

# MainPAC Candidate Survey

## 2021 Kansas Elections

Q1-5.

**Candidate Name:** Eric Persson  
**Candidate Email:** ericperssonforshawnee@gmail.com  
**Candidate Phone:** 816-217-5102  
**Office Sought:** City Councilmember  
**Office County:** Johnson  
**Office City:** Shawnee  
**Office District:** 2

**Candidate Rating: 88%**

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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: I believe that we are all tired of the divisiveness in politics and one of my main priorities I believe addresses that. Community Engagement and Government Transparency: Together we can create a unified Shawnee, and as your councilmember I will encourage engagement and welcome feedback, acting with integrity to serve the best interests of our community.*

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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:*

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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:*

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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:*

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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:*

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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: Somewhat Relevant*

*Candidate Comment: I believe again that one of my Priorities touches on this. Economic and Environmental Resiliency We have an opportunity to create a better future. Sustainability and efficiency not only save money and have a positive economic impact, but they improve the quality of life for residents.*

**Issue: Gun Safety**

*Candidate Answer: Somewhat Relevant*

*Candidate Comment: I believe that common sense gun laws are important but should not infringe on anyone's rights. I'm in favor of thorough background checks, a waiting period and licensing but I have no issues with people owning guns.*

**Issue: Voting Access**

*Candidate Answer: Very Relevant*

*Candidate Comment: I believe that we should do everything in our power to make sure that everyone (regardless of affiliation) has easy voting access. Voting is one of the most important things that we can do as citizens.*

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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:*

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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: Ones religous beliefs should not affect thier decision process. I believe in total separation of church and state.*

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

*Candidate Answer: I have been going to City Council meetings and have been speaking to as many people as I can about what is entailed for this role. It is one that I don't take lightly and am also excited about talking to as many people in my ward as possible during this campaign process.*

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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: Approximately \$1500*

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

*Candidate Answer: 20*

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

*Candidate Answer: N/A*

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

*Candidate Answer: N/A*

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

*Candidate Answer: I can only say that is has been a pleasure speaking to members of my community as I've been out canvassing. My Ward is incredibly diverse and people have a lot of different needs, questions, etc. I want to bring a sense of civility and respect to this role*

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**END SURVEY**