

# MainPAC Candidate Survey

## 2021 Kansas Elections

Q1-5.

**Candidate Name:** Keith Tatum  
**Candidate Email:** ktatum1124@yahoo.com  
**Candidate Phone:** 785-250-5927  
**Office Sought:** School Board Member  
**Office County:** Shawnee  
**Office City:** Topeka  
**Office District:** 3

**Candidate Rating: 94%**

---

**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: As an elected official, I feel it's my duty to represent my entire district, even those who didn't vote for me. I will focus on listening to my constituents and making well-informed judgments.*

---

**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: Local officials are connected with their own communities and know their local issues best. As much as possible and with input from the public, local officials should exercise authority in the most favorable interest of their community.*

---

**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: I favor a variety of initiatives aimed at supporting the most vulnerable among us, including those with mental illnesses. As a school board candidate, expanding how we support students with mental illness challenges in the classroom and helping to connect those students to treatment services is a high priority for me.*

---

**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 builds trust. In our society, a lack of trust and credibility is often a criticism of those in elected positions. Excepting legal or human resource/personnel issues, elected officials should always seek to be forthright and truthful with the public.*

---

**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'm not sure our local government is meeting all the community's access needs, but it sure plays a role in making it happen. Local governments can create incentives and subsidize behaviors that facilitate access to health care and creating healthier lives.*

**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 our representative system, the government should look like the people it is representing as much as possible. We are not there yet, but there is much we can do to stay on that path. Electing officials who are members of the Black, Brown, LBGTQ, and other traditionally-marginalized communities—at all governmental levels— is a big part of realizing that goal.*

---

**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 civil servants who form the core of the local government workforce are often the day-to-day content experts with years (or decades) more experience than the elected officials. Our role is to make good policy decisions but to do that, we need the input and support of the administrators and professionals.*

---

**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: At the school district level, we can promote and inspire kids (and teachers and staff) to recycle, conserve, and engage in other behaviors that promote to climate change control.*

**Issue: Gun Safety**

*Candidate Answer: Very Relevant*

*Candidate Comment: While the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution provides the right for personal gun ownership, the public school classroom is not a place for kids and guns to mix. The national occurrences of school violence and shootings are at unacceptably high levels. As a school board and district, we need to provide policies that promote safe spaces for students and teachers to learn and work.*

**Issue: Voting Access**

*Candidate Answer: Very Relevant*

*Candidate Comment: Teaching our children the virtues and duties related to civic engagement is key to supporting the next generations to take the lead when it's their time to shine. Empowering everyone to vote in our communities who are legally able to vote helps ensure we have an engaged and educated workforce ready to handle the demands of tomorrow's challenges.*

**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 be used to support all schools, regardless of their public or private status.*

*Candidate Comment: The Kansas Constitution mandates the State has responsibility for public education. The contemporary interpretation is this pertains to both public and private K-12 schools. As a public school board candidate, I believe the public schools are best equipped to teach kids (I'm a product of public school education) and that the majority of school funding should be spent where the majority of the students are—public schools. That said, public schools should not feel threatened by public dollars spent on private K-12 education. Plus, public schools have additional funding mechanisms that private schools do not (e.g., mill levies).*

**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: Exactly. I couldn't have put this any better!*

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

*Candidate Answer: As a school board candidate, I want to see my district be as successful as possible in educating and equipping the children in the district so they can be outstanding contributors to society. My role will be to lead through public service, engaging with the public, building relationships with community members, and seeking input from kids, parents, teachers, and staff members affected by my decisions. My job will be to listen and understand the issues facing our district, and to use the tools and information I have to make highly-informed decisions. I want to leave the district better than it was when I arrived, and I look forward to working with a whole lot of great folks to make it happen.*

**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: I'm just beginning fundraising this cycle. So far, I've received \$50 but mailings have gone out so I'm expecting much more!*

Q18. How many donors does your answer above reflect?

*Candidate Answer: Based upon previous campaigns, I expect to receive contributions from as many as 50 donors.*

---

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

*Candidate Answer: In my campaign for the USD 501 School Board in 2019, I received endorsements from the NEA-T PAC, the Kansas Families for Education PAC, Equality Kansas, the NE KS Building and Construction Trades Council PAC and the Teamsters #696. I expect to receive si*

---

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

*Candidate Answer: In addition to those mentioned above, I'm seeking endorsements from the IBEW #304, IBEW #226, Plumbers and Pipefitters #441, Carpenters's District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity, the Kansas AFL-CIO, and the Mainstream Coalition PAC.*

---

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

*Candidate Answer: Public service is an honor, and I am also honored that your organization has reached out to me for a potential endorsement. With over 20 years of public service and community leadership experience, I plan to use all of these tools to benefit the childre*

---

**END SURVEY**