

Sen. Cindy Holscher's "Common Sense & Lower Costs Agenda"

Sen. Cindy Holscher's *Common Sense & Lower Costs Agenda* is a practical plan to lower everyday costs for Kansas families while strengthening schools, health care, and worker protections. It raises wages, cuts property taxes and essential costs, expands access to health care, and ensures government works for people - not special interests.

1. Raising Minimum Wage

Immediate income increases for workers earning entry-level wages, providing immediate purchasing power and economic stability. Allow municipalities to raise the minimum wage higher to keep up with cost of living differences across the state. Regularly assess the minimum wage to ensure that wages keep up with cost of living.

2. Worker Protections: Paid Sick Time and Repealing Right to Work

Economic security that prevents lost wages when workers must miss work due to illness, protecting both health and household income. Repeal right to work.

3. Property Tax Relief for Kansas Families and Seniors

Lower residential property assessment rates from 11.5% to 9.0%, lowering annual tax burdens and providing significant property tax relief for homeowners across all income levels. Establish a task force to determine other avenues for property tax relief.

Fund general education and special education to avoid shifting obligation to localities using property taxes.

4. Expanding Medicaid

Healthcare cost relief and expanded access to medical services for low- and moderate-income individuals and families, lowering the burden on the health care system and shoring up rural hospitals at risk of closing.

5. Free School Lunches

Immediately lowering costs for families by eliminating meal expenses for students, reducing household food budgets, and improving child nutrition.

6. Eliminate Taxes on Essential Products For Women and Babies

Tangible everyday savings on essential hygiene products (diapers, feminine hygiene products, etc) that represent significant recurring expenses for families and individuals.

7. Fully Fund All Classrooms Across the State

While the state has made progress funding general education, special education has still been underfunded. Fully funding special education would ensure that all classrooms across the state have the resources they need and all Kansas kids get the opportunities they deserve.

Fully fund Special Education using the savings from expanding Medicaid and new tax revenue from sales of medical marijuana.

8. Housing Security

Housing affordability protection by limiting penalties for late rental payments, preventing debt accumulation and eviction risk. Exclude Social Security income and raise the income and home value limits so more seniors and disabled veterans can qualify for the property tax homestead exemption.

9. Legalizing Medical Marijuana

Lower costs and expand treatment options for patients, reducing reliance on expensive pharmaceutical interventions. Unlock new revenue for the state to fully fund special education. Study the effects of legalization of recreational marijuana on neighboring states.

10. Making Government Work for The People

Creating an independent panel for redistricting and prohibiting mid-decade redistricting to ensure that Kansans' voting rights are further protected.

Enacting term limits and limiting corporate PAC money in elections to break the power of entrenched politicians, fostering citizen-legislators that are responsive to voters, and reduce the influence of special interest lobbyists.