

# Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:120 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Lindsay Vaughn

### 2. Political Party Affiliation

Democrat

### 3. District Number of Office Being Sought

House District 22

### 4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 8227 Santa Fe Dr, Apt 7

City/State/Zip : Overland Park, KS, 66204

### 5. Phone Number

913.523.6280

### 6. Email Address

lindsayforkansashouse@gmail.com

### 7. Campaign Website

<https://www.lindsayforkansashouse.com/>

## 2. Candidate Background

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

I'm the Volunteer Coordinator at Literacy KC. I was a field organizer for Representative Sharice Davids' 2018 campaign. Previously, I worked in human resources.

### 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.

N/A

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

I'm a member and past Chair of the Johnson County Young Democrats, a 2018 Kansas Democratic Party fellow, and a former precinct committee person.

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

Medicaid expansion

Investing in high-quality public education at all levels

Stabilizing the budget after COVID-19

**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)**

I support Gov. Kelly's approach to balancing the budget and believe we need to focus on revenue enhancements. First and foremost, we need to pass Medicaid expansion. This will ensure 150,000 more Kansans gain access to the critical healthcare services they need while also injecting federal funds into our state economy. New potential sources of revenue include taxing online purchases and streaming services the same as in-store purchases and cable (which would also level the playing field for our brick and mortar small businesses), as well as legalizing, regulating, and taxing sports wagering and marijuana.

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

As we face another economic downturn, it's essential to pursue a responsible, fair, and sustainable tax policy. This requires returning to a three-legged stool approach that sensibly balances income, sales, and property taxes. I support adding a fourth income tax bracket while also reducing food sales tax and providing property tax relief. Our food sales tax is one of the highest in the nation and lower property taxes will lead to more affordable housing options.

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

High-quality public schools are essential in creating opportunities for our children and in attracting new businesses with an educated workforce. In 2019, our legislature finally restored school funding to constitutional levels. Unfortunately, this does not undo the consequences of a long history of underfunding. I am committed to protecting and growing K-12 education funding, including increasing teacher pay, fully funding special education, restoring due process, and supporting wraparound services.

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

I support increasing state investment in our transportation infrastructure, so we can repair and improve our roads and highways to ensure Kansas is easily accessible to people and businesses. In the Eisenhower plan, I am particularly excited about expanding US-highway 69, which will be a huge boon for our community.

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

In addition to expanding Medicaid and investing in infrastructure, we need to provide more student-debt relief, so graduates can participate in the economy instead of paying off excessive loans. To retain and attract businesses, it's also essential that we are a welcoming state, which starts with updating our nondiscrimination laws to include gender identity and sexual orientation. I also support incentivizing and promoting renewable energy, which will decrease energy costs for businesses in the long-run.

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

Growing a strong workforce starts with early childhood education, which is proven to improve educational and job success rates. Continuing to invest in K-12, higher education, vocational training, and workforce development are also critical. Further, we should collaborate with leaders in fields that are experiencing labor shortages, such as nursing, teaching and construction, to raise awareness of career opportunities and develop clear educational pathways.

**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)**

It is critical that we invest in higher education in order to increase accessibility and affordability of post-secondary-education and to remain competitive in the current economy. This will enable us to attract talent and create world-class state universities as well as expand workforce development and vocational training programs at our community colleges. We also need to offer more student-debt relief, so graduates can participate in the economy instead of paying off excessive student loans.

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

Expanding Medicaid and increasing access to affordable healthcare is one of my top priorities. Expansion would ensure that another 150,000 Kansans have access to critical healthcare services and would help save rural hospitals. Our state legislature has already forfeited an estimated \$3 billion in federal funds that we need to provide services to vulnerable

Kansans during COVID-19. Further, high-quality, affordable healthcare is essential for promoting a safe, healthy, and productive workforce.

**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)**

I believe the state should be doing more to support employees and their families. This starts with creating a livable wage and passing paid family and medical leave, both of which will increase the health and productivity of our workforce.

**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 the state plays a critical role in providing protections, such as updating our non-discrimination laws to include gender identity and sexual orientation and providing due process for teachers, but that many issues should be a matter of local control, such as property taxes, further gun regulations, and allowing school boards to provide district-specific insights and solutions for their students.

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

Through my work engaging with community members, local leaders, and advocacy groups I have gained a unique insight into the opportunities and challenges facing my district and our state. I also believe there are not enough young women at the table and I am uniquely positioned to change that.

**4. Thank You!**

**Your response has been successfully submitted.**

**Candidate responses will be posted at [www.VoteJoCo.com](http://www.VoteJoCo.com) once advance voting begins.**