

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:113 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Kellie Warren

2. Political Party Affiliation

Republican

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

Kansas Senate District 11

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 14505 Falmouth Street

City/State/Zip : Leawood, KS 66224

5. Phone Number

913-526-9647

6. Email Address

Kellie@KellieWarrenforKansas.com

7. Campaign Website

www.KellieWarrenforSenate.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Attorney, Leawood, practicing more than 25 years, real estate law, and general business litigation.

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.

Leawood Chamber of Commerce, business liaison for the law firm

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

State Representative, District 28, 2019-present, representing parts of Overland Park and Leawood, Kansas

3. Issues and Policy

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

Creating and keeping jobs in Kansas.

Lowering property taxes on families, seniors and businesses.

Affordable access to healthcare.

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 does not yet know the full economic impact of COVID-19, or what the budget picture looks like. If we have budget shortfalls, we need to keep the rate of spending growth down, and start our budget process with zero-based budgeting. This method requires justifying every one of your tax dollars spent, rather than just adding an automatic increase to last year's budget. Bottomline – core services must be protected while ensuring middle-class taxpayers, who are suffering the most right now, don't face higher taxes.

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

Kansas is one of the highest-taxing states in the country. That kind of tax policy does not grow business, jobs, or help our families, and seniors who have helped build this community. Rising property taxes and a high food sales tax are burdensome on families, seniors and the middle class. As a Representative, I voted for transparency in taxation, and lowering your food sales tax burden, and will continue to do so as your Senator.

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

My first year as a State Representative I helped resolve the decades-long school funding litigation. It's high time now that we protect that investment and begin the conversation about ways that we can help our schools outside of just a debate over funding. As a public school mom of four kids, this issue is incredibly important to me and I want to continue to help make our schools even better.

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

As a State Representative I voted for the Transportation Program. Our Kansas roads get families and business moving. It's how we get to school, our jobs, how we visit each other, and how business and new families come to Kansas. We all need and benefit from our road infrastructure. So, we must focus on maintenance, keeping our Johnson County roads well-kept, focus on reducing slow-downs in high traffic areas, improve K-10, and expand Highway 69.

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

Competition and free-market principles, based on market supply and demand, are the best, most fair way to encourage economic development. State policies that provide certainty for our businesses, big and small, allow them to plan and grow. A fair tax policy across the board for all businesses is the kind of tax and regulation policy that businesses can count on and incentivizes them to make Kansas their home and stay here.

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

I attended Shawnee Mission Schools, and my four kids attend Blue Valley Schools. To create opportunities for them like I had, we need valuable K-12 curriculum, and worthwhile degree programs at our post-secondary schools that are affordable. Let's have top-rate career, technical and trade schools. Let's have a tax policy that is fair to big and small businesses, telling them they have a home here and can hire people, and remain here and grow.

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 mother of four I am concerned about this issue. While all students are not college-bound, for those who are, high tuition is often a barrier to access. The growth in cost here is in the hands of the Board of Regents, who need to keep our four-year universities, and trade and technical career schools, and community colleges, affordable. We need to expand the educational opportunities for all kinds of students for post-secondary education.

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

I am opposed to Medicaid expansion. It will lead to the rationing of healthcare, which is not fair. What is fair is expanding free-market affordable healthcare options like the Farm Bureau Health Plans I voted for, and Health Savings Accounts. As your senator I would work with and encourage the U.S. Congress to expand Health Savings Accounts and to amend the Affordable Care Act so that it is actually more affordable.

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)

Generally, free markets work the best. However, one role for state government in particular is the administration of unemployment insurance benefits. COVID-19 saw a shortcoming in the Kansas Department of Labor getting Kansans' their benefits. Kansans were hurting and the KDOL was unable to help them due to antiquated technology that had become outdated. State government needs to be nimble and ensure that Kansas has the technology necessary to get state benefits to Kansans.

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 generally a good thing. But we need to make sure Kansans and their hard-earned tax dollars are protected on property tax issues and how school money is spent. After all, it's your money. State government has a role in protecting your pocketbooks and how your money is spent.

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

Elections are about choices. I have proven as a Representative that I am the competent, trusted, and effective leader to fight for you, on the issues important to you. I intently study the issues and I have the experience to get things done for you as your Senator.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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