

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:17 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Kathy Meyer

2. Political Party Affiliation

Democratic

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

HD 78

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 15384 S Darnell

City/State/Zip : Olathe

5. Phone Number

9138296613

6. Email Address

katmey@swbell.net

7. Campaign Website

<https://www.meyer4kansas.com>

2. Candidate Background

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

Public School Educator - elementary teacher for 38 years

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.

Olathe Chamber of Commerce membership as President of Olathe NEA

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

Political experience has been working to elect best candidates in several races. Interviewed candidates for a PAC. Engaged others in the political process.

3. Issues and Policy

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

Full funding for Public Education

Affordable healthcare for all

Economy and Responsible Governing

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)

The legislature must approve a budget each year. In times when funding is down as has happened with the Covid-19 pandemic, tough choices will need to be made. I understand that sales tax, property tax, and income tax are the 3 sources of state monies to create the budget. I would be interested in looking at additional tax brackets in the income tax. Until I study the entire budget, I do not feel I can name specific budget cuts at this time.

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

The entire tax structure needs to be reviewed and this may be a perfect time to rebalance the 3-legged stool (sales, income and property taxes) due to budget concerns. I am interested in reviewing the income tax brackets and the impact of sales tax on food as it more heavily affects low income wage earners.

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

Public Schools are the foundation of our society. Education funding needs to remain a priority in the budget. Fully funding Special Education and protecting K-12 funding is needed.

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

The transportation program is important. Plans to address/improve 69 Highway and K10 in the east part of the state are needed and are 2 of the next planned projects.

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

Public Schools are the biggest economic stimulus in our state. We must continue to work to use this as a means of providing workers prepared for the workforce and innovators who may develop new companies. A stable state government is necessary to provide stable tax policy for future planning.

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

Higher education provides workers whether from trade schools or universities. In recent years neither universities or trade schools have provided enough graduates to fill the CTE (Career and Technical Education) jobs we currently need in Kansas. Encouraging students in those paths may be a wise investment. We must continue to have public/private partnerships to enrich our workforce and have them available. One example of this is the Garmin and Olathe Public Schools partnership.

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)

Post-Secondary education needs to be affordable and available to all whether college or trade schools. The economy depends on educated workers. Promoting community colleges and the dual credits during high school helps students be prepared. It must be available and affordable.

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

Healthcare needs to be available and affordable to all Kansans. I am in favor of Medicaid expansion because Kansas is leaving money on the table that could help over 150,000 Kansans be covered and perhaps improve health of all Kansans like other states like Louisiana, Idaho, and Arkansas have found.

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)

Something to consider would be government paid sick leave to ensure that we are helping workers be assured they do not work while sick and spread illness for fear of losing a paycheck. Predictable scheduling would help those workers better prepare for childcare and family needs. Most importantly, return state-wide due process to educators who lost it in the middle of the night vote in 2014.

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)

Local control is important. Having authority to deal with issues affecting particular county, city, school districts is important.

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

I believe I am a person who listens to others, considers all sides of issues, and makes informed decisions. I also am available and willing to talk to my constituents to hear their concerns and respond to them. My experience in working with others is proven to be effective.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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