



Empowering Families,  
Strengthening Child Care:  
**Kansas City Metro  
Voter Guide 2024**

the  
*family*  
conservancy<sup>SM</sup>

tfckc.org



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# 01

## Get Ready to Vote!

The Family Conservancy is pleased to provide your essential voter guide on child care in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Your vote can drive meaningful change in policies that affect both the quality of care and the support available to those who dedicate their lives to this vital profession. We hope this guide will help you research the candidates and their position on child care and other issues that impact families and young children. If you don't see a response from a candidate in your district, we encourage you to reach out to them via email or visit their website to learn more.

### Absentee Voting in Missouri

- The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23.
- Your completed ballot must be received by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5, if you are returning by mail.
- The deadline to vote by absentee in person is 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 4. [Contact your local election authority](#) to find early in-person absentee voting locations.
- [Request a mail-in ballot.](#)

### Voting by mail in Kansas

- The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is Tuesday, Oct. 29.
- Your completed ballot must be postmarked by Tuesday, Nov. 5 and received in the county election office by Friday, Nov. 8.
- [Request a mail-in ballot.](#)
- The first day you can vote early in person is Wednesday, Oct. 16. The last day to vote early is Monday, Nov. 4 at noon.

### Election Day Voting

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A valid ID ([MO acceptable IDs](#) / [KS acceptable IDs](#)) is required to vote in person.
- Make a plan to vote! Think ahead about how and when you'll vote – plan your transportation, work, and family schedule on voting day so nothing stands in the way of making your voice heard in this election.

**Find Your MO  
Polling Place**

**Find Your KS  
Polling Place**

# 02

## **How to Use This Guide**

The candidates and their responses are listed by the office they are running for and the district they hope to represent. If you are unsure of your state or federal districts, you use the links below to look them up.

### **What the Candidates Have to Say**

We asked candidates running for office one critical question: “What specific investments, policies, and/or reforms are needed to better support working families and the child care sector?” Here’s what they had to say!

If you don’t see a response from your candidates, we encourage you to contact them directly. Child care is a critical issue for families with young children and the professionals providing care. Making your voice heard will keep this issue top of mind for candidates and elected officials.

**Find Your  
District**

The Family Conservancy is a non-partisan, non-profit organization committed to supporting child care and providing human services. We do not endorse or support any candidates seeking elected office. The information provided in this voter guide is intended to inform and educate voters on child care-related issues and candidate positions, without expressing political positions or bias.

## Missouri State Candidates

### Missouri State House of Representatives

District 8	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact	
	Sandy Van Wagner	Democratic Party	sandyvanwagner@gmail.com	sandyvanwagner.com
	Josh Hurlbert	Republican Party	josh@joshhurlbert.com	joshhurlbert.com

District 12	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact	
	Jamie Johnson	Democratic Party	info@jamieformo.com	jaimeformo.com
	Mike Jones	Republican Party	jonesformostaterep@gmail.com	mikejones4mo.com

District 15	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact	
	Kenneth Jamison	Democratic Party	ken.jamison.missouri@gmail.com	kenjamison.com
	<p>I am an attorney who practices in family law. I am a trained guardian ad litem. I frequently advocate for children in juvenile court. As part of my profession, I advocate and defend the rights of children on an almost daily basis. As a step-father who has a 5-year-old in pre-kindergarten, I believe that we should empower families to raise happy, healthy, educated children. We should be focused on supporting families, parents, and teachers who prepare children for success in school and life.</p>			

Mike Jones	Republican Party	mikejonesformissouri@gmail.com	mikejonesformissouri.com
<p>As a father of 2 daughters who have struggled for years with affordable child care, this matter hits close to home. Both of my daughters have had to deal with maintaining a working, income-earning career, but having that income negated due to the cost of keeping their little ones in daycare. On the other hand, the daycare providers out there, are faced with insane insurance rates and regulations that can be almost cost prohibitive. Somewhere in all of this, it screams tax incentives, income-based help, or some means for young families to utilize daycare for their children. With the current economy being out of control, this issue is even more painful. I'm not sure I have the answer to this monumental problem. My concern is government getting involved in any of it. The more government gets involved, the more complicated (and costly) it becomes for the user and the provider. I can't help but think that the folks in Jefferson City all realize that this is a problem that needs a solution. My hope would be to work across the aisle and come up with a solution that benefits all. Tax breaks or credits seem to make the most sense, hoping that a credit will reimburse a young family for the money that is spent throughout the year for childcare.</p>			

District 16	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact	
	Gloria Young	Democratic Party	gloria.for.missouri@gmail.com	gloriaformissouri.com
	<p>In the most immediate term, Missouri must manage the backlog of subsidy payments to existing facilities. This will necessitate increased budget and staff for associated agencies. Additionally, I would like to see the state of Missouri explore options for childcare that incorporate our concomitant needs for affordable housing, elder care, and career readiness training for highschoolers and job-seeking adults. Care is improved by cultivating community focused (instead of consumer focused) care solutions. Improving wages and benefits for all workers helps families to meet the costs of living. When housing costs do not exceed wages, parents have more time and energy for their children and are less likely to have to work 2nd and 3rd jobs. Regarding care workers specifically, wage and benefit improvements would allow care providers to perform job duties to their best ability. Likewise improving regulations regarding minimum staffing and worker safety will improve care and the experience of care providers. To improve fiscal solvency of care facilities I favor investing in energy independence for care facilities through subsidized energy efficiency improvements and solar energy installations. I would also suggest investing in quality public transit options that improve accessibility of care facilities.</p>			
Chris Brown	Republican Party	chrisbrownformo@gmail.com	chrisbrownformo.com	

District 17	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Shirley Mata	Democratic Party	shirleymataformissouri@gmail.com	shirleymata.com
	Bill Allen	Republican Party	billallenformo@gmail.com	billallenformo.com
District 18	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Eric Woods	Democratic Party	contact@woodsformissouri.com	woodsformissouri.com
District 19	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Wick Thomas	Democratic Party	team@wickthomas.org	wickthomas.org
	Karen Spalding	Republican Party	spalding4missouri@gmail.com	spalding4missouri.red
District 20	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Clarence Franklin	Democratic Party	elect.clarence.franklin.jr@gmail.com	n/a
	<p>I believe that there are a number of items that could support working families and the child care sector. After discussing with my family, friends and community, there are a few items that stand out: Investments: Public funding for early childhood education: Investing in universal pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) programs can provide children with a strong foundation for their education and development. Subsidies for working families: Government subsidies can help families offset the cost of child care, making it more affordable and enabling parents to return to work. Policies: Improved workplace flexibility: Policies like paid family leave and flexible work arrangements can help parents balance their work and family responsibilities. Tax credits for businesses: Tax credits can incentivize employers to offer on-site or subsidized child care benefits to their employees. Reforms: Increased regulation: Ensuring that child care providers meet high-quality standards can protect children and improve the overall quality of care. Public-private partnerships: Collaborations between government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private businesses can help address the child care crisis by leveraging resources and expertise.</p>			
Mike Steinmeyer	Republican Party	steinmeyerformo@gmail.com	steinmeyerformo.com	
District 21	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Will Jobe	Democratic Party	info@jobeforindependence.com	jobeforindependence.com
	Marjain Breitenbach	Republican Party	marjainb@yahoo.com	breitenbachusa.com
District 22	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Yolanda Young	Democratic Party	yolandayoungMOrep@gmail.com	n/a
	Mireya Barragan	Republican Party	n/a	n/a
District 23	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Michael Johnson	Democratic Party	Michael.Johnson@house.mo.gov	n/a
	Daniel Contreras	Republican Party	realdpcforkc23@gmail.com	n/a
District 24	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Emily Weber	Democratic Party	info@emilyformissouri.com	emilyformissouri.com
	Claudia Toomim	Republican Party	n/a	n/a

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District 25	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>
	Pattie Mansur	Democratic Party	pattie4missouri@gmail.com upballot.com/pattie-mansur
	<p>Recognizing that Missouri has a serious deficit of available, quality and affordable early childhood options for working families, it's a health, social development and economic development imperative that lawmakers press forward solutions. My priorities include: 1.Repairing the current state system for paying out the child care subsidies; in particular, ensuring child care providers receive timely payments (which has been a serious problem in Missouri); 2.increasing subsidy amounts and exploring additional financial incentives to early childhood providers that serve infants and toddlers to increase care options; and 3.) reintroducing the bipartisan child care tax credits bill package that had strong support in the MO House this past session to identify a path forward.</p>		
	Steven Bright	Republican Party	steve@staceecohnlaw.com stevenbright.net
District 26	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>
	Tiffany Price	Democratic Party	electttiffanyprice@gmail.com upballot.com/tiffany-price
	Anthony Zarantonello	Republican Party	n/a n/a
District 27	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>
	Melissa Douglas	Democratic Party	melissa@douglasformissouri.com douglasformissouri.com
	<p>Additional training needs to be made available for families to teach them how to access services. Often times families don't know where to start and how long should the process take. More education should be provided within the community.</p>		
District 28	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>
	Donna Barnes	Democratic Party	smile4donnab@gmail.com n/a
	Steven Hinton	Republican Party	n/a n/a
District 29	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>
	Aaron Crossley	Democratic Party	aaron@aaroncrossley.com aaroncrossley.com
	<p>To better support working families and the child care sector in Missouri, I recommend: 1. Increased funding for child care subsidies and infrastructure improvements. 2. Policy reforms, such as streamlined eligibility processes and increased payment rates for providers. 3. Family-friendly workplace incentives, including flexible work arrangements and parental leave support. Relatedly, this year, I'm proud to have cosponsored: Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Act, Employer-Provided Child Care Assistance Tax Credit Act, Child Care Providers Tax Credit Act</p>		
	Robert Bruette	Republican Party	bruetteforstaterep@gmail.com bruetteforstaterep.com
District 30	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>
	Kevin Grover	Democratic Party	info@kevingrover.org kevingrover.org
	<p>Investing in child care is needed to allow children to get appropriate care as well as allow parents to go to school, to job training, or to a job. One specific item is that I would want to look at the Child Care Subsidy program offered through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to see if it is feasible to increase the number of families who are eligible.</p>		
	Jon Patterson	Republican Party	info@pattersonformo.com pattersonformo.com
District 31	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>
	Jeremy Rowan	Democratic Party	jeremy@jeremyrowan.com jeremyrowan.com
	Ron Fowler	Republican Party	vote4fowler@gmail.com n/a

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District 32	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Jennifer Cassidy	Democratic Party	jennifercassidyformo@gmail.com	jennifercassidyformo.com
	Child care tax credits, credits for child care paid, before and after school programs, more available in-home child care workers and support services. Child care capped at no more than 7-8% of income, child care services on a sliding scale based on income.			
	Jeff Coleman	Republican Party	citizensforjeffcoleman@gmail.com	n/a
District 33	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Carolyn Caton	Republican Party	carolynformissouri@gmail.com	carolynformo.com
District 34	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Kemp Strickler	Democratic Party	kemp@kempstrickler.com	kempstrickler.com
	We need to invest more as a state to make childcare more affordable for working parents. This is such a big need, to help families increase their income and to help expand our workforce in Missouri. I believe we need to pass the bill to give childcare tax credits to individuals and businesses that the Governor supported and that had bipartisan support in the legislature.			
	JC Crossley	Republican Party	jc@jccrossley.com	jccrossley.com
District 35	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Keri Ingle	Democratic Party	keri@keriingle.com	keriingle.com
	Michael Green	Republican Party	michael.green@gmail.com	n/a
District 36	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Anthony Ealy	Democratic Party	info@voteanthonyealy.com	voteanthonyealy.com
	Dave Thomas	Republican Party	truedavethomas@gmail.com	votedavethomas.com
District 37	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Mark Sharp	Democratic Party	sharpforhouse@gmail.com	upballot.com/mark-sharp
District 39	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Mark Meirath	Republican Party	n/a	n/a
District 56	<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
	Pam Jenkins Hatcher	Democratic Party	pam4mo56@gmail.com	n/a
	Michael Davis	Republican Party	david.gop@gmail.com	upballot.com/michael-davis



# 04

## Missouri State Candidates

### Missouri State Senate

District 7

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Patty Lewis	Democratic Party	patty@pattyformo.com	pattyformo.com
Joey LaSalle	Republican Party	joe4mo7@gmail.com	joe4mo7.com

To better support working families and the childcare sector, I propose tax credits for working parents and incentives for businesses to provide on-site or subsidized childcare. We should also explore public-private partnerships to expand access to affordable, high-quality care. These initiatives must promote self-sufficiency, economic growth, and responsible government spending, with specific qualifications and accountability measures to ensure proper use of funds and benefits for Missouri families.

District 9

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Barbara Washington	Democratic Party	washingtonforsenate9@gmail.com	website
Derron Black	Republican Party	info@dblackformo.org	dblackformo.org

District 11

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Robert Sauls	Democratic Party	robert@robertsauls.com	robertsauls.com
Joe Nicola	Republican Party	joe@nicolaformo.com	nicolaformo.com

District 21

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Jim Bates	Democratic Party	jimbatesforliberty@gmail.com	jimbatesformissouri.com

One of the first things that needs to be done is for the government bureaucracy needs to be reformed. We have had 56 childcare centers close this year in Missouri because the state was unable to process child care subsidy payments in a timely manner. This is not the fault of our overworked and underpaid state employees, but is the result of 20 plus years of Republican rule dismantling our government.

Kurtis Gregory	Republican Party	gregoryformo@gmail.com	gregoryformo.com
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# 05

## Kansas State Candidates

### Kansas State House of Representatives

District 8

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Pam Shernuk	Democratic Party	pam@pam4kansas.com	pam4kansas.com

Access to affordable, quality childcare is a barrier for many working families in Kansas. Further expansion of the Kansas Child Care Assistance Program to help raise income eligibility limits would be a good start. Providing more support for Kansas childcare providers through increased wages and state-sponsored scholarships and grants for childcare providers to obtain necessary certification could help improve quality and attract more people into the field. Public-private partnerships could play an important role by encouraging Kansas businesses to create on-site or subsidized child care centers for employees through tax incentives or grants. Kansas could develop a program that incentivizes businesses to partner with local child care centers to reduce costs for employees.

Chris Croft	Republican Party	chris.Croft@house.ks.gov	croftforkansas.com
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District 15

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Allison Houglan	Democratic Party	allison.houglan@house.ks.gov	allisonforkansas.com
Lauren Bohi	Republican Party	laurennicole_15@proton.me	n/a

District 16	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Linda Featherston	Democratic Party	linda4kansas@gmail.com linda4kansas.com
	<p>The number one thing we can do in Kansas to help working families is to expand Medicaid. This would help 150,000 working Kansans obtain access to affordable healthcare. This would help child care workers and help stabilize the child care workforce. This would help our childcare centers better compete with centers in Kansas City, MO. I supported an increase of the child care tax credit this year, and I would support another increase in the future to help our young families balance the need to work with the cost of child care.</p>		

District 17	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Jo Ella Hoye	Democratic Party	joella.hoye@house.ks.gov joellaforkansas.com
	Michael Kerner	Libertarian Party	mike4freedom.campaign@gmail.com n/a

District 18	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Cindy Neighbor	Democratic Party	cindy@cindyneighbor.com cindyneighbor.com
	Steve Hohe	Libertarian Party	steve_hohe@yahoo.com stevehoheforkansas.com
	Robert Whitman	Republican Party	robert@robertforkansashouse.com robertforkansashouse.com

District 19	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Stephanie Sawyer Clayton	Democratic Party	stephanie.clayton@house.ks.gov clayton4ks.com
	Mark Hermes	Republican Party	vote@markhermes.com markhermes.com

District 20	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Mari-Lynn Poskin	Democratic Party	mp@poskin4ks.com poskin4ks.com
	Jerry Charlton	Republican Party	jerry@jerrycharltonks.com jerrycharltonks.com

District 21	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Jerry Stogsdill	Democratic Party	jerry.stogsdill@house.ks.gov jerryforkansas.com

District 22	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Lindsay Vaughn	Democratic Party	lindsay.vaughn@house.ks.gov indsayforkansashouse.com

District 23	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Susan Ruiz	Democratic Party	sueruiz46@gmail.com susanruizks.com
	<p>In Kansas there are over 90K child care slots needed. We know that for every dollar spent on quality early childhood education programs for children, taxpayers can expect a return on investment of at least 13 percent. Our state is investing dollars in early childhood education. We need to reduce the stress families are experiencing when they lack access to quality child care. Local businesses need more people to participate in the workforce and parents want to work. This last legislative session we passed a tax bill that included tax credits to help parents with the cost of child care. This will need to be a multi-pronged approach. Collaborative efforts between care child providers; municipalities and the business sector could develop ideas on how to make a greater impact and present to the legislature. Any effort to support working families must include support for child care providers. Child care workers in KS get paid an average of \$12 per hour. Many of the workers lack health insurance, so passing Medicaid Expansion would greatly help. Navigating the child care system is too confusing for families and providers. The next legislature should pass legislation that will bring child care, early childhood grants and services and home visiting under one department. We failed to pass this legislation last session and it must get done. We need to create access to more child care provider grants that will help to retain staff and help home care providers stay up to date in early childhood innovation. I would like to see grants specific for children with disabilities be made available. We need to continue to support our community colleges as they lead the way to a stronger childhood educator career.</p>		

District 24	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Jarrold Ousley	Democratic Party	ousleyforkansas@gmail.com jarrodousley.com
	Dale Redick	Republican Party	dlredick@prodigy.net n/a

District 25	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Rui Xu	Democratic Party	ruixuks@gmail.com ruixuforkansas.com
	Greg Schoofs	Republican Party	gregschoofs0896@gmail.com schoofsinthehouse.com

District 26	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Chip VanHouden	Republican Party	chip.vanhouden@springhillks.gov n/a

District 27	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	David Benson	Democratic Party	bensonforkansas@gmail.com bensonforkansas.com
	Sean Tarwater	Republican Party	sean.tarwater@house.ks.gov teamtarwater.com
	<p>Last year, As your House Commerce Chair, I worked all session, hand in hand with the governor's office, to pass a solution for Child Care. As a result, we passed a comprehensive bill that established the Kansas Office of Early Childhood. Here is a link to a description on the bill. <a href="https://kslegislature.gov/li/b2023_24/measures/documents/ccrb_sb96_01_20240403.pdf">https://kslegislature.gov/li/b2023_24/measures/documents/ccrb_sb96_01_20240403.pdf</a></p> <p>We fine tuned the bill in conference with the Senate. The House passed the bill on a vote of 110 - 10. Unfortunately, the Senate used the bill for leverage with the Governor, and it was not passed. Next year, we plan to introduce this same bill, make subtle changes, and pass it early in the session.</p>		

District 28	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Ace Allen	Democratic Party	ace.allen@me.com aceforkansas.com
	Carl Turner	Republican Party	carl.turner@house.ks.gov carlturnerforkansas.com

District 29	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Heather Meyer	Democratic Party	heather.meyer@house.ks.gov heatherforkansashouse.com

District 30	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Betsey Lasister	Democratic Party	betseyforkansas@gmail.com betseyforkansas.com
	<p>As a working mom with two young kids, I personally understand the need for increased access and affordability of child care. I support Gov. Laura Kelly's effort to create an Office of Early Childhood to streamline how the state provides services, reduce bureaucratic burdens so more Kansas businesses, child care providers, and families can easily navigate the system and receive support.</p>		
	Laura Williams	Republican Party	laura@laurawilliamsforkansas.com laurawilliamsforkansas.com

District 31	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
	Louis Ruiz	Democratic Party	sueruiz46@gmail.com n/a
	Dennis Grindel	Republican Party	grindel4kshouse@yahoo.com grindel4kshouse.com

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District 32

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Pam Curtis	Democratic Party	pam.curtis@house.ks.gov	curtisforkck.com
Joe Quinn	Republican Party	joe@joe4kck.com	joe4kck.com

My wife ran a home childcare business for 17 years, and she and her families utilized the services of The Family Conservancy. We and her families believe it is a great organization! That said, in my ideal world, there would be no need for The Family Conservancy as the demand for childcare would be very low as we should return to the traditional family with fathers supporting their families with their career and mothers being ABLE to stay home to care for their families. THIS is the scenario we heard over and over for almost two decades with my wife's business, and is, in fact, why she chose to run a home childcare business because she wanted to be able to be home with our four children as much as possible. The moms and dads that entrusted their infants and toddlers to her business regularly told us they would much rather be a single income household so the mother could remain home. Science, tradition, common sense, generations of experience, and God's word have told us over and over that children are best raised by moms because women are the nurturers in a family and dads are the providers. How can we get back to this? It's a twofold approach: 1. From the family side of things, we need to step back from the secular materialism that many worship. You don't have to have the biggest house, the newest car, and the most current fashion trends. Invest in your future, and invest in your memories with shared family experiences, not material things. 2. From the government side of things families would be better off not with more tax credits and rebates, but with keeping more of their paycheck. STOP taking our money in the first place!!! Income tax, sales tax, fuel tax, personal property tax... If Kansans keep more of THEIR paycheck to begin with, they can afford to invest more in themselves and the local economy.

District 33

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Eli Woody	Democratic Party	eli@woody4kansas.com	woody4kansas.com

Bottom line, we need to increase wages for working class Kansans. The price of goods and services has skyrocketed, productivity has skyrocketed, and wages have not kept up. Many states have made legislative moves such as a child tax credit and similar policies. I fully support these policies and any others that would ease the financial burden on parents, especially working parents. And we need to support those who work in the child care sector with more accessible training and certification programs.

Mike Thompson	Republican Party	mikethompsonforkansas@gmail.com	thompsonforkansashouse.com
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District 34

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Valdenia Winn	Democratic Party	valdenia.winn@house.ks.gov	n/a

District 35

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Wanda Brownlee Paige	Democratic Party	paigewanda230@gmail.com	n/a

District 36

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Lynn Melton	Democratic Party	lynn.melton@house.ks.gov	n/a
Mark Gilstrap	Republican Party	mark.gilstrap.ks@gmail.com	n/a

District 37

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Melissa Oropeza	Democratic Party	Melissa.Oropeza@house.ks.gov	oropeza4kansas.com
Kevan Myers	Republican Party	kevanforkansas@gmail.com	kevanforkansas.mystrikingly.com

District 38

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Richard Paz	Democratic Party	richard@pazforkansas.com	pazforkansas.com
Timothy Johnson	Republican Party	timjohnson@sunflower.com	timothyjohnsonstaterep38.com

Kansas needs to continue to reduce over regulation of child care facilities, especially in-home and faith based institutions. Excess regulations have caused huge cost increases and limits the number of affordable child care spots.

District 39

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Vanessa Vaughn West	Democratic Party	vanessa@vanessaforkansas.com	vanessaforkansas.com

To better support working families and the child care sector, several targeted investments, policies, and reforms are essential: 1. Increased Public Investment in Child Care Subsidies: Expanding subsidies for low- and middle-income families would make child care more affordable. By raising income eligibility limits and ensuring these subsidies cover a larger portion of child care costs, working families would face less financial strain. 2. Support for Early Childhood Educators: Child care workers often face low wages, which leads to high turnover and staffing shortages. Implementing wage increases, offering benefits like health care, and providing professional development opportunities could help retain talent and improve the quality of care. 3. Tax Credits for Families and Providers: Expanding the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and creating tax incentives for businesses that offer on-site child care would ease the financial burden on families. Additionally, tax breaks for providers who improve facilities or expand services

Angela Stiens	Republican Party	astiens@cityofshawnee.org	angelastiens.com
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Child care credits and improving early childhood education.

District 48

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Dan Osman	Democratic Party	dan.osman@house.ks.gov	danforkan.com
Rany Ross	Republican Party	rossforkansas48@gmail.com	rossforkansas48.com

District 49

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Nikki McDonald	Democratic Party	nikki.mcdonald@house.ks.gov	mcdonaldforkansas.com

It's key that we develop more public/private partnerships to address the challenges we face when it comes to affordable & accessible childcare, after all - this is a workforce development issue. In some parts of the state, we need more childcare facilities to be built, as well. I appreciated Governor Kelly's childcare plan from the 2024 session. Lots of great ideas there.

Kurtis Ruf	Republican Party	kurt@rufvote.com	rufvote.com
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District 78

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Daniel Goodman	Democratic Party	goodman4kansas@gmail.com	goodman4kansas.com

To better support Kansas working families, we need to invest in affordable, childcare options and increase financial support for childcare providers to improve wages and staffing. Expanding tax credits for families and providing subsidies to childcare providers would help ease the financial burden on working parents. We should also focus on policies that promote paid flexible work schedules, when possible, to give families more stability while balancing work and childcare responsibilities.

Robyn Essex	Republican Party	rressex@olatheks.org	robynforkansas.com
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District 108

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Brandon Woodward	Democratic Party	woodardforkansas@gmail.com	woodardforkansas.com

District 117

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Bill Hammond	Democratic Party	hammond4kansas117@gmail.com	hammond4kansas117.com
Adam Turk	Republican Party	adamturkforkansas@outlook.com	adamturkforkansas.com

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## Kansas State Candidates

### Kansas State Senate

District	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact
District 4	David Haley	Democratic Party	david.haley@senate.ks.gov n/a
	Jeff Pittman	Democratic Party	jeff.pittman@senate.ks.gov votepittman.com
District 5	Jeff Klem	Republican Party	ejeff@klempforkansas.com klempforkansas.com
	Tax relief, working on creating a competitive business environment that stimulates growth. Working to create a competitive environment that lowers the costs for working families centered around child care.		
District 6	Pat Pettey	Democratic Party	pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov patpettey.org
	Tabitha S. Burt	Republican Party	tabithaforkansas@gmail.com tabithaforkansas.com
District 7	Ethan Corson	Democratic Party	ethan.corson@senate.ks.gov ethanforkansas.com
	Dave Dannov	Republican Party	dave@davedannov.com davedannov.com
District 8	Cindy Holscher	Democratic Party	cindy.holscher@senate.ks.gov cindyforsenateks.com
	Benee' Hudson	Republican Party	benee@hudson4kansas.com hudson4kansas.com
District 9	Norman Mallicoat	Democratic Party	norm@mallicoat4ks9.org mallicoat4ks9.org
	Beverly Gossage	Republican Party	Beverly.Gossage@senate.ks.gov beverlygossage.com
District 10	Andrew Mall	Democratic Party	info@mallforsenate.com mallforsenate.com
	Mike Thompson	Republican Party	mthompson78@kc.rr.com thompsonforkansashouse.com
District 21	Dinah Sykes	Democratic Party	Dinah.Sykes@senate.ks.gov dinahsykes.com
	We need to invest in early childhood. Looking at salaries for providers, tax credits for families, streamlining early childhood under one agency.		
District 23	Stacey Knoell	Democratic Party	contact@StaceyKnoell.com staceyknoell.com
	Adam Thomas	Republican Party	adamt.thomas@yahoo.com adamtthomasforkansas.com

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<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Sherry Giebler	Democratic Party	sherryforkansas@gmail.com	sherryforkansas.com
Douglas Shane	Republican Party	contact@dougshaneforkansas.com	dougshaneforkansas.com

## 07

## Federal Candidates

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Jeanette Class	Democratic Party	cassforcongress@gmail.com	cassforcongress.com
Thomas Holbrook	Libertarian Party	thomas@thomasholbrook.com	thomasholbrook.com
Mark Alford	Republican Party	contact@alfordforcongress.com	alfordforcongress.com

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Sharice Davids	Democratic Party	repsharicedavids@mail.house.gov	shariceforcongress.com
Steve Roberts	Libertarian Party	n/a	thirdpartywinner.com
Prasanth Reddy	Republican Party	drreddy@reddyforkansas.com	reddyforkansas.com

To better support working families and the child care sector, we need a comprehensive approach that includes both targeted investments and meaningful policy reforms. First, we must ensure that child care is accessible and affordable for all families by increasing federal and state funding for child care assistance programs. This includes expanding tax credits for working families to help cover child care costs. Second, we need to invest in the child care workforce. Child care providers should receive fair wages and access to training and career development, ensuring high-quality care for our children while supporting the economic security of caregivers. Additionally, we must also reduce the regulatory burden on small child care businesses so they can operate more efficiently without sacrificing quality and safety. Finally, public-private partnerships can play a vital role in expanding access to child care. By incentivizing businesses to offer child care benefits or collaborate with local providers, we can create a more sustainable and supportive system for both working families and child care providers. These steps will not only strengthen working families but also foster economic growth by allowing more parents, especially mothers, to participate fully in the workforce.

<i>Candidate(s)</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Contact</i>	
Lucas Kunce	Democratic Party	info@lucaskunce.com	lucaskunce.com
Nathan Kline	Green Party	nathankline68@yahoo.com	n/a

Child care is much too expensive for most working families in America. It is a high priority for the government to better subsidize child care based on family income and children's special needs so as to keep this necessity affordable. This is important to help young parents, especially mothers of young children, be able to work if they choose to and lowers worker turnover for businesses. The increased productivity of such increased investments offsets much of the cost if done right.

Jared Young	Independent	info@votejaredyoung.com	votejaredyoung.com
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I believe families are the foundation of our society. I have six young children and recognize the joy they bring as well as the effort it requires to raise children in these times. I have also worked closely with families who are struggling to provide for their families needs -- economically, educationally, and socially. My approach to support families is based on the principle of self reliance. Here are my primary views: Education: Securing access to both parents and children is the key to self reliance. For parents, that may mean access to affordable college education or trade school training so that they can secure jobs that can provide financially for their families and set a good example for their children. Tax Credits: We should support parents when they decide to have children. Tax credits for children will help parents more effectively provide for the needs of their children. Access to healthcare is also important for families. Child Care: Affordable child care should be accessible for low income families so that parents can get the education they need and can secure employment that will provide financial stability for their families. Protection: Unfortunately, too many families are dysfunctional when one or both parents suffer from addictions or abuse. There needs to be a safe place for the impacted family members to get help and protection as they navigate these challenging situations. Government Funding: I believe that organizations that are local to the people they serve, like yours, are best equipped to understand the needs that are most urgent. Government funding should be pushed down to those organizations rather than funding government agencies, especially at the federal level. That will make that funding both more efficient and more impactful.

W.C. Young	Libertarian Party	n/a	n/a
Josh Hawley	Republican Party	info@joshhawley.com	joshhawley.com