

MainPAC Candidate Survey

2021 Kansas Elections

Q1-5.

Candidate Name: Paul Snider
Candidate Email: psniderkc@gmail.com
Candidate Phone: 913-439-9723
Office Sought: Other (please specify)
Office County: Johnson
Office City: n/a. JCCC represents all of Johnson County.
Office District: At-Large

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: Starting from a base in the center, but aware of and engaged with those to the right and left, I believe I'm able to see potential conflicts and opportunities to address common goals. I'm a strong believer in sitting down with people to learn about their lives and perspectives and using that to work together.

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:

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: This was a core goal during my participation in ForwardOP and I'm pleased to see Overland Park continue to make this a priority.

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 is important at all levels of government. As a Trustee I've been providing written updates via Facebook following our monthly board meetings. One of the positive results of COVID has been the unprecedented access to public meetings (local and state) through Zoom and YouTube. This has allowed citizens to follow government like never before and I hope it only improves from here.

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: Diversity may bring forth previously unshared perspectives but equally important it can make constituents feel represented and lead to better engagement. I've been fully supportive of JCCC's commitment to DEI and also supported diversity policies at JCPRD.

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: Local governments in Johnson County have wonderful, committed professional staff that should be respected and embraced. It's certainly appropriate though for boards to differ with a staff proposal so long as there is genuine review and evaluation of options and perspectives.

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: I'm an active member of Climate Action KC and have been a vocal supporter of JCCC's sustainability initiatives.

Issue: Gun Safety

Candidate Answer: Very Relevant

Candidate Comment: I trust the JCCC police force to keep the campus safe. While (thankfully) JCCC has not had any serious gun-related issues, I support administrative efforts to keep tighter regulations on campus and leave issues to local governing boards.

Issue: Voting Access

Candidate Answer: Very Relevant

Candidate Comment: JCCC has been active with voting and registration drives and encouraging campus engagement. I support those efforts and believe more can be done to ensure younger voters in particular are engaged in the process.

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: As an incumbent Trustee and vice-chair of the board I have a solid understanding of the role of Trustee. In simple turns, the Board of Trustees is responsible for the president, approving a budget, approving various policy changes and acting upon contracts (many of which are procurement related.) To do that effectively board members need to prepare for meetings (read the packet) and be prepared with questions (ideally prior to the meeting). In addition, various meetings with professional staff may be necessary to understand an issue. Finally, Trustees should be engaged with the community, providing college updates and listening to feedback.

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: As of June 13 I have received \$2,425 for this campaign, although I have just started my fundraising. I have commitments for at least \$3,000. In 2017 I raised \$14,275 and expect I will raise a similar amount, with a goal of raising \$20,000.

Q18. How many donors does your answer above reflect?

Candidate Answer: I have received 13 donations to date. Two were from myself and two from one individual. At this point, not counting myself, I've had ten donors. In 2017 I had 85 donors. Again, I just started the fundraising process.

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

Candidate Answer: I have not received any organization endorsements at this stage of the campaign. I've received a number of individual endorsements, including: Greg Musil -- Chair, JCCC Board of Trustees Nancy Ingram -- JCCC Board of Trustees Jerry Cook -- JCCC Board

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

Candidate Answer: In 2017 I was endorsed by Mainstream and Equality Kansas and appreciated both. I am seeking both of those endorsements in 2021.

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

Candidate Answer: It's a privilege to represent such a valued community institution like Johnson County Community College. I will campaign hard for another term and believe my actions over the last four years have supported my efforts to earn the community's trust and sup

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