

# Jo Co Community College Board of Trustees At-Large 2021

Response ID:6 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

### 1. Candidate Name

Paul Snider

### 2. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 9617 Appleridge Lane

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### 4. Email Address

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### 5. Campaign Website

www.paulsnider.org

## 2. Candidate Background

### 6. Occupation/Work History (last 5 years - 25 words or less)

I do public affairs and government affairs consulting in Topeka and locally.

### 7. If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list which organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held.

Chambers of Commerce are an important part of Johnson County. I regularly participate with the Shawnee, Overland Park, Northeast, and Greater KC Chambers. I also maintain connections with the Lenexa, Leawood and Olathe Chambers. I have helped lead policy committees for the Northeast Chamber and Greater KC Chamber.

### 8. Other recent political/community experience (50 words or less)

I am an incumbent JCCC Trustee. I recently left the board of the Johnson County Parks & Recreation District. I recently served on the United Community Services board and currently serve on the JCPRD Foundation board. I was also on the Forward OP steering committee.

## 3. Issues and Policy

### 9. What would be your top three agenda priorities as a Trustee you would work toward for the betterment of the College and the education it provides? (100 words or less)

I want to provide trusted, forward-looking leadership the community can count on.

My priorities:

- Improving Student Success and Opportunity. We need to provide students with tools and pathways to succeed. First, students need to understand they can have a future at JCCC and enroll.
- Workforce Development. I want to support and strengthen the College's workforce development efforts. This is a critical role for the College as Johnson County grows and our businesses need skilled workers.
- Sustainability. From recycling and sustainable farming to solar power, JCCC is a leader and needs to remain a leader for

the community.

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**10. With respect to paying for the cost of educating the College's students, where do you stand regarding tuition increases vs. mill levy increases and what is the appropriate way to balance those interests? (100 words or less)**

The current burden on property taxpayers is too high. Property tax funds 67% of the college, tuition/fees fund 17%, with 14% coming from the state. The college should work toward reducing the property tax burden to closer to 50% by advocating for better state funding, considering modest adjustments to tuition, and carefully watching what we spend.

Tuition needs to remain affordable and competitive. I believe tuition currently hits both those marks and still would with a modest increase. Reserve funds also need to be reasonable – when reserves are too high property tax rates should be lowered, benefiting citizens.

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**11. Kansas is experiencing low unemployment rates and employers are struggling to find qualified workers, especially in technical and skilled trades. What role should Johnson County Community College play with regard to workforce development, locally and statewide? (100 words or less)**

JCCC is best positioned to train the leaders of tomorrow. We have an excellent Continuing Education staff that continually works with employers to understand workforce needs and provide training for certificates. I strongly support recent investments in the College's Career and Technical Education (CTE) building and programs that have allowed the College to greatly expand needed welding, electrical, HVAC, and other programs where careers are available.

The College needs to continue to assess the efficacy of expanding (costly) buildings where it will lead to greater enrollment in programs where the needs exist and jobs are available

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**12. What do you see as key aspects of JCCC's coordination with high schools, universities, and other post-secondary educational institutions? (100 words or less)**

Coordination with local schools and regional universities is critical to the success of students. The CollegeNow program is a tremendous opportunity for high school students to earn college credit at JCCC's affordable tuition rate. All JoCo school districts have embraced the program. JCCC's new CTE facilities have led to innovative programs with Blue Valley schools and others, where high school students can learn on campus. It's the kind of partnership JCCC should strive for.

Ongoing interaction with universities is critical to ensure JCCC credits transfer. Programs like the degree-in-three collaboration between the KU Edwards campus and JCCC clearly benefit students.

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**13. What is your vision for the College ten years from now? (100 words or less)**

Like today, JCCC needs to remain a key community asset. In 10 years I hope that JCCC has growing enrollment, is a leader in workforce development and continues to offer cultural benefits to Johnson County.

The College is in the middle of its strategic planning process that will focus resources in the coming years. Everyone in Johnson County can learn about and engage in the process at <https://www.jccc.edu/about/strategic-plan/>.

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**14. Why do you believe you are uniquely qualified to serve on the JCCC Board of Trustees and why are you seeking this office? (100 words or less)**

As a Trustee I have been involved in a presidential search, two negotiations on faculty contracts, management of a disruptive trustee, implementation of the facilities master plan and managing the impacts of COVID. During my service I have pushed for three property tax reductions.

In addition to consistent, civil, and collaborative leadership at JCCC, I recently completed several years of service on the boards of JoCo Parks and United Community Services. Throughout it all I've been engaged with the business community through chambers and other groups. I love Johnson County and want to continue to serve the community at JCCC.