

# Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:36 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

### 1. Candidate Name

Cindy Neighbor

### 2. Political Party Affiliation

Democrat

### 3. District Number of Office Being Sought

18

### 4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 10405 W 52nd Terrace

City/State/Zip : Shawnee, Kansas 66203

### 5. Phone Number

913-268-9061

### 6. Email Address

Cindyneighbor@aol.com

### 7. Campaign Website

Cindyneighbor.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

I am a retired COO of a dental practice where I also worked with oral sedation patients. I have been retired for 4 years.

### 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 have been associated with the chamber through the Shawnee Mission School Board as an elected member. I also am the current District #18 House Representative. I am a past-president of the Kansas Association of School Boards.

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

League of Women Voters; Jo and Wyandotte Counties Junior League; Worked on original Ronald McDonald House at KU; Current elected House of Representatives 18th district.

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

Education- We must hold up to the courts on equity and equality. This is our economic engine.

Transportation and infrastructure (Growing business)

Medicaid Expansion and Mental Health

**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 just received notice of the Governor's plan for cutting budgets. I have not dissected all of the moving parts, but it appears to be mostly paper shuffling with no harm to agencies or services. I believe the revenue enhancements can come from gambling and on-line sales tax. This will have to be addressed this year because of forthcoming budget shortfalls.

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

I would like to see us get back on track with the 3-legged stool combination. I would also like to see a reduction in food sales tax, as it is the highest in the area. We have to be mindful to have fair and reasonable tax policy for all KANSANS and not for just some.

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

Due to the lawsuit during the prior session, the courts very clearly state our obligation regarding equity and equality. This is in our State Constitution and is a responsibility we have to all students in Kansas Public Schools. If we fail to meet our responsibility, we would more than likely end up back in court.

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

I want to make sure that all Kansans have projects in their communities over the next 10 years. I want the decisions to be transparent as well as needed. Each project will be let based on informational forums with community leaders, along with buy-in from the communities. This is definitely a partnership program.

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

I would hope to see more entrepreneurship programs across the state. I believe the Department of Commerce is definitely looking for ways to provide start-up funding for new businesses that come to Kansas. I would support both of these considerations. With the Pandemic currently upon us, this next session will be challenging because of all the unknowns.

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

We need to do more with the technical schools we have in Kansas. We need to focus in areas of greatest need and provide programs to train and maintain those individuals. There are many businesses today that provide tuition assistance and job placement after graduation. More of these types of programs only require an 18-24 month period of study for certification and we need to be working with those institutions.

**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)**

Education costs are continuing to rise. I believe the state has a responsibility to continue to fund higher education along with technical schools. We must try to reach some sort of agreement with our institutions of higher learning, whether it be through scholarships or graduating and working in the state to help reduce student debt. Virtual classes may be optional but due not work in all areas of study.

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

I am a big supporter of Medicaid expansion because our state has currently given more than \$4B dollars of our tax monies to other states. We need those tax dollars to stay in Kansas for our hospitals, nursing homes, and low income constituents that are not receiving proper or any healthcare. We need to do a better job of taking care of our seniors and elderly and find ways to support their 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)**

We have had many discussions on this issue the past two years. It is the belief of many to go back to using the Guideline for Workmen's Comp for evaluation from 6 to 4. This has been recommended by many at the federal level and I expect to see more discussion this next session.

**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 believe the best decisions for communities is made at the local level. Not all communities are the same in demographics, needs, and demands from their constituents. This should not be a one size fits all. There are opportunities for the Legislature to make guiding laws, but they should have the flexibility of local lawmakers to enhance or implement them for their communities.

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

If I am elected, this will be my 6th term. I know where to go for research and bill creation. I know the lobbyists and where to ask questions. I respond to my constituents, no matter their political views. I listen, I read, and I can make critical decisions.

**4. Thank You!**

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**Your response has been successfully submitted.**

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