

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:25 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Megan Lynn

2. Political Party Affiliation

Republican

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

49

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 14430 W 139th Place

City/State/Zip : Olathe, KS 66062

5. Phone Number

9137060000

6. Email Address

meganlynnforkansas@gmail.com

7. Campaign Website

www.meganlynnforkansas.com

2. Candidate Background

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

State Representative, District 49

Children's Ministry Assistant

Pharmacy Technician

ParaEducator

Interior Design & Apparel Seamstress

Formerly Developmental Biologist

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.

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

Health & Human Services Committee Member of National Conference of State Legislatures;

Republican Precinct Committeewoman; Member of Olathe Republican Party

3. Issues and Policy

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

Advocating for mental health is paramount to the health of our children and adults. Transparent property tax policy and

reducing food sales tax is also imperative.

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)

The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the need to prioritize our spending. We need to find ways to reduce the rate of growth of spending and eliminate waste. While our government agencies have worked on this through attrition, we will need to find additional ways to cut spending. We need to hold the rate of spending at a reasonable level to keep the budget balanced. There are possible revenue enhancements that are being considered with sports wagering and the recent addition of lottery vending machines. I would consider these options first.

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

Taxes work best with a 3-pronged approach: sales, property, and income tax. It is important to find a balance of these 3, so to spread the burden throughout the state. Property taxes have been increasing at an unsustainable rate for many in my district. Sales tax is over 10% in many of our communities which adversely affects many of our younger families, in particular. We need to explore ways to reduce this, especially for food.

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

We have an invested interest in our schools in Johnson County. As a parent of 3 in the Olathe School District, I make schools and our teachers my priority for our tax dollars, which is why I voted for the funding plan that settled the school finance lawsuits. Maintenance to facilities and technology upgrades would follow closely behind. The specific funding allocations are at the discretion of the local school districts.

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

We always need to first maintain our current roads. I'm thrilled that 69 Highway received the highest priority mark in the state in Overland Park. Our local community has prioritized upgrades to Santa Fe, and I believe that will require additional support to widen and modernize that stretch from downtown Olathe to Pflumm Rd. I am also very happy to see K-10 a priority, as more growth continues on the west side of Olathe.

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

We need to make sure our businesses who employ us are able to not only sustain their current growth but have the ability to innovate and grow. Businesses need to attract workers, and we need Olathe to continue to be a place where families have their needs met, whether through our great schools, our parks and recreation, safety, transportation or infrastructure. We not only want great employment opportunities, but a great place to raise families.

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

Kansas City has consistently been a hub for innovative technology and research. By keeping and supporting these businesses along with world-class healthcare, we will grow other sectors of the economy that benefit our families and our communities. We need sustainable and consistent careers that will attract and maintain top quality workers. By working with our local business chambers who better know the intricacies of growth, I hope we can implement their ideas.

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)

Access and affordability start in our middle and secondary schools. Quality educators and innovative experiences jumpstart the minds and creativity of our children. Our Olathe schools wisely provide opportunities to experience various fields of interest, including high quality trade skills before entering college classes. Giving our children the opportunity to test their interests will encourage them to utilize post-secondary education effectively. That is in the best financial interest of children and parents and the state.

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

The thousands on waiting lists plus other concerns lead me to be skeptical about Medicaid Expansion. We are currently

failing to help the vulnerable among us and this is unacceptable. I do feel we should address the needs of individuals caught in the coverage gap. Ideas like continuing TeleMedicine, utilizing APRNs effectively, allowing workplaces options for on-sight healthcare, and utilizing community paramedicine for the under-served population will reduce the financial and time-sensitive burden of healthcare.

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)

While the state should play a role in regulating practices for the general safety and basic protections of employees and their clients, I believe it is up to the business to determine how their company is run. Those who treat their employees fairly and generously with desirable and sustainable benefits will be able to attract the employees they need.

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 control is best, particularly as it pertains to our schools. And certainly, local governments need to decide local issues. However, the state does play a role in ensuring basic protections for taxpayers and citizens, such as in the area of property tax transparency and the like.

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

I thoughtfully consider the needs and concerns of my constituents, and work towards pragmatic, innovative solutions. I am honest in my beliefs, and respect others for theirs. This is the time to unite, and I will continue to live and work with integrity with these ideals as my core.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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