



Kansas Statewide
Homeless Coalition

2024 Survey for Kansas Public Leaders and Candidates

Name

Sean Tarwater

Office:

Kansas House of Representatives

Party

Republican

District

27

Home City

Stilwell

Ballot City

Stilwell

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:

I know that quality, affordable housing is a huge issue. that is why I have requested and was granted a Special Interim Committee on housing shortages and homelessness. I am chairing the committee and you are welcome to testify.

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:

My little brother, Brian Tarwater, died as a result of substance abuse. This subject is near and dear to my heart. In appropriations, i always advocate for and vote for increased funding. I worked with Jason Probst to allow testing strips for fentanyl, and I worked with Brenda Landwehr to advocate for increased funding for mental health and suicide prevention.

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

Unlikely

Comments:

I am unlikely to hamper the free market that might end up with fewer rental properties because we are limiting rent. We need to encourage more entrepreneurs to create more rental units, build more of them, and bring the cost down. If we increase supply, prices will drop. We also need to incentivize and subsidize the renter that needs assistance.

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

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

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?

Neutral

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 better the data, the better the decision and efficiency

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 also will be chairing a special committee on housing at the statehouse in November

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

Comments:

As Chairman of the House Commerce Committee, we pass vocational educational incentives every year. Kansas is on the cutting edge of workforce development.

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?

No

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

Not Critical

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

Yes

**Survey for Kansas Public
Leaders**

Thank You!