

# Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:7 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Stephanie Clayton

### 2. Political Party Affiliation

Democratic

### 3. District Number of Office Being Sought

19

### 4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 9825 Woodson Drive

City/State/Zip : Overland Park

### 5. Phone Number

9132054970

### 6. Email Address

stephaniesawyerclayton@gmail.com

### 7. Campaign Website

www.clayton4kansas.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

For the last five years, I have served in the Kansas House of Representatives, and also work as a consultant and content writer.

### 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.

Ex-officio Board member, Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce

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

Member, Johnson County Commission on Aging

Vice-President, NCSL Women's Legislative Network

State Director, Women in Government

State Director, WiLL/WAND

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

Economic Development

Investment in Education

**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)**

It is my hope that the State of Kansas will receive revenue assistance from the Federal Government for Covid-19 relief. We often do not discuss this, but it is time to start consolidating schools in 1-A districts. If absolutely necessary, I would support full restoration of the current income tax rates to their 2012 level.

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

I have always supported, and continue to support, a '3-legged stool' approach that has a balanced income, property, and sales tax. I do think that our sales tax, especially on groceries, is too high, and our income tax is still too low, which disrupts this balance. Given our crisis situation, I support other types of fees and taxation, but only with sunsets.

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

After years of recalcitrance, the Kansas legislature finally decided to commit to our constitutional duties and properly fund education. I think we all know that many legislators will use covid as an excuse to cut education funding. I do not support cuts, and I am emphatically against vouchers, tax credits, or anything that diverts from public education, which is the State's greatest economic development tool.

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

I will always vote to support a sustainable transportation plan, regardless of where the building takes place, as many Johnson County companies (notably our concrete and aggregate companies) will benefit from this. But, my top priority is construction here in Johnson County, in particular an expansion for 69 highway and surface repair of the western section of I-435.

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

In addition to supporting Medicaid Expansion (which will spur job growth) and Public Education (which grows the population in Johnson County), I am a strong supporter of the Angel Investor Tax Credit, and hope to see positive movement in that direction in 2021.

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

Encouraging education, in particular the completion of higher education and post-graduate work, is helpful. I would also like to see certifications, in particular those for Information Technology, become easier to access.

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**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 state has cut the budget for higher education numerous times. It often seemed that these cuts were borne from an attitude of anti-intellectualism, which is, of course, counter-productive to the creation of an educated workforce. Strong funding for higher education is pro-business.

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

I support Medicaid Expansion. Today's uninsured employee is tomorrow's chronically ill employee, which can cost businesses money. If we take care of people now, it saves money down the line. In addition, the healthcare jobs that are created as a result of Expansion will benefit our already strong and growing healthcare industry here in Johnson County.

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**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)**

I would support legislation that protects parents who might have to work from home while simultaneously facilitating distance learning for their children. Families bear a major hardship during necessary quarantine/stay at home measures, and if families suffer, our overall economy suffers.

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**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 have always believed that duly elected officials should act as equal members of a team. I do not support legislation that strips locally-elected officials of their duties or power. In return, I expect our locally elected officials to reciprocate that respect.

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

I am unopposed in this race, but should I draw an independent opponent or any write-ins, I would cite my experience, my knowledge of workings on both sides of the aisle, and my strong commitment to transparency and communication with and service to my constituents.

**4. Thank You!**

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**Your response has been successfully submitted.**

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