

THE SOCIALIST RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF WICHITA'S RESPONSE TO THE KANSAS STATE FAIR
GOVERNOR DEBATE RE: FIREARMS

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2018

Kansas has historically and recently been a strongly pro-firearm state. The right to firearms and to the defense of self and community is enshrined in the Kansas Constitution. It is the official policy of the Socialist Rifle Association, and so the policy of this chapter, that the working class has a right to self defense and the means to expediently exercise that right. It is disappointing, then, that of the three candidates who took the stage this past Saturday, Senator Laura Kelly and Greg Orman presented lackluster positions on this important issue, while the remaining candidate, Secretary Kris Kobach, is an enemy to the working class, advocate of the capitalist class, and a source of hateful policies exhibited at the highest levels of government.

Senator Kelly claims to be in favor of "comprehensive gun sense." This is a play on the classic "common sense" argument, which serves only to gaslight opponents as unreasonable and irrational. She wishes to repeal Kansas' "constitutional carry" law, passed in 2015 to 86-39 support in the House and 31-8 support in the Senate. Senator Kelly was a cosponsor of this bill and seemed to recognize the need for this passage. She has unfortunately backpedaled on this, now seeking to remove the very law she supported and helped write in the first place. Senator Kelly claims to have reversed her position after discussing concerns of guns in classrooms with a university professor. Kansas, beginning in July 2017, has dropped restrictions on the ability to conceal carry on university grounds. Members of this Chapter are familiar with the panic that preceded this date and the predictions of catastrophe that would soon follow. The state is now a year on from university carry and three years from constitutional carry: there is no evidence to suggest that either has resulted in pandemonium in the streets or the classrooms. It appears more likely that Senator Kelly wishes to align herself with the interests of the corporatist Democratic Party while ignoring the needs of the working class constituents she currently represents in her small district and the greater number in the state she wishes to.

The Chapter urges Senator Kelly to rethink her statements on this topic and recall why she was a cosponsor of constitutional carry originally. The working class deserves better than for the politicians that claim to represent them falling victim to national currents that will ebb and flow as they always do. Kansas is neither a violent state nor one facing a gun crisis: indeed, many states that are have exceptionally restrictive firearm law regimes. The Chapter asks that Senator Kelly seek to provide subsidized training for working class individuals who wish to become safe and proficient in the use of their firearms. Hunter safety classes are an instance where the public has access to frequent and affordable training opportunities, though it would still be preferable for

these programs to be provided at no cost. The Chapter additionally asks that Senator Kelly hold more meetings with the public concerning these issues, particularly in working class neighborhoods and rural districts.

Businessman Greg Orman sought to draw false comparisons when he spoke, seeking to compare apples to oranges when he cited that licensed beauticians in the state of Kansas need one thousand hours of training to "wax an eyebrow" while one can carry without any training whatsoever. This is an argument that plays well to the crowd but comes apart on further inspection. Training is a vital component of safe and effective firearm operation: training is a vital component of safe and effective self defense. Society doesn't require a certificate of completion in martial arts to fight in self defense, however, because we recognize that the right to self defense is a fundamental one. Holding the right to defend oneself efficiently and expediently behind a pay-wall of training costs and state administrative fees is an affront to the working class' rights. We would not expect much else from a capitalist millionaire, however, and hold many other issues with his campaign and the reasons for him running in this race to begin with.

Secretary Kris Kobach is a pro-firearm Republican, but the Chapter will give no credit to a man who holds reprehensible views on topics ranging from immigration to corporations to LGBT rights to a dozen more unnamed. Secretary Kobach is a friend of President Trump and a close confidant of the man. He has sought to purge the Kansas voter rolls of tens of thousands of legitimate voters, when Kansas elections can be decided by the dozens. He seeks to reinstate Sam Brownback's disastrous tax plan and would see ever greater corporate profits at the expense of the working class and the state. The Chapter additionally sees Secretary Kobach's proposition to arm school teachers as particularly ironic given that he has been no friend of the Kansas education system or the teacher's unions that seek to provide fair and adequate wages for their members.

It is the opinion of this Chapter that anyone who possesses firearms ought to become trained in firearm safety and proficient in the use of their firearm. The Chapter works to provide its members with training and education opportunities to further this end. It is NOT the opinion of this Chapter that training should be held behind onerous monetary barriers and licensing requirements. The Chapter is not inherently opposed to a training and permitting requirement for conceal carry, but that any such process must be extremely subsidized or otherwise free as well as the permit being issued on a "shall issue" basis. The Chapter maintains reservations over the campaign of Senator Kelly due to her liberal political beliefs, and does not seek to endorse the campaign at this time. The Chapter remains optimistic, however, that her opinions on the working class' right to self defense can be improved. The Chapter sees the views of Greg Orman as out of touch and those of a capitalist millionaire. In a race between a capitalist-lite politician and a reactionary proto-fascist, a literal capitalist

is not the alternative Kansas needs. The Chapter holds that Secretary Kobach is entirely unacceptable as a candidate and deserves no accommodation for his views on firearm regulation. The philosophical basis for Kobach's support of firearm proliferation is at complete odds to that of the left's and has no place in the discourse surrounding firearms.