



Kansas Statewide  
Homeless Coalition

# 2024 Survey for Kansas Public Leaders and Candidates

## Name

Ephren Taylor

## Office:

Kansas Senate

## Party

Democratic

## District

4

## Home City

Overland Park

## Ballot City

Kansas City Kansas

## 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

**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?**

Unlikely

## Comments:

While I understand the intent behind rent control policies, I believe there are more effective solutions to address the housing crisis without the drawbacks associated with rent control. Based on the available literature, I support implementing radical changes to our housing policies.

Some of these better solutions could include:

1. Zoning reforms to allow for higher density housing

2. Incentives for new housing development, especially affordable units
3. Targeted rental assistance programs for low-income households
4. Community land trusts to maintain long-term affordability
5. Policies to streamline the approval process for new housing projects
6. Vacancy taxes to discourage property owners from leaving units empty
7. Land value taxes to encourage efficient use of land and development
8. Promotion of housing cooperatives, similar to the successful model in Norway
9. Support for tenant unions and collective bargaining rights for renters

**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?**

Very Likely

**Comments:**

Affordable housing has to be addressed at the state/national level. The affordable housing crisis is an issue that effects everyone and should be addressed as such.

**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

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

Very Likely

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

Very 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?**

Very Important

**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?**

Very Important

**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

**Comments:**

The more data the better.

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

Very Important

## **Collaboration and Partnerships:**

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

Yes

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

Yes

**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?

Very 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

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

**Survey for Kansas Public  
Leaders**

**Thank You!**