

MainPAC Candidate Survey

2021 Kansas Elections

Q1-5.

Candidate Name: Lea Loudon
Candidate Email: lea@lea4mission.com
Candidate Phone: 913-242-4284
Office Sought: City Councilmember
Office County: Johnson
Office City: Mission
Office District: 2

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: I believe city council level leaders are to be mainly nonpartisan, however, I am committed to the health and well being of my community. I believe in equality and the rights of all people. My thoughts and beliefs lean mainly to the democratic party platform. I am always willing to hear the thoughts and needs of my constituents and will be willing to represent the majority of those I represent as long as they align with the health and well being of the community at large.

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: Elected leaders tend to have more information concerning budges and the needs of their community. Decisions should be made with that information in balance with the will of 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: I work in the foster care field. I understand how mental health affects children, families and the community where they live. The need for public mental healthcare is vital to our community now more than ever.

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: Local government should be as transparent as possible.

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 firmly believe healthcare is a right for everyone. Access to affordable healthcare is a problem that local government can help to change.

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: Everyone should have a voice in local government. The more diverse the community, the more diverse their representation should be.

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 believe leaders should work with professional public entity staff while making sure the information they are providing is accurate and they are behaving in a professional manner.

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: Everyone must do their part to solve climate change issues. Local government can be a role model for their community and ensure they are using best practices for dealing with climate change effectively.

Issue: Gun Safety

Candidate Answer: Very Relevant

Candidate Comment: Supporting our community and businesses so they can make decisions about gun safety is important. Local government can provide gun safety classes and local regulations.

Issue: Voting Access

Candidate Answer: Very Relevant

Candidate Comment: Making access to voting is so important to making sure everyone gets the chance to vote and make their voice heard.

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: Every child in America should have the opportunity for a world class education. Our public education system should be as strong as it can be for the sake of the majority of children who attend public school.

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: The separation of church and state allows for more religious freedom for all religions not just a few.

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

Candidate Answer: I volunteers to be a part of a Capital Improvements Committee a few years ago. We learned about city budgets, taxes, state and federal grants that contribute to a community's infrastructure. I have also attended city council meeting to gain understanding of current projects and how the council is run. I know I will need to stay current on information provided before each meeting so I can make educated votes on the issues. I also know I will need to talk to the constituents to keep abreast of their needs and thoughts on each issue.

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 am just beginning and have not accepted any political contributions.

Q18. How many donors does your answer above reflect?

Candidate Answer: 0

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: I have not started seeking endorsements yet.

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

Candidate Answer: I am so excited to get further involved in my community. I am driven to serve the needs of those in my small city.

END SURVEY