





Who are the candidates, and what are their backgrounds?

- Sen. Charles Patrick "Pat" Roberts (R-KS) {Republican candidate/ incumbent}
 - The 78-year-old has served as Senator since his election in 1996, which came after eight terms in Kansas's 1st District. He has won all of his elections with substantial support, ranging from 62% to 82.5%. He graduated from Kansas State University with a B.A. in Journalism and went on to serve as an officer (Captain was his highest achieved rank) in the U.S. Marine Corps. His home is actually in Alexandria, VA, and the place listed as his Kansas residence is owned and lived in by local supporters in Dodge City.
- Chad Taylor {Democratic candidate}
 - The 40-year-old is the current District Attorney (serving his second term) of Shawnee County, Kansas. He earned a B.A. in Accounting from the University of Kansas and his J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law.
- Greg Orman {Independent candidate}
 - The 45-year-old wealthy businessman hails from Minnesota, but was raised in Kansas. He earned a degree in economics from Princeton University and went on to found Environmental Light Concepts, later selling it to Kansas City Power and Light. Afterwards, he founded private equity firm Denali Partners LLC. He briefly ran against Roberts as a Democrat in 2008, before withdrawing, but now considers himself a true Independent, disillusioned with both major parties.
- Randall Batson {Libertarian candidate}
 - The 38-year-old is not considered a serious challenger; at most, may draw some minor support from the part of Roberts's base that does not believe the incumbent to be conservative enough.

What are some of the important characteristics of the state?

- In general, Kansas is a very conservative, deeply red state, evidenced by the fact that all four representatives are members of the GOP. Additionally, no Republican has lost a Senate battle since 1939, and incumbent Senator Pat Roberts narrowly won his primary (with a 48% plurality) against a more conservative challenger.
- *Geographic location:* Midwestern State of Kansas (southwestern part of the region)
- *Presidential vote in 2012:* Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and Congressman Paul Ryan received 59.66% of the popular vote (compared to President Obama's and Vice President Biden's 38.05%), winning the state's six electoral votes.

 PROJECTED WINNER			
CANDIDATES	VOTES	VOTES %	Est. 100% in
 R Romney 	692,634	60%	<div style="width: 60%; background-color: red;"></div>
 D Obama (Incumbent)	440,726	38%	<div style="width: 38%; background-color: blue;"></div>

• "Kansas Overview - 2012 Election Center." CNN. Cable News Network, 6 Nov. 2012. Web. 06 Sept. 2014.

- *Congressional vote in 2012:* All four incumbent Representatives (all Republicans) held their seats; no Senate elections occurred in 2012.

Kansas 01

STATUS

PROJECTED WINNER

CANDIDATES

R

Tim Huelskamp

(Incumbent)

This candidate is running with no major-party opposition.

Kansas 02

9:32 a.m. ET, Nov 8

STATUS

PROJECTED WINNER

CANDIDATES

R

Lynn Jenkins

(Incumbent)

D

Tobias Schlingensiepen

VOTES

161,476

VOTES %

57%

Est. 100% in

Kansas 03

STATUS

PROJECTED WINNER

CANDIDATES

R

Kevin Yoder

(Incumbent)

This candidate is running with no major-party opposition.

Kansas 04

9:32 a.m. ET, Nov 8

STATUS

PROJECTED WINNER

CANDIDATES

R

Mike Pompeo

(Incumbent)

D

Robert Tillman

VOTES

158,212

VOTES %

62%

Est. 100% in

"Kansas Overview - 2012 Election Center." CNN. Cable News Network, 6 Nov. 2012. Web. 06 Sept. 2014.

What seem to be some of the most important features in this race?

This race was not considered competitive, or even worth watching, until September 3rd, when Democratic candidate Chad Taylor announced he was dropping out of the race. Polling data indicated that, despite Senator Roberts being particularly vulnerable this year, Taylor would not be able to come out on top. In fact, Independent Greg Orman had raised more money and was drawing more broad support, as a result of his moderate stance. One specific poll even suggested that in a head-to-head contest, Orman would win over Roberts by a substantial margin. A more recent poll has the two candidates in a dead heat race, with Orman at a one-point lead and a margin of error of $\pm 4.2\%$. In a sort of reverse-spoiler-effect-type scenario, it would appear that the Democratic Party pushed their own candidate to drop out and pave the way for an undivided anti-Republican vote. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) spoke with Taylor on the phone several days prior, though the explicit dialogue has not been released to the public.

Despite all this, Republican Secretary of State Kris Kobach, a formal endorser of Roberts, has deemed that Kansas state law prevents the full withdrawal of Taylor, now that the primaries have passed and the candidate has not formally declared himself "incapable of fulfilling the duties of office if elected." Videlicet, Taylor's name shall remain on the ballot, according to the ruling handed down by the aft-mentioned Secretary of State; the candidate filed a petition with the state Supreme Court on Tuesday, 9/9/14. Both sides have been crying foul: the Taylor campaign, as well as Sen. McCaskill and other national Democrats, question why this issue did not arise earlier, when Taylor was assured by Kobach's office that his withdrawal motion was in order; Roberts himself called the attempt a "corrupt bargain", and national Republicans are concerned with the dirty politics notion that he did not drop out solely of his own volition.

On a lesser scale, Roberts's residency situation is a concern to a fair share of voters. This was exacerbated by an earlier statement from the his campaign manager that the senator would be returning home (meaning to Virginia) for a several days.