



2024 Survey for Kansas Public Leaders and Candidates

Name

Aimee Bateman

Office:

Kansas House of Representatives

Party

Democratic

District

41

Home City

Leavenworth

Ballot City

Leavenworth

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:

This, along with the lack of public transportation, and are huge barriers to growth in our community.

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:

This is a top priority for me, along with increasing the use of specialty courts and non-prison sanctions for those with mental health and substance use disorders.

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

Likely

Comments:

This legislation would have to be carefully crafted not to discourage new construction or encourage low-quality units. However, I believe it can be a powerful tool in preventing constructive evictions from massive rent hikes and promoting community stabilization.

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:

We will never effectively address homelessness without a significant increase in more affordable housing.

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

Very Likely

Comments:

This is where it is needed most, especially with the lack of public transportation.

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:

We need more programs to support community stabilization.

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

Comments:

Yes, we need shelters that can support children and pets to help those who are escaping domestic violence.

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)

Comments:

Depending on the needs and resources of a given community, many or all of these funding sources should be explored.

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

Comments:

The most effective and efficient solutions are developed and enacted at the lowest levels.

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

Comments:

Again, the best solutions are tailored at the lowest level.

Collaboration and Partnerships:

Will you establish regular communication channels with local nonprofits to address homelessness?

Yes

Comments:

Yes, the Interfaith Community of Hope homeless shelter in Leavenworth has been great to communicate with and I look forward to seeing them continue to grow and adapt their services to the needs of the community, and provide ideas for legislative solutions.

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?

Very 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 help, but these incentives should not be at the expense of providing actual housing. The best way to cure homelessness is with a home, and then a job.

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:

Absolutely. This needs to a top legislative priority.

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!