

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:5 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Sally Jercha

2. Political Party Affiliation

Democratic

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

28

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 15069 Sherwood Street

City/State/Zip : Leawood, KS 66224

5. Phone Number

913-735-6068

6. Email Address

sally@sally4ks.com

7. Campaign Website

www.sally4ks.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Civic Volunteer - PTO President, Curriculum & Instruction Committee Patron, BVSD Reopen Task Force, BVLEAG Member; Scoutmaster, Troop 10G; Previous - Burns&Mac/ExxonMobil Chemical Engineer

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)

SMA - Previous Religious Ed Teacher (7 years), VBS Director, Cub Scout Day Camp Director - Soaring Eagle District, BVSD Middle School Study Task Force

3. Issues and Policy

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

Responsible recovery from the economic effects of the pandemic; protecting K-12 education funding; Medicaid expansion

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 economic fallout from the pandemic will be the overriding issue during the 2021 legislative session. With K-12 funding, it will be vitally important not to regress toward the Brownback years and use our public schools as the first line item to cut. With that said, as we get to January, the federal government must step in and help make states and cities whole so that devastating cuts to local first responders and teachers are not necessary because of the loss of revenue. I support Governor Kelly's short term plan and look forward to crafting a stable, longer-term solution.

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

I believe in a reasonable tax system that balances the three-legged stool model of income, sales and property taxes. I do not support the economically unsound Brownback model of state revenue. I am in favor of local control of property taxes.

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

In District 28, the Blue Valley School District is an incredible asset - drawing families, attracting businesses, and providing a world-class education to our children. Our home values, our recreation and our community feeds off of the positive impact from this top ranked school district. I will work to make sure this legacy continues, supporting adequate and equitable funding for all K-12 public schools in Kansas.

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

I am very interested in making sure important regional projects, such as 69 Highway, continue to be funded for our community. Investment in infrastructure will be a key factor in our state's recovery from the COVID crisis and I am against further diversions of dedicated State Highway Fund monies. In addition, broadband expansion in Kansas is critical to bring employment and educational opportunities to our entire state.

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

Creating a favorable economic climate is the most important thing the State can do to encourage job growth and business expansion. Great Schools, good transportation systems, and higher education opportunities all factor into that equation. I support our Department of Commerce's efforts to focus our Economic Development Initiative Fund on meaningful projects to compete in the global economy and bring good jobs to the region.

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

Attracting and training employees in Kansas starts with a stable business climate, good public schools and an effective, funded economic development program. Beyond this I support dual-enrollment and career certification programming in our local community colleges, as well as making higher education more affordable in Kansas.

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)

I support funding our state's higher education institutions so that they are both affordable and nationally competitive. I support measures to enhance STEM programming and the career, technical and trade education necessary to produce qualified graduates for our area employers.

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

Expanding Medicaid in Kansas is long overdue. Beyond providing healthcare for approximately 150,000 Kansans, strengthening rural hospitals, and expanding access to affordable prescriptions lies the business case for expansion and the creation of thousands of jobs.

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 should make sure employees have access to affordable healthcare options, provide a well-run and fair unemployment insurance and benefits system, and maintain the integrity and affordability of the workers compensation system.

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)

Governance should be as close to our communities as possible and I support keeping decision-making authority with local school boards, and city and county governments.

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

My district residents know me and respect my long record of responsible decision-making and selfless service to our community. I am a scout leader, active in my church, president of the middle school PTO, on several committees for the Blue Valley School District, and a frequent civic volunteer.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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