

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:82 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Cindy Holscher

2. Political Party Affiliation

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3. District Number of Office Being Sought

SD 8

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 12345 Westgate St.

City/State/Zip : Overland Park 66213

5. Phone Number

913-568-4293

6. Email Address

cindyforkansas@gmail.com

7. Campaign Website

cindyforsenateks.com

2. Candidate Background

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

I worked for Sprint for apprx. 13 years in marketing, budgeting and operations managing groups as well as developing solutions for product enhancements, etc.

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 was the legislative liaison for the State PTA in Kansas prior to running for office

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

I have served in the House of Representatives for almost four years with a focus to funding schools, healthcare access, budget stability and economic growth.

3. Issues and Policy

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

- 1) Funding of public schools
- 2) Health care access
- 3) Economic growth and budget stability

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)

We have several untapped areas when it comes to potential revenue growth; those include: sports wagering, medicinal cannabis and more development of wind energy. The House Fed and State committee was working on plans for sports wagering and medicinal cannabis when session came to an end due to COVID. I would look to implementing these initiatives before implementing cuts. Additionally, the expansion of Medicaid would also positively impact our bottom line by adding close to \$1B annually in funds - something I have supported throughout my time in the Legislature.

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

Our tax policy is currently not a very fair structure; the lowest wage earners in the state pay a disproportionate amount of income to taxes, mainly due to the sales tax on groceries. While we did the right thing in adding LLCs back to the tax system, we did not have the support to reinstitute the highest bracket which also contributes to making the tax system unbalanced.

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

The funding of our public schools is the fuel for the economic engine of our area - it's the reason businesses and families decide to move here. While we have finally reached "constitutional" levels of funding, there are areas that still need attention including special ed funding.

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

The state transportation plan is a welcome initiative. The highway system, including HWY 69 is an integral part of the area and needs attention. Due to the Brownback experiment, for many years, projects were cancelled or delayed. This means routine maintenance was often not performed; now those projects are more expensive. Through the plan, we will be working to catch up on projects as well as establish a strong program moving forward.

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

We do a great job retaining health related graduates but could focus more on science related industries. This is an area where I feel it is imperative to listen to local leaders who have been very effective in development despite some of the policies that were put in place during the Brownback experiment. We do know that appropriate funding of schools and upkeep/expansion of highways are critical to business expansion in Kansas.

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

We do a great job of educating our students, but we often lose our brightest college graduates to other states. More focus on developing science related jobs would have an impact as well as ensuring we are paying attention to what this market of people enjoys/needs - accessible entertainment, public transportation, affordable housing. Additionally, stepping away from extremist/ideology driven legislation would likely have a positive impact.

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)

The state made substantial cuts to post secondary ed during the Brownback years and has not fully recovered. We need to ensure college is accessible/affordable to our high school graduates. Right now a number of students are choosing to go out of state as it is more affordable; these are students who often would likely prefer to go to one of our state schools.

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

I have been fighting for Medicaid expansion since even before entering the Legislature. We have over 100,000 Kansans without health insurance; this ends up costing our hospitals and the taxpayer a substantial amount when uninsured are forced to use the ER for their health care needs. Additionally, our citizens would fare better if they had access to ongoing health care and preventative care. Expansion makes sense for economic reasons as well as humane reasons.

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)

A state wide focus to prohibiting discrimination is important to attracting strong employees. While benefits offered has been up to companies/local level, we could likely make our state more enticing by providing more sound benefits and better wages for some of our lower level 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)

While the state legislature may be the body to approve funds for schools and other agencies, I believe it is best to let the local level make determinations on how that money is spent. Typically, the local level is much more versed in the needs of their communities and it is appropriate that decision making rests there.

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

A commitment to serving people, not special interest groups, is what most distinguishes me from my opponent. My opponent will likely have the backing of dark money which come with strings attached to their agenda/ideology. However, I am focused on interests of people: funding schools, healthcare access & job growth.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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