

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:121 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Mari-Lynn Poskin

2. Political Party Affiliation

Democrat

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

20

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 12924 Howe Drive

City/State/Zip : Leawood

5. Phone Number

913-735-0064

6. Email Address

MP@Poskin4KS.com

7. Campaign Website

www.Poskin4KS.com

2. Candidate Background

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

After nearly 20 years in higher education, I opened my own small business, KC College Connect, providing college admissions counseling to area families.

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.

IEACA-member

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

Mainstream Coalition Intern

Campaign Volunteer: Laura Kelly, Sharice Davids, Cindy Holscher, Janee Hanzlick

3. Issues and Policy

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

Public Education: pre-K through post-secondary

Strong/Healthy Communities: Medicaid expansion, mental health, environment

Kansas Economy: COVID-19 recovery, economic development, KS Framework for Growth

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 the projected revenue loss from the COVID-19 pandemic, we face historic shortfalls and belt tightening across the board, with the exception of public school funding. We can make cuts in public dollars going to private schools. We must press our Congressional delegation to assist the states with Federal funds. We could increase sales taxes on luxury items, look at sports betting and

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

We have long relied on a three-legged stool of tax revenue: income, sales and property taxes. While repealing the Brownback tax experiment restored some balance, it did not return to previous levels. We should take a close look at rebalancing these areas in full.

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

We must maintain public school funding as required by the Kansas constitution. Public tax dollars should not be siphoned to finance private schools.

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

Job creation, infrastructure modernization, rural broadband, completing delayed projects and integrating multimodal transportation in collaborative State and local partnerships.

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

I fully support Gov Kelly's "Framework for Growth."

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

Our higher education system does not produce enough graduates to satisfy our workforce needs. Higher education funding is at it's lowest level in years, with cost burdens shifted to Kansas families, I would encourage public/business partnerships, dual credit programs and student debt relief for working in Kansas after completing post secondary technical, certificate and degree programs.

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)

Or post-secondary schools bring jobs, innovation and recognition to our state as well as supply our business and industry with a skilled workforce. Funding cuts have shifted cost burdens to Kansas families, often making an out of state school more attractive for our best and brightest and making them inaccessible to our struggling families. It is the State's role to ensure access and affordability to higher education.

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

As the primary caregiver to a spouse with MS and a small business owner with no employer-sponsored health insurance, I know, firsthand how critical access to healthcare and insurance is. Kansas has let over 4B of our taxpayer money flow to other states. 75% of Kansans support Medicaid expansion and I am one of them.

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 government's role in determining work place employment practices and benefits offered to employees should be guided by equity and eliminating discriminatory practices. This assure fairness for ALL Kansans and helps businesses attract the best employees.

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)

As in employment practices, the State has a role in assuring that decision-making is equitable and non-discriminatory, yet local control should be deferred to in most cases.

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

I won't know who my opponent is until after the primary. What I can say is that being in the minority party, I will not face pressure from majority leadership to make votes that are inconsistent with my District's values and needs, as would anyone in the majority party.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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