

Wamego Chamber of Commerce:

What, in your opinion, is the state's role in attracting new businesses and creating jobs in our district? The role of the state government is to ensure that infrastructure promotes commerce and public wellbeing and safety. The state needs to invest in Kansas small businesses rather than providing large incentives and tax breaks to out-of-state corporations. Kansans are hard and dedicated workers, we need to remove the red tape to starting and maintaining a business and allow Kansas entrepreneurs to thrive.

How will you ensure that the state's tax policy is fair while still promoting economic growth? Economic growth means both businesses and private citizens have money to spend, save and invest. A fair tax policy is one that recognizes and benefits both of these groups. If we can afford to give huge tax incentives to businesses to come or stay then we must do the same for "we the people."

What policies would you support to help small businesses recover and grow in the post-pandemic economy? The state needs to invest in Kansas small businesses. Provide tax breaks and incentives. Remove the red tape to starting and maintaining business. We need to focus on growing Kansans, and our state, not wall street.

What will you do to ensure adequate funding for public schools in both urban and rural areas of the state? One part of the part of providing adequate funding that is overlooked is accountability. Is the funding being used as intended and are audits of school districts and the BOE of education being conducted thoroughly and accurately. Can't keep spending and hoping that money will fix the issues.

How do you plan to address teacher shortages and improve teacher retention in our state? I don't believe this is directly a state legislative issue. There are shortages in many fields. First, thing that can be done is working together to find out what has been successful for local and regional school districts to retain teachers. Secondly, we must be holding our state and local school board accountable and everyone needs to come to the table to find the true reason for this issue.

What role should the state legislature play in making higher education more affordable for students and their families? It is not the state legislature's responsibility to make higher education more affordable. Yes, we are responsible for funding, the leadership of the state universities and Board of Regents must be held accountable for this issue.

What is your position on Medicaid expansion in Kansas? There is a price to be paid for healthcare and unfortunately, it is expensive. I do not support Medicaid expansion. Covering a cost for one group of people by causing the cost for another group to go up, is not ok. We need to focus on making healthcare more accessible by adding more providers, decreasing providers time that is consumed by regulatory burdens, and use the money for direct care and not bureaucratic diversions. Increasing reimbursement rates for visits and out patient procedures would be a good first step.

How will you work to improve access to healthcare, particularly in rural areas of the state? The 3 main reasons for inaccessible medical care are lack of providers, providers' time is being consumed by regulatory burden, and bureaucratic financial diversion of funds. We need to increase our use of telemedicine specifically in the rural areas as well as allow Nurse Practitioners to practice without oversight of Medical Doctors. The bureaucratic regulatory burdens and financial diversion need to be decreased so healthcare professionals can focus on the patient and disease and not the check marks on the computer screen.

What are your priorities for improving transportation and infrastructure in our district? Infrastructure in our district is crucial not only for the safety of the Hwy 24 Corridor but for agricultural and economic reasons as well. Partnerships are crucial to ensure our district and state have efficient and safe infrastructure.

What are your plans to ensure the state's infrastructure is prepared for future growth? The state needs to continue to ensure the resources are provided to maintain the state highway system and advocate for funding and resources to maintain the federal highways. State funding provided for community level projects needs to be well stewarded, so that not only is infrastructure up to date to for business growth but also maintained for the new homeowner coming to town in search of a home.

What is your stance on gun laws, and how would you balance public safety with Second Amendment rights? I support the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution and that Kansas is a permit less carry state. Gun violence is directly related to mental health, drugs, and / or crime. We need to elect DA's and Sheriffs that will be hard on crime to ensure our community's safety. It is also crucial that we have access to mental healthcare. Pawnee and Crosswinds are both excellent resources here in District 51.

What specific changes, if any, would you propose to the state's tax structure? Yes, there is a need for improvement in the tax structure to provide tax relief, but before this can happen spending has to first be addressed.

How will you ensure that the state budget is balanced without cutting essential services like education, healthcare, and public safety? Accountability, accountability, accountability and realistic expectations. Realistic expectations are ensuring the service, agency, or program is truly essential and constitutional. Is it a state funding issue or is this a pet project that has become a normal line item program?

What steps would you take to support Kansas farmers and the agriculture industry, which is vital to our state? Infrastructure is crucial so we can ensure our ag products get from the farm to all areas of the state and nation. We need to protect Kansas farmers from federal overreach of their lands and water. We also need to protect our ag industry from the radical climate agenda and keep the anti-ag agenda out of our state.

How will you address the challenges faced by rural communities, such as population decline and lack of economic opportunities? A great example is the City of McFarland. They have been great stewards of the resources that the community has and have worked hard to

maintain their infrastructure and community properties. But now as they have the opportunity for some growth they are penalized because they don't have water or wastewater violations and their roads aren't full of potholes. Since they are just looking to make improvements for growth to occur and their community is in good repair they are not deemed not a priority and are not eligible for these grants. We need to ensure that all communities, especially those that have used their resources well, are able to continue to thrive.

What role do you believe your office should play in addressing the potential Jeffrey Energy Center closure? I believe and support a diversified portfolio of energy. At any given time one type may be more expensive than another. The state needs to stand firm in not allowing federal overreach by executive agencies. We need to challenge the feds just like we did when we joined suit with Texas when the feds wanted to redefine the "waters of the US." We won this case by standing firm. The issue with Jeffrey is a federal level issue that we must push back on.

Do you support further investment in renewable energy sources like wind and solar? I believe in a diversified energy portfolio. I want energy policies that benefit us now and in the future. I worry that renewable energy cannot meet our needs without vastly increasing the cost. We must consider the sacrifices people make when we stop producing conventional energy. The cost of everything increases and this is devastating for middle- and low-income families. Making the bare necessities of life unaffordable is not ok.

What steps will you take to address the lack of affordable housing in our district and across the state? Affordable house is not a constitutional right, it is something that we all want and desire but is not the role of legislatures. Legislatures are to safeguard and uphold the rights that empower people to pursue their dreams and goals. I will partner with local constituents to ensure our infrastructure is good, our communities have solid economic development plans, and we must have quality and rigorous education to attract and maintain families and businesses.

How would you work with local governments to ensure housing policies are fair and accessible to all Kansans? Accountability and enforcement. Are the elected officials implementing these policies being held accountable by the public? Are the unelected agencies and private organizations tasked with following and administering these policies being held accountable?

How do you plan to improve healthcare, education, and job opportunities for veterans in the state? I strongly stand by our veterans, they are the real backbone of our state and nation. We need to ensure our veterans are equipped with the resources and skills necessary for life outside of their military career, including timely and efficient mental and medical healthcare, employment opportunities, and veteran benefits.

How will you support workforce training programs that prepare Kansans for the jobs of the future? Workforce training needs to begin at the high school level, providing an educational and professional pathway earlier. Not everyone wants a college degree and not every job or profession requires one either. We must support trade and technical schools and advocate for apprenticeships.

Why do you believe you are the best candidate to represent this district in the state legislature, and what is the one key issue you would prioritize if elected. I am not a politician nor do I want to be one. I am a wife, a mother, a nurse, and educator that desires to help our children be successful adults so our futures are good and our communities thrive. I'm just like you. I pay far too much in taxes. I struggle to make ends meet. I have had to decide to pay a bill or put food on my table. I have student load debt and make car payments. Some far off calvary is not going to come save our communities. It must be us and it's time to take a stand. If I am elected, the one key issue I would prioritize is education. If our children do not receive a quality and rigorous education, we as adults have no future and our communities will not thrive.