



Kansas Statewide
Homeless Coalition

2024 Survey for Kansas Public Leaders and Candidates

Name

Chuck Schmidt

Office:

Kansas House of Representatives

Party

Democratic

District

88

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?

Likely

Comments:

Homelessness is becoming a major issue in our Wichita and Kansas. We need to work toward some solutions.

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:

I have always been an advocate for accessible and affordable mental health services. One of the best ways we can do this is by expanding Medicaid.

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

Neutral

Comments:

We have to be very careful that we do not violate owners' rights.

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?

Likely

Comments:

One of the solutions is housing infill. Wichita is currently planning on creating living quarters for homeless. This is something that should be attempted.

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

Comments:

Rental assistance is a good way to help provide affordable housing to those in need.

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

Likely

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

Public-private partnerships

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:

We need emergency shelters but that is a temporary solution. Affordable housing is the best long term solution.

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

Important

Comments:

We know that homeless people do not automatically adjust to permanent housing without assistance.

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?

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?

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