

# Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:112 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Lindsey Constance

### 2. Political Party Affiliation

Democrat

### 3. District Number of Office Being Sought

Senate 10

### 4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 13913 W 73rd St

City/State/Zip : Shawnee, KS 66216

### 5. Phone Number

8165167016

### 6. Email Address

[lindsey4kansas@gmail.com](mailto:lindsey4kansas@gmail.com)

### 7. Campaign Website

[www.lindsey4kansas.com](http://www.lindsey4kansas.com)

## 2. Candidate Background

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

I am an Instructional Coach for the Shawnee Mission School District and currently serve the students and teachers at Christa McAuliffe and Sunflower elementary schools.

### 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 participate regularly in Shawnee Chamber of Commerce events and am a member of the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee and the Visit Shawnee Advisory Committee.

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

I serve on the Shawnee City Council, am President of Climate Action KC, and serve on a National League of Cities Federal Advocacy Committee.

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

Stabilize the budget amid COVID-19's economic impact. Protect school funding to strengthen communities and drive economic growth. Expand Medicaid to insure working Kansans and keep taxpayer dollars 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)**

We're faced with difficult budgeting challenges. Implementing an internet sales tax will increase revenues but we must first slow the bleeding by keeping our tax dollars here in Kansas. I would vote against any tax giveaways to giant multinational corporations, instead favoring policies that benefit Kansas businesses. Second, we need to expand Medicaid - not doing so has already cost us billions of taxpayer dollars.

Budget cuts are inevitable but I would work to minimize the impact on education and infrastructure. Quality schools are an economic driver and investing in infrastructure, renewable energy, and bioscience will create good paying jobs.

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

I support a "3 legged stool" approach to state tax policy, relying on property, income, and sales tax. The failed Brownback experiment created an unbalanced system that relies too heavily on property and sales tax. As a local elected official, I know my constituents are still struggling in the aftermath with higher than ever property taxes. I favor a system that balances the tax burden for homeowners and keeps our tax dollars here in Kansas.

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

A quality education system goes hand in hand with economic growth. Good schools help create a talented workforce and attract new families and businesses to put down roots here.

As a teacher and mother, I know firsthand that Kansas schools are still recovering from years of underfunding. I will work to minimize cuts to education funding in these uncertain times to promote the wellbeing of our local communities and economies.

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

Reliable, efficient infrastructure is critical to the health and vitality of our state. Within the Eisenhower plan are two key improvements to Kansas infrastructure: opportunities for broadband expansion and innovative technology grants. COVID-19 has shown us that reliable, high-speed internet connection is more important than ever for businesses and workers. Investing in new technology will help future-proof our infrastructure, present cost savings for the state, and promote economic development.

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

As a city councilmember, I have prioritized economic development with new business growth and investing in areas that have become blighted. One of Shawnee's challenges is that we have an unbalanced tax base. While nearby cities have a commercial tax base of nearly 50%, Shawnee is at 24%, meaning homeowners shoulder a higher tax burden. I am committed to future-focused economic development to attract new businesses, create jobs, and alleviate the tax burden on homeowners.

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

As a member of the Shawnee Mission School District state accreditation team, I have learned firsthand about the significant gap between workforce preparedness and what's needed in a variety of employment sectors. Adequately funding K-12 and post-secondary education programs provides a critical pathway to help close the gap between available jobs and the ability of workers to fill them. We also need to ensure jobs for those workers by investing in infrastructure and innovative technologies.

**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)**

Adequately funding post-secondary colleges, universities, and trade schools will prepare a talented workforce for jobs in the future. As our state invests in infrastructure and emerging technologies, we should also be preparing Kansas to fill jobs in those fields. As an educator, I am committed to ensuring that opportunities to develop skills and earn a good living are available for Kansans now and in the future.

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

I believe that, now more than ever, it is critical to expand Medicaid in order to provide as many as 150,000 Kansans with access to healthcare, keep local hospitals and clinics open, and maintain and create essential jobs across the state. Kansas taxpayer dollars belong right here at the benefit of hardworking Kansans. A healthier, more productive workforce helps our state economy grow.

**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)**

Government should not hold unreasonable restrictions on the business community, but must remain partners in protecting the health and safety of our workers. One policy I support is a statewide nondiscrimination ordinance, extending protections to LGBTQ+ Kansans in the workplace.

**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 governments know their communities best, and should therefore be free to incentivize business growth and regulate their own tax structures. As a local elected official, I've seen how statewide legislation can sometimes limit our ability to encourage economic development and prioritize revenue in a way that benefits taxpayers and homeowners.

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

As a mom, a teacher, and a city councilmember, I'm deeply invested in my community. My experience as President of Climate Action KC has shown that I can successfully build coalitions with leaders, businesses, and organizations to solve complex problems and improve the health and resilience of our region.

**4. Thank You!**

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**Your response has been successfully submitted.**

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