

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:65 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Mike Thompson

2. Political Party Affiliation

Republican

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

10

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 4923 Constance Street

City/State/Zip : Shawnee

5. Phone Number

913-285-0592

6. Email Address

mtnoagw@gmail.com

7. Campaign Website

mikethompsonforkansas.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Chief Meteorologist FOX4

Executive Director Academy for Climate and Energy Analysis

President, Mike Thompson LLC

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)

Kansas Senator, 10th District (currently)

3. Issues and Policy

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

Rebuilding our economy and creating jobs in the wake of COVID-19.

Property Tax Reform and Transparency.

Fiscal Responsibility

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)

I believe in a system of zero-based budgeting. The question is not specific cuts, but holding the rate of growth down to a level that is sustainable over the long haul. Every agency should justify its expenditures on an annual basis, not simply starting from the previous year's appropriation. By holding spending growth to inflation plus population growth, we can keep spending in check and our budget balanced.

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

Property taxes are of a real concern to many in my district, and I support efforts to bring transparency to that process. I also am concerned about the sales tax rate, particular as it pertains to food. I also believe there should be a week-long sales tax holiday in August to help out struggling families.

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

With the school finance lawsuits settled, now we must ensure that K-12 dollars are spent in a way that is truly devoted to educating the child. Let's work towards directing resources to teachers and classrooms and not to added administrative costs.

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

I had real concerns with the program, due to its structure and length of time. However, I do support transportation funding and now that it has passed, I certainly think maintaining roads is vital - 435 in Shawnee is particularly in need of repair. K-10 is also of great importance to many in Johnson County.

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

I support a review of taxation and regulation in Kansas to ensure the state's climate is one that encourages economic activity, business formation, and job creation. I prefer policies which do not pick the winners, but rather are available to all. I am happy to have support from a number of small business owners in and around my district.

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

We need small business growth so people can get into the workforce with good jobs. We need to embrace technical education which also leads to high quality jobs. We need to encourage entrepreneurship so new businesses are created, thereby helping people create their own job.

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)

Affordable higher education is certainly important ,and many are rightfully concerned about rising tuition, particularly at public universities. While the Board of Regents has a lot of say over this matter, I'd like to see a focus on reducing administrative costs and other spending so tuition can be affordable. Finally, I also support our strong community colleges, which offer an affordable quality higher education.

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

I am opposed to ObamaCare/Medicaid expansion. Rather, I favor robust expansion of free market health care options, such as the Farm Bureau bill adopted two sessions ago, short term medical plans, and the like. I also believe the state should encourage Congress to expand Health Care Savings Accounts.

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 certain basic standards are appropriate and warranted, I generally believe in the principle of limited government and as such, am skeptical of expanding the state's role in determining benefits.

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 appropriate, particularly as it applies to education funding. However, the state government has a role to play in ensuring transparency and in protecting the basic liberties of its citizens. This is why I support property tax reform and other measures that are common-sense and simply inform the public. The ultimate local control lies with the people.

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

I am a strong supporter of the principles of limited government, individual liberty, free enterprise, and traditional values. I believe my record and platform more reflects commitment to those ideals more than either of my opponents, particularly my Democratic challenger.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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