

# Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:15 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

### 1. Candidate Name

Les Lampe

### 2. Political Party Affiliation

Democratic

### 3. District Number of Office Being Sought

39

### 4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 6402 Warwick Street

City/State/Zip : Shawnee/Kansas/66218

### 5. Phone Number

913-219-3933

### 6. Email Address

leslampe@gmail.com

### 7. Campaign Website

w.lampe4kansas.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

Retired as VP of Black & Veatch four years ago. Set up LLC to provide consulting on water engineering issues.

### 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.

No major affiliations.

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

Member of Board of Kansas Interfaith Action for several years. Led effort to pass nondiscrimination ordinance in Shawnee.

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

First is expanded healthcare coverage, primarily through Medicaid expansion. Second is improving the economy through promoting small businesses focused on new technologies and products. Third is equality for all Kansans. Cut

### 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)

With revenue shortfalls, cuts will be required across the board. As a minimum, expenditures for K-12 schools, higher

education, health and human services, and public safety must be held steady. Expenditures for general government have grown substantially and probably must be reduced. The sales tax on groceries is too high and must be reduced, although that will reduce revenues. Under the current economy, revenue enhancements will be difficult. Deferral of full KDOT funding may be necessary. Will also be necessary to look at KPERs reamortization.

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

Current tax policy is reasonable, other than sales tax on groceries being too high and needing to be reduced. Individual and corporate taxes are comparable to neighboring states and are reasonable. As the bulk of state expenditures are for funding K-12 education, it may be possible to shift some of the burden from State to local sources.

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

K-12 education funding is a critical function of State government. However, the budgeted expenditures grew from \$3 billion in 2016 to \$4 billion in 2020. Shifting the burden from the State to more local sources, primarily property taxes, may be an option. The challenge is to make it fair and equitable.

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

In general, the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program appears to be sound. The focus must be on smart improvement of the surface transportation, particularly roads and highways. The use of improved technologies under the elements of general Smart Transportation are encouraged. Expenditures for rail, air, public transportation, and multi-modal transportation may have to be deferred. I support an increase in the State fuel tax.

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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)**

The use of tax abatements must be carefully focused. Continued growth in new energy technologies (wind and solar) should be promoted. Secondary education through trade schools, community colleges, and state colleges and universities should be focused on new technologies and growth of the economy. In particular, businesses that are based on the application of new technologies to the agricultural sector should be promoted.

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

Education is the key, particularly through new programs in trade schools, community colleges, and the State's four-year degree programs. There must also be a recognition of the importance of workers for the industries focused on production and processing of agriculturally based products.

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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)**

The State's role in funding post-secondary education has declined over the years. The State should be working with providers to provide training for new careers through trade schools and community colleges, thereby minimizing the cost of four-year secondary education. Best practices and new technologies for remote learning should also be utilized to reduce costs.

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

The economic benefit to the State of Medicaid expansion is substantial. Kansas would recoup many millions of dollars that are going to the Federal government, would improve the viability of rural healthcare providers, and would provide improved healthcare access to 150,000 Kansans through Medicaid expansion.

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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)**

The State should set guideline for workplace safety and fair labor practices without providing burdensome requirements for businesses. Workplace changes that would provide provisions to protect workers from the spread of COVID should be considered.

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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)**

The State should provide a base of standards and funding for essential services such as education and transportation, but should allow as much local autonomy as possible in the implementation of procedures in these areas, as well as for economic development.

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

I believe that I am looking at the future of Kansas and the steps that we should take to insure that our economy and all supporting functions should be looking at where we want to be in ten to 20 years. We should be looking forward, rather than backward.

**4. Thank You!**

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