

# MainPAC Candidate Survey

## 2021 Kansas Elections

Q1-5.

**Candidate Name:** Amber Sellers  
**Candidate Email:** sellers4lcc@gmail.com  
**Candidate Phone:** 3162041769  
**Office Sought:** City Councilmember  
**Office County:** Douglas  
**Office City:** Lawrence  
**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: 1. It is the responsibility of elected officials to represent the diverse voices of their community. Civil discourse is critical to my community engagement strategy as it serves to enhance the understanding of an issue between myself and the community. This foundational work is important to how I educate myself and the community on how to recognize an issue, share, and take a position that well informed.*

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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: Home Rule is representative governance and that autonomy is necessary to ensuring what is best is determined by the elected leaders of the community. We have seen great policies be enacted on the basis of home rule, including non-discrimination ordinances, as demonstrated by several municipalities across the region. Inversely, we have seen how Home Rule has been usurped, as in SB 366 (2016), which prohibited local governments from enacting inclusionary zoning laws that would promote affordable, equitable housing through mixed-income neighborhoods.*

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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: Georges Benjamin of the American Public Health Association once stated public health is deeply rooted in social justice. Our behavioral health workforce is underfunded and underrepresented in our communities, schools and public safety entities. We must create policies and support programs that address a collective definition of infrastructure that includes human service. We must also continue to address funding inadequacies in behavioral health services and take a holistic approach to address the multifaceted aspects of infrastructure, which will lead to meaningful social change.*

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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: Elected officials serve to represent the collective voice of the people. Transparency starts with open, intentional engagement with the community- this increases trust, accountability and integrity in elected officials. An elected official who takes part in educating their constituent understands the value of participation government.*

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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: I believe public health is rooted in social justice. We must connect resources with the needs of the people and ensure that social services efficiently support our community. I believe it is important to hear from the community what we can do better, what people need to thrive in the community, and who is being left behind and why- this includes how local government can support access to affordable, quality health care services.*

**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: A community must be able to see a reflection of themselves in their elected officials. Elected leadership on all levels must provide space for candidates that represent a diverse lived experience that may not represent a majority population. I believe that by elevating the importance of reflective representation, we increase opportunities to discover alternative insights to complex issues, as well as development of creative inclusive policies that move us closer to a more equitable system of governance.*

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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: The relationship between elected leaders and professional public staff is one of support and collaboration. As subject matter experts in their respective field, it is my role to balance elevating the work of public service staff while providing accountability on behalf of the at-large without encroaching on the roles and responsibilities assigned to staff.*

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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: There are opportunities to use equity index mapping to address climate impact within communities that in return can be used to prioritize environment sustainability strategies. This work is directly impacts the responsibility local elected officials have driving environmental policy within city systems.*

**Issue: Gun Safety**

*Candidate Answer: Very Relevant*

*Candidate Comment:*

**Issue: Voting Access**

*Candidate Answer: Very Relevant*

*Candidate Comment: Local elected officials play a crucial role in shaping and expanding local election process that are safe, equitable and accessible to their constituents.*

**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:*

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

*Candidate Answer: The role of city commissioner is to set priorities to address problems and/or needs within the community. Duties center around carefully listening to constituents and municipal staff to formulate how to make decisions that will enhance the quality of life for the community as a collective. Technical aspects include being well informed to address annual/ongoing appropriations, ordinances and public policy, taxation and other general functions. Lastly, there must be intentional about immersing in matters that build content knowledge in order to engage and drive strategic plans/initiatives.*

**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: \$3700*

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

*Candidate Answer: 47*

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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: Run For Something, Teamsters Union 464, IAFF Local 1596*

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

*Candidate Answer: Thank you for the opportunity to participate!*

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**END SURVEY**