

# MainPAC Candidate Survey

## 2021 Kansas Elections

Q1-5.

**Candidate Name:** April Boyd-Noronha  
**Candidate Email:** friendsforapril@gmail.com  
**Candidate Phone:** 9133031455  
**Office Sought:** School Board Member  
**Office County:** Johnson  
**Office City:** n/a  
**Office District:** 4

**Candidate Rating: 100%**

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**Q6. Political discourse in Kansas could be characterized as siloed and divisive. How do you intend to engage citizens and colleagues in potentially difficult conversations?** (Available points: 1)

- A. If elected I will seek to find compromises when it is clear my constituents are divided. (1)
- B. If elected I will be loyal to the ideology associated with my party affiliation.

*Candidate Answer: If elected I will seek to find compromises when it is clear my constituents are divided.*

*Candidate Comment: Compromise is not always a bad thing, but I do not believe in compromising my values or perpetuating failed policies that disenfranchise segments of the community simply to avoid rancor. There is nothing wrong with good trouble. I believe it is vital to community relations to engage in good-faith dialogue with constituents who disagree with your point of view or policy position. However, I do not believe personal attacks and deliberate misinformation constitutes healthy dialogue, and both sides have to be cautious to avoid this type of purely partisan rhetoric. I believe it is the role of political leaders to provide the best information possible to their constituents, and their rationale for supporting and/or voting a particular way. But it is equally vital to listen to those you represent, understanding more can be learned.*

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**Q7. Which of the following statements best aligns with your stance on local elected officials making decisions for their communities, particularly local tax and revenue decisions? For information about Home Rule please see [https://www.lkm.org/page/Home\\_Rule](https://www.lkm.org/page/Home_Rule).** (Available points: 2)

- A. Local elected officials should have ultimate authority in decision making for their communities, consistent with Home Rule. (2)
- B. Local elected officials should have limited authority in decision making for their communities. (1)
- C. Local elected officials should not have authority in decision making for their communities. Decisions should be made by the state.

*Candidate Answer: Local elected officials should have ultimate authority in decision making for their communities, consistent with Home Rule.*

*Candidate Comment:*

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**Q8. Do you support allocating additional resources specifically for implementing/expanding mental health programs?**

(Available points: 1)

- A. Yes (1)
- B. No

*Candidate Answer: Yes*

*Candidate Comment: As a school board member, I will work diligently to advocate for more funding for mental health programs, specifically for youth. Many of our children experienced varying degrees of trauma associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, and it is paramount that they have the support they need post-pandemic to thrive in the future.*

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**Q9. Which of the following statements best aligns with your opinion about transparency in local government?**

(Available points: 1)

- A. Local government should be as transparent as is legally possible in all circumstances. (1)
- B. Transparency is important, but should be secondary to efficiency.
- C. There are some times when transparency is important, but there are other issues the public doesn't have the capacity to understand and transparency becomes less important.
- D. The people vote for a candidate because they trust them, so transparency is not as important for elected officials as for other public leaders.

*Candidate Answer: Local government should be as transparent as is legally possible in all circumstances.*

*Candidate Comment: I believe one of the biggest impediments to effective government is the lack of trust by the general public. This distrust causes many to disengage from civic life altogether. This weakens governments. Every community deserves a well-informed and engaged electorate willing to challenge the status quo, but also assist in improving policies that make local, state, and national government more efficient, accessible, and fair for all.*

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**Q10. Which of the following statements best aligns with your opinion about access to health care?** (Available points: 2)

- A. Local government has a responsibility to support access to health care. (2)
- B. Local government in my area is currently meeting the community's access needs. (1)
- C. Local government has no role in health care.

*Candidate Answer: Local government has a responsibility to support access to health care.*

*Candidate Comment:*

**Q11. To what degree do you believe that diversity in representation at all levels of government is critical to effective governing?** (Available points: 1)

- A. Extremely Important (1)
- B. Neutral
- C. Not important

*Candidate Answer: Extremely Important*

*Candidate Comment: The emphasis placed on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the United States and abroad has become a lightning rod for some very divisive political discourse, but I am a staunch supporter of DEI at all levels of government, and in every area of life. I believe America is the greatest nation in the world, of course, I am biased, but we are great because of our diverse history and diverse people. Immigrants, descendants of the enslaved, Native Americans, etc., and their collective contributions to every area of human pursuit are responsible for the mosaic of thought, culture, and intelligentsia this country enjoys -that is the envy of the world. It is my firm belief that DEI should be promoted as an act of patriotism and embraced by those who seek a future greater than our past.*

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**Q12. Professional public entity staff are expected to bring expertise, research, and accuracy to assist elected officials in their work. These may include health professionals, legal experts, research librarians, school administrators and the like. Regarding these professionals, which of the following is generally most true?**

(Available points: 1)

- A. It is the role of locally elected leaders to **support** the professionals who work in public service (1)
- B. It is the role of locally elected leaders to **scrutinize** the professionals who work in public service
- C. It is the role of locally elected leaders to **stay distant** from the professionals who work in public spaces
- D. It is the role of elected leaders to **closely manage** the professionals who work in public service

*Candidate Answer: It is the role of locally elected leaders to support the professionals who work in public service*

*Candidate Comment: Elected leaders have a responsibility to support the professional staff that allows them to be informed, prepared, and productive. We all have a role to play to make our communities better, professionals supporting other professionals should be common sense.*

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**Q13. Which of the following most closely aligns with your view of the role of local government in each of these policy issues?** (Available points: 6)

- A. Very Relevant (2)
- B. Somewhat Relevant (1)
- C. Irrelevant
- D. Not Applicable

**Issue: Climate Change**

*Candidate Answer: Very Relevant*

*Candidate Comment:*

**Issue: Gun Safety**

*Candidate Answer: Very Relevant*

*Candidate Comment:*

**Issue: Voting Access**

*Candidate Answer: Very Relevant*

*Candidate Comment:*

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**Q14. Which of the following statements best aligns with your opinion about K - 12 schools? (Available points: 1)**

- A. Public money should only be used to support public schools. (1)
- B. Public money should be used to support all schools, regardless of their public or private status.

*Candidate Answer: Public money should only be used to support public schools.*

*Candidate Comment: The challenges public schools face are many. Public schools commit to educate every single child, no matter their background, religion, learning ability, or physical disability. I believe public money should exclusively support public schools. I do not support school vouchers or ESA's or any attempt to use public monies to fund private schools. As the daughter of two public education teachers, I understand better than most what public school teachers face. More funding is needed for public schools not less. Taking public monies from public schools weakens their ability to provide critical services to a diverse student body.*

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**Q15. In light of the current political landscape, what is your stance on the role your personal religious beliefs should play in policy decisions? (Available points: 1)**

- A. If I have personal religious beliefs that are important to me, I know they might differ from other's beliefs; therefore I will strive to respect the separation of church and state in policy decisions and my votes. (1)
- B. My personal religious beliefs are important to me therefore my religious beliefs will be the driving factor in policy decisions and my votes.

*Candidate Answer: If I have personal religious beliefs that are important to me, I know they might differ from other's beliefs; therefore I will strive to respect the separation of church and state in policy decisions and my votes.*

*Candidate Comment:*

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**Q16. How do you understand the role (the duties, responsibilities, and scope) of the position you are seeking?**

*Candidate Answer: The primary job of a school board member is to select the superintendent. With our superintendent already in place, my job will be to oversee the district budget and ensure the concerns of district employees, students, families, and community stakeholders are addressed and resolved in line with the mission of the Shawnee Mission school district. I will seek to influence the types of policies that create enhanced opportunities for students and families to have the best academic and social outcomes. I believe board members should seek to engage the public in ongoing conversations about school district business, and matters that affect district culture. Transparency is vital to effective government. Lack of transparency only creates a vacuum for misinformation and deeply divisive discussions that make institutions less effective and less trusted.*

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**Q17. You will have to publicly account for your political contributions. To date, how much money have you collected or has been pledged to your campaign?**

*Candidate Answer: My campaign has collected just shy of \$5,000 and has pledges of approximately \$500. These monies will be used to inform the public about my candidacy for the Shawnee Mission Board of Education.*

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**Q18. How many donors does your answer above reflect?**

*Candidate Answer: We have received donations from 53 donors.*

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Q19. From which other organizations have you received endorsements? (Enter "n/a" if none).

*Candidate Answer: I have yet to receive any endorsements. (Fingers crossed)*

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Q20. From which other organizations are you seeking endorsements? (Enter "n/a" if none).

*Candidate Answer: Shawnee Mission NEA.*

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Q21. Is there anything else you'd like to add to this survey? Please do that here.

*Candidate Answer: Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts!*

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**END SURVEY**