

# Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:28 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Rui Xu

### 2. Political Party Affiliation

Democratic Party

### 3. District Number of Office Being Sought

25

### 4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 4724 Belinder Ave

City/State/Zip : Westwood

### 5. Phone Number

9135358691

### 6. Email Address

rui.xu89@gmail.com

### 7. Campaign Website

www.ruixuforkansas.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

MMGY Global (2013-2016) - Marketing Analyst

Children International (2016-2018) - Marketing Analyst

State Representative (2018 - Present)

### 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)

Metropolitan Energy Center - Board Member

Literacy KC - Marketing Advisory Committee

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

1) Climate Change/Environment

2) Medicaid Expansion

3) Racial justice

### 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)**

There is some low hanging fruit on the revenue enhancements side, namely legalizing sports betting, taxing online marketplace facilitators, and legalizing medicinal marijuana. Personally, I'm supportive of legalizing recreational marijuana as well.

In terms of budget cuts to adjust for the lost revenue from COVID, I think a good place to start would be to delay repayment of the PMIB loans, and re-amortizing KPERS. I would like to avoid cutting education as much as possible.

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

I think currently, the Kansas state tax structure is relatively well-balanced, but it is a little bit more regressive than I would prefer. I would support lowering sales tax on food and property taxes in lieu of another tax bracket or two on top of what we have now.

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

I think it's one of the best investments that a state can make. I consider education funding "upstream" funding in that it can have big effects on costs "downstream." For example, we know that crime is downstream of education, so it's possible that policing and corrections would be cheaper if more were invested in education.

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

I think expanding Highway 69 is integral to the growth of Johnson County, but I want to look at sustainable and environmentally friendly growth at the same time. Are there ways we can make public transportation more accessible along with expansion? Are there ways to encourage compactness in the metro along with expansion?

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

One area of tremendous opportunity for Kansas is new green jobs. We stand to be a big player in terms of wind and solar energy, and with a little bit of ambition, we could be the nation's leader in both of those. With more energy production comes more jobs, in a much more environmentally friendly way.

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

Growing a workforce means attracting talent to Kansas, and the two primary drivers of that are 1) our education system and 2) immigration. We have to do whatever we can to keep tuition costs low, and we have to be a welcoming place for immigrants to come work.

**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)**

When you look at the graphs, it's obvious that the increase in post-secondary tuition costs rose when the state's share of higher ed funding went down. We need to fully fund higher education in order to keep things affordable for our students.

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

I have a strong proponent of expanding Medicaid to get 100,000+ more Kansans access to health care. Not only is that the morally just thing to do, but it also makes business sense: healthier citizens means more productive workers, which is good for everyone.

**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)**

There have been several states that have started Parental Leave programs, which I would strongly be in support of. The time after a baby is born is crucial to its development, and I think it's important as a society to value that bonding time. Washington's model, which adds a small payroll tax to guarantee 12 weeks of parental leave, intrigues me.

**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)**

First off, in general, I support local control and I think most people answering will say that. I have a great relationship with my locally elected officials, and I trust them.

However, in the legislature, "local control" is too often ignored when there's an opportunity to pass something you like, or cited to try and kill something you don't like. It's used disingenuously in Topeka.

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

Well, I don't have one this year, so probably that.

In general, however, I'm very proud of my communication with constituents and anyone else interested in politics. I consider myself an open-book, and I think that resonates with people, even if they might disagree.

**4. Thank You!**

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