

MainPAC Candidate Survey

2021 Kansas Elections

Q1-5.

Candidate Name: Gregory Shelton
Candidate Email: greg@sheltonforpv.com
Candidate Phone: 816-810-6240
Office Sought: City Councilmember
Office County: Johnson
Office City: Prairie Village
Office District: 5

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: When it comes to local government, I believe in prioritizing a sense of community above all other objectives; political or otherwise. When it comes to serving the constituents of Ward 5 I will always engage them as my neighbors first.

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: Every community in Kansas has unique circumstances. They should be able to govern themselves in accordance with State and Federal law to ensure our residents are able to go about their daily lives safely and efficiently.

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: Mental health programs have proven to be effective contributors to public health and safety. As our law enforcement professionals take on more responsibilities in our communities, it is important that we are complementing their efforts with the best resources to keep them and our communities as safe and healthy as possible.

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: Transparency plays an important role in supporting or improving citizen engagement and understanding of local government. I do understand there are times when laws or regulations prevent immediate and complete transparency, but whenever possible I will support fair, open access to the information available to the City Council and City staff.

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 it is incumbent on those in local government to be familiar with programs and services available to their constituents at all levels of government. If my constituents have questions about health care programs, I'll work to make them aware of options available to them through County, State, and Federal programs.

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: In both my professional and volunteer experience I've seen the benefits that a diversity of experiences, backgrounds and perspectives can have on the operations of a business, organization and community. While the process of establishing shared understanding can be challenging, the outcomes for policies, programs, and growth are more sustainable and beneficial than those that come from a homogeneous process.

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 these professionals have the knowledge and experience to see that essential services meet or exceed expectations of our residents and businesses. It is the role of local elected officials to ensure staff have the appropriate resources to achieve this objective, understand what these expectations are, and provide accountability for staff performance to our constituents.

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: City governments can make important decisions through policy and budgeting that will have long-term impacts on climate change. Whether it's building codes, fleet management, or facility improvements, there are numerous opportunities to contribute to decarbonization and water conservation initiatives.

Issue: Gun Safety

Candidate Answer: Very Relevant

Candidate Comment: Cities should be able to pass ordinances that govern gun safety for their community in accordance with State and Federal laws through Home Rule authority provided in the Kansas Constitution.

Issue: Voting Access

Candidate Answer: Very Relevant

Candidate Comment: Educating and informing voters on registration and elections is a passion of mine. This will continue in my role as City Councilor, and I'll work with our County Commissioners and State Legislators to ensure eligible voters in Ward 5 are able to prepare, plan and vote in every election.

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: Providing a quality education to every child without entrance requirements, or other discretionary admittance policies, is in the best interests of everyone in Ward 5. Our collective commitment to providing access to a quality public education is one of the key pillars of prosperity that enables Prairie Village to live up to its motto as "The Star of Kansas".

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: I believe local elected officials need to be open to input from their constituents in order to form a balanced perspective. This is how local government works most effectively, and is why I will seek input from people with different backgrounds in Ward 5. This inclusive approach will ensure I have a good understanding of my constituents' expectations and can align our City's resources to those expectations.

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

Candidate Answer: As City Councilor I'll be responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of the community. As a member of the City's legislative branch, I will work with the Mayor and other Council members to enact, amend, or repeal local legislation and public policies, as well as to apportion and levy taxes, make appropriations, and adopt budgets. Additionally, I will have input and oversight on strategic plans to guide the administration of services and organizational performance of the City's operations.

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: \$3,000

Q18. How many donors does your answer above reflect?

Candidate Answer: 9

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: Equality Kansas

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

Candidate Answer: I'm genuinely excited about the opportunity to serve my friends and neighbors on the City Council. I believe my firsthand experience in the engineering and construction industry will serve Ward 5 well. My commitment will be to deliver value for our reside

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