

MainPAC Candidate Survey

2021 Kansas Elections

Q1-5.

Candidate Name: Andrew Davis
Candidate Email: drewd2122@gmail.com
Candidate Phone: 7737573115
Office Sought: City Councilmember
Office County: Wyandotte
Office City: Kansas City
Office District: 8

Candidate Rating: 94%

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: My position has always been "what's in it for Wyandotte County/KCK?". That's the position by which I seek to govern. I want to find the best solutions for the community regardless of where those solutions fall on the national/state political spectrum.

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. (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: I am a believer in our democracy and what it means to each community. Locally elected leaders are elected to handle affairs LOCALLY. The same should be said for state and nationally elected positions. If the people have spoken and have elected local representatives to oversee and allocate local resources then locally elected leaders should have the ultimate authority as given to the by the people they represent.

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: My wife is a social worker so I hear about the need for this on a weekly basis. ABSOLUTELY! Mental health impacts homelessness, poverty, public safety and the economy. We need to ensure everyone in our state and in Wyandotte County has access to affordable and accessible healthcare (mental health is healthcare) to ensure our communities thrive.

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: Trust is very important for good governance and ultimately, we are dealing with the people's business and resources. Transparency is the best way to maintain integrity in government and build/maintain public trust.

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: I think through health departments, local governments have a responsibility to support healthcare access. However, this should be in partnership with state and federal resources.

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: In Wyandotte County we are dealing with this issue right now. We have one of the most diverse counties in the country per capita but when looking at key positions in leadership it's not reflective. As a young Black man I hope to be apart of the change to see better representative leadership in KCK. I have also recruited other candidates of color to run for office in the area so we can address this issue.

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: I think the role of elected leaders is to support the staff but to keep the priorities of their constituents front and center. I think sometimes elected leaders get too familiar with the staff to the point where they become unfamiliar with their constituents. I also think sometimes elected leaders do need to scrutinize staff if the performance sub par and is hurting the community. All of this is a balance that needs wisdom to be done well.

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: This is a regional/national/global issue but absolutely local governments need to think about sustainability and do our part in addressing climate change.

Issue: Gun Safety

Candidate Answer: Very Relevant

Candidate Comment: I see this first hand in Wyandotte County. We have to address gun safety to prevent accidents but also offer community members better options to improve quality of life and prevent crime.

Issue: Voting Access

Candidate Answer: Very Relevant

Candidate Comment: I have a platform that would make election day a local holiday for the UG. Yes!

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 be used to support all schools, regardless of their public or private status.

Candidate Comment: We need to invest in our public schools so the next generation has the best chance to succeed and have a quality life.

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:

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

Candidate Answer: As a commissioner my job is to hear from my district and do my part to implement the best practices, policies and decision-making ideas to ensure we thrive. That involves passing a budget, adjusting ordinances, voting on permit uses, allocating outside dollars and so much more.

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: As of right now \$1800.

Q18. How many donors does your answer above reflect?

Candidate Answer: As of right now 30.

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

Candidate Answer: N/A

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

Candidate Answer: N/A

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

Candidate Answer: I'm a 25 year old Black man who studies public administration at KU with an emphasis in local government. I want to combine my experience as a Black man, scholarship for KU and the local ingenuity from the Dotte to make a better Wyandotte County this deca

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