

# Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:108 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Ethan Corson

### 2. Political Party Affiliation

Democratic

### 3. District Number of Office Being Sought

Kansas Senate, District 7

### 4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : PO Box 8296

City/State/Zip : Prairie Village, KS 66208

### 5. Phone Number

(785) 414-9215

### 6. Email Address

ethan@ethanforkansas.com

### 7. Campaign Website

www.ethanforkansas.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

Attorney, Blake & Uhlig

Executive Director, Kansas Democratic Party

Fellow, Dole Institute of Politics, KU

Chief of Staff, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

### 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.

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

Mainstream Coalition, Member

Missouri-Kansas Women's Leadership Forum, Advisory Committee

Treasurer, Jenna Brofsky for Fairway

Kansas Democratic Party, Precinct Committeeperson

Sierra Club, Member

Kol Ami, Congregant

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

World-class public schools; access to quality, affordable healthcare, including Medicaid Expansion; fostering the conditions that allow businesses and entrepreneurship to flourish in Johnson County, thus creating more good paying jobs.

**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)**

Kansas could balance the state budget without affecting government operations or payments to current or soon-to-be retirees by: (1) Implementing Gov. Kelly's proposal to save \$264 million by delaying a payment to the Pooled Money Investment Board. (The legislature took out a \$317 million interest free loan from the Board in 2017.) This would extend the amount of time the state will take to repay the loan. (2) Lower contributions to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System by making payments over a 25-year period instead of 15, which would save \$223 million WITHOUT affecting retiree benefits.

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

In recent years, Kansas moved away from its tradition of sensible tax policy based on a reasonable balance between income, sales, and property taxes. As a result, we have one of the country's highest sales taxes, including on food. The Legislature should review the recommendations (due in December) of the Governor's Council on Tax Reform, and enact comprehensive tax reform that creates economic growth, provides certainty to businesses, supports public investment, and helps working families.

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

Every child in Kansas should have the opportunity to attend a world-class public school. That means the Legislature must adequately fund our public schools every single year. I am a graduate of Shawnee Mission public schools, and our one-year-old son will be part of the next generation of Shawnee Mission students. That is why I am proud to have the support of the Kansas National Education Association and Education First Shawnee Mission in my campaign.

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

1. Making sure Johnson County receives at least the \$8 million in transportation improvements promised under the plan.
2. Improving the infrastructure for broadband service to facilitate internet expansion.
3. Finishing all remaining T-WORKS projects as soon as possible.

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

Creating world-class public schools in Kansas is the best economic development policy we could implement. Our schools have been a magnet for bringing businesses to Kansas because they know they will be able to attract talented employees who want to raise their families here. They also know that our schools are creating the next generation of highly skilled workers. Additionally, we need to relentlessly advance industries in which Kansas has natural advantages, like wind energy.

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

- Fund and support rigorous STEM programs in our public schools to prepare students for careers in STEM-based fields.
- Make higher education affordable to every qualified student.
- Better utilize our vibrant community college system to create more opportunities for Kansans to get retrained or learn new skills.
- Enhance apprenticeship programs.
- Work with businesses to understand the specific skills, training, and experience they need in their employees of today and tomorrow.

**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 an obligation to ensure that higher education is affordable to all Kansans who wish to pursue it.

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

Medicaid Expansion is a moral and economic imperative. Enacting Medicaid Expansion should be the first thing the

Legislature does during the next session. Expansion would provide access to health care for 130,000 Kansans, including 40,000 children, strengthen our rural health care system, and create jobs. To not pass expansion during a global health crisis that is increasing the number of people without employer-sponsored health care coverage is unconscionable.

**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 should work collaboratively with the business community to determine what the state can do to increase the number of employers that offer health insurance to their employees. State government should also be looking for ways to help businesses retain workers through the COVID-19 pandemic. The state also needs to raise the minimum wage, which has not been increased in a decade. Finally, the state needs to strengthen its workers' compensation system.

**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 generally support local control.

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

My opponent was a strong supporter of Sam Brownback and his policies, which devastated Kansas and created a crisis we are still recovering from. I want to turn the page on the Brownback-era and fund our schools, make sure all Kansans have access to quality, affordable healthcare, and create jobs.

**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.**

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