

CANDIDATE ANSWERS

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BASIC QUESTIONS

Q2 What should be the core functions of city government?

The core function of city government is to provide for public safety, maintain good infrastructure, maintain a welcoming business climate and provide good parks and recreational opportunities to the extent practicable. This should be done with a minimum of cost to the taxpayers and with the advice and consent of the citizens through their elected representatives. This makes it incumbent on elected council members to be accessible and listen to their constituents.

Q3 What are the secondary functions that you support?

Secondary functions include advocacy for your constituents, implementing innovative management to keep up quality service at the lowest costs, working with economic development staff and businesses to bring economic growth to the city, maintaining a quality city staff and providing vision and direction for the city as it moves forward.

Q4 Are there areas you feel the city government should not be involved with?

I believe that city government should be involved only in the functions described above. I do not think city government should be involved in regulating or promoting social issues. Social legislation is the milieu of State and Federal Government. Further, the city should not encroach into functions best handled in the private sector. A perfect example is the going into direct with the health and fitness industry, i.e., the proposed community center.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Q5 Did you endorse the proposed property tax increase to fund a Community Center? If you're on the council, did you champion it? Please be specific and cite examples of either your support or opposition to the project.

No. I did not support the community center. I actively campaigned against it by working together with other concerned citizens to create the “vote no” committee.

Q6 What can be done in the future to more accurately gauge the appetite of voters when it comes to the potential of a tax increase?

Create much improved survey instruments. Current surveys conducted by the city are worded in a way that produces predictable outcomes. Those outcomes are generally intended support a project or program that city management and certain city council persons desire. The second important way of determining voter interests is very effective and extremely low cost. Simply listen to the people.

INFRASTRUCTURE | TAX INCENTIVES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Q7 Regarding the failing pipes that need to be addressed within the next several years, how would you tackle that and pay for it?

I prepared a detailed proposal and presented it to the council committee during the last budget process. I asked that the pipe repair and replacement be elevated to a number one priority in our capital improvements plan. I asked that we look at developing a construction task force to address pipe repair in a very responsive way and with a potential for saving over the normal bid-out process. I asked that a

citizen committee be formed to work one-on-one with city staff and elected officials to review the last two years budgets to determine what costs savings could be achieved in reprioritizing some budget items to redirect funds to pipe repairs. I also asked for a 3% budget reduction across all programs with police and fire exempted. These funds would be applied directly to augment pipe repair funds. All of my suggestions were summarily by the same six council members who were happy to expect \$54 million on a new community center.

Q8 What is the proper use of these incentives? When is it improper? Is there a form of incentive you favor over another? Is there any type you find more troublesome? Be as specific as you can.

It is difficult to determine the question here. I am going to assume it addresses the rampant use of incentives for businesses proposing to locate in Shawnee. This being said, I generally oppose giveaways to private business developers. I consider each one separately and on its own merits. To incentivize, the main question to be asked is "what does it do for Shawnee." There has to be significant benefit to the city to make incentives a good idea. Does it significantly add to our tax base? Perhaps they receive a negotiated tax deferment but still make a significant contribution. Does the development bring something new and exciting to the city that would make it a destination site that would draw business and visitors to our city? Is it a historic preservation project? Does the development remove a blighted are and replace it with a new and vibrant use? Is it something our residents really want despite the incentives? There are many things to consider and at the forefront of the considerations is that taxpayer. Does it help our taxpayer?

Miscellaneous Questions

Q9 Much has been made about new apartments and the proper balance between multi-family housing and single-family homes. What is your position?

I am not a proponent of apartments. I understand that apartments that do not encroach upon and damage property values, traffic ability, negative impacts on schools and character of neighborhoods can be appropriate. I see apartments in Lenexa and Overland Park that are adjacent to office/industrial parks, on major highways and arterials or even currently undeveloped areas. The impact on existing homes and subdivisions can be minimized in this way. I fought very hard to disallow the Vantage Apartments proposal at 62d and Pflumm. I was successful in that effort and the character and quality of life for area homeowners was preserved.

Q10 If elected, how would you keep yourself informed and up to date of the issues and concerns residents of Shawnee and/or your ward believe are important and should be addressed?

By doing what I do now. Frequent outreach and good listening to my constituents. I hope to remain close to citizen groups such as yours to maintain good situational awareness.

Q11 "Dark Store Theory" - Have you been aware of the current Walmart lawsuit here in Johnson County over the tax structure for businesses (Yes or No)? How do you see this affecting the City of Shawnee and what should the City communicate to the residents?

Yes. I am acutely aware of the "Dark Store" issue and I am very concerned. We cannot define the end result costs of a strong finding by the court in favor of Walmart. If the courts order reimbursement of a significant amount of prior paid property taxes it could create havoc

in a budget year that the reimbursement would be due. We are currently well positioned with a strong budget reserve in the 40% range.

This would deplete it a great deal. I feel it is important to severely limit expenditures on unnecessary projects, staff hiring, borrowing or entering into commitments that may hurt our ability to remain solvent and emerge from this problem in good fiscal condition. The city should address this concern on its website and it should be part of the discussion during all city council meetings that concern discretionary funds expenditures.

Q12 Any Other Comments? Please provide any other comments you think are relevant.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my positions with you. In closing, I can assure my constituents that I am ever aware and take it dear to heart that I represent the people. They are the city and they must be heard.