

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:115 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Laura Williams

2. Political Party Affiliation

Republican

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

HD 30

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 14525 w 93 st

City/State/Zip : Lenexa/KS/66215

5. Phone Number

9135585656

6. Email Address

Info@laurawilliamsforkansas.com

7. Campaign Website

www.laurawilliamsforkansas.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Wilde Creative Co. Owner/Digital Marketing 2017-Now

Homestead Collective Co/ CoOwner/Home Consultant 2018-Now

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)

3. Issues and Policy

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

Strengthening public schools

Lowering healthcare costs

Protecting Jobs in Kansas

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)

Covid-19 will have a serious impact on how we look at our budget in 2021. Due to the unknown of what even the rest of 2020

looks like, knowing specific budget cuts would be hard to say. I believe we need to respect our taxpayers and focus on not increasing the burden they are already carrying by raising taxes on the middle-class. We must find a way to do this while protecting the core areas of our budget.

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

First, we need to focus on our high sales tax on food and capping ever-rising property taxes. If we want to see the state of Kansas become an attractive place to build your future, we must first focus on how our tax policy compares on a national level.

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

K-12 public education funding is a personal issue for me. Being a product of Shawnee Mission Northwest and having my kids attending Sunflower Elementary in the near future, I want to see our schools continue to thrive and create new ways to reach the needs of our community. I am committed to making sure teachers feel equipped, focusing on academic excellence, and growing our early childhood programs.

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

Representing a district that contains I-35, I-435, and K10, we are a key Transportation district. We need to continue to focus on improving K10 and maintaining our highways.

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

Local businesses are the foundation of our economy. I plan to lead the charge to ensure our businesses have the infrastructure in place to attract new investment and prioritize our main-street employers with policies that help keep them viable and grow.

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

We need to continue to attract students from our local schools and universities to stay here in Kansas and build their future here. Being a product of SMSD and the University of Kansas, I was excited to start and grow my business and family here in Lenexa because of the opportunity.

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 recent KU graduate who paid for a majority of their undergraduate degree, we need to ensure that the growing rate of tuition does not rise to such high costs.

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

I believe expanding Medicaid will only be a bandaid to our healthcare issues. Governor Kelly has made few strides in improving our healthcare system in Kansas by creating an executive order which allowed for more healthcare workers to provide care during the Covid-19 crisis. I believe we need to think of more creative options like this to lower the cost of healthcare and maximize healthcare access to all Kansans.

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)

.We saw the negative impacts of state control with the Kansas Department of Labor when they failed to issue unemployment claims to thousands of Kansans because of infrastructure issues. We need to drastically improve the technology of KSDOL, and ensure that we will never leave Kansans without a way to provide for their needs.

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 believe that local control is good. However, I believe the state government also helps protect our state as a whole with issues

like protecting our bank accounts from the raising of taxes and ensuring our schools stay fully funded.

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

I am a small business owner experiencing the economic impacts this virus has had on our nation, and I am a mother navigating the future for their childcare and education. My healthcare costs are like paying another mortgage each month. I am different because I am just like you.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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