

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:56 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Michael Kerner

2. Political Party Affiliation

Libertarian

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

17

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 15515 W. 80th Street

City/State/Zip : Lenexa

5. Phone Number

9134888856

6. Email Address

Mike4freedom.campaign@gmail.com

7. Campaign Website

2. Candidate Background

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

I am currently retired. I worked for Honeywell International as an engineer for 49 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.

none

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

I have been Secretary for the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of Kansas for multiple terms.

3. Issues and Policy

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

1. Allow our citizens to use marijuana for medical and/or recreational purposes without state interference.
2. Get spending under control so
3. We can lower taxes.

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)

School spending is out of control. I propose we get the state completely out of it, thus zeroing the income tax. Taxing for

schools should be a local decision. No school board has the right to impose a tax burden on another.

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

Taxation is a heavy burden to the people and the businesses in the state. Economic growth comes from freedom to invest and innovate. It does not come from slavery to a wasteful state government. I will do every thing I can to relieve that burden.

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

Despite the "Fully fund education" talk of recent years, the schools clearly are over funded and wasteful beyond belief. I can barely see justification for half of the money being spent. We need a top to bottom review of spending to weed out the waste. I will make my analysis public shortly.

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

The state has adequate funding via fuel taxes and tolls to maintain our current infrastructure without claiming poverty as an excuse for failing to do so. New roads should be planned with an eye toward expected usage (and thus more revenue). There is no reason, other than waste, that we cannot have the most modern transportation system.

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

I do NOT support special tax breaks to bring business into the state. That gives an unfair advantage with respect to existing businesses. If our current taxes discourage new investment, then lower them for every business and person. No special privileges.

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

A healthy business environment creates opportunity. To bring in more people and stop our kids from leaving after graduation, we need that healthy, job creating environment. The obstacle is, of course, taxes and regulation.

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)

The easy availability of student loans without credit conditions has raised the cost of education drastically. This is a no win situation. Without all that "free" money available, prices will drop sharply. That is the only long term solution. Anything else, like making the taxpayer fund the super high prices, is fruitless. Fix the root cause of the problem.

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

I am NOT in favor of Medicaid expansion. It looks like free money but it is too dangerous for the state. The Federal government can find a reason to stop the subsidies anytime and the state gets stuck with unmanageable costs. The less government, the better. All it accomplishes is to raise costs. As usual, fix the root cause of the problem.

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 only function of the state in an employment relationship is safety. Salaries, wages and benefits are the subject of negotiation between employer and prospective employee. There should be no minimum wage. All that does is reduce available jobs and impoverishes those that end up unemployed as a result.

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)

I advocate removing the state from all aspects of education finance. The decisions and taxing authority should be in the hands of local school boards. They will have to satisfy their voters with respect to spending and taxing and quality of education. No school board should be able to force the citizens of other districts to subsidize their spending. This is a clear example of the dangers of centralization.

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

I put individual freedom as my highest value. For example, I am opposed to any form of gun control. I understand its danger. I know the benefits of low taxation and less government interference in our lives.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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