

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 Johnson County Commission Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Jason Osterhaus

Phone: 913-579-7393

District: 4

Email: jasonosterhaus@gmail.com

Street Address/City/State/Zip:

Campaign Website: Jasonosterhaus.com

9306 Farley Lane

Campaign Video Link: N/A

Overland Park, Kansas 66212

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

County Commissioner District 4 (2010 to present)

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:

Chair of the B.S.A Shawnee Trails Nominating Committee.

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

Metropolitan Organization to Combat Sexual Assault Johnson County Advisory Board
Developmental Supports Governing Board MARC: Air Quality Board Johnson County Education
Research Triangle Authority Board.

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

1) Continued support of our Parks and Libraries. 2) Continued support of our efforts to combat suburban poverty. 3) Continued support of our Public Safety efforts.

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):

With dramatic population growth comes increased revenue from residential and commercial property growth. We have invested those increases back into our services and infrastructure, using partnerships with our cities, Core 4 initiatives, and data driven solutions to continue to deliver services at levels our constituents expect. We continue to work with our legislators to remove parts of the property tax lid most notably Mental health and JCDS.

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

Johnson County actively participates in regionalism with our Core 4 efforts, Workforce Partnership (Leavenworth/ Wyandotte Co.) and our partnership with the KCATA. Regionalism makes sense not only from a fiscal perspective, but also show a spirit of cooperation among communities.

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 has always worked to find an equitable balance between the distribution of costs in the incorporated and unincorporated areas. Making sure that services provided are paid for by the citizens of those areas.

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

I have 8 years of supporting the CARS program budget, and support the extra dollars that the county puts in over and above the gas tax. It's a great example of our cities and county working together.

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)

I have 8 years of supporting the county's efforts in social services. As state funding has been reduced and demand risen, we have increased funding most notably in mental health and JCDS. We continue to work with our state legislators to remove our vulnerable populations from the tax lid.

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) Libraries 2) Parks 3) Human Services 4) Public Safety 5) Elections

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

The Park's and Library Master Plans. I served as board liaison to the library board during the library's master plan process. This plan will address the library systems needs for years to come. I was also happy to support the Parks master planning efforts.

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

Experience. I have 7.5 years of work on the commission, with actual votes on quality of life issues, budgets, infrastructure, human services, etc.