

MainPAC Candidate Survey

2021 Kansas Elections

Q1-5.

Candidate Name: Jacqueline Lightcap
Candidate Email: jacquielightcap@gmail.com
Candidate Phone: 7853381324
Office Sought: School Board Member
Office County: Shawnee
Office City: n/a
Office District: Auburn-Washburn USD 437

Candidate Rating: 82%

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: The position of school board member is nonpartisan. In my experience during my current term on school board, partisan politics does not come into play. I am elected to ensure our students receive the best education possible while supporting our staff and representing our community. All seven of us keep this as our focus and make decisions accordingly.

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: In most cases, I believe local boards should retain control of issues that directly affect their communities. That being said, school board decisions should be made in consideration of other entities, whether that be the county, city, or state. At times, other agencies, like health departments, should also be considered. None of us function as an island— each of our decisions affects the other and are not made in a vacuum.

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: Schools play a critical role in addressing mental health issues among our students and this has increased greatly in the last five years. Current school funding helps, but this need is not going away.

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:

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: While this issue doesn't come up as often in our school district, it is an issue that affects our students and families, so it matters to me.

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:

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: Our district has an amazing administrative team and we trust and rely on our school administrators regularly. In addition to hearing from our community of teachers, students, and families on a regular basis, our administrators are a vital part of our district. Occasionally, we must also rely on health professionals and legal experts if the need arises. It definitely takes a village.

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: Somewhat Relevant

Candidate Comment:

Issue: Gun Safety

Candidate Answer: Somewhat Relevant

Candidate Comment:

Issue: Voting Access

Candidate Answer: Somewhat Relevant

Candidate Comment:

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: Receiving public money comes with a responsibility to be accountable for those dollars. Non-public entities do not have to follow the same set of rules that public entities do. Public schools have a responsibility to work with every student at all needs levels—they cannot pick which students to serve. Public schools follow strict fiscal procedures to ensure all money is accounted for. Public schools also adhere to guidelines on public transparency, unmatched by non-public institutions. Taxpayers should know what they are funding.

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 the school board is to ensure all students in the district have access to educational opportunities that allow them to thrive. We do this by having a top-notch staff—teachers, administrators, and support staff—and supporting the work they all do. We approve budgets, review curriculum, and play a role in some personnel decisions. We also have a role in our community at large as excellent schools create a place where people want to live, work, and play. Above all, school board members keep the work at hand as our focus—ensuring that learning can take place in a safe and secure environment for everyone.

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: \$500

Q18. How many donors does your answer above reflect?

Candidate Answer: 15

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: n/a

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

Candidate Answer: Serving our school district, for me, comes from a place of gratitude and responsibility. I am thankful for the education my own kids are receiving, as well as the friends and lifetime relationships they are creating. Out of that gratitude, I have a respon

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