



Kansas Statewide  
Homeless Coalition

# 2024 Survey for Kansas Public Leaders and Candidates

**Name**

Kimberly DeWitt

**Office:**

Kansas House of Representatives

**Party**

Democrat

**District**

35

**Home City**

Kansas City

**Ballot City**

Kansas City

## 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:**

The shortage of quality, affordable housing is a critical issue that hinders economic growth and development, especially in Kansas' rural communities. My campaign is committed to addressing this challenge by promoting investments in affordable housing projects, providing incentives for developers, and ensuring access to necessary funding for local initiatives. By collaborating with community leaders and leveraging state resources, we aim to create sustainable housing solutions that will foster economic development, attract new businesses, and improve the quality of life for all Kansans. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant rural Kansas.

I believe quality, affordable housing is a critical issue that hinders economic growth and development in many areas of Kansas, both rural and urban. My campaign is committed to addressing this challenge by promoting investments in affordable housing projects, providing incentives for developers, and ensuring access to necessary funding for local initiatives. By collaborating with community leaders and leveraging state resources, I hope to help create sustainable housing solutions that will foster economic

development, attract new businesses, and improve the quality of life for all Kansans.

**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:**

Our campaign is deeply committed to addressing the critical issue of homelessness across Kansas by ensuring robust access to mental health and substance use treatment programs. We recognize that inadequate support in these areas often leads to seemingly endless cycle of shifting between homelessness, incarceration, and joblessness. That's why we propose increasing funding for mental health services, expanding community-based treatment options, and enhancing support systems for those struggling with substance use.

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

Likely

**Comments:**

Although I understand how rent increases can put a serious strain on a tenant's resources, I also understand that there are legitimate costs of business, inflation, increased fees/regulation that can contribute to such increases being necessary outside of strictly maintaining profit margin. I am open to dialogue on how that can be accomplished. In the interim, I am not opposed to some kind of incremental limiting process.

**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 am favor of a statewide plan provided it addresses a broad enough focus to support addressing factors of homeless, utilizes fair formulas/assessment to provide proportionate guidance, and provides some level of financial local support to allow for partnership with organizations that work directly with the homeless.

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

Very Likely

**Comments:**

As my district is an urban one, I see firsthand how housing or the lack of housing creates a visible, insidious environment of have and have nots. Affordable neighborhoods can be just as beautiful as affluent subdivisions but it takes creativity in sustainable materials, financial literacy, and other factors. I am open to progressive ideas.

**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?**

Likely

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

Very Likely

**Comments:**

I passionately will support any effort to better empower tenants in an inherently unequal relationship. Kansas law is very landlord friendly while help for renters, either commercial or residential, can be extremely hard to find. I would support conversations and appropriate changes around standards of proof for eviction, tenant issue redress, and landlord accountability.

**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?**

Important

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

Important

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

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?**

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

### **Comments:**

I am happy to partner

**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

### **Comments:**

As a small business owner myself, I would love to find opportunities to provide a positive hand forward. Those are experiencing homelessness experience the same stigma as the formally incarcerated in their ability to find employers willing to see them as anything other than an unmentionable unhirable.

**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