

### **Statement of Withdrawal**

After thoughtful consideration and discussion amongst my friends and personal confidantes, I have decided to not run in this year's primary election against incumbent Representative Barbara Ballard. Representative Ballard has an exemplary record of dedicated public service and I believe that she will continue to serve the people of Kansas well in her role in the House of Representatives. Representative Ballard cares about the community of Lawrence, advocates on behalf of its most marginalized communities, and protects public education funding in the Sunflower state. For these reasons, I will be voting for her this August! I strongly encourage all Lawrencians to make it to the polls on 02 August to cast their ballot and Vote No on the Constitutional Amendment regarding Abortion so that we can preserve a woman's right to bodily autonomy without state intervention in Kansas.

For my part, I believe that I and students would be best served when my attention is placed fully towards my role as Student Body Vice President and my own personal well being as a student myself. Learning how to run for state office and the things involved in setting up this campaign through practical application has been an invaluable experience for me. I'm incredibly grateful to all of the folx that helped me onto this path and supported me along the way! I plan to continue to advocate for the issues important to me through my role as Student Body Vice President. I sought the office of State Representative to amplify youth voices in the State Legislature, but I realize now that this is best served by amplification of those voices through our Student Senate and by creating better partnerships for political advocacy with our Lawrence Representatives.

Student and youth voters are the future of the State of Kansas and we will NOT tolerate our state becoming a haven of prejudice and state austerity which seeks to increase inequities in our communities. Rather, we will defend our right to self governance in these communities and disavow any law that seeks to deprive individuals of their natural human rights over which the state shall have no authority.

To that end, good luck to all of our Democratic candidates in their primaries and in the 2022 General Election!

**Signed,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alessia Roark". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Alessia Roark

Former Candidate for KS House District 44

Alessia For Kansas Campaign