

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:22 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Michael Bolton

2. Political Party Affiliation

Democrat

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

HD39 West Shawnee

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 5128 Hilltop Court

City/State/Zip : Shawnee

5. Phone Number

913-579-6628

6. Email Address

bolton4kansashd39@gmail.com

7. Campaign Website

votemichaelbolton.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Three with a software company market planning for stem cell, social services & BH. I ran two years ago and took care of my dad.

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.

Yes, The Tulsa Chamber. At the time I managed a small business in the community.

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

Accepted a position on the board to raise funds for scholarship/leadership development for Beta Theta Pi fraternity at Wichita State and announced my 2nd run.

3. Issues and Policy

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

I have a plan for statewide economic growth, I support a strong, sensible education system and I'm committed to the health of our citizens.

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 must grow our way to prosperity by increasing manufacturing output 35%, crop production 23% and our population by 100k residents. We need to expand our agricultural manufacturing base by drawing bioplastic, biofuel, sustainable paper and construction materials firms to locate here. Fueled by farmers, industrial hemp manufactured goods will make Kansas the nation's leader in the manufacturing of 21st century renewables. Creating 20k hi-tech manufacturing jobs and hopefully bolstering UAW jobs to build hemp bodied electric cars.

Cut waste and crackdown on fraud before we cut back services and add an upper tax bracket for high earning Kansans.

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

Taxes are not inherently evil or bad. Those who can pay more should. Those who cannot should not be expected to pay as much. Our state government must show it is a good steward of our hard earned tax dollars.

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

Funding schools is essential. We must safeguard our children's future and assure funding for all school districts. Currently it's estimated that each student is funded for nearly \$16k annually. We need to be sure dollars are used to best advance education, held accountable, with increase support for Regents, Vo-tech courses, trades, fellows, business sponsored apprentice programs. Develop hi-tech manufacturing careers. We must find a way as the legislature to secure a bi-partisan funding solution.

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

A model of bipartisanship and shows it can be done. Quality roads support every citizen and business. Solid infrastructure should be used to build on our capacity to attract new industries and allow for more growth. The ability to divert Missouri flood waters west can ease flooding south. A three year reserve of water in western Kansas will protect agriculture from an extended drought. Transported by canals it would connect to our five western reservoirs.

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

Use economic zones, tax incentives to draw companies in the renewable industry to Kansas. A drought resistant contracted crop allows the farmer to diversify his investment in the ground with a guaranteed ROI. Support industry with research and development and a public/private program to support the demand for hi-tech, high-paying manufacturing jobs. As statewide property values increase Johnson and Sedgwick county property owners would receive a property tax offset.

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

Kansas has great potential to strengthen our rural middle class with hi-paying hi-tech jobs from processing industrial hemp. It will bring new industries to Kansas and bring back industries long past such as brick making. It will create a demand for Kansans with hi-tech computer skills and with the support of our schools assured placement in the trades for those not moving on to college. Industrial hemp is useful in many ways

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)

We have a strong university system but also need to build upon trade education and apprenticeships. The state is lacking in its support for blue collar professions. Today's hi-tech manufacturing requires a computer skillset to operate the equipment which benefits the state which ties back to education & preparation for a career in manufacturing.

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

We should leave no one behind. Basic health care is vital to the state's future. We need a system that helps people advance their lives and Medicaid expansion should be considered immediately. We have great health care available in Kansas but we need to insure all our citizens have access it.

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 has an obligation to support its citizens. Business itself is not an enemy but fairness is the ally to all and the government of Kansas needs to be prepared to manage that.

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)

There are plenty of issues to go around and plenty of governance that is needed. I believe the local governments should be allowed to play strong roles as they are closest to their citizens. The State should take primary interest in budget management and should be seeking long-term solutions for education funding through making Kansas attractive to industries and workers alike. The State's tax base must grow.

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

I've listened, learned and I'm ready. I have a sound economic plan to revitalize our economy statewide and grow a hi-tech workforce. In 2018, I knocked 1,600 doors, met 552 families, and according to my fit bit I took 1,861,789 steps! Just imagine how determined I'll be in representing you!

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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