

MainPAC Candidate Survey

2021 Kansas Elections

Q1-5.

Candidate Name: Kay Emerson
Candidate Email: votekemerson@outlook.com
Candidate Phone: 7853043808
Office Sought: School Board Member
Office County: Douglas
Office City: Lawrence
Office District: At-Large

Candidate Rating:88%

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: I believe that it is essential that all voices have space in discourse. It is within the address that opportunities to understand or at least gain a more comprehensive perspective occur. I intend to engage citizens and colleagues by seeking input on a potentially difficult conversation. I will do this by arranging regular community talks, attending public discussions hosted by community partners, and taking the time to listen to seek community feedback that drives solutions.

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 limited authority in decision making for their communities.

Candidate Comment: Local elected officials should have limited authority in decision-making for their communities. Through regular and consistent public feedback, local elected officials should develop recommendations in which the district or stakeholders should have agreed to reflect and submit commentary in decisions. However, in a state-of-emergency, when the time for the vetted a process. Elected officials should intentionally engage their community and eliminate barriers to ensure that their voices have space. We must make the time we need for the decision that will affect us all.

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: During this last year, the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic emergency only perpetrated the state of needs for additional resources in mental health. This need becomes more significant when discussing how we as a community address our families of color and our low social-economic class families. In contrast, the appropriation of funds is a start. It will take mindful internationally of stretching our dollars to address the inequities around mental health and the needs that will present over the upcoming years. Our investments in mental health should include more than just increased access to health care. Appropriation should also include funding for training that provides career pathways, a

reinvestment in community health departments, benefits with increased pay for unclassified staff, and funds to research that will eliminate barriers in the "procedures" that stop opportunity before it exists.

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: Information that derives from local government is public knowledge. As community members, we have a right to information that exists as legally possible. Our local government must be transparent and have a high degree of communication with the individuals they represent.

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 believe that each person has the right to loving, skilled health care affordable and accessible regardless of the situation. It is the community's responsibility to lean with into resources and act in advocating for funding to address the need that exists.

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: To represent the people, we must be of the people. Diversity in representation at all levels of government is essential to effective governing. Diversity helps to ensure that decisions incorporate perspectives, viewpoints, and experiences, making us the whole of our communities.

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 should support the professional in area that they are representing. Support includes being truthful about the facts, being accessible for discussion for concerns and solution in addition to providing answers when needed.

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: To support the preservation of our environment, we must consider sustainability measures and research that community members can readily practice. Supporting efforts in climate change can help increase energy efficiency, explore alternative energy supply and protect resources for extended use.

Issue: Gun Safety

Candidate Answer: Very Relevant

Candidate Comment: It is a right for all individuals to protect the lives within our community. To do this we must have knowledge, resources, and opportunities to be educated on gun safety.

Issue: Voting Access

Candidate Answer: Very Relevant

Candidate Comment: Our democracy is best when each Kansans has an equal opportunity for their voice to have space and be fairly represented. To do this requires that voting becomes easy and convenient for all eligible Kansans to vote. Access to voting requires convenience and fair allocation of polling locations with the transparency and support of local officials and the community to make it happen.

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: Public dollars need to focus on supporting our students, educators, and staff. At the same time, allocation and appropriation of funding should help families have access to private instruction. By using available resources, when can build services found in a private institution in the public sector. In addition, by providing opportunities for a private institution to partner with public schools, the discussion of private vs. public can refocus the most important factor-our students, teachers, and staff and their needs.

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: Having a religion is not an action that we do yet a state of who we are. All persons must have the right to religion which may differ from my own. Therefore, I agree to respect and maintain the separation of my views when representing our community, as it is vital to ensure that all voices have space.

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

Candidate Answer: Elected school board members have to set policies for operating the schools and employ staff to carry out procedures. School Board members need the knowledge to oversee the budget and support how dollars are spent and support the superintendent's recommendation that helps lead our school district.

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: I have currently collected \$20, and I have personally donated \$105.

Q18. How many donors does your answer above reflect?

Candidate Answer: not applicable.

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: Please visit www.votekemerson.com to learn more about my viewpoints and how I will represent USD 497 as an elected school board member

END SURVEY