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Q1

Candidate Information

Name	**Carol Brewer**
Office, District	**House Representative 89th District**
Party Affiliation	**Democrat**

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

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

Q3

Please list your current occupation.

Business Owner/ Social Worker

Q4

Please briefly describe why you are running for the Legislature.

I am running for the Kansas Legislature because I believe every Kansan deserves a voice, every child deserves a safe and nurturing environment, and every family deserves the opportunity to thrive. After more than 17 years of working in child welfare and serving families in our community, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges facing our children, families, and most vulnerable citizens. I want to take my experience, compassion, and commitment to public service to Topeka, where I can help create meaningful change. My goal is to strengthen our communities, improve our child welfare system, support education, promote economic opportunities, and ensure the voices of everyday Kansans are heard. I am not running for a title; I am running to make a difference.

Q5

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

N/A

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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?

I believe the role of local government is to serve, protect, and represent the people within its community. Local government is closest to the citizens and often has the greatest understanding of their everyday needs and challenges.

Its responsibility is to provide essential services, maintain public safety, support economic development, strengthen neighborhoods, and ensure taxpayer dollars are managed responsibly.

I believe local government should also be accessible, transparent, and accountable to the people it serves. Strong communities are built when local leaders listen to their residents, work collaboratively, and make decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of their citizens.

Q9

Provide any additional comments you may have:

As Representative Elect, I look forward to building strong, respectful relationships with city leaders and local officials throughout Kansas. I firmly believe that effective government requires cooperation, communication, and mutual respect between state and local leadership.
Having spent more than 17 years serving children and families, I understand that no two families, neighborhoods, or communities face exactly the same challenges. I believe the same principle applies to our cities.
My commitment is to listen, remain accessible, and work toward practical solutions that strengthen our communities without unnecessarily restricting local decision-making.
I believe the best government is one that listens to its people, respects local voices, and never forgets whom it was elected to serve.

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Q10

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

Challenge #1: Public Safety and Neighborhood Revitalization
One of the greatest challenges facing District 89 is ensuring that our neighborhoods are safe, stable, and welcoming places for families to live and raise their children. Concerns surrounding crime, deteriorating properties, inadequate infrastructure, and limited neighborhood investment affect the overall quality of life for many residents.
I would like to address these challenges by strengthening partnerships between law enforcement, local government, neighborhood associations, community organizations, and residents. I believe we must invest in crime prevention, youth engagement, neighborhood revitalization, and programs that address the underlying causes of crime.
My goal is to ensure that residents feel safe in their homes, children have safe places to play, and our neighborhoods receive the attention and resources they deserve.

Challenge #2: Economic Stability and Access to Resources
Many working families face challenges related to affordable housing, employment opportunities, rising living expenses, transportation, and access to essential services.
I want to work toward policies that encourage economic development, support small businesses, expand workforce opportunities, and connect families with resources that promote long-term stability.
I also believe we must strengthen access to mental health services, affordable childcare, and educational opportunities. When families have the resources necessary to succeed, our entire community benefits.

Q11

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

Improving the quality of life for District 89 residents begins with listening to the people who live there and understanding their everyday challenges.

I would like to focus on revitalizing neighborhoods, improving streets and sidewalks, increasing street lighting, addressing abandoned and deteriorating properties, and creating more safe recreational opportunities for children and families.

I also want to encourage stronger partnerships between schools, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to provide mentorship programs, after-school activities, job training, and community resources.

As someone who has dedicated much of my career to working with children and families, I strongly believe that prevention and early intervention are essential. Providing our youth with positive opportunities today can prevent much greater challenges tomorrow.

Additionally, I would like to establish regular community conversations and opportunities for residents to communicate directly with their elected officials.

My vision is to help create neighborhoods where families feel safe, businesses want to invest, seniors feel supported, and children have opportunities to succeed regardless of their circumstances.

Q12

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

I would like to see continued improvements in communication, transparency, responsiveness, and community engagement. Residents should feel confident that their concerns are being heard and that local government is working to address them in a timely and respectful manner.
I would especially like to see greater attention given to neighborhood infrastructure, code enforcement, abandoned properties, public safety, and equitable investment in underserved communities.
I also believe local governments can strengthen relationships with neighborhood associations, nonprofit organizations, schools, and community leaders to identify problems before they become larger issues.
I recognize that local governments face financial limitations and must balance competing priorities. My goal is not simply to identify areas needing improvement but to work collaboratively with city leadership to identify resources, remove unnecessary barriers, and develop practical solutions.
I believe state and local governments should work as partners, not competitors, because ultimately, we serve the same people.

Q13

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

Issue #1	**Child Welfare Reform and Mental Health Services**
Issue #2	**Property Taxes, Housing Affordability, and Economic Stability**
Issue #3	**Public Safety, Education, and Community Investment**

Q14

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

Yes. One of my primary legislative interests is introducing or supporting legislation that strengthens accountability, transparency, and oversight within Kansas' child welfare system.
With more than 17 years of direct experience in this field, I have witnessed challenges that deserve legislative attention, particularly regarding placement stability, the protection of children, foster parent support, and access to appropriate mental health services.
I would also like to explore legislation that strengthens services for children with complex behavioral and emotional needs, improves communication and accountability among child welfare agencies, and supports foster family recruitment and retention.
Beyond child welfare, I am interested in working with fellow legislators and local officials on policies addressing neighborhood revitalization, public safety, housing affordability, and economic opportunities.
I recognize that successful legislation requires collaboration, research, and an understanding of its financial and operational impact. My intention is not simply to introduce legislation for the sake of introducing a bill. My goal is to introduce meaningful, responsible legislation that addresses real problems, produces measurable results, and improves the lives of Kansas residents.
I look forward to working with the League of Kansas Municipalities, city leaders, and my legislative colleagues to identify opportunities where state and local governments can work together for the benefit of our communities.

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Q15

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

Yes

Q16

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

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 believe Kansas residents deserve meaningful property tax relief without sacrificing the essential services that keep our communities safe and functioning.

My approach would focus on several key strategies:
First, I support greater collaboration between state and local governments to identify opportunities for property tax relief without shifting additional financial responsibilities onto cities and counties.
Second, I believe we should examine opportunities to expand targeted property tax relief for seniors, individuals on fixed incomes, veterans, and hardworking families who are struggling with rising property valuations and living expenses.
Third, I support responsible economic development that strengthens local businesses, encourages investment, and expands the tax base. A stronger and more diverse tax base can help reduce the financial burden placed on individual homeowners.
Fourth, I believe the state should review existing funding responsibilities and explore ways to provide more consistent support for essential infrastructure, public safety, and other critical local services. When the state places additional responsibilities on local governments, appropriate funding should accompany those requirements.
Finally, I support transparency, responsible budgeting, and meaningful community involvement in decisions regarding public spending and taxation.
I recognize that property tax relief cannot come at the expense of safe streets, reliable emergency services, law enforcement, fire protection, or maintaining critical infrastructure.
My goal is to work toward a balanced approach that provides real financial relief to Kansas families while ensuring our cities have the resources necessary to remain safe, strong, and financially stable.

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Q18

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

Respondent skipped this question

Q19

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

Respondent skipped this question

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Q20

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

Respondent skipped this question

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?

Respondent skipped this question

Q22

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

I believe determining whether a business and city provide comparable services should involve a fair, transparent, and objective evaluation.
The review should consider the nature and purpose of the services provided, the populations served, accessibility, affordability, service quality, and the overall benefit to the community.
It should also examine whether the business fills a service gap, serves underserved populations, or provides specialized services that the city does not offer.
Additionally, consideration should be given to the financial impact on local taxpayers, the potential effect on existing businesses, and whether the services are truly comparable in scope and responsibility.
Most importantly, I do not believe that providing comparable services should automatically establish eligibility for a property tax exemption.
As a legislator, I would support policies that encourage public-private partnerships and economic growth while protecting local government revenues and ensuring businesses are treated fairly.
My goal is to support a balanced approach that encourages entrepreneurship, protects taxpayer investments, and preserves the essential services our communities depend upon.

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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:

I strongly believe that effective government begins with communication, collaboration, and mutual respect. State and local governments serve the same citizens, and we have a shared responsibility to ensure that policies are practical, financially responsible, and beneficial to the communities we represent.
As Representative-Elect for Kansas House District 89, I believe it is essential to maintain open lines of communication with city officials, community leaders, and residents before making legislative decisions that directly affect them.
I recognize that local governments face unique challenges, including limited financial resources, infrastructure needs, public safety concerns, and increasing demands for essential services. State legislation should not create additional financial burdens for cities without providing the resources necessary to meet those requirements.
I also believe collaboration allows us to identify opportunities to reduce duplication, improve efficiency, and make better use of taxpayer dollars.
I am committed to listening to local officials, seeking their input, and considering the real-world impact of legislation before casting my vote. While we may not always agree on every issue, I believe respectful dialogue and cooperation are essential to finding meaningful solutions.
My goal is to be an accessible, responsive, and effective representative who understands that strong cities help build a stronger Kansas.
I do not believe Topeka should make decisions affecting our communities without first listening to the people and local leaders who will be directly impacted.

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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.

First, I would like to thank the League of Kansas Municipalities for providing me with this opportunity to share my thoughts, priorities, and vision for the future of Kansas.

As Representative-Elect for Kansas House District 89, I want city leaders across our state to know that I am coming to Topeka with an open mind, a willingness to listen, and a genuine desire to serve.

For more than 17 years, I have dedicated my professional life to advocating for children, strengthening families, and helping individuals navigate some of life's most difficult circumstances. That experience has taught me that meaningful change does not happen simply because someone holds a position of authority. It happens when people are willing to listen, work together, recognize challenges, and find solutions.

I understand that every city in Kansas is different. What works for Wichita may not work for a smaller rural community, and I believe those differences deserve respect. Local leaders know their communities, understand their challenges, and should have a meaningful voice in decisions that affect their residents.

I am particularly passionate about strengthening our child welfare system, improving public safety, supporting economic development, revitalizing neighborhoods, and ensuring Kansas families have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

I also believe that public service is about accountability, accessibility, and remembering that the people we represent are the reason we have been entrusted with these positions.

As I begin this new chapter, I do not claim to have all the answers. However, I am committed to asking questions, listening to different perspectives, learning from those with experience, and making thoughtful decisions that put the needs of Kansans first.

I want every city in Kansas to know that you will have a partner in me. My door will be open, your concerns will be heard, and your communities will matter.

I am not going to Topeka simply to occupy a seat. I am going to work, to serve, and to help make Kansas a better place for our children, families, seniors, businesses, and future generations.

We may represent different communities, but we share one Kansas. And when we work together, there is so much more we can accomplish.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to building relationships and working alongside our municipal leaders to create a stronger, safer, and more prosperous Kansas.

Carol Brewer, TLBSW, ETP
Representative-Elect
Kansas House of Representatives District 89