DENA SATTLER Candidate – Kansas Senate, District 3

Dena Sattler, Democratic candidate for Kansas Senate District 3, has a long and successful record of service at the local, state and federal levels.

A veteran of the U.S. armed forces and career journalist, Sattler spent many years as a respected, award-winning newspaper publisher in Kansas. She transitioned to serving the State of Kansas in her recent role as Senior Director of Public Affairs for the Kansas Department of Commerce, and before that Director of Public Affairs for Governor Laura Kelly.

She was a longtime editor-publisher of The Garden City Telegram before adding four more area papers as a regional publisher: The Dodge City Daily Globe, The Pratt Tribune, Kiowa County Signal and St. John News. She also spent time at The Ottawa Herald and The Hutchinson News, and was an editorial writer for The Topeka Capital-Journal and its sister papers throughout Kansas.

A winner of state and national honors for editorial writing, Sattler is a past president of the Kansas Press Association board of directors and served as the board's legislative director. She received the state press association's Boyd Award for Community Service for The Garden City Telegram's part in raising awareness of problems at the local animal shelter, with her editorials calling for a new shelter that currently serves the community. She also was honored with the Clyde M. Reed Jr. Master Editor Award given for a lifetime of achievement that involves commitment to community, the Kansas newspaper industry and the state.

Sattler now works from her home in Topeka as a freelance writer and consultant for organizations throughout Kansas. She's a trustee for the Kansas Newspaper Foundation and the William Allen White Foundation at the University of Kansas. Sattler also served as a board member for the Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce, Garden City Downtown Vision, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Finney and Kearny Counties, the Finney County Humane Society and Franklin County Habitat for Humanity. She currently is secretary of the Friends of Ted Ensley Gardens board of directors in Shawnee County.

Sattler is a graduate of the University of Iowa, and an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve and Iowa National Guard. She received the National Defense Service Medal, established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, for her service during the First Gulf War.

She and her husband, Ed, a retired design engineer, live near Lake Shawnee in Topeka with her mother, Ruth Ann, and rescue dog, Ellie.