



Kansas Statewide
Homeless Coalition

2024 Survey for Kansas Public Leaders and Candidates

Name

Mel Pinick

Office:

Kansas House of Representatives

Party

Democratic

District

121

Home City

Olathe

Ballot City

Olathe, Eudora, De Soto, Gardner

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:

It's important to me to be pro-active with policy, prevention is always going to be better for citizens, for the budget and for humanity in general.

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?

Likely

Comments:

I'm in favor of some sort of limit here, but I would need to see the details to know how I would vote.

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:

Compared to other states, we have a fairly low total number of unsheltered folks, if we can implement something comprehensive now, we can make a big difference for those currently experiencing homelessness and in preventing more from experiencing it.

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

Very Likely

Comments:

This is already a huge need all over Kansas right now.

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:

This again would be something I would need to see the details on. I believe there is a fair way to do this that helps all parties, but there would be a lot of variables in potential purposed law.

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)

Private donations and philanthropic foundations

Corporate partnerships and sponsorships

Social impact bonds and other innovative financing mechanisms

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?

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

Comments:

This is the piece that prevents one emergency from causing a recurrence of homelessness. We have got to break the cycle.

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

Comments:

Local level understands the nuance of what is happening in their particular area, so it's important to bring them to the table.

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

Important

Comments:

Data is important, but it needs to be both quantitative and qualitative. Mistakes are made when we jump to conclusions based on only quantitative data. If we start with a faulty conclusion not only do we waste time and resources, we could end up contributing to the problem rather than helping to solve it.

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?

Important

Employment and Education:

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

Likely

Comments:

I think this can be done effectively, but it would need to be carefully crafted so as not to take advantage of any party involved.

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:

This is a major priority for me, expanding Medicaid would make a huge difference for folks all across the state.

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!