

1. Please provide some basic information about yourself.

Name: Megan Lynn

Position you're running for: KS House of Representatives, District 49

2. Please briefly tell us why you are running for public office.

I chose to move to Kansas in 2001, knowing it would be an amazing place to raise a family. After years of watching policy move by, I decided to jump in and be an active player to make sure that Kansas remains a top place to live and raise a family, and to make sure my children have the same opportunity to live in a safe and beautiful state with the low cost of living, the midwestern qualities so desired, and the opportunities to innovate and create their own success for themselves and for their future families.

3. (State & Federal) Over the past decade, Kansas City has started to become recognized as a midwestern technology hub. There are multiple programs in place to allow this to happen, which should lead to high quality, high paying jobs. If elected, what types of policies would you support or advocate to continue the creation of startups, growth of the industry, and/or attraction of technology companies looking to relocate or expand to the Kansas City area?

When I moved to Olathe, I began working at Stowers Institute for Medical Research. Back in 2001, it was almost laughed at to put such a high quality medical research facility in a “fly over” state. However, critics were proved wrong when not only was it able to attract world class scientists to the area, but innovative research has been steadily happening for almost 20 years now. I see this in the tech industry as well. Our KC community is flooded with amenities that other cities don't provide and still be able to offer a low cost of living. I'll make sure any business who is looking to start and have creative and innovative ideas has the opportunity to grow and succeed.

4. (State Only) During the past few legislative sessions, education funding has been prioritized through new reforms to computer science and STEM education, allowing qualified courses to count as a high-school graduation credit. Due to COVID-19, funding proposals for computer

science and STEM initiatives are in jeopardy. What, if anything, do you think needs to be done regarding education funding? How would you fund your ideas?

It is imperative to make sure we have the workforce of tomorrow by advocating the sciences in middle and high school. I believe the Olathe School District is doing amazing work in their 21st Century programs, many of which are STEM related. We need to support these programs. I would also love to encourage the private sector to get involved in secondary education to make sure students are being educated in a way that will be most beneficial to their workforce needs. We need the students to graduate ready for their next step, whether it be in trade or continuing their education.

5. (State & Federal) Finding talent is one of the most critical challenges that Kansas City technology companies face. Workforce development programs and STEM education are two ways in which the state can help address this concern. What do you believe can be done to fill the void to ensure companies can find the qualified workers they need?

Companies need to communicate with the education centers, whether it be high schools, community colleges, trade schools to make sure the skills they need are being taught. So much of what companies desire is actual experience in the field. However we can provide real life experience to students would be beneficial to all. Offering internships, being available for career days, being innovative alongside teachers are effective in broadening the horizons of students.

6. (State Only) COVID-19 significantly changed the budgetary landscape we faced at the beginning of 2020. Though we are all hopeful for a speedy economic recovery, funding will have to be prioritized in the meantime. What are your top three budget priorities, in order of importance to you? Please include a brief description of each priority.

We first need to stabilize our economy by making sure businesses are able to be open. We have seen the domino effect and how that exacerbates losses in other parts of our lives, so we need to make sure we first stabilize the workforce. We need to make sure our healthcare has the means to provide treatment and care, and that individuals get the care they need. And we need

to make sure our schools are open and can give access to our students to learn in an environment that is most beneficial to them.

7. (State & Federal) Regarding the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, how important is the technology business community to economic recovery, and which measures can speed the positive impact of this industry on the economy?

Technology is one of the most driving sectors in our area. Kansas City needs our technology businesses to not only survive this recovery, but to thrive. This is an opportunity to see new creative solutions, to be okay with changing the norm, and to advance in ways we hadn't thought possible. Government needs to allow this creativity to happen without burdensome over-regulation.

8. (State & Federal) If the federal government makes additional funds available for infrastructure, where would you prioritize that spending? Alternative energy, repair bridges, increase freeway capacity, increase airport person and freight capacity, smart infrastructure, public transportation, or other?

We first need to make sure our existing infrastructure is maintained and serving the needs around it. Then let's prioritize new infrastructure. For commuters, we see the needs we have on our freeways. As someone who drove I-35 to KC every day, it's frustrating when bottlenecks aren't addressed as quickly as we'd like. But we also need to focus on what will bring business to KC. I've heard countless times how important it is to update our airport. I've also seen how much our Gardner/Edgerton area has grown since the addition of the Intermodal freight transport facility. I'd prioritize spending based on the recommendations of our business community and their employees.

9. (State Only) In 2019, the California general assembly successfully passed the California Consumer Protection Act. This legislation regulates how companies can collect, store, and sell consumer data. Federal pre-emption is looming and will likely mirror similar legislation to the General Data Privacy Rights passed by the European Union in 2017. If more states continue to

pass similar legislation, compliance could become a difficult and expensive task for any online business. Do you support state legislation on this issue or would you prefer a Federal privacy law to preempt states' laws and to cohesively protect American consumers and businesses? If you prefer a Federal law, do you support giving the FTC the resources and authority it needs to be the enforcer of the federal law, or do you believe plaintiffs' attorneys should be empowered to bring class-action lawsuits against companies?

I would need to learn more about this law in California and how something similar would affect our businesses here in Kansas. I would err on the side of protecting both our consumers and businesses.

10. (Kansas Only) The Kansas Angel Investor Tax Credit program was not renewed in the 2020 legislative session and must be renewed in the 2021 session to continue. The return on this investment has been exceptional and provides the necessary capital to grow new companies and attract outside investors to Kansas companies. What is your view on the Kansas Angel Tax Investor Credit and other economic development incentive programs?

I voted in favor of extending the Angel Tax Credit in the 2020 session and I look forward to supporting its passage in the 2021 session.

11. (Missouri Only) In the last legislative session, funding for the Missouri Technology Corporation (MTC) was significantly decreased - allocating just \$1 million in this fiscal year. In 2016, MTC funding totaled \$17 million. MTC programs include MissouriTechLaunch (co-investment program), Seed Capital Co-Investment, and the Missouri Building Entrepreneurial Capacity program (MOBEC Grants). These programs will struggle to remain, if at all, with the cuts in necessary funding. Would you support future funding increases for MTC, or do you have recommendations for policies the state of Missouri can adopt to support the future of new tech businesses and startup support organizations?

N/A