

MainPAC Candidate Survey

2021 Kansas Elections

Q1-5.

Candidate Name: Jim Kite
Candidate Email: kite4opks@gmail.com
Candidate Phone: 913-438-2183
Office Sought: City Councilmember
Office County: Johnson
Office City: Overland Park
Office District: 3

Candidate Rating: 100%

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: City council discourse should absolutely remain non-partisan. A fellow council member, who is aligned with a different national party than I am, but whom I respect tremendously, has said, "There is no such thing as a republican firetruck or a democratic pothole." Rank partisanship in local government can only harm the process and I will continue to oppose it.

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: Home Rule, while not a "blank check" in terms of ultimate authority, is very important for the fiscal health of any city. Home Rule does not allow cities to operate outside state and federal law. But, in terms of local taxation and therefore budgetary decisions as this question is centered upon, local officials need the authority to control all of the factors of safeguarding the citizen's budget and not be hindered by arbitrary and sometimes politically motivated factors at the state level.

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: This council's comprehensive review of local mental health issues involving policing as well as the current plan to fund that initiative shows that Overland Park is a leader in broadening the local community's role in the mental health of its citizens. I wholeheartedly supported this initiative and will see it through to its completion.

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: The statement as written summarizes it very succinctly. I want to see O.P. as transparent as is allowed by existing state law and court rulings.

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: The statement's use of the word "support," is broad enough to allow a variety of interpretations. Let me give you mine. Much like the earlier question involving Home Rule, the roles of state, federal, and municipal governments in regard to healthcare must be considered. The creation of conflicting initiatives will only serve to impede the efficient delivery of services. The city, however, must not be a barricade to access, and further, must be an advocate within the confines of its authority. The recent vote involving the Mental Task Force is an example.

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: Diversity of background, experience, and therefore perspectives can only serve to enrich the process and better serve everyone in our community.

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: Support of the city of Overland Park professional staff is critical, however, the Council's oversight role cannot be diminished.

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:

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:

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: This is a poorly written question, as both of these can be true. I believe my religious values are the driving force of my entire life, but that doesn't mean that I fail to respect the values of others in my council role.

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

Candidate Answer: Eight years of experience position me to understand the enormous breadth of responsibility a city council role requires. I have served on every council committee and have been actively involved with every department head regarding initiatives in his or her area. I think my future contributions can only be enhanced by my years of experience.

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: approx. \$6,000

Q18. How many donors does your answer above reflect?

Candidate Answer: 45

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:

END SURVEY