

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:4 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Jan H. Kessinger

2. Political Party Affiliation

Republican

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

House District 20

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 12605 Walmer St.

City/State/Zip : Overland Park, KS 66209

5. Phone Number

913-275-4790

6. Email Address

Jan@JanKessinger.com

7. Campaign Website

www.JanKessinger.com

2. Candidate Background

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

President Henderson Kessinger Consulting; Sales & Management consulting to Fortune 500 and sole proprietorships. State Representative 2017- present.

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)

Member Church of the Resurrection Council; Board of Directors Johnson County Educational Research Triangle; State Use Committee; Governor's Council on Travel & Tourism;

3. Issues and Policy

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

1. Rebuild the Kansas economy in the wake of Covid-19;
2. Invest in infrastructure to enhance business environment;
3. Fully fund education to preserve our lifestyle.

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)

Looking ahead, we face huge deficits. While cutting expenses or delaying projects is an easy answer, the first priority must be to build revenue without raising taxes.

Local businesses are at a disadvantage against online sellers who do not pay income tax. We must have a fair and equitable online sales tax.

Sports betting would generate additional revenue.

Attracting new businesses to Kansas also will increase revenues.

At the same time, we must look hard at expenses and cut where there is waste. We cannot take from KPERs or KDOT as was done under the Brownback tax plans.

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

I support the three-legged stool of income, property and sales taxes. They should be balanced, fair and applied to everyone. I also support a reduction in the food sales tax. Not only is it regressive, it puts eastern Kansas groceries at a disadvantage. I can drive three miles and save 5% a year on my groceries...that's a lot of money and jobs.

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

After decades, we constitutionally funded schools and I fought hard for that. We should continue to invest in public schools. A Brookings study last year showed that education is Kansas' largest strength in building the economy. Invest in your strengths and make your weaknesses irrelevant.

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

69 Highway.

To attract and keep business - whether services, manufacturing or distribution - an infrastructure must be in place to get people and goods to market. That means to invest where the people are and where the goods are transported. In addition to local highways, I like the broadband expansion part of the plan as an aid to rural Kansas businesses and schools.

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

I was part of a bi-partisan coalition on the Commerce Committee who worked with the Commerce Department to develop a revised STAR Bonds program. We had it ready to pass out of committee, but leadership did not get it to the floor for a vote. I also support angel investment programs as well as workforce development with an incentive for students to stay and work in Kansas.

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

As I touched on in the previous question, I would put a stopper in the brain drain with incentive programs for students to stay and work in Kansas, (and for businesses to hire Kansas students via internships or apprenticeships). Provide training in support of businesses who come to Kansas - offer classes as we do at JCCC designed specifically in support of a business or industry. "We train your employees!"

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 cost of higher education has skyrocketed in recent years. A large part of that is attributable to cuts in aid to higher ed and universities have had to pass along tuition increases to cover lost state revenue. We need to invest in higher ed - not just to lower tuition, but to bolster research programs that attract more students and innovative businesses.

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

I have long-been an advocate for Medicaid Expansion. Nearly 150,000 Kansans do not have healthcare coverage. The emergency room is used as a primary physician and those bills often end up being written off, with the costs being passed along to those patients who are able to pay. We have paid almost \$4 billion in expansion taxes and have received ZERO dollars in return. No expansion state has pulled out of the program.

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 has a role in labor law that is superior to having laws passed down from the federal government. I serve on the Commerce, Economic Development and Labor Committee. We consider all aspects of workplace employment practices. I do not have any major changes I promote, though increasing the minimum wage should be studied and considered.

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 am a champion of local control. One thing I have noticed in the legislature is the divide between Johnson County and the rest of the state. I stand firm against their jealousy. I seek to lift the rest of the state (schools, economy, etc.) to the standards of Johnson County, not be dragged down to their standards. We must bring the tax load into balance as we pay more than our share.

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

I bring real business experience and education to the job. Appointed by three different governors to state committees, plus serve as board member of Johnson County Education Research Triangle with its economic impact surpassing professional sports in the area. I serve the people in my district, not extreme special interests.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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