

. The League of Kansas Municipalities would like to know more about you, and your legislative positions on issues that affect cities. This questionnaire asks your perspectives on state issues that impact Kansas cities and their residents. This information will be shared with cities in your district.

Please complete this questionnaire by Friday, October 4, 2024.

The League of Kansas Municipalities mission is to serve as the convener, advocate, and trusted voice for Kansas local governments. It is a membership association that advocates on behalf of cities, offers training and guidance to appointed and elected officials, and has a clear purpose of strengthening our communities. Since 1910, the League has been a resource for cities and served as a body to share ideas, facilitate communication between members and provide information on best practices for city operations.

Our nearly 550 members consist of the largest and smallest cities. The membership also consists of dozens of Kansas counties. The League is governed through a governing body of elected officials and city-appointed staff. If you have inquiries about this questionnaire, contact [Spencer Duncan](#) or 785-354-9565. If you have any technical issues with the survey, contact [Wendi Stark](#) or 785-354-9565.

Thank you for running for office, serving the people of Kansas, and understanding the importance of building relationships between our state government and the local governments of Kansas. We appreciate you taking the time to answer these questions.

Spencer Duncan  
Government Affairs Director

### Q1. Candidate Information

Sydney Carlin  
Kansas House of Representatives, District 66  
Democratic

#### Q1.1. Contact Information

Please provide preferred contact information. This will be made available to cities in your district.

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Preferred Email Address | <input type="text" value="sydney.carlin@house.ks.gov"/> |
| Preferred Phone Number  | <input type="text" value="785-341-87455"/>              |
| Campaign Website        | <input type="text" value="SydneyCarlinforHouse.com"/>   |

#### Q1.2. Please list your current occupation.

Q1.3. Have you held any elected public office previously?

Yes

No

Q1.3.1. What position(s) did you hold?

City Commissioner 1993-1997 Mayor of Manhattan 1996-1997 State Representative 66th Dist 2003 - present

Q1.4. Please briefly describe why you are running for the Legislature.

I have a deep respect for the political process and for the individuals that lead us politically. I like to be involved in decision-making that creates a safer and more vibrant life for the people. I work for the greater good in these decisions. While there is a lot of hype around our efforts, we vote together 95% of the time because of the committee work that is involved in the process.

## Q2. Constitutional Home Rule

City home rule was established by the voters in Article 12, Section 5 of the Kansas Constitution. This reflects citizen's recognition that each city is unique, with differing levels of service, community expectations, and varying geographical and financial circumstances.

Q2.1. Do you support the principle of local control?

Yes

No

Q2.2. Do you oppose state preemption of local authority?

Yes

No

Q2.3. What do you believe is the role of local government?

Local government exists to work with the citizens for fair and reasonable outcomes within the community. Local government creates a budget, can levy taxes, maintain the infrastructure, and bring important questions to a vote of the people. --Much more

Q2.4. Provide any additional comments you may have:

Serving in local government was a very important part of my becoming involved at the state level. There I learned so much about the values of my community members and the ability to improve our situations. I learned that people have great ideas and should be involved in the solutions to community concerns. - Much more

### Q3. Supporting Your Efforts

Your vision for Kansas is important, and when in office there will be times cities can support your efforts. The League's members want to make sure we understand your priorities and goals for serving the people of Kansas.

Q3.1. What are the two biggest challenges facing the district you will represent and how would you like to address them?

Affordable housing has become a huge problem for young people. 66% of the population live in a rental unit. The rents of these units continue to go up and up even when no improvements are made. I support the state's efforts to build moderate and affordable housing. Since 2022 we have put in place the development of 4826 unit through 51 moderate and 30 affordable developments. Childcare is expensive and placements are difficult to find. The state has developed 5655 new child care slots and we are continuing our efforts to help develop trained providers and easing some laws. These are critical concerns throughout the state.

Q3.2. What ideas do you have for improving quality of life for residents in your district?

I will continue to work with local officials to bring jobs and build the infrastructure of the community. They will bring ideas to me and I will work to help them achieve what I can.

Q3.3. What areas of improvement would you like to see from local governments in your district?

Keep the costs in line with the value.

Q3.4. What do you believe will be the three most important issues of the 2025 Legislative Session?

Issue #1

Keeping our financial position stable after having excess funds.

Issue #2

Medicaid Expansion and health care costs.

Q3.5. Will there be any specific legislation you plan to introduce during the 2025 Legislative Session?

I will again introduce a bill regarding legislative conflict of interest. I am working with a few community members on legislation that they are asking .

#### Q4. Property Taxes

City officials are elected to face many community challenges, including maintaining critical infrastructure and public safety. Due to the taxing structure in Kansas and economic realities that differ from community to community, property tax is frequently a primary funding source for local governments. The state also collects property taxes.

Q4.1. Do you believe the state and cities should work together to craft effective property tax policies?

Yes

No

Q4.2. Do you believe when the state passes tax laws it requires local governments to follow, that the same laws should apply to the State?

Yes

No

Q4.3. What strategies do you propose to help lower property taxes for residents, while ensuring the continued funding of essential city services such as roads and public safety?

There is an interest here in capping rent increases. Because we have had surplus revenue in the past few years and have paid off essentially all state debt, it will be essential that we not get carried away with too many projects. I guess just keep the lid on until we know how our recent budget and tax cuts are working for us. Proceed with caution.

#### Q5. Sales Tax Exemptions

Each year, the Legislature considers (and adopts) numerous sales tax exemptions. These exemptions apply to both local and state levies. Local sales taxes are voter approved, and often directed not just at essential city services but also specific projects, primarily infrastructure or community development.

Q5.1. Would you support having the exemptions approved by the Legislature apply only to state taxes, while leaving local voter-approved levies intact?

- Yes
- No

Q5.2. Provide any additional comments you may have:

I am unsure about a couple of these questions - I would need more information and some specifics. In general I believe we should let local government be in charge of their destiny.

## Q6. Comparable Services

Cities currently work alongside businesses, including providing numerous incentives and taxpayer-funded development programs. Despite these strong relationships and incentives, there are elected officials who believe businesses should be exempt from property taxes if a government entity supports a comparable service. For example, that a childcare provider should be property-tax exempt if a city supports childcare programs for citizens.

Q6.1. Do you believe businesses should not pay property taxes if they consider a city program comparable to its operations?

- Yes
- No

Q6.2. If a for-profit business no longer pays property taxes because of comparable programs offered by a city, should that business remain eligible to receive other taxpayer incentives and tax breaks?

- Yes
- No

Q6.3. Please provide suggestions for what criteria you believe should be used to determine if a business and city are providing comparable services.

I believe all citizens in a community should have access to support systems offered using its tax base. And, parks and recreation should be available to all. - Those who want to work out in a private atmosphere can do so, but people of all ages need to have the opportunity to socialize and the benefit of physical activity.

## Q7. Collaboration & Cooperation

State laws that directly impact cities, particularly regulatory issues, and tax policies, tend to be developed without input from cities. However, by working together, city and state governments can create a more cohesive, effective, and responsive governance system that better serves the needs of Kansans.

Q7.1. Do you believe city and state governments should collaborate in developing policies?

- Yes  
 No

Q7.2. Do you believe collaboration between city and state governments can lead to more efficient use of resources?

- Yes  
 No

Q7.3. Do you support state policies that create unfunded mandates for local governments?

- Yes  
 No

Q7.4. Are you open to ensuring you hear feedback from cities in your district before you vote on legislation that directly impacts those cities?

- Yes  
 No

Q7.5. Explain your answer and/or provide any additional comments:

I have experience on both ends of these questions. Our community brings leaders from county, city, university, state and federal level on a regular monthly basis to work for the good of us all.

## Q8.1. Final Comments

Please use this final space to provide any comments you would like to add to this questionnaire or add any information you want the cities of Kansas to know about you.

#### Embedded Data

**City:** Manhattan

**District:** 66

**Office:** Kansas House of Representatives

**Party:** Democratic

**Ballot City:** Manhattan

**Candidate:** Sydney Carlin

#### Location Data

**Location:** [\(39.1918, -96.5818\)](#)

**Source:** GeolIP Estimation

