

1. Please provide some basic information about yourself.

Name: Sally Jercha

Position you're running for: KS House of Representatives, District 28

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

After serving for 12 years in our community as a civic leader in our schools, my church and the broader community, I found myself ever more educated on and engaged in decisions made at the state level. I entered this race in August 2019 in order to protect Kansas public school funding, expand Medicaid in Kansas - bringing much needed jobs to our area, and further our local Chambers of Commerce's objectives.

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?

Creating a favorable economic climate is the most fundamental thing Kansas can do to encourage job growth and business expansion. Great schools, good transportation systems, and higher education opportunities all factor into that equation. I support our Department of Commerce's efforts to focus our Economic Development Initiative Fund on meaningful projects to compete in the global economy and bring good jobs to the region. I am also very interested in how to use these funds to spur entrepreneurial growth in Kansas - eliminating barriers to startups, cutting tax hassles and helping spur financial innovation and helping make early state capital available.

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?

Education funding, including protecting the computer science and STEM initiatives, must be protected. It has never been more important that our federal government pass a comprehensive COVID relief package that includes funding to offset pandemic-related decreases in state revenue.

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?

Attracting and training employees in Kansas starts with a stable business climate, good public schools and an effective, funded economic development program. Beyond this I support dual-enrollment and career certification programming in our local community colleges, as well as making higher education more affordable in Kansas.

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.

The top three budget priorities are protecting our public school funding, ensuring critical safety-net services are available to Kansans in need during this dual public health and economic crisis, and investing in job-creating endeavors to help swiftly revive our state's economy. These endeavors include the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program and economic incentive programs to attract both entrepreneurs and established companies to Kansas.

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?

The technology business community will be a cornerstone of our recovery efforts and I would look to help eliminate barriers to starting businesses, cutting tax hassles and helping make early stage capital available to emerging companies. I would want to work with our Department of Commerce and Governor Kelly to see where these measures fit into their overall plan for recovery, to ensure we maximize our available resources to ensure the best possible outcome for our state.

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?

When the federal government makes these funds available, I will look at which projects and programs are geared up and ready to spend the funds most efficiently and effectively, prioritizing swift job creation and the long-term benefits to our economy.

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 believe a Federal privacy law would make sense in this case, given the interstate nature of digital consumer data. I would need to examine the protections included in the federal law to understand what is available to consumers before providing an opinion on how it should be administratively handled.

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 support the Kansas Angel Tax Investor Credit and other economic development incentive programs that provide demonstrated payback for the Kansas taxpayers.

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