

# Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:54 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Clay Norkey

### 2. Political Party Affiliation

Republican

### 3. District Number of Office Being Sought

KS House District 8

### 4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 9435 W. 157th Ct.

City/State/Zip : Overland Park, KS 66221

### 5. Phone Number

913-579-1080

### 6. Email Address

clay@claynorkey.com

### 7. Campaign Website

<https://www.claynorkey.com>

## 2. Candidate Background

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

Attorney -- Clayton Thomas LLC, OPKS (2017 –present)

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Attorney -- Shook, Hardy & Bacon, KCMO (1999 – 2017)

### 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.

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce: Leadership OP (2008); Member (thru BVRC currently; thru SHB prior)

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Lawyers Association of Kansas City: President (2015-16); Director (2009–17); Chair of multiple committees.

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

Blue Valley Recreation Commission: Commissioner

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Wilshire Farms Homes Association: President; Vice-President

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Church of the Resurrection: Church-Council Chair; President/Trustee

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Father's Club: BVW Co-founder/Chairman

### 3. Issues and Policy

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

1. Education
2. Jobs and Economic Recovery & Growth
3. Transportation & Infrastructure (especially 69 Hwy)

#### 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)

With a looming shortfall, we must get creative. First, we should fight for every federal dollar Kansas can get. Second, consider restructuring payment obligations. Third, consider short-term project delays where practicable. Fourth, ask the governor to challenge every agency to find areas to cut, shrink, or delay. Fifth, scour the tax code to close unjustifiable tax giveaways. Sixth, look carefully at surgical cuts to non-essential or "least" essential services. And, seventh, as a last resort, look for revenue enhancements on new revenue streams (e.g., online gaming) or from sources that do not negatively affect small businesses or working families.

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

Taxes should only be what they need to be to provide essential services relied upon by residents and businesses, including transportation, education, public safety, healthcare and mental-health services, and other quality-of-life issues that make our communities attractive to new residents and investment. Tax policy should be predictable. I adhere to the three-legged stool metaphor. State revenue should be balanced between income, sales, and property taxes, which helps weather the storms and share the burden.

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

Properly funded, high-quality schools are key to delivering and sustaining a strong workforce. As a dad to nine Blue Valley students and alums, I have seen firsthand the opportunities good schools provide Kansans. We must adequately fund K-12 education across the state and hold school districts accountable for how those funds are spent. I support local efforts to fully fund education beyond mere adequacy, and oppose diversion of public funds to unaccountable, private enterprises.

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

First and foremost, we need to expand 69 Highway. It is the highest-rated need in the state with the worst traffic bottlenecks. Overall, the Eisenhower plan is a smart, 10-year plan that reinforces our state's commitment to strong infrastructure and long-range planning. It will help us prioritize vital broadband and transportation issues that will promote economic growth and development across the state.

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

We need to support our Commerce Secretary who is the state's salesperson, spreading the word about how investment in Kansas makes economic and competitive sense. Excellence in our schools must be maintained, quality-of-life issues should remain a focus, and support for small businesses and entrepreneurs must be available. We must have a full toolbox of options and workforce-development opportunities available for tailored approaches, including incentives when it makes good economic sense to do so.

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

We must fully fund our schools and ensure we have a well-educated workforce. We should encourage apprenticeship programs, as in Olathe schools, to have workforce-ready graduates. I support proper funding of our Department of Commerce and would work closely with the Secretary to put Kansas on the best foundation to compete nationally and globally. I would also look at specific areas where we may be deficient to improve retention and recruitment of businesses and talent.

#### 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 has a fundamental interest in educating its future leaders and workforce; continuing to educate the existing workforce; and attracting new talent through high-quality educational opportunities. With six of our kids attending or graduated from Kansas public colleges and universities, I recognize we must eliminate barriers and reduce skyrocketing college and vocational-training costs if we want to remain competitive. Quality, affordable education must be accessible for those willing to put forth reasonable effort.

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

I support Medicaid expansion. It's the right thing to do and would cover over 132,000 now-uninsured Kansans, mostly children. It will help save rural hospitals, easing burdens locally. It would be a net gain for jobs and the economy. We cannot afford to send another \$4B Kansas tax dollars to other states—we must bring those dollars back home. We must also improve access to and reduce the cost of healthcare, without heavy tax burdens.

**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 state government should have a role in establishing minimum health and safety regulations; protecting workers from unfair discrimination and unfair business practices; and promoting certain minimum benefits that serve a societal purpose. In general, however, businesses should determine the specifics of their benefit plans.

**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)**

Generally speaking, local decisions should remain local. We must trust local communities to elect their own leaders who best know the community and will make the best choices for their local issues. State legislative involvement is appropriate for areas that affect statewide issues.

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

I am a true representative of our community. I've lived, worked, played, served, worshipped, and raised my family in Overland Park for over 20 years. My wife and I own small businesses here. I have been immersed in and understand our community, and will serve that community, not special-interest groups.

**4. Thank You!**

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**Your response has been successfully submitted.**

**Candidate responses will be posted at [www.VoteJoCo.com](http://www.VoteJoCo.com) once advance voting begins.**