

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:97 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Rep Susan Ruiz

2. Political Party Affiliation

Democrat

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

#23

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 7306 Bond St

City/State/Zip : Shawnee, KS 66203

5. Phone Number

913.221.7687

6. Email Address

sueruiz46@gmail.com

7. Campaign Website

susanruizks.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Clinical Social Worker

Truman Medical Center 2013-2018

KS House of Representatives 2018 - current

Advent Health 2018 - current

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.

NA

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

I have been doing PRN work at Advent Health Hospital since 2018.

3. Issues and Policy

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

Education - fully fund out public school system

Economic Affairs - medicaid expansion, lower food sales tax and address our state's revenue loss due to the pandemic

Criminal Justice Reform

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)

We won't begin to see the full picture of the state's revenue loss until the beginning of the new year - maybe. I'm not in favor of making budget cuts to our public school system and social services budgets. I will want to focus on our economic recovery by looking at passing legislation to legalize medical marijuana, if not totally legalize recreational marijuana. We also need to look at passing sports gambling. This type of legislation will take us far into the future and help us balance the budget.

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

The state hasn't yet fully recovered from the 2012 Brownback tax experiment. What we know is that trickle-down economics doesn't work and we can't go backwards. I'm not in favor of shifting the tax burden from wealthy Kansans to low- and moderate-income workers. I am open to listening to others regarding their views on state tax policy.

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

The 2021 legislature will feel pressure from ultra conservative entities to cut funding to K-12 education. These will be the same ones who will also pressure for funding to go to school vouchers. I don't want to support cuts to K-12 funding nor do I want to see a constitutional amendment to move away from the supreme court oversight of state education funding.

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

The T-Works projects that were on the list will be first before the IKE program priorities are worked on. However, the highest priority would be broadband expansion through the allocation of construction grants for the expansion of broadband service in Kansas.

Another priority would be the expansion of US-69 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 will support economic development that focuses on job growth and small business expansion that is local, equitable and minority owned. I will also support economic development that will focus on reducing our carbon footprint and attract companies that focus on lessen their environmental impact.

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

I would focus on jobs that are needed the most such as the medical and mental health field.

I would have school districts talk about skilled labor on the same level as getting a college education. Nationally, there is a shortage of skilled labor in construction, electrical, and plumbing to name a few.

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 believe the state has some responsibility to fund state funded schools. I also believe that those schools have a responsibility to work to attract a diverse student population. I would be in favor of the state paying college tuition up to 2 yrs at a KS community college no matter the person or immigration status.

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

It is optimal to have employers provide healthcare to their employees. However, new business or small business owners often can't afford to provide healthcare for their employees during their early beginnings. Medicaid expansion would provide healthcare for up to another 150,000 people, these are people that are the working poor. They would potentially have more disposable income to spend in other ways.

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)

State gov should enforce existing laws of the department of labor. I would support state government making suggestions

regarding the state's minimum wage. I have offered a bill and will continue to work toward adding sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression to the KS Anti-discrimination Act. This would protect the LGBT community from discriminatory practices in employment, housing and public accommodations.

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)

It is embarrassing that we continue to have this type of division. This won't end until powerful wealthy individuals; far right organizations and power hungry legislators no longer have leadership power in the state of KS. We must be allowed to have a healthy debate regarding all of those issues and work toward a compromise that we can all live with.

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

At this moment everything I have done in the legislature and in the community distinguishes me from my opponents. I have seen little to nothing about my opponents. One of my opponents agrees with legalizing marijuana.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

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