

# MainPAC Candidate Survey

## 2021 Kansas Elections

Q1-5.

**Candidate Name:** Claudine Sanders  
**Candidate Email:** campaignclaudine@gmail.com  
**Candidate Phone:** 9132712961  
**Office Sought:** County Commissioner  
**Office County:** Wyandotte  
**Office City:** Kansas City  
**Office District:** At-Large

**Candidate Rating: 100%**

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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: We need to stop looking at PARTY issues and see the PEOPLE needing served.*

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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: As a metropolitan area that doesn't have a clue what KS farmers struggle with in rural towns, and vice versa, each community must have the power to do what is best for themselves.*

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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: We, as a nation, as a state and as a community must address the serious lack of access to mental health programs. I feel we have finally removed the stigma involved. Now we must provide the access to the help that is so desperately needed.*

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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: I feel that this should not even have to be said. However, running for office in WyCo, I have personally found it extremely difficult to find out exactly what is going on in my local government. It's not that I don't trust the individuals. I no longer trust the PROCESS they've been required to operate within.*

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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: As we've all just experienced, it is imperative that we support our local health authorities. Yet, pandemics aside, providing access to health care to the MANY that are underserved in our communities is just as vital. When certain zip codes have limited to no access, the entirety of the community suffers. The fact that Armourdale and 5 other WyCo neighborhood's residents have an expected life span of up to 22 YEARS less than the rest of WyCo is unacceptable.*

**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: Wyandotte County, by some claims, is 2nd in the NATION in having the most ethnically diverse population. Our government does not reflect that whatsoever. I have been working with a coalition over the last year to find and support candidates of color, of which we found several! I was not the plan to run for this office, yet we decided to go for it when a candidate didn't materialize. My goal is to learn and share as much of the experience as possible, to get people excited and engaged in becoming a part of their local government through complete transparency and open dialogue and then teach someone how to do it! We should always encourage others to run, even it means you lose your spot. Teach others to lead and we'll be amazed at the paths we can take!*

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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: These people are the boots on the ground every single day and know their jobs in relation to what the community needs. No elected leader can or should be all things to all people, nor should they even try. Wisdom comes from experience and people in public service have volumes to share with elected officials willing to listen.*

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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: Very Relevant*

*Candidate Comment: As I've seen from the health reports in the Armourdale community where I work, the effects of pollution are devastatingly clear. Local government needs to take an active role in keeping the ENTIRE community safe from harmful environmental factors.*

**Issue: Gun Safety**

*Candidate Answer: Very Relevant*

*Candidate Comment: I find it very relevant, as just yesterday (6/9/21) we lost another teen to gun violence, in front of an occupied school no less. Kansas, as well as 40 other states, have pre-empted local government gun control rights, but we should implement as many measures to speak to gun safety as possible. Promoting safe ownership isn't gun control, it's community service.*

**Issue: Voting Access**

*Candidate Answer: Very Relevant*

*Candidate Comment: We should be making it EASIER to vote, yet we in WyCo will not offer early in person voting during the week at one of our usual early voting locations. We need to be expanding voter access, not diminishing it.*

**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: Not having children, I long believed that things to do with the education of other's children were none of my business. However, I have realized that it is a COMMUNITY'S responsibility to ensure its future generation of leaders has access to a top-notch education. Private schools have gutted the public school system of students. These students have been taken out BECAUSE of the underfunding of the Public School system. We should not use public funds for private schools that charge tuitions and accept donations from alumnus, when our Public Schools are already receiving fewer funds. Why stretch those funds to private schools who have another income stream? If we provide the public funds to public schools only, the public schools can and will get better.*

**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: Separation of Church and State. Period. My personal religious beliefs do not give me any more or less rights, nor importance, than every other person in WyCo.*

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

*Candidate Answer: As an At Large Commissioner, I am but one voice among ten; yet giving the entire community full access to their commissioner by coming to THEM on a regular, consistent basis, both in person and utilizing technology, to find out what their needs are, is imperative to being their voice on the commission as it makes the policy and budgetary decisions that will directly impact their daily lives.*

**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: \$3100*

Q18. How many donors does your answer above reflect?

*Candidate Answer: 18*

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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: We have an amazing number of candidates that have filed and that's exciting to see! Stepping into this arena has been terrifying, as I am not a "politician" and hyping myself up to people is not the quiet servitude I'm used to. I am however beyond grateful*

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**END SURVEY**