#78

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1

Candidate Information

Name	**Linda Featherston**
Office, District	**Representative, District 16**
Party Affiliation	**Democrat**

Q2

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

Preferred Email Address	**Linda4Kansas @gmail.com**
Preferred Phone Number	**913-735-3635**
Campaign Website	**www.Linda4Kansas.com**

Q3

Please list your current occupation.

Piano teacher, state representative

Q4

Please briefly describe why you are running for the Legislature.

I am running for re-election to fully fund schools including special education, advocate for increased public safety, help expand Medicaid and increase access to diagnostic mammograms and other breast imaging.

Q5

If you have held any elected public office previously, what position(s) did you hold?

I was first elected to the legislature in 2020 and have served since.

Page 2

Q6 **Yes**

Do you support the principle of local control?

Q7 **Yes**

Do you oppose state preemption of local authority?

Q8

What do you believe is the role of local government?

Local governments manage the day to day activities and services for their communities including public safety, street maintenance, parks and recreation and other local amenities that improve quality of life. They should not be impeded in their work by state government.

Q9

Provide any additional comments you may have:

I have served on the Local Government committee for six years and have been the ranking member for the last two years.

Page 3

Q10

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

The biggest issue for my district is school funding. I want the legislature to continue fully funding the general education formula and being fully funding special education. I also want the legislature to devise a school funding formula that does not stray far from the current formula. Fully funding special education would help with another big issue: property tax relief.

Q11

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

Currently, my district has lost a city pool and access to two early voting sites. A corner of my district will lose their grade school at the end of this year. My constituents would like all of the above restored.

Q12

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

I would like to see the majority of the city council respect the will of Overland Park residents and stop their plan to replace community based pools with regional pools.

Q13

What do you believe will be the three most important issues of the 2027 Legislative session?

Issue #1	**School funding**
Issue #2	**Taxes**
Issue #3	**Women's health rights**

Q14

Will there be any specific legislation you plan to introduce during the 2027 Legislative session?

I will be reintroducing or supporting the reintroduction of a bill expanding access to diagnostic mammograms and other diagnostic breast imaging. I plan to reintroduce legislation requiring the secure storage of weapons.

Page 4

Q15 **Yes**

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

Q16 **Yes**

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

Q17

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?

I support fully funding special education which could reduce the school district's portion of property taxes by 39%. I would also support restoration of the LAVTR fund.

Page 5

Q18

Do you support placing sunsets on sales tax exemptions so they can be reviewed in future years?

Yes

Q19

Do you support a review of all current sales tax exemptions?

Yes

Page 6

Q20

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

No

Q21

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?

No

Q22

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

Respondent skipped this question

Page 7

Q23

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

Yes

Q24

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

Yes

Q25

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

No

Q26

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

Yes

Q27

Explain your answer and/or provide any additional comments:

Respondent skipped this question

Page 8

Q28

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.

Local decisions are best made by local governments. My constituents do not want their quality of life dictated by legislators that live hundreds of miles away from them.