

# Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:42 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Jane Dirks

### 2. Political Party Affiliation

Republican

### 3. District Number of Office Being Sought

20

### 4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 6506 W 125th Terr

City/State/Zip : Overland Park

### 5. Phone Number

9135584107

### 6. Email Address

janedirksforkansas@gmail.com

### 7. Campaign Website

janedirks.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

Development assistant at Whitefield Academy

### 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)

Precinct Committeewoman, 16 years

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

Lowering the tax burden on families and seniors

Health care access and affordability

Student focused education

### 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)

I am not in favor of tax increases. I believe in a system of zero-based budgeting where every program is evaluated on an

annual basis rather than simply using the previous year's budget as a starting point. By keeping the rate of growth to inflation plus population growth, we can keep our budget in balance over the long haul.

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

As a mom and wife of a small business owner, taxes are an increasing burden on our families and small business owners. I would like to prioritize property tax reform and lowering the sales taxes on food. These taxes hit the low income people and our fixed income seniors the hardest.

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

In 2019, the legislature passed a bill that satisfied the court and for now, this issue is settled. I favor ensuring our schools remain excellent by providing the funding they need, with emphasis on making sure that the dollars reach teachers and classrooms. This student-focused approach to funding is important.

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

All roads should be well maintained. We should fix any issues where there are bottlenecks and address any safety issues where accidents are prone to happen. Specifically, many in my area who commute to Lawrence and Topeka are concerned with K-10, particularly the western side of the South Lawrence Trafficway, which needs to be widened to 4 lanes to meet the increased traffic between Kansas City and Topeka and to also address safety concerns.

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**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 support exploring economic incentives that are available to all businesses which creates jobs in Kansas. We need to be careful about picking winners and losers.

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

We need to make sure that people are well trained. I would like to encourage graduating seniors to consider going to a technical college. As machinists and other skilled trades are beginning to retire, there is a shortage of well-trained individuals to replace them. These are good jobs.

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**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)**

We need to make sure that we are spending money responsibly in an effort to keep tuition down. Community colleges continue to be an option as they tend to be more affordable. Our students should know what the job opportunities are for each type of degree so they can make decisions about what education path to take. Many students are going into debt to get degrees in things that don't have good job prospects.

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

I am opposed to Medicaid expansion. As an alternative, we need to expand health care choices in the private sector, short term medical plans and encourage the federal government to expand health savings accounts. There should be free market alternatives so people can purchase affordable, portable, plans that meet their needs.

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**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)**

I believe competitive benefits and salaries offered by employers are best left to each business to decide. As wages rise, and benefits increase, employers must find ways to compete for talent. But not all businesses have the same resources. Real life example- how many employers now pay \$15 minimum wage? Wages should be market driven not government mandated.

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**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 proponent of local control as much as possible, particularly as it pertains to schools. However, we always must ensure

the interests of taxpayers are protected. For instance, I strongly support the "Truth in Taxation" legislation last year, which was vetoed by the governor. I also don't believe that core constitutional rights should be infringed by local governments.

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

I have been a Republican all my life. I believe in limited government, free enterprise, individual liberty and a culture of life. On key issues, my opponent has largely voted with the Democratic Party and in a way inconsistent with the party he claims to be a member of.

**4. Thank You!**

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**Your response has been successfully submitted.**

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