Questionnaire Kansas Citizens for Science

Rep. Sydney Carlin, Dec 6th 2020

1. On what issues affecting Kansans do you feel you could benefit from scientific information to inform your decision?

Abortion, birth control medications use, wind, soil and water conservation, health/Covid19, vaccinations, solar and geothermal energy, fracking.

2. What sources would you trust to inform your decision-making in regard to science and public health?

Kansas research universities, CDC, WHO, USDA, Kansas energy groups, Department of Agriculture, American Medical Association.

3. Do you support mandated mask wearing during covid-19 outbreaks? How would you communicate to the public about the science behind wearing masks?

Yes. I take every opportunity to share my attitude on mask wearing by posting articles, videos and comments on social media and regular media.

4. How do you view the role of elected bodies in determining policies and procedures such as the licensing of secondary science teachers and curricular standards in science?

I believe educators must set these rules based on trusted science. Legislators can, when necessary, debate and bring legislation forward to support or deny their efforts. The public has a role in this as well, but they must be involved in the discussions.

5. What should be done to help recruit and retain highly qualified STEM teachers for Kansas schools?

Keep licensing procedures faithful to science. Repeal laws that allow people who are not trained as teachers to be hired to teach in public schools. Teacher pay has become a problem in Kansas schools. I do not advocate for merit pay, but I believe our teachers need to be able to count on a steady employment and pay rate increases.

6. Do you have any other comments on the relationship between science and public policy in Kansas that you wish to share with the voters?

I have come to understand that when an individual is dedicated to a question and spends their working life studying that question, they can be considered an expert. I depend on these individuals and their expertise when making decisions for the people of Kansas.