

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:40 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Matthew Clark

2. Political Party Affiliation

Libertarian

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

23

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 9308 Sturgeon Dr
City/State/Zip : Overland Park/Kansas/66212

5. Phone Number

5154180658

6. Email Address

Contact@MattClarkKansas.com

7. Campaign Website

MattClarkKansas.com

2. Candidate Background

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

I have worked as pilot for 10 years.

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)

This is my first campaign. My involvement in the community is volunteer work with through church and before COVID, as a driver for JetExpress.

3. Issues and Policy

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

Criminal Justice reforms which will reduce the prison population and allow for reduced spending and tax cuts.

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)

Criminal justice reforms that will create fewer crimes without victims, reduce the prison population and reduce recidivism will

allow for reduced spending and provide a boost for the economy. Cannabis legalization, with low state barriers to entry in the industry, will provide new jobs and new tax revenue. Legalize sports betting is another new revenue source. I support lowering any tax. Lowering or eliminating the state sales tax for groceries seems to be the most politically viable tax cut next session. I'd like to cut the 372 day per year pension deal the the legislature enjoys.

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

Kansas is continuously ranked one of the worst states for taxation. We are burdened by above average income, sales and property taxes. We need to reduce our tax burden with tax cuts and legalizing new industries that can generate tax revenue. In particular, full cannabis legalization has significant tax value as does legalizing sports betting.

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

It is required by the state constitution and huge part of our budget. I would prefer more options in schooling for students and I would like to explore increasing public online school options which should be more affordable. I won't support any further spending increases, especially with the hit to the budget from COVID. In my efforts to cut or at least slow spending, education cuts are not a top priority for me.

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

I don't think my district has any highway needs. The I35 expansion at 75th street will be done this fall and 69 Hgwy is already widened through my district. Obviously expanding 69 south of 103rd in JoCo is a huge need. With whatever projects get streamlined, voters expect their fuel tax money to spent on roads and highways not the general fund and I'll try to do my part to ensure it.

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

I would love to see state tax rates that attract businesses on their own with no special packages needed. I'll support anything that at least takes incremental steps in that direction. We can make the state more attractive to development when we stop arresting cannabis consumers, especially those who consume for medical needs.

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

My proposed criminal justice reforms will result in a populace with fewer criminal records which should help the available workforce. If I am on a committee that works on the state's workforce development programs, my focus would be on making sure funds are spent as efficiently and effectively as possible. Try to ensure the funds are achieving their intended goals.

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)

State universities and colleges should get back to the basics of education. College campuses have expanded so much with a focus that seems set on creating an experience than an education. Administrative positions continue to climb and eat up budget. Keep it simple, provide good classes that teach the skills employers need. Cutting all this excess seems like a good starting place to bring back affordable college.

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

Massive amounts regulations instituted over decades have led to so much consolidation in the health insurance and health care industries that only the few large companies can keep up with all the requirements. Reducing regulation so more companies can compete will lower prices.

90% of Medicaid expansion is paid for by the federal government which as of today is \$26,316,891,194,350.53 in debt. With the COVID impact, the state can't afford their 10 percent.

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)

This should be primarily decided between employer and employee or union.

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)

Generally speaking, the more local control of taxation the better. The smaller we make the districts, like school boards, the more representative they will be.

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

A fundamentally different view on the role of government. We should move government closer to the very limited role of securing the rights and liberties of the people. This still leads to a few areas of agreement with Rep. Ruiz. I have not seen anything from Mr. Shull yet.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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