



Kansas Statewide  
Homeless Coalition

# 2024 Survey for Kansas Public Leaders and Candidates

## Name

Christine Pruitt

## Office:

Kansas House of Representatives

## Party

Democrat

## District

97

## Home City

Wichita

## Ballot City

Wichita

## 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?**

Very Likely

## Comments:

We must also increase funding to resolve the underlying issues that contribute to homelessness.

**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:

Medicaid expansion is long overdue in Kansas

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

Likely

## Comments:

There is a balance between limiting rent increases and impairing landlord ability to pay their mortgages.

As property tax increases, rent will also increase.

**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

**Comments:**

I don't believe that there is a "one size fits all" when it comes to this issue. There must be a basic statewide plan but each locality must also be able to modify certain parts to fit their own needs.

**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?**

Very Likely

**Comments:**

Although Section 8 was designed for this purpose, it is insufficient to meet the needs.

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

Neutral

**Comments:**

There are many reasons that tenants get evicted and failure to pay the rent is only one.

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

Very Likely

**Comments:**

The only way that the best way to combat homelessness is to resolve the underlying issues that contribute to it.

**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

Private donations and philanthropic foundations

Corporate partnerships and sponsorships

Community fundraising events and campaigns

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?**

Very Important

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

Very Important

**Comments:**

The planned facility in my district is going to help but it is not enough.

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

Very Important

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

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?**

Important

## **Collaboration and Partnerships:**

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

Yes

**Comments:**

The best people to explain what is needed are the ones working "hands on" dealing with the issue.

**Do you plan to participate in a workgroup or advisory council that addresses homelessness that includes representatives from key stakeholders throughout Kansas?**

Yes

**Comments:**

The key to passing legislation that works for the real problem is to hear from the people that are dealing with the problem every day. This includes the "stakeholders" that are trying to address the issues.

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

Very Important

**Comments:**

Failure to collaborate will increase the problem.

**Employment and Education:**

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

Likely

**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

**Comments:**

It is a disgrace that people have to choose between healthcare and basic necessities.

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

Very Critical

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

Yes

**Comments:**

Health care expenses and lack of affordable availability of health care contribute to homelessness. Resolving the factors that contribute to the problem do more to actually fix it.