



# 2024 Survey for Kansas Public Leaders and Candidates

**Name**

Sasha Islam

**Office:**

Kansas Senate

**Party**

Democrat

**District**

16

**Home City**

Andover

**Ballot City**

Andover

## 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 myself can barely make my rent monthly. Nor can I find an affordable 3 bedroom for my household, so we make a 2 bedroom work.

**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 is very important!

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

Very Likely

**Comments:**

I've been lucky that my current landlord hasn't raised rent, but seen rent jump from \$700 to over \$1k for 2 bedrooms, and from \$900 to \$1400 for 3 bedrooms in my area.

**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:**

My own mother was homeless while elderly and disabled. I moved her in with me because her social security was not sufficient to afford anything more than a hotel room.

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

Very Likely

**Comments:**

I see all the new houses being built and apartments, but all are unrealistically priced!

**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:**

Hopefully it can be more accessible than section 8 currently is.

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

Likely

**Comments:**

Its a case by case thing in this situation. If it's because of rent raises, then definitely!

**How likely are you to support increasing funding for domestic violence shelters and services to prevent homelessness?**

Very Likely

**Comments:**

My roommate was in a domestic violence shelter before moving in with me. The 30-45 days is not enough time unless they have access to better programs.

**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

Corporate partnerships and sponsorships

Community fundraising events and campaigns

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

**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:**

Why hasn't this already been done with current government officials?

**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 wouldn't be against the idea, at least I'd have knowledge and some second-hand experience in this situation.

**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:**

Part of the problem is they have to have an ID with an address to be hired. If we can offer them a temporary address or a different loophole to get the job, they could gradually get back on their feet financially.

**Will you support job training and vocational programs tailored to the needs of homeless individuals?**

Yes

**Comments:**

We need more free or low-income opportunities to better ourselves in the different types of work. Many jobs want experience, but are not willing to offer it to entry level people.

**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

**Comments:**

It would keep them out of the emergency rooms and be cheaper on the whole state.

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

Yes