

Johnson County Public Policy Council  
2018 Johnson County Commission Chair Candidate Questionnaire

**Name:** Ed Eilert

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**Campaign Website:** Ed Eilert for County Chair

**Campaign Video Link:** N/A

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**Occupation/Work History** (last 5 years – 25 words or less):

Chairman Johnson County Commission-2010--Board of Directors, Midwest Trust Co.--retired Financial Advisor 40 years New York Stock Exchange member firm.

**If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list what organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held:**

Midwest Trust Co, Board of Directors--Central Bank of the Midwest (Metcalf Bank), Board of Directors--Johnson County Education & Research Triangle Authority, Chairman 8 years--Bi-State Commission (Union Station), charter member 8 years--Ex officio Board Member of the following; Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, Olathe Chamber of Commerce, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Center of Johnson County

**Other recent political/community experience?** (25 words or less)

Overland Park Mayor, 24 years--City Council, 4 years--Johnson County Commission Chair, 8 years--4th District County Commissioner, 4 years--Overland Park South Rotary Club, charter member

**As a candidate, what are your top three priorities for Johnson County** (10 words or less per issue)?

1. Public Safety--Sheriff office, District Attorney, Medical Emergency and Fire. 2, Human services--Mental Health, senior programs & services for special needs population, housing opportunities. 3. Maintain low property tax rates

**Johnson County continues to grow dramatically. Recognizing that county government must respond to our county's continued population growth and the need to invest in services and infrastructure while, at the same time, dealing with state-imposed limitations on funds and revenue sources available to local units of government, please describe how you would approach managing the county budget** (75 words or less):

Conservative business oriented approach to managing taxpayer dollars. Our strong management of resources and programs is noted by the AAA ratings provided on County G.O. debt by all three rating agencies. Supporting new development and job growth, continuous review of expenditures so we can meet community needs. Libraries and parks, important community assets, are not covered by the tax lid; the legislature should also exempt pension costs, health insurance and mental health agency costs.

**There has been much discussion about regionalism. Please explain your views on regional cooperation (75 words or less):**

The KCAEDC is a great example of regional cooperation focused on supporting economic development in the region. Business and local government support should continue. The regional transportation authority provides transit management to Johnson County by contract. Strong oversight is required, but if done properly would benefit the region as well as Johnson County. The chief elected officers of the three largest counties and Kansas City meet to discuss issues of regional interest and should continue.

**Describe your views on the balance between the distribution of costs and services between incorporated and unincorporated areas of Johnson County (50 words or less):**

The county commission's direct responsibility on many issues is the unincorporated parts of the county. The county must provide state mandated services for all county residents. Cooperation between the county and our cities is also critical to our community's success. Understanding and maintaining that balance of responsibilities is very important.

**What are your views on the County-Assisted Road System program (CARS) and other county/city infrastructure partnerships? (50 words or less)**

I fully support the CARS program, which benefits both the city and county responsibilities in providing construction and maintenance funding for roads. The storm water management sales tax which is also shared with local governments should be continued.

**Describe your views on the county's support of social services and the increased demands on the county created by limited state funding? (50 words or less)**

Johnson County Mental Health provided about \$6 million in uncompensated care services last year. Expansion of Medicaid could reduce that amount by half. Similar benefit of uncompensated costs for public health could be provided. Without increased state support those state mandated services will continue to cost local taxpayers more.

**What would you describe as the top five functions of county government? Please list them in your order of priority. (75 words or less)**

1. Public Safety--sheriff office, district attorney, med-act, community corrections, juvenile services.
2. Human Services--mental health agency, senior programs, special needs population, housing opportunities.
3. Maintain low property tax rates.
4. Quality of life issues--libraries, parks and recreation, continued support for K-12 schools and higher education.
5. Economic Growth and job creation--work force development, infrastructure such as roads, highways, wastewater services, transit.

**What project have you been most proud to work on? (50 words or less)**

Successful campaign to build a new Johnson County Courthouse and a Medical Examiners facility. Both projects are currently in development or construction phase. Other projects: new libraries, opening existing and new park land for public use.

**What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race?** (75 words or less)

I have a proven record of effective and efficient management of local government. My years of experience in the private sector as a financial advisor evaluating opportunities for clients instilled a disciplined approach to decision making that is important to any successful community. Successfully addressing future issues will require experienced and proactive leadership. I would be honored to serve another term as your county chair providing that necessary leadership.