

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:11 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Fred Lehman, DVM

2. Political Party Affiliation

Republican

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

House or Rep., Dist. 28

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : P O Box 23232

City/State/Zip : Overland Park

5. Phone Number

913.766.5758

6. Email Address

fred@lehman4ks.com

7. Campaign Website

<https://lehman4ks.com>

2. Candidate Background

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

AVMA Congressional Fellow--Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (NE-1)

Sr. Assoc. Director, Business Development, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health

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.

Ochiltree County CofC-Board of Directors

Society for Theriogenology-President

Therio Foundation-Sec.Treas.

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

Church of the Resurrection--Congregational Care Minister, Chair-Staff Parish Committee, group leader, mission volunteer

Mississippi State University-Faculty & Extension Veterinary Leader

3. Issues and Policy

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

11. Fiscal responsibility as our state recovers from COVID-19

2. Protect and enhance our public education and infrastructure

3. Local government control

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)

Returning our economy to pre-COVID levels must be our top priority. The governor has made some short-term cuts, however, the looming deficit is significant and will require a mix of cutting costs while boosting the economy. All departments should anticipate temporary fiscal constraints. We must invest in infrastructure such as roads, rails, and internet access that generates more revenue as our economy grows.

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

Taxes should be fair and equitable. Revenue should provide essential services to maintain our quality of life. Kansas must live within its means and not increase the tax burden. Food sales tax must be reduced. We need to re-examine our tools and keep those that work and take a look at adding those that might attract talent to our state. In summary; create jobs and attract new businesses.

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

The Kansas Legislature has created an equitable solution for funding public education and we cannot back off now. The State Constitution of 1861 clearly established public education is the responsibility of the state. Preparation of our workforce is an essential investment for businesses and impacts our quality of life. New roles for schools include feeding the disadvantaged while addressing the physical and mental health needs of our children and must be funded.

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

KDOT's newly released IKE program provides a rational and fair approach to funding Kansas highways and bridges, which I support. The program's top new project is to improve highway 69, which is Main Street for Johnson County. We are the economic engine for the state of Kansas. The IKE program provides fuel for us to continue to grow. Shifting funds away from KDOT to other programs must be avoided.

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

Workforce career training should be strongly encouraged. Providing incentives to attract new enterprises in multiple sectors is an expectation in our modern business climate and Kansas has a history of creating successful programs in industries such as bioscience. This must be done with the sensitivity and the input of the current business community. Access to rural broadband will allow employees to work remotely and expand business opportunities. Entrepreneurship is a key to our future.

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

Career training must continue to be an option in high school education. Higher education should consider the state's workforce needs and present justification during their budget request processes. Adult education, vocational retraining, and career counseling should be accessible and affordable, especially for low-wage earners and individuals on government-assistance programs. The recent COVID pandemic revealed that education must adapt to include on-line options. Business skill training which encourages entrepreneurship and diversification are important in post-COVID reality.

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)

As a former university educator, I am an advocate for higher education. I credit my education for opening doors for me. I recognize that increasing tuition costs are pushing educational debt on new graduates and their families while the state's portion of the university budgets struggles to maintain status quo. It is widely acknowledged that funding for institutional research programs is shifting to federal or private sources. The state's alignment and collaborative efforts are essential.

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

Accessible and affordable healthcare is essential for all, and is an unmet need for the uninsured and underinsured. A fiscally neutral, bipartisan solution was not successful in the 2020 Kansas legislative session. Medicaid expansion has been

stigmatized as a byproduct of the ACA; but while Kansans paid billions in funding other states, they have not received their share in return. Helping small business access affordable insurance pools must be incorporated in any legislation moving forward.

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)

Federal standards provide a baseline for workplace practices and the state should set a higher standard as needed. Anti-discrimination laws can help Kansas attract new businesses. Most decisions in this area, are better left to local governments in recognition that smaller government is better government.

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)

As mentioned above, smaller government is better government. Johnson County's needs are far different from rural western Kansas. This requires local government involvement to develop tailored policies and programs. One size may not fit all. We do not want to homogenize our education system where we bring down the high standards of performance in Blue Valley. Our schools are the number one reason people choose to live here. Local control is what makes that happen.

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

My vision is for Kansas to grow in the future. It appears my opponent wants to take us backward to unsuccessful economic policies. We have a new reality, that calls for innovation, & creativity. I'm pro-business, endorsed BizPAC* with qualifications which enable me to bring all sides together to benefit Kansas.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

Candidate responses will be posted at www.VoteJoCo.com once advance voting begins.
