



Kansas Statewide
Homeless Coalition

2024 Survey for Kansas Public Leaders and Candidates

Name

Lori Blake

Office:

Kansas House of Representatives

Party

Democratic

District

69

Home City

Assaria

Ballot City

Salina

Policy and Strategy:

Kansas Housing Resource Corporation's 2021 Housing Needs Assessment found that "A shortage of quality, affordable housing is an undeniable barrier to economic growth and development in any community, and particularly in rural communities in Kansas." How likely are you to support increasing funding for affordable housing development?

Likely

Inadequate access to mental health and substance use treatment programs contributes to homelessness in Kansas. How likely are you to vote to expand mental health and substance abuse treatment programs?

Very Likely

How likely are you to be in favor of limiting annual rental increases?

Neutral

Comments:

I need to learn more about this subject

Kansas has no statewide plan that comprehensively addresses homelessness. How likely are you to support the implementation of a statewide affordable housing plan to address homelessness?

Likely

How likely are you to advocate to allow for more affordable housing developments in urban and suburban areas?

Very Likely

How likely are you to be in favor of establishing a state-funded rental assistance program to stabilize low-income renters and support property owners?

Neutral

Comments:

I will need to learn more about this subject.

How likely are you to support legislation or programs to provide legal assistance to tenants facing eviction?

Neutral

Comments:

I will need to see current data about the capacity of current supports available.

How likely are you to support increasing funding for domestic violence shelters and services to prevent homelessness?

Likely

What funding sources will you prioritize or advocate for to support homelessness programs and services? (Check all that apply)

Federal grants and programs (e.g., HUD Continuum of Care, Emergency Solutions Grants)

State Government funding initiatives

Local government budgets and funding allocations

Private donations and philanthropic foundations

Corporate partnerships and sponsorships

Community fundraising events and campaigns

Social impact bonds and other innovative financing mechanisms

Public-private partnerships

Tax revenue initiatives (e.g., bonds, levies specifically for housing and homeless services)

Housing Solutions

Kansas does not have enough shelter space; nearly two thousand Kansans sleep outside or in their cars in dangerous weather conditions. How important is it to increase funding and capacity for emergency shelters to meet immediate needs?

Neutral

Comments:

Studying the capacity vs. requirements of the shelter

How important is it to develop more transitional housing programs to bridge the gap between homelessness and permanent housing?

Very Important

How important is it to expand permanent supportive housing options with integrated services for long-term stability?

Neutral

Comments:

I will need to study the current practice and allocations before making a decision.

How important is it to implement a low barrier approach that prioritizes permanent housing with support services?

Very Important

How important is it to collaborate on the local level to ensure a coordinated response that addresses homelessness?

Very Important

How important is it to use data-driven strategies to allocate resources based on current demand and long-term outcomes?

Very Important

How important is it to create a flexible funding source that allows communities to address local needs?

Neutral

Collaboration and Partnerships:

Will you establish regular communication channels with local nonprofits to address homelessness?

Yes

Comments:

If there is an opportunity, I would be happy to participate.

How important is it for state entities to collaborate on homelessness initiatives?

Very Important

Employment and Education:

How likely are you to be in favor of creating state incentives for businesses that hire individuals experiencing homelessness?

Neutral

Comments:

I would need to study this issue.

Will you support job training and vocational programs tailored to the needs of homeless individuals?

Yes

Do you support the creation of a statewide initiative to simplify the process of obtaining a state ID for homeless and low-income individuals?

Yes

Health and Well-being:

Do you advocate for Medicaid expansion to increase healthcare coverage for low-income individuals?

Yes

How critical is Medicaid expansion for increasing healthcare coverage for low-income individuals in your view?

Very Critical

Comments:

I would again need to learn more about this before I weigh in on the my position.