

# Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:114 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Chris Croft

### 2. Political Party Affiliation

Republican

### 3. District Number of Office Being Sought

8

### 4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 8909 W. 148th Terrace

City/State/Zip : Overland Park

### 5. Phone Number

9132791215

### 6. Email Address

croftforkansas@gmail.com

### 7. Campaign Website

croftforkansas@gmail.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

U.S. Army Officer - 30 years of service, retired in 2018

Kansas House of Representatives (2019-present)

Consultant teaching young leaders, leadership skills (2019-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.

Board Chair, Army Week Association

Board Chair, American Fallen Warrior Memorial Foundation

Chair, Republican House Campaign Committee

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

Unemployment benefits for Kansans

Wreaths Across America in OP

Scouting in OP

Hidden Heroes

Republican House Campaign Committee

VFW

High School Debate Competition

### 3. Issues and Policy

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

- 1) Occupational licensing reform
- 2) Food sales and property taxes
- 3) Workforce and business development

**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)**

This is a difficult question primarily because we don't have the full picture of what our revenue will look like for the next fiscal year. However, first and foremost, we need to look for efficiencies and ways to make government smarter so we can protect core needs and do so without tax increases on the middle-class.

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

We need to look at our entire tax code and find ways to make it more equitable for everyone. Our high food sales tax and property taxes really hurt seniors and those on fixed and lower incomes. Those inequities need to be addressed.

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

I want to ensure state money is going to the classroom. In walking the district and visiting with constituents, I still hear too many stories of how much parents and teachers spend out of their pocket for classroom supplies. While the Supreme Court has ruled that the funding plan, that I supported, adequately funds our schools, we must ensure more money reaches our classrooms.

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

Johnson Country is the economic driver in the state. Transportation and infrastructure are the keys to support our growth. Specifically, we need to expand US-69 highway north of 199th Street. South of 199th Street we need to expand the bridges and overpasses to accommodate eight-lanes in preparation of the eventual growth south. This will reduce construction costs and time in the future.

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

I am working with the Commerce Department, investors, developers, Kansans and legislators to develop new investment opportunities to encourage business and workforce growth. Post-COVID, many manufacturing companies will be looking to leave China and we need to capitalize on that and bring those jobs to Kansas.

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

I created and carried a bi-partisan bill to reform occupational licensing to help grow our workforce. I supported the job corps bill and helped improve its application. I've worked with veteran organizations, associations, headhunter organizations and individual companies to focus on teaching and hiring veterans as they leave the military to keep them in Kansas. I also created a bill to grow and develop a STEAM workforce in Kansas through a post-secondary scholarship program.

**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)**

First, I believe K-12 should prepare students with life skills. Today, post-secondary encompasses more than just a traditional 4-year college program. We need to embrace all opportunities to teach trades and other skills. I believe we must ensure that every taxpayer dollar spent on education is done so in the most efficient and effective manner.

We should also look for ways to create post-secondary scholarships for STEAM students through a public / private partnership.

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

I support making Medicaid as strong and efficient as possible for those who are in need of assistance, specifically, children, those with disabilities and mental health needs, and the elderly. I also support creating healthcare innovations that solve specific healthcare needs. For example, I believe we must find a way to create a means to unify public and private resources to solve our mental health needs.

**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)**

Over the last decade, there have been several reforms that created a more stable and well funded Unemployment Insurance Fund and a clear, fair and responsive Workers Compensation system. These reforms must be maintained. I have spent an enormous amount of time since March assisting Kansans with Unemployment Claims because of the antiquated computer system within the Department of Labor. This issue must be a top priority when the Legislature returns in January.

**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. I believe the state should establish the framework and the local units of government should operate and lead within that framework. I fundamentally believe that as much power as possible should be vested as close to the individual voter and constituent as possible.

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

Leadership in times of crisis. As a military officer I led small and large organizations in complex and dangerous situations. These experiences taught me leadership under fire. My experience and education, acquired through 30 years of service to our Nation, has prepared me to serve our area in the House.

**4. Thank You!**

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**Your response has been successfully submitted.**

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