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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

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

8	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	C	ontact	
District 8	Sandy Van Wagner	Democratic Party	sandyvanwagner@gmail.com	sandyvanwagner.com	
Dis	Josh Hurlbert	Republican Party	josh@joshhurlbert.com	joshhurlbert.com	
12	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	C	ontact	
District 12	Jamie Johnson	Democratic Party	info@jamieformo.com	jaimeformo.com	
Dist	Mike Jones	Republican Party	jonesformostaterep@gmail.com	mikejones4mo.com	
	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact		
	Kenneth Jamison	Democratic Party	ken.jamison.missouri@gmail.com	kenjamison.com	
	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.				
2	Mike Jones	Republican Party	mikejonesformissouri@gmail.com	mikejonesformissouri.com	
District 15	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.

Affiliation Candidate(s) Contact

Gloria Young **Democratic Party** gloria.for.missouri@gmail.com gloriaformissouri.com

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.

Republican Party Chris Brown chrisbrownformo@gmail.com chrisbrownformo.com

District 16

17	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Cor	ntact	
District 17	Shirley Mata	Democratic Party	shirleymataformissouri@gmail.com	shirleymata.com	
Dist	Bill Allen	Republican Party	billallenformo@gmail.com	billallenformo.com	
t 18	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		ntact	
District 18	Eric Woods	Democratic Party	contact@woodsformissouri.com	woodsformissouri.com	
19	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Cor	ntact	
rict	Wick Thomas	Democratic Party	team@wickthomas.org	wickthomas.org	
District 19	Karen Spalding	Republican Party	spalding4missouri@gmail.com	spalding4missouri.red	
	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Cor	ntact	
	Clarence Franklin	Democratic Party	elect.clarence.franklin.jr@gmail.com	n/a	
District 20	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.				
	Mike Steinmeyer	Republican Party	steinmeyerformo@gmail.com	steinmeyerformo.com	
72	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Contact		
istrict 21	Will Jobe	Democratic Party	info@jobeforindependence.com	jobeforindependence.com	
Dist	Marjain Breitenbach	Republican Party	marjainb@yahoo.com	breitenbachusa.com	
22	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Con	tact	
rict	Yolanda Young	Democratic Party	yolandayoungMOrep@gmail.com	n/a	
District 22	Mireya Barragan	Republican Party	n/a	n/a	
8	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Con	tact	
District 23	Michael Johnson	Democratic Party	Michael.Johnson@house.mo.gov	n/a	
istri	Daniel Contreras	Republican Party	realdpcforkc23@gmail.com	n/a	
	Daniel Contrelas	nepublican Party	realdpclorkc23@gmail.com	11/a	
24	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Con	tact	
trict	Emily Weber	Democratic Party	info@emilyformissouri.com	emilyformissouri.com	
District 24	Claudia Toomim	Republican Party	n/a	n/a	

	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact	
	Pattie Mansur	Democratic Party	pattie4missouri@gmail.com	upballot.com/pattie-mansur	
District 25	for working families, it's press forward solutions care subsidies; in partic serious problem in Miss early childhood provider	a health, social develope. My priorities include: 1. ular, ensuring child care ouri); 2.increasing subsicts that serve infants and	of available, quality and affordable ement and economic development in Repairing the current state system providers receive timely payments dy amounts and exploring additional toddlers to increase care options; at had strong support in the MO House	mperative that lawmakers for paying out the child (which has been a al financial incentives to and 3.) reintroducing the	
	Steven Bright	Republican Party	steve@staceecohnlaw.com	stevenbright.net	
26	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact	
rict	Tiffany Price	Democratic Party	electtiffanyprice@gmail.com	upballot.com/tiffany-price	
District 26	Anthony Zarantonello	Republican Party	n/a	n/a	
	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact	
:t 27	Melissa Douglas	Democratic Party	melissa@douglasformissouri.cor	m douglasformissouri.com	
District 27	_		or families to teach them how to acg should the process take. More ed		
District 28	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact	
	Donna Barnes	Democratic Party	smile4donnab@gmail.com	n/a	
Dist	Steven Hinton	Republican Party	n/a	n/a	
	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact	
	Aaron Crossley	Democratic Party	aaron@aaroncrossley.com	aaroncrossley.com	
District 29	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				
	Robert Bruette	Republican Party	bruetteforstaterep@gmail.com	bruetteforstaterep.com	
	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact	
00	Kevin Grover	Democratic Party	info@kevingrover.org	kevingrover.org	
District 30	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.				
	Jon Patterson	Republican Party	info@pattersonformo.com	pattersonformo.com	
33	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact	
trict	Jeremy Rowan	Democratic Party	jeremy@jeremyrowan.com	jeremyrowan.com	
District 31	Ron Fowler	Republican Party	vote4fowler@gmail.com	n/a	
	nued on next page				

	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact
32	Jennifer Cassidy	Democratic Party	jennifercassidyformo@gmail.com	jennifercassidyformo.com
District 32		support services. Child o	, before and after school programs care capped at no more than 7-8%	
	Jeff Coleman	Republican Party	citizensforjeffcoleman@gmail.cor	n n/a
33	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact
District 33	Carolyn Caton	Republican Party	carolynformissouri@gmail.com	n carolynformo.com
	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact
4	Kemp Strickler	Democratic Party	kemp@kempstrickler.com	kempstrickler.com
District 34	to help families increase	their income and to help credits to individuals and	dcare more affordable for working posexpand our workforce in Missourd businesses that the Governor sup	i. I believe we need to pass the
	JC Crossley	Republican Party	jc@jccrossley.com	jccrossley.com
35	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact
District 35	Keri Ingle	Democratic Party	keri@keriingle.com	keriingle.com
Dis	Michael Green	Republican Party	michael.green@gmail.com	n/a
36	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact
District 36	Anthony Ealy	Democratic Party	info@voteanthonyealy.com	voteanthonyealy.com
Dis	Dave Thomas	Republican Party	truedavethomas@gmail.com	votedavethomas.com
37	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact
District 37	Mark Sharp	Democratic Party	sharpforhouse@gmail.com	upballot.com/mark-sharp
39	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact
District 39	Mark Meirath	Republican Party	n/a	n/a
26	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	(Contact
District 56	Pam Jenkins Hatcher	Democratic Party	pam4mo56@gmail.com	n/a
Dist	Michael Davis	Republican Party	david.gop@gmail.com	upballot.com/michael-davis

Missouri State Candidates

Missouri State Senate

istrict 7

Candidate(s)AffiliationContactPatty LewisDemocratic Partypatty@pattyformo.compattyformo.comJoey LaSalleRepublican Partyjoe4mo7@gmail.comjoe4mo7.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.

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0	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact
<u>:</u>	Barbara Washington	Democratic Party	washingtonforsenate9@gr	nail.com website
District	Derron Black	Republican Party	info@dblackformo.org	dblackformo.org
#	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact
<u> </u>	Robert Sauls	Democratic Party	robert@robertsauls.com	robertsauls.com
District	Joe Nicola	Republican Party	joe@nicolaformo.com	nicolaformo.com
	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact
21	Jim Bates	Democratic Party	jimbatesforliberty@gmail.com	jimbatesformissouri.com
istrict	One of the first things that needs to be done is for the government bureaucracy needs to 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			

gregoryformo@gmail.com

gregoryformo.com

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Kansas State Candidates

Republican Party

Republican rule dismantling our government.

Kurtis Gregory

Kansas State House of Representatives

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	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Co	ontact
	Pam Shernuk	Democratic Party	pam@pam4kansas.com	pam4kansas.com
District 8	Care Assistance Program childcare providers through necessary certification couran important role by encourant role by e	to help raise income eligibin increased wages and standard help improve quality and uraging Kansas businesses ansas could develop a pro	many working families in Kansas. Further lity limits would be a good start. Providing ate-sponsored scholarships and grants for attract more people into the field. Public is to create on-site or subsidized child care gram that incentivizes businesses to part	g more support for Kansas r childcare providers to obtain c-private partnerships could play e centers for employees through
	Chris Croft	Republican Party	chris.Croft@house.ks.gov	croftforkansas.com
15	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Co	ontact
District	Allison Hougland	Democratic Party	allison.hougland@house.ks.gov	allisonforkansas.com
Dis	Lauren Bohi	Republican Party	laurennicole_15@proton.me <i>Missouri Senate / Kansas</i>	n/a State House of Representatives

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Candidate(s) **Affiliation** Contact Linda Featherston Democratic Party linda4kansas@gmail.com linda4kansas.com

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.

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St

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

District 18

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

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

District

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

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

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

District

Affiliation Candidate(s) Contact sueruiz46@gmail.com Democratic Party Susan Ruiz susanruizks.com

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.

24	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Co	ontact		
District 24	Jarrod Ousley	Democratic Party	ousleyforkansas@gmail.com	jarrodousley.com		
Dist	Dale Redick	Republican Party	dlredick@prodigy.net	n/a		
District 25	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		ontact		
stric	Rui Xu	Democratic Party	ruixuks@gmail.com	ruixuforkansas.com		
Ö	Greg Schoofs	Republican Party	gregschoofs0896@gmail.com	schoofsinthehouse.com		
26	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Co	ontact		
District 26	Chip VanHouden	Republican Party	chip.vanhouden@springhillks.gov	n/a		
	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Co	ontact		
	David Benson	Democratic Party	bensonforkansas@gmail.com	bensonforkansas.com		
27	Sean Tarwater	Republican Party	sean.tarwater@house.ks.gov	teamtarwater.com		
District 27	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. https://kslegislature.gov/li/b2023_24/measures/documents/ccrb_sb96_01_20240403.pdf					
		with the Governor, and it wa	The House passed the bill on a vote of 1 s not passed. Next year, we plan to intro			
28	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Co	ontact		
District 28	Ace Allen	Democratic Party	ace.allen@me.com	aceforkansas.com		
Dis	Carl Turner	Republican Party	carl.turner@house.ks.gov	carlturnerforkansas.com		
29	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Co	ontact		
District	Heather Meyer	Democratic Party	heather.meyer@house.ks.gov	heatherforkansashouse.com		
	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Co	ontact		
	Betsey Lasister	Democratic Party	betseyforkansas@gmail.com	betseyforkansas.com		
District 30	I support Gov. Laura Kell	y's effort to create an Office	understand the need for increased acces of Early Childhood to streamline how the nild care providers, and families can easil	state provides services, reduce		
	Laura Williams	Republican Party	laura@laurawilliamsforkansas.com	laurawilliamsforkansas.com		
ह	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Co	ontact		
District 31	Louis Ruiz	Democratic Party	sueruiz46@gmail.com	n/a		
Dist	Dennis Grindel	Republican Party	grindel4kshouse@yahoo.com	grindel4kshouse.com		

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Timothy Johnson

Republican Party

regulations have caused huge cost increases and limits the number of affordable child care spots.

Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact	
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.

	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	C	Contact
	Eli Woody	Democratic Party	eli@woody4kansas.com	woody4kansas.com
District 33	productivity has skyrockete credit and similar policies. I	ed, and wages have not ke fully support these policie And we need to support	class Kansans. The price of goods and ept up. Many states have made legislatives and any others that would ease the fir those who work in the child care sector	re moves such as a child tax nancial burden on parents,
	Mike Thompson	Republican Party	mikethompsonforkansas@gmail.com	thompsonforkansashouse.com
34	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	C	Contact
District 34	Valdenia Winn	Democratic Party	valdenia.winn@house.ks.gov	n/a
35	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	C	Contact
District 35	Wanda Brownlee Paige	Democratic Party	paigewanda230@gmail.com	n/a
36	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	C	Contact
District 36	Lynn Melton	Democratic Party	lynn.melton@house.ks.gov	n/a
Dis	Mark Gilstrap	Republican Party	mark.gilstrap.ks@gmail.com	n/a
37	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	C	Contact
District 37	Melissa Oropeza	Democratic Party	Melissa.Oropeza@house.ks.gov	oropeza4kansas.com
Dis	Kevan Myers	Republican Party	kevanforkansas@gmail.com	kevanforkansas.mystrikingly.com
	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	C	Contact
t 38	Richard Paz	Democratic Party	richard@pazforkansas.com	pazforkansas.com

timjohnson@sunflower.com

Kansas needs to continue to reduce over regulation of child care facilities, especially in-home and faith based institutions. Excess

timothyjohnsonstaterep38.com

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Candidate(s) **Affiliation** Contact

Democratic Party Vanessa Vaughn West 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

Republican Party Angela Stiens astiens@cityofshawnee.org angelastiens.com

Child care credits and improving early childhood education.

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District 49

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

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

District

Candidate(s) Daniel Goodman

Affiliation Democratic Party

goodman4kansas@gmail.com

goodman4kansas.com

Contact

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.

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

District 108

Candidate(s) **Brandon Woodward**

Affiliation Democratic Party

woodardforkansas@gmail.com

Contact woodardforkansas.com

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

Kansas State Candidates

Kansas State Senate

t 4	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact
District	David Haley	Democratic Party	david.haley@senate.ks.gov	n/a
	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact
t 2	Jeff Pittman	Democratic Party	jeff.pittman@senate.ks.gov	votepittman.com
District 5	Jeff Klemp	Republican Party	ejeff@klempforkansas.com	klempforkansas.com
Ω			environment that stimulates growth s centered around child care.	n. Working to create a competitive
9	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact
District 6	Pat Pettey	Democratic Party	pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov	patpettey.org
Dis	Tabitha S. Burt	Republican Party	tabithaforkansas@gmail.com	tabithaforkansas.com
t 7	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact
District 7	Ethan Corson	Democratic Party	ethan.Corson@senate.ks.gov	ethanforkansas.com
Ö	Dave Dannov	Republican Party	dave@davedannov.com	davedannov.com
t 8	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact
District 8	Cindy Holscher	Democratic Party	cindy.holscher@senate.ks.gov	cindyforsenateks.com
Ö	Benee' Hudson	Republican Party	benee@hudson4kansas.com	hudson4kansas.com
t 9	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact
District	Norman Mallicoat	Democratic Party	norm@mallicoat4ks9.org	mallicoat4ks9.org
Ö	Beverly Gossage	Republican Party	Beverly.Gossage@senate.ks.g	gov beverlygossage.com
10	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact
District 10	Andrew Mall	Democratic Party	info@mallforsenate.com	mallforsenate.com
Dis	Mike Thompson	Republican Party	mthompson78@kc.rr.com	thompsonforkansashouse.com
21	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact
District 21	Dinah Sykes	Democratic Party	Dinah.Sykes@senate.ks.gov	dinahsykes.com
Dist	We need to invest in early childhood. Looking at salaries for providers, tax credits for families, streamlining early childhood under one agency.			
23	Candidate(s)	Affiliation		Contact
trict	Stacey Knoell	Democratic Party	contact@StaceyKnoell.com	staceyknoell.com
District 23	Adam Thomas	Republican Party	adamt.thomas@yahoo.com	adamtthomasforkansas.com

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



Federal Candidates

4	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	Cor	ntact
rict	Jeanette Class	Democratic Party	cassforcongress@gmail.com	cassforcongress.com
District	Thomas Holbrook	LibertarianParty	thomas@thomasholbrook.com	thomasholbrook.com
OM	Mark Alford	Republican Party	contact@alfordforcongress.com	alfordforcongress.com
	Candidata(a)	Affiliation	Cor	ntact
	Candidate(s)	Amilation	Cor	ilaci
	Sharice Davids	Democratic Party	repsharicedavids@mail.house.gov	shariceforcongress.com
	Steve Roberts	Libertarian Party	n/a	thirdpartywinner.com
t 3	Prasanth Reddy	Republican Party	drreddy@reddyforkansas.com	reddyforkansas.com
trict	To better support working familie	es and the child care secto	or, we need a comprehensive approach that	at includes both targeted

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.

4	Candidate(s)	Affiliation	C	ontact
District	Nancy Boyda	Democratic Party	n/a	boydaforcongress.com
Dist	John Hauer	LibertarianParty	n/a	hauerforcongress.com
KS	Derek Schmidt	Republican Party	n/a	derekschmidt.com

Candidate(s)AffiliationContactLucas KunceDemocratic Partyinfo@lucaskunce.comlucaskunce.comNathan KlineGreen Partynathankline68@yahoo.comn/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

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