

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:33 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Stacey Knoell

2. Political Party Affiliation

Democrat

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

Senate District 9

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : PO Box 4196

City/State/Zip : Olathe, Kansas 66063

5. Phone Number

913-210-0779

6. Email Address

knoell4kansas@gmail.com

7. Campaign Website

<https://staceyknoell.com/>

2. Candidate Background

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

I have worked as a sign language interpreter and middle school math teacher. Most recently a yoga instructor at Genesis Health Club at Ridgeview.

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.

I have not been affiliated with a chamber of commerce.

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

I have served as the Democratic Precinct Committeewoman for my precinct since 2017. I am a regular volunteer at Catholic Charities in Olathe.

3. Issues and Policy

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

One, Expanding Medicaid ensuring coverage for vulnerable populations, and helping rural hospitals. Two, upholding the Kansas Supreme Court decision protecting women's bodily autonomy.

Three, social justice reform within the system.

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 impact of COVID-19 has yet to be fully determined. Obviously, current well-thought-out budgets have been up-ended. Fortunately, our State finished FY19 with an ending balance of about \$1 Billion. This serves as a "Rainy Day Fund" and helps offset needed budget cuts over the next few years.

Most recently, the Governor has proposed reducing spending by delaying loan payments and implementing other one-time spending reductions. This includes delaying \$77 million in aid to K-12 schools.

I am convinced that we do need a round of Federal funding specifically to help state and local municipalities whether the COVID crisis.

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

We all want good government and we have to pay for it. Our current levels of taxation are high. State tax policy must be fair and equitable and designed for stability over the long-term. We need to find balance in our property, sales, and income taxes. We should phase out taxation on food.

There is a practical limit to taxation. Work towards providing maximum value for collected taxes, rather than seeking ways to raise taxes.

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

Great school districts are the hallmark of great places to live. Well-funded K-12 education wisely invested helps to ensure we are raising and educating young people to achieve their full potential. It also helps our students to become valued citizens committed to the ideals of our nation.

I am a strong advocate of K-12 education and want our State to fully fund our school district in accordance with the approved school finance formula.

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

Preserve our existing transportation system, modernize our highways with more durable materials, invest in local/regional projects that improve trafficability. Ensure Johnson County gets its fair share of tax dollars.

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

Quality economic development is the lifeblood of a sound economy. I do believe in incentives, but only when there is a solid business case that confirms a positive return on investment for taxpayers.

Economic development is a team sport. I am committed to working closely with all of our local municipalities and chambers of commerce, in order to leverage State economic development activities to best local advantage.

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

Here is the importance of maintaining and improving our K-12 and post-secondary education system. As such it can recognize the full spectrum of workforce needs and make special effort to offer timely training and education for in-demand jobs.

This includes partnering with local businesses to tailor programs that increase the available pool of qualified applicants, as well as providing programs that enhance the continued professional development of existing employees.

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)

Higher education has become extremely expensive. The State should increase support for our university system, but the State is not a substitute for tuition and other sources of university revenue. I would like to see some level of Federal funding to help offset university costs.

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

We simply need to take the confusion and complexity out of healthcare. We have the ability to make healthcare affordable for all. Here in Kansas, we need to expand Medicaid. It comes at no cost to us and this level of new Federal funding serves to both improve healthcare for individuals and provide needed revenue for our hospitals and healthcare system. Healthier Kansans make our State more productive.

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)

We need progressive workplace employment practices that recognize the value of every employee. We should review our current minimum wage and support paying a living wage.

The Federal government already provides much policy and regulatory guidance. We should build on this were practical with the aim to encourage businesses to provide for the highest possible Quality of Workplace.

The State needs to improve teacher salaries and improve the value of the KPERS retirement plan.

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 paramount. The State is important and empowers the creation of local governments, but the State should not attempt to set local taxing or other local policies.

In our area, municipal governments and other taxing authorities (primarily school boards) hold non-partisan elections to select the best candidates based on their qualifications, not on their political parties. Non-partisan governance helps ensure decisions are made for the common good, rather than for a political agenda.

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

I am a reliable, responsive, and ethical leader. My only agenda is to serve my fellow Kansans by supporting fair and balanced solutions that serve the best interests of our common good.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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