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COMPLETE

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Q1

Contact

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Q2

Party Affiliation

Respondent skipped this question

Q3

Office Sought

State Board of Education

Q4

District

2

Q5

Incumbent?

No

Q6

Do you believe that scientific fact and the advice of health professionals should be paramount in decisions regarding public health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes

Q7

Please expand on your answer to the question above.

Yes. I look to healthcare professionals and researchers for guidance as they continue to analyze the data. As a technologist I have experience with large amounts of data and have learned to glean insights by scrutinizing statistics. I listen to local experts, including Dr. Lee Norman, and round out my own research by reading case studies and the writings of experts around the globe. We can learn a lot from what has already happened in other countries which are ahead of us on the timeline.

Q8**No**

Do you believe that proof of citizenship should be required in order to register to vote?

Q9

Please expand on your answer to the question above.

No, not in the context of Kris Kobach's proof-of-citizenship (DPOC) legislation that was ruled unconstitutional by a federal appeals court. Requiring proof of citizenship places an unconstitutional burden on citizens, as stated by the court in its April 2020 ruling. This documentation is not required at the national level and has been politicized at the state level to suppress voter turnout.

Q10**No**

Do you believe that laws covering the sale of firearms are sufficient? If yes, why? If no, do you believe they should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?

Q11

Please expand on your answer to the question above.

No. As a mother and as an advocate for safe schools, I support more restrictive gun laws and measures such transferring military-grade weapons to the police force and off of our streets. This is one of the measures proposed in the First Step Act. I strongly believe that guns do not have a place in schools. Instead we would do well to educate young people on the true impacts of gun violence, teach conflict resolution, and seek to improve mental health support, as these things are interrelated and will result in safer schools and communities.

Q12**No**

Do you support amending the Kansas Constitution to eliminate the protection for individual reproductive freedoms contained in the Kansas Constitution?

Q13

Please expand on your answer to the question above.

No. Reproductive decisions belong to women and women should be able to make their own decisions without force, discrimination, interference, or fear of harm.

Q14**Yes**

Do you believe that diversity in representation is critical to effective governing? If yes, as an elected official what will you do to promote and engage leaders who more accurately reflect the diversity of members in our communities?

Q15

Please expand on your answer to the question above.

Yes. The process of running for office has opened my eyes to barriers to entry. We have to be deliberate about equity; I can't emphasize enough that it's about bringing a wide range of voices to the table, voices which speak on behalf of cultures, experiences, and backgrounds. I will seek this diversity when supporting delegates for committees and other opportunities. I have already taken steps to encourage or mentor people of color and women who are interested in getting involved in politics. I plan to aggressively continue these efforts in future elections.

Q16**Yes**

Do you believe climate change is real and caused by human activity? If so, what policies should legislators pursue to improve climate resilience?

Q17

Please expand on your answer to the question above.

Yes. Local control means that decisions about what really happens at a school - including environmental policies and efforts - those decisions belong to the individual districts. The State board should provide recommendations for implementing sustainability efforts. I will personally get to tour schools statewide; an opportunity to have constructive dialogue around sustainability practices and policies. The board should regularly consider greener efforts as part of the criteria in all policy deliberations.

Q18**Yes**

Do you support amending the current Kansas Act Against Discrimination to include the same protections for sexual orientation and gender identity?

Q19

Please expand on your answer to the question above.

Yes. Amending KAAD in this way would reinforce protections that already exist in some individual school districts. I'm committed to safe schools. That means schools which are free of guns, protected from COVID-19, and free of bullying. The longer we delay in making amendments to KAAD, the longer LGBTQ students and staff are not only at risk, but also that school communities are fractured.

Q20**No**

Should public funding be available for private school tuition via tax credit scholarships, education savings accounts, vouchers or other methods? What is your opinion about the current funding for Kansas schools?

Q21

Please expand on your answer to the question above.

No. To take money from public schools and give it to private institutions through the use of tax shelters is the ultimate threat to the future of public education. For one, it's a step towards full privatization, not unlike what we have seen with jails, as an example. It would convert taxpayers into customers while stripping away governance to ensure equity for all students. Real equity will be within reach when we fund public schools to the greatest extent possible.

Q22**Yes**

Do you support Medicaid expansion at a time when pandemic-induced job loss has left thousands of Kansans without health care coverage?

Q23

Please expand on your answer to the question above.

Yes, I support Medicaid expansion as a critical need for Kansas as a whole. We do not yet know the extent of damage that COVID-19 will have on our state. Some public school teachers and staff are already in limbo, waiting to find out what the fall semester will bring. Not only is it possible they won't have jobs, but they could lose healthcare benefits. Thousands of Kansas who will be in need, in addition to those who already are. Medicaid expansion is overdue. Healthcare is a basic right.
