

## 2018 MainPAC KS Endorsement Questions

This document is just for the public to review the kinds of questions sent to candidates, and was not used to deliver the questions to candidates. Surveys were sent and returned electronically in early June, 2018.

Included with the questions was a message that followed these outlines:

Thank you for taking our 2018 candidate questionnaire. We understand the demands of running for public office and appreciate your time in completing these questions.

The deadline for completing the questionnaire is <time> on <date>. We respect each candidate's right NOT to return a questionnaire. Please know that MainPAC cannot endorse a candidate who chooses not to return a survey.

If you have questions about the survey or our process, please contact <name> at <email> or call our office at 913-649-3326.

Filling out a survey does not guarantee endorsement. Endorsement in a Primary Election does not guarantee endorsement in the General Election. Answers to these questions will not be published for the public.

We asked general demographic questions, like name, website URL, and office being sought, their fundraising totals, and how they thought their positions aligned with MainStream's stated positions at [www.mainstreamcoalition.org/where\\_we\\_stand](http://www.mainstreamcoalition.org/where_we_stand)

Then we asked issues-related questions, specific to the positions they were seeking. (That is, candidates for U.S. Congress received different questions than candidates for State Board of Education, Governor, etc.)

Questions were designed to cover the breadth of advocacy areas important to MainStream, while not overwhelming candidates with an unwieldy survey. As a result, there is often only one question per issue, and that question is designed to try to elicit an answer that can express the nuances of a given position. Asking politicians about their positions is more art than science, and every year, some questions are more successful than others.

For most questions, candidates were given the opportunity to offer additional comment on their answers.

Following are the issues questions asked of the various candidates, by position sought.

It should be made clear that while candidates were told their answers would not be made public, candidates may, of course, publish their own answers to our surveys. We will not do so.

# Congressional Candidate Questions

These are specific questions for candidates for U.S. Congress.

- Indicate which of the following policies of the Affordable Care Act you support:
  - a. Requirement that insurers offer policies at no extra cost to those with pre-existing conditions
  - b. Required minimum set of essential benefits be covered in all policies
  - c. The prohibition on annual and lifetime limits on insurance policies

How would you ensure those policies remain available to all Americans?

- Do you believe that access to guns is a key component in school gun violence incidents and mass shootings? If so, what should be done about it? If not, why not?
- What would you do if President Trump fired special counsel Robert Mueller?
- Has NAFTA done more to help or hurt the US economy? The Kansas economy?
- Do you support comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship?
- Do you think the Federal government should take action to reduce carbon emissions in the atmosphere? If so, how? If not, why not?
- Do you support updating the coverage formula in the Voting Rights Act of 1964 so that Section 5 can once again be enforced?
- Do you believe there are problems with campaign finance laws? If so, how would you propose to fix them?
- Do you think we should address the projected shortfalls in Social Security funding now? If so, how?
- Is the growing income disparity in the country a problem? If so, how would you address it?
- Do you support, and will you work to uphold, the rights decided by Roe v. Wade?
- How would you guarantee that a quality public education remains accessible to every American?

# Statewide Candidate Questions

These are specific questions for statewide candidates, including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, and Commissioner of Insurance:

- Do you think the State of Kansas is funding public Pre-K through post-secondary education adequately?
- Do you support an amendment to the Kansas Constitution to limit the jurisdiction of the Kansas Supreme Court over Article 6?
- Do you support accepting federal dollars for Medicaid expansion in Kansas?
- Do you support lowering the age to carry a concealed firearm to 18?
- Should the law requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote be repealed?
- Kansas has restrictive abortion laws. As an elected official, would you support:
  - a. More restrictions.
  - b. Fewer restrictions.
  - c. The current law.
- Would you support a statewide nondiscrimination measure that extends protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity?
- Are you a member of—or would you accept membership in—the American Legislative Exchange Council?

# Legislative Candidate Questions

These are specific questions for legislative candidates:

- Do you think the State of Kansas is funding public Pre-K through post-secondary education adequately?
- Do you support an amendment to the Kansas Constitution to limit the jurisdiction of the Kansas Supreme Court over Article 6?
- Do you support accepting federal dollars for Medicaid expansion in Kansas?
- Do you support lowering the age to carry a concealed firearm to 18?
- Should the law requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote be repealed?
- Kansas has restrictive abortion laws. As an elected official, would you support:
  - a. More restrictions.
  - b. Fewer restrictions.
  - c. The current law.
- Would you support a statewide nondiscrimination measure that extends protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity?
- Should local communities be allowed to set their own policies regarding:
  - a. Revenue sources (Yes/No)
  - b. Spending caps (Yes/No)
  - c. Firearms regulations (Yes/No)
- Are you a member of—or would you accept membership in—the American Legislative Exchange Council?

# SBOE Candidate Questions

These are specific questions for the state board of education candidates:

- Do you support the constitutional responsibility of the State to fund public schools adequately and equitably?
- Do you support spending public tax dollars to provide vouchers, scholarships, or tax credits to educate Kansas students in non-public K-12 schools?
- Should the SBOE create standards for all schools in the state including charter, private and home schools that receive public dollars?
- Do you believe teaching biblical creationism/intelligent design theories should be included as part of the science curriculum in public schools?
- Should human sexuality education be taught in the public schools? Please select one.
  - a. Yes, comprehensive, age-appropriate, medically accurate, with a parental option to "opt-out".
  - b. Yes, comprehensive, age-appropriate, medically accurate, but only with a parental option to "opt-in".
  - c. Yes, with an "abstinence only until marriage" curriculum in public schools?
  - d. No, it is not the role of the schools to teach human sexuality education.
- What are the three most critical issues facing public education in Kansas today? How would you approach them?

# Municipal Candidate Questions

These are specific questions for municipal candidates:

- What qualification and background experiences have you had that will contribute to your success in this office?
- How do you/would you balance the needs of your district/ward with the needs of the rest of your community?
- How would you ensure that your city is able to meet its funding obligations? What changes from the current tax structure, if any, do you support?
- Would you support a citywide nondiscrimination ordinance that extends protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity?
- Do you support or oppose partisan elections for municipal races?
- Would you support allocating funds for metal detectors and guards to prevent the carrying of firearms in public buildings?
- Should local communities be allowed to set their own policies regarding:
  - a. Revenue sources (Yes/No)
  - b. Spending caps (Yes/No)
  - c. Firearms regulations (Yes/No)
- What are the three most critical issues facing your community today? How would you approach them?

# County Commission Candidate Questions

These are specific questions for county commission candidates:

- What are your qualifications for serving on the county commission?
- Johnson County provides a variety of services for its citizens. Are there services that should be added? Are there services that should be reduced or eliminated?
- Would you support expanding the County non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation and gender identity?
- Do you support Johnson County government having a major role in advancing the quality of life of its residents in the arts, recreation, libraries, and other areas?
- Do you support the Johnson County Health Department programs that offer family planning services and human sexuality education for low-income and at-risk individuals? Family planning services include well-women gynecological exams, contraceptive supplies, cancer screenings, STD testing and treatment, and education presentations.
- What are the three most critical issues facing your county today? How would you approach them?