

MainStream Questions -- Paul Snider
(questions 1 & 2 were contact info)

3. Why are you running for the community college board of trustees?

The College is a great community asset that has played a key role in the success of Johnson County. I'm running because I have a proven record of strong, experienced, and accountable leadership and will ensure the College continues to serve the needs of students and the community.

4. What qualifications and background experiences do you have that specifically relate to serving in this elected capacity?

For over a decade, I've been involved with chambers of commerce and other businesses and organizations in the county, understanding what drives development, growth and quality of life in Johnson County. In addition, I've been involved directly with local and state policymakers on a range of issues.

Perhaps most importantly, I've been an appointed board member for the Johnson County Parks & Recreation District for five years, serving as chair of the board the last two years. I have also been on the board of United Community Services of Johnson County for nearly six years.

Through these experiences, I've seen challenges and opportunities in the county. With fellow board members, I've set policies, approved budgets, worked through priorities and provided leadership to executive directors. I know how boards work and how to collaborate with colleagues of different ideologies and backgrounds.

***5. As a trustee, what would be your top three priorities for the college?**

The first priority is maintaining the College's current path and record of success. The existing Board of Trustees has done a good job balancing priorities. I'll be a productive member of the board helping to ensure Dr. Sopcich has the resources and direction needed to advance the College.

Second, I want to support and strengthen the College's workforce development efforts. This is a critical role for the College as it looks toward its 50th anniversary in 2019. I want to look for even more opportunities to partner with employers in the county, and expand the programming at the Logistics Park in Edgerton campus as manufacturing and distribution partners continue to grow at that location.

Third, I want to help the College be prepared to engage and support the county's aging population. As many of today's community members transition to a new phase of life, the College has a great opportunity to take a leadership role in addressing new needs of a large

segment of the county. There are opportunities to increase learning, improve skills and expand access to arts, music, and lifestyle offerings.

6. Describe your understanding of how community colleges are funded.

I have been attending Trustee meetings for the last few months and reviewing board packets and treasurer's logs. There are three key sources of revenue for the College:

1. Local property tax, with the mill levy set by the Board of Trustees, provides over 60 percent of the funding for the College.
2. The next largest source, at about 21 percent, is tuition and fees.
3. About 15 percent of funding comes from appropriations from the State Legislature.

The mix of funding sources is subject to change based on local assessed values, the status of state budget and the ability and willingness of students to pay increased tuition/fees. With recent increases in assessed valuation in the county, and a resulting increase in revenue to the college, I am pleased with the board's decision to keep that revenue to build reserves and avoid tuition increases for this year.

7. Do you support or oppose partisan elections for community college board of trustee races? comment

Oppose.

Nonpartisan races allow candidates and voters to focus on issues, not affiliations. This method of government has proven to be a successful model in Johnson County.

8. Do you support or oppose the concealed carry of firearms by the public on your community college campus.

Oppose.

With the recent changes to Kansas' concealed carry regulations, I'm not convinced having guns on campus makes anyone safer. We need to make sure that students and teachers have a sense of security on campus. Our state's higher learning institutions have made clear their opposition to guns on campus and that is shared by professors and instructors in my family. The bigger issue in this debate is the need for local control. Johnson County Community College has its own police force of 23 sworn officers. I trust them to keep our students, staff, and patrons safe while on our campus.

9. Summarize your community affiliations/memberships and groups that have given you their endorsement.

In addition to the two boards mentioned above, I am active in several local chambers of commerce. While at this stage in the campaign most organizations have not offered endorsements, I do have endorsements from the following local leaders, with many others pending:

- County Chairman Ed Eilert
- County Commissioner Ron Shaffer
- County Commissioner Steve Klika
- County Commissioner Mike Brown
- Lenexa Mayor Mike Boehm
- Mary Birch
- Fred Logan
- Stephanie Sharp
- Joe Beverage
- Nancy Wallerstein
- Brent McCune

10. The MainStream Coalition stands for mainstream, common sense. We believe that people with different points of view can come together to forge good government that benefits all citizens. We are committed to strong public education, fiscally responsible policies that balance revenue strategies, and good government free from partisan machinations and religious doctrine.

Do you agree with our positions, why or why not?

Successful leaders have always sought to govern from close to the middle and attempted to reduce the rhetoric so common sense solutions can be achieved. I have given my support in the past to individuals I consider to be committed to the best interests of their community and state, regardless of their political label and affiliation. Johnson County's success is owed to its investment in education and infrastructure, and I support that successful model.

11. Is there anything else you would like us to know about you and/or your candidacy?

I am a graduate of the Shawnee Mission School District and have lived in Johnson County since graduating college. I love Johnson County and will do whatever I can to continue its success. My wife also grew up in Johnson County and attended classes at JCCC. Together we are raising three wonderful girls in the Olathe School District. They will be in kindergarten, seventh grade and ninth grade this fall.

I'm excited about this opportunity to continue to give back to the community.