

# FOREVER **THE** FREE STATE



2024 JOHNSON COUNTY  
DEMOCRATIC GALA

AUGUST 10, 2024

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The Ninth Annual

# Johnson County Democratic Party Forever the Free State Gala

## TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

- 6:00 | VIP Cocktail Reception
- 6:55 | Seating for dinner
- 7:00 | Program and dinner service begin
  - | 2024 Candidate introduction
  - | Welcome by KDP Chair Jeanna Repass
  - | Remarks by
    - Party Chair Deann Mitchell
    - Executive Director Cole Robinson
  - | Opportunity to give
  - | Remarks by
    - Johnson County Chairman Mike Kelly
    - Lt. Gov. David Toland
    - Governor Laura Kelly
    - Rep. Sharice Davids

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# Johnson County Democratic Party Forever the Free State Gala

## SPECIAL GUESTS



**Jeanna Repass**

Chair, Kansas  
Democratic Party



**Deann Mitchell**

Chair, Johnson County  
Democratic Party



**Cole Robinson**

Executive Director,  
Johnson County  
Democratic Party



**Mike Kelly**

Chair, Johnson County  
Board of Commissioners



**David Toland**

Lieutenant Governor,  
State of Kansas



**Laura Kelly**

Governor,  
State of Kansas



**Sharice Davids**

Representative, Kansas  
3rd Congressional District

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## THIS EVENING'S HOSTS

EMCEE



**Renee Dinsmore**

WaterOne Board

FUND THE NEED



**Claire Reagan**

Olathe School Board

## WITH **APPRECIATION** TO OUR 2024 GALA COMMITTEE

Chair Deann Mitchell  
Vice Chair Wes Garrison  
Secretary Anh Rongish  
*Videos by Jack Newlin.*  
*Forever the Free State logo designed by Pablo de Palacios.*

ED Cole Robinson  
Danielle Robinson  
Kevin Burke  
Marlys Shulda



# Johnson County Democratic Party Forever the Free State Gala

## MEET OUR 2024 CANDIDATES

U.S. REP	Sharice Davids*	HOUSE DIST. 5	Henry Johns
SENATE DIST. 6	Pat Pettey*	HOUSE DIST. 8	Pam Shernuk
SENATE DIST. 7	Ethan Corson*	HOUSE DIST. 14	Dennis Miller*
SENATE DIST. 8	Cindy Holscher*	HOUSE DIST. 15	Allison Houghland*
SENATE DIST. 9	Norman Mallicoat	HOUSE DIST. 16	Linda Featherson*
SENATE DIST. 10	Andrew Mall	HOUSE DIST. 17	Jo Ella Hoyer*
SENATE DIST. 11	Karen Thurlow	HOUSE DIST. 18	Cindy Neighbor*
SENATE DIST. 21	Dinah Sykes*	HOUSE DIST. 19	Stephanie Clayton*
SENATE DIST. 23	Stacey Knoell	HOUSE DIST. 20	Mari-Lynn Poskin*
SENATE DIST. 35	Jason Anderson	HOUSE DIST. 21	Jerry Stogsdill*
SENATE DIST. 37	Sherry Giebler	HOUSE DIST. 22	Lindsay Vaughn*
		HOUSE DIST. 23	Susan Ruiz*
		HOUSE DIST. 24	Jarrod Ousley*
KS Board of Ed 2	Melanie Haas*	HOUSE DIST. 25	Rui Xu*
KS Board of Ed 4	Kris Meyer	HOUSE DIST. 27	David Benson
JoCo BOCC Dist. 2	Jeff Meyers*	HOUSE DIST. 28	Ace Allen
JoCo BOCC Dist. 3	Julie Brewer	HOUSE DIST. 29	Heather Meyer*
JoCo BOCC Dist. 6	Shirley Allenbrand*	HOUSE DIST. 30	Betsey Lasister
JoCo DA	Vanessa Riebli	HOUSE DIST. 39	Vanessa Vaughn West
JoCo Sheriff	Byron Roberson	HOUSE DIST. 48	Dan Osman*
		HOUSE DIST. 49	Nikki McDonald*
		HOUSE DIST. 108	Brandon Woodard*
		HOUSE DIST. 117	Bill Hammond
		HOUSE DIST. 121	Mel Pinick

*\*Incumbent*

# Johnson County Democratic Party Forever the Free State Gala

In 2023-24, the  
Johnson County Democratic Party:

- worked with a **full-time Executive Director**, dedicated to getting Democrats elected up and down the ballot.

- hired a **full-time Volunteer Coordinator** to recruit, train, engage, and utilize our vital volunteer team.

- built community** with events such as GOTV rally, Filing Day Party, Volunteer Appreciation Event, and Debate Watch Party

- sent mail** directly to all registered Democrats in Johnson County who had a Primary election on their ballot.

- texted** all registered Democrats in Johnson County who had a Primary election on their ballot.

**The results are clear:**  
**YOUR SUPPORT GETS MORE  
DEMOCRATS ELECTED IN  
JOHNSON COUNTY!**

# Johnson County Democrats **dominated** in 2023 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

## De Soto City Council

✓ Courtney Tripp

## Fairway City Council

✓ Lee Story (Ward 1)  
✓ Jerry Williams (Ward 2)  
✓ Jenna Brofsky (Ward 4)

## Gardner City Council

✓ Mark Wiehn (At-Large)

## Leawood City Council

✓ Alan Sunkel (Ward 1)  
✓ Sherrie Gayed (Ward 2)

## Lenexa City Council

✓ Julie Sayers (Mayor)  
✓ Courtney Eiterich (Ward 1)  
✓ Chelsea Williamson (Ward 3)  
✓ Chris Herron (Ward 4)

## Merriam City Council

✓ Jason Silver (Ward 1)  
✓ Whitney Yadrich (Ward 2)  
✓ Bruce Kaldahl (Ward 3)  
✓ Staci Chivetta (Ward 4)

## Mission City Council

✓ Trent Boultinghouse (Ward 1)  
✓ Mary Ryherd (Ward 2)  
✓ Brian Schmid (Ward 3)  
✓ Cheryl Carpenter Davis (Ward 4)

## Olathe City Council

✓ Matt Schoonover (At-Large)  
✓ Dean Vakas (Ward 2)

## OP City Council

✓ Holly Grummert (Ward 1)  
✓ Drew Mitrison (Ward 2)  
✓ Richard Borlaza (Ward 3)  
✓ Inas Younis (Ward 5)  
✓ Chris Newlin (Ward 6)

## PV City Council

✓ Inga Selders (Ward 2)  
✓ Ian Graves (Ward 6)\*

## Roeland Park City Council

✓ Michael Poppa (Mayor)  
✓ Jan Faidley (Ward 1)  
✓ Ben Dickens (Ward 2)  
✓ Emily Hage (Ward 3)  
✓ Miel Castagna-Herrera (Ward 4)  
✓ Matthew Lero (Ward 4)

## Shawnee City Council

✓ Sierra Whitted (Ward 1)  
✓ Jeanie Murphy (Ward 2)  
✓ Laurel Burchfield (Ward 4)

## Blue Valley School Board

✓ Clay Norkey (At-Large)  
✓ Jodie Dietz (Position 3)

## Gardner School Board

✓ Kate Williams (Position 3)  
✓ Heath Freeman (At-Large)

## Olathe School Board

✓ Stacey Yurkovich (Mem. 1)  
✓ Brad Boyd (Mem. 2)  
✓ Claire Reagan (Mem. 4)  
✓ Will Babbitt (At-Large)

## Shawnee Mission School Board

✓ David Westbrook (At-Large)  
✓ Mario Garcia III (North)  
✓ Jessica Hembree (South)  
✓ Jamie Borgman (Northwest)

## JCCC Board of Trustees

✓ Laura-Smith-Everett  
✓ Val Jennings  
✓ Greg Mitchell

## WaterOne Board

✓ Renee Dinsmore  
✓ Melanie Kraft  
✓ Whitney Wilson  
✓ Ulyses Wright



**WINNERS 2023**

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# Johnson County Democratic Party Forever the Free State Gala

YOUR **CONTRIBUTIONS**  
MAKE IT POSSIBLE

- | Mail
- | Texting
- | Yard signs
- | Two full-time staff members
- | Year-round office
- | Candidate training
- | County-wide outreach events

FOREVER  
THE  
FREE STATE



# Johnson County Democratic Party Forever the Free State Gala

A SPECIAL **THANK YOU** TO  
OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

## **AD ASTRA SPONSORS**

Jon and Sarah Baum

Jennifer Day

Sharice for Congress

Stephanie Clayton for Kansas House

Ace Allen for Kansas House

Kansas Third Congressional District

Middle of the Road PAC

IBEW Local 124

Laborers Local 1290

Pipefitters Local 533

Teamsters Joint Council 56

Operating Engineers Local 101

United Auto Workers 31

Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council



# Johnson County Democratic Party Forever the Free State Gala

## SUNFLOWER SPONSORS

Linda Finkle

Gerald Gentry

Zach Thomas

Marlys Shulda

Robert Southard

Mary Ann Wyrsh

Senate District 21

Senate District 10

Senate District 23

Grissom Miller Law Firm

Blazer Strategies LLC

TJP Strategies

Kansas National Education Association

Courtney Eiterich for Lenexa

Matt Schoonover for Olathe

Renee Dinsmore for WaterOne

Mike Kelly for Johnson County

# Johnson County Democratic Party Forever the Free State Gala

## SUNFLOWER SPONSORS

Ethan Corson for Kansas Senate  
Cindy Holscher for Kansas Senate  
Betsey Lasister for Kansas House  
Linda Featherston for Kansas House  
Allison Houghland for Kansas House  
Nikki McDonald for Kansas House  
Jarrod Ousley for Kansas House  
Brandon Woodard for Kansas House  
Susan Ruiz for Kansas House  
Lindsay Vaughn for Kansas House  
Ace Allen for Kansas House  
Mel Pinick for Kansas House  
Jerry Stogsdill for Kansas House  
Kansas Democratic Party  
Kansans for a Democratic House  
Kansas Senate Democrats  
Kansas State AFL-CIO  
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades

# Johnson County Democratic Party Forever the Free State Gala

## JOHNSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY **EXECUTIVE BOARD 2022-24**

Chair	Deann Mitchell	SD11	Linda Finkle
Vice Chair	Wes Garrison	SD11	Richard Nobles
Treasurer	Mark Adams	SD21	Scott Roby
Secretary	Anh Rongish	SD21	Lori Slettehaugh
ED	Cole Robinson	SD23	Mike Shimeall
Vol Cord.	Jessica Persson	SD23	Rana Bentley
SD06	Judy Snyder	SD35	Becca Peck
SD07	Jennifer Day	SD35	Alan Marston
SD07	Dan Wancura	SD37	Kristen Schultz
SD08	Barton Stanley	SD37	Gerald Gentry
SD08	Denise Riedel	At-Large	Danielle Robinson
SD09	Ray Ramirez	At-Large	Jill Rogers
SD09	Annette Dye	At-Large	Richard Weast
SD10	Tim Quinn		
SD10	Kristen Blackton		

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Johnson County Democratic Party  
**Forever the Free State Gala**

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WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR  
**VOLUNTEERS**

*Hundreds of dedicated volunteers connect with thousands and thousands of voters every year. Our volunteers are the heart of our organization and the reason for our success.*

**THANK YOU!**

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