

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:106 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Laura McConwell

2. Political Party Affiliation

Republican

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

Senate District 7

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 6507 Dearborn Dr

City/State/Zip : Mission

5. Phone Number

913.387.7670

6. Email Address

laura@lauramcconwell.com

7. Campaign Website

www.lauramcconwell.com

2. Candidate Background

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

For the last 20 years, I have been a self-employed attorney with a general practice including litigation, estate planning/probate, business needs, family and real estate.

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.

I am a member of Northeast Johnson County Chamber; Johnson County Bar Association (President 2019); and am a Fellow of Johnson County Bar Foundation.

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

I was Mayor of Mission 2002 - April 2014; am Secretary of SM Education Foundation; Board Member JCPRD Foundation; Youth Leader at Hillcrest Covenant Church.

3. Issues and Policy

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

Education (early childhood to post-high school); Jobs and Infrastructure; and Local 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)

There are a number of moving parts to the state budget and not ever having been the decision-maker, I would use my initial session to watch and learn. Each budget decision made has lasting consequences. Given the COVID crisis, we do not have enough information to say what gets cut; and I would be hesitant to create a revenue enhancement (which I assume means new tax) at a time when our residents and businesses have been so impacted.

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

We need to return to have more diversified revenue streams. We have seen the impact of depending too much on one source which caused a disproportionate impact certain stakeholder groups. We should give/create value with the tax dollars collected. ie. support the public good like education, infrastructure, social services.

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

Funding education is a critical function of the state. This is because education provides rich opportunities for our children to learn, grow, dream and follow their potential. It is also because businesses and companies want to be where they know the children of their employees will have rich educational opportunities; and they will have an educated or skilled workforce.

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

I would prioritize maintenance & replacement of existing infrastructure systems particularly those that have high use. The next level would be expansion of existing systems. Infrastructure is expensive to build and maintain, I would be cautious to create new infrastructure obligations without justifying long term costs and benefit of new structure, such as the expansion of 69 highway.

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

I'm a proponent of public/private partnerships; and we need an educated and skilled work force. We should take a look at what tools are available to attract businesses and/or talent and leverage them.

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

Quite frankly with the void in skilled labor, we should push those opportunities for our children and adults. This is an opportunity for public/private partnerships where we provide opportunities for students to gain skills whether tech or skilled labor. Businesses seem to be more interested in moving to states where they have a ready work force.

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)

Our state is allowing our students to earn college credits while in high school; our community colleges have great accreditation so that credits transfer to 4 year colleges and work with 4 year colleges for students to economically transition through. Which makes a 4 year education much more affordable for our students. We need to provide a balance for life long learners, 4 year degrees, advanced degrees and/or technical degrees

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

It needs to be expanded. People cannot focus on work or their families or education if they are worried about accessing health care and/or mental health services.

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)

Businesses are already regulated by the federal 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)

Decisions should be made closer to the those impacted by it. Each local unit has different priorities and should be afforded the

opportunity to make decisions best for their respective communities.

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

I have served the community for 20+ years through volunteering and elected service; am experienced in working with people and building coalitions with stakeholders who have different interests; and am a Kansas licensed attorney.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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