



2024 Survey for Kansas Public Leaders and Candidates

Name

Marci Francisco

Office:

Kansas Senate

Party

Democratic

District

2

Home City

Lawrence

Ballot City

Lawrence

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

Comments:

I voted for funding the grants for housing development. I would like to see requirements for energy efficient construction as part of any ongoing or new funding.

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

Comments:

Funding for mental health and substance abuse treatments should be expanded especially for individuals whose alternative may be incarceration. Funding Medicaid Expansion would be an easy and affordable way to do this.

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

Unlikely

Comments:

However I am in favor of working to reduce utility bills and property tax increases. I would like to expand the "Golden Years" property tax freeze that can help seniors afford to stay in their homes.

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?

Neutral

Comments:

I am in favor of a statewide plan to comprehensively address homelessness but not sure that such a statewide affordable housing plan would fit with that.

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

Very Likely

Comments:

I am serving on the Land Development Code Advisory Committee that is working to make amendments to the development code for Douglas County that will hopefully help address barriers in the current code that limit the development of affordable housing.

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?

Unlikely

Comments:

The recent tax cuts eliminated much of the room in our state budget for new programs. I voted "NO" because of the cuts focused more on income tax relief than property tax relief. State funding for a rental assistance program would come at the expense of other renters. I'm not sure what the question is asking about support for property owners.

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

Very Likely

Comments:

For years I served on the board for Housing and Credit Counseling, Inc. - they provide good information for both landlords and tenants regarding eviction. I do think legal assistance can be very helpful in addressing these concerns.

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

Very Likely

Comments:

I am very aware of concerns of domestic violence through support for our community's domestic violence shelters and from my service on the state's Human Trafficking Advisory Board.

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)

Comments:

These efforts will require funding from a variety of sources.

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?

Important

Comments:

Emergency shelters should be available to meet immediate needs but not be the option for longer term housing.

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

Important

Comments:

Transitional housing can be a much more appropriate solution than emergency shelters for many individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

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

Important

Comments:

There are some individuals in our communities who will always need support along with housing options.

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

Neutral

Comments:

I understand the need for services with a low barrier approach but need to understand more about how that fits with permanent housing - investments in permanent housing need to be respected.

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

Very Important

Comments:

This is an issue affecting local communities and the members of those communities need to be involved.

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

Very Important

Comments:

Resources are limited so they need to be allocated with the best chance of success.

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

Neutral

Comments:

Funding needs to be both flexible and accountable.

Collaboration and Partnerships:

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

Yes

Comments:

I have made myself available for communication and discussion and attended workshops to address these concerns.

Comments:

I would be happy to respond to invitations; my husband and I have worked throughout the years to provide affordable housing in Lawrence.

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

Important

Comments:

Collaboration is often helpful, making sure that programs are coordinated.

Employment and Education:

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

Neutral

Comments:

Employment can be very helpful - would want to see the details of the program.

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

Yes

Comments:

I think it is important to address barriers to participation in job training and vocational programs so that full participation is encouraged.

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

Comments:

The process of obtaining a state ID should be as simple as possible for everyone.

Health and Well-being:

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

Yes

Comments:

There is no reason for the state not to expand this program - it would help individuals access insurance, providers pay for treatments, and reduce the amount of uncompensated care reducing insurance costs overall.

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

Very Critical

Comments:

Kansas does not provide coverage for many working adults who should be granted access to the low-cost insurance offered through the affordable care act.

Will you support the integration of healthcare services within shelters and housing programs?

Yes