goals of an economy where we all pitch in to provide for joint needs but the resources are used efficiently.

13. What would you propose, if anything, to provide further relief to Kansas businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to encourage recovery and economic growth? (100 words or less)

Current programs don't have enough money and disproportionately benefit medium sized and franchise businesses. We need to increase funding for our local businesses and make it easier to get so we don't fully open our economy to a great depression.

We should provide additional stimulus checks to maintain demand until the economy is fully up and running, and should provide federal assistance to state and local governments so they aren't having mass layoffs when already in a recession.

If there isn't enough of supplies, ration it and engage in direct production until the crisis is over.

14. What are your views on long-term funding solutions for transportation infrastructure? (75 words or less)

Having an excellent quality and up-to-date transportation infrastructure is essential for the long term growth of our economy and ability to provide for ourselves in the future. It is worth the investment to update our infrastructure and will help the health of the economy on an ongoing basis. We should support energy efficient and clean development rather than subsidizing fossil-fuels.

15. What are your views on the federal government's role in the health care system? (75 words or less)

Healthcare is a right. Private health insurance increases cost, reduces transparency, reduces choice, and reduces competition by forcing in-network. By cutting out the middle man and all the billing/collections there will be immense savings, more choice/competition based on quality of care, increased entrepreneurship w/o need for employee insurance, and more peace of mind that when a medical emergency happens. Nearly 100 studies and almost all find M4A to give more care at a lower cost.

16. What are your views on international trade and tariffs? (75 words or less)

I believe in fair trade and treating others the way we want to be treated. Attempts to get 'good deals' causes unfair competition for domestic producers and causes long term resentment from our trade partners. I believe we should prioritize domestic production for the health of the environment and local economy, but should avoid trade wars and tariff battles that hurt farmers and damage long-term prospects of cooperation.

17. What role should the federal government have in determining workplace employment practices and benefits offered to employees? What workplace changes, if any, would you support? (100 words or less)

Over the last several decades we have seen a dramatic increase in worker productivity but stagnant wages and an increasing average work week. To share the wealth we are creating rather than it being horded by monopolistic corporations, the federal government should support policies and programs that allow the abundance created to be fairly shared.

Medicare for all would relieve the pressure on businesses to provide expensive health plans.

I support increases in minimum wage consistent with increasing productivity.

A Federal-funded locally-administered job guarantee program would be able to provide a basic living in times of economic depression.

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

We all benefit from an educated populace to participate in democracy and in the workforce. Businesses have an incentive to

freeload & have others invest in training/education and reap the benefits. Education is a public good. The student debt is slowing growth and the economic benefits of cancelling student debt and providing a free college education outweigh the costs. Greater reforms of higher education are needed for efficiency and quality.

19. What are your views on national environmental policy? (75 words or less)

I support a Green New Deal. Plastic has been around one generation and is piling up around the world, fossil fuels worsen our air and water quality and health. As we are redesigning our economy to be more sustainable we have an opportunity to dream big and include communities in the design of how we want our agriculture, transportation, and economy to look. It is still a broad vision and has immense possibility for Kansas.

20. What are your views on national immigration policy? Do you support employment-based immigration reforms to assist with workforce shortages? (75 words or less)

People are our greatest resource, and we should reform immigration and actively design our economy to build an amazing future together. I support a pathway to citizenship and making undocumented immigration a civil rather than criminal offense, to demilitarize the border, end family separation and honor international law with respect to asylum seekers.

21. What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s)? (50 words or less)

I have spent a life of community service and nonprofit work, it is clear where my heart is. I am transcending the 'good team/bad team' partisanship and am focusing on building towards a better future. As an economist, I am best equipped to address the economic crisis from the pandemic.