



Kansas Statewide
Homeless Coalition

2024 Survey for Kansas Public Leaders and Candidates

Name

Silas Miller

Office:

Kansas House of Representatives

Party

Democratic

District

86

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?

Very Likely

Comments:

We can't progress as a community if we have a large percentage of unhoused or under-housed individuals.

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:

The MAC center is a huge step in the right direction, but elected officials can't stop there. We need to be doing as much as possible to help vulnerable people out of the dangerous situations they're in

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

Very Likely

Comments:

Rent increases we've seen in the last decade have been astronomical, and largely a result of corporate greed and artificial increases. People deserve a fair shot at pursuing their dreams

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:

Relying on cities to do everything necessary is not enough, many of the state's unhoused people travel to Wichita because of its well-known resources. More state support could help alleviate the burden on one or two communities and make it a statewide effort

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

Very Likely

Comments:

I think we all have different ideas of what "affordable" housing really means. Tax incentives for wealthy developers to build "affordable" housing that still costs \$1000-2000 a month is missing the point. Wage stagnation is keeping a large portion of our lower income individuals in constant threat of losing housing

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 from tax revenue is one of many ways to help underserved communities, but it's an easy system for some to exploit as a renter or property owner

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

Very Likely

Comments:

Tenant rights in Kansas seem to be aimed more at protecting property than protecting people. Vulnerable tenants need adequate representation and resources

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

Very Likely

Comments:

Domestic violence is a huge factor in homelessness, and providing resources for these people can help prevent many instances of homelessness

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

Comments:

Eliminating homelessness across all spectrums should be a top priority, and providing a safe place to prevent death and illness has to remain a priority as well

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

Very Important

Comments:

Workforce development is also a huge priority for my platform

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

Very Important

Comments:

Many underserved individuals need ongoing support to remain healthy and housed. Substance abuse and domestic violence are two great examples

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:

I also believe we should implement a better data-collection strategy than point in time

How important is it to create a flexible funding source that allows communities to address local needs?

Very Important

Comments:

Community needs will always be changing, and localities should have as many resources available to them to address their individual needs

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 was happy to participate in 2023 county commission meeting to address emergency shelters

How important is it for state entities to collaborate on homelessness initiatives?

Very Important

Comments:

Every level of government should be making this a top priority

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:

Workforce development is vital to every level of needs

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

Comments:

So many people are prevented from accessing vital services due to lack of ID

Health and Well-being:

Do you advocate for Medicaid expansion to increase healthcare coverage for low-income individuals?

Yes

Comments:

Medicaid expansion is a huge part of my platform, advocating for it at every level. We can't keep throwing money away because of a few bad actors

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

Very Critical

Comments:

It's the most important next step

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

Yes

Comments:

Everyone deserves access to quality healthcare, independent of financial situation

**Survey for Kansas Public
Leaders**

Thank You!