



Kansas Statewide  
Homeless Coalition

# 2024 Survey for Kansas Public Leaders and Candidates

## Name

Christina Haswood

## Office:

Kansas Senate

## Party

Democrat

## District

2

## Home City

Lawrence

## Ballot City

Lawrence

## 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:

As someone who is a renter of an apartment and owning a house is such a far reach for me, I believe my lived experiences provide that understanding of the struggle to affordable housing. I see my rent increase every year yet my salary has decreased. I also have previously served on our local homeless shelter board and got to learn a lot of these issues through the stories of guests. I still try and volunteer when I can. I also previously served on the City of Lawrence's Human Relations Commission and worked on the ordinance that prevents landlords from discriminating on source of income.

**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:

Mental health accessibility and affordability are two issues that impact so many. I have volunteered my time on my local mental health organization's Governing Board, to learn more about how a community mental health organization is doing what it needs to do and what is working and isn't.

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

Very Likely

**Comments:**

As a renter myself, I would love to learn and explore ways to reduce the need and rate landlords give us renter’s an annual increase. We should be striving for legislation that allows more rights to renters and tenants!

**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:**

I found this surprising this past legislative session when I was looking for a lobbyist or a group to help me find legislation to introduce or cosponsor. I am aware of a homelessness coalition but I am not aware of their policy priorities or any model legislation that they recommended. I think having a statewide affordable housing plan will bring together folks form all different backgrounds, geographic locations and ideologies because I think we can all agree that affordable housing is a top issue for our state.

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

Very Likely

**Comments:**

I am very likely though with a mindset of upholding our environmental values. Most recently, Lawrence was looking at developing affordable housing near the Baker/Haskell wetlands which could jeopardize the local wildlife. I have been told that due to outdated housing codes on building more denser housing in city limits is one one symptom why this project was proposed at this site. We should work and help our local governments or encourage mixed housing. A lot of us millennials and Gen Zs would love more dense housing with walkable community and neighborhoods with less car pollution.

**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

**Comments:**

Very likely if this is done in the right way. Again, we must prioritize creating and passing policy that gives power back to the renters against injustice from landlords. Though, I recognize that it is a balance with the relationship of renters and landlords/property owners. Many Tribal nations, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, offered renters assistance and I found that to be beneficial to have and comforting to know my Tribe has my back like that.

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

Very Likely

**Comments:**

Absolutely! Many of us renters would have no idea where to start with how to find our rights during an eviction process. I would love to learn more about what policy we can do here in Kansas.

**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

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

### Comments:

I believe it is important that we provide emergency shelter spaces for folks who are experiencing homelessness/houselessness. We have had one too many deaths in Lawrence to extreme weather and we need to support our emergency shelters and programs to provide high quality service that treats folks with dignity and respect. At the same time, I support a housing first model and that we must provide safe and affordable housing to folks.

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

Very Important

### Comments:

We must following an evidence base practice to finding folks with permanent housing. The housing first model encourages just that.

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

Very Important

### Comments:

The more we can be fast and efficient with folks' time, the better we can get folks into permanent supportive housing.

**How important is it to implement a low barrier approach that prioritizes permanent housing with support services?**

Very Important

**Comments:**

We should strive to remove all barriers to these types of services.

**How important is it to collaborate on the local level to ensure a coordinated response that addresses homelessness?**

Very Important

**Comments:**

At the state level, we should try to move in lock step with our local government who hold a lot of power to solutions. A lot of our programs are currently being funded by city and county dollars.

**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

**Comments:**

Yes, I already have these connections established and do my best to communicate with them during and out of the legislative session.

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

Yes

**Comments:**

Yes! Please let me know of any opportunities I can be apart of. Native Americans, my people, are one of the highest rates who experience homelessness/homelessness and I would love to find solutions that address that with cultural competency.

**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:**

With guidance from local advocates and Lawrence businesses.

**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:**

We must expand medicaid!

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

Very Critical

**Comments:**

Many of our organizations such as Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Bert Nash, Heartland, and more, would save on thousands of dollars in Medicaid reimbursements and seeing low-income folks.

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

Yes

**Comments:**

Absolutely! The more we can help folks all in one place the better.