

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE

LENEXA CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Linda Leeper

Candidate for Ward #: 4

Address:

14721 West 90th St
Lenexa, KS 66215

Campaign E-Mail:

lindaleeperforlenexa@gmail.com

Phone: 913-220-4604

Campaign Treasurer: Bob Leeper

Campaign Website:

www.LindaLeeperforLenexa.com

Candidate's Occupation: Retired

Work History – Last Five Years (25 words or less):

President/CEO of Shawnee Chamber of Commerce starting in 2001 until I retired in November 2017.

Most Recent Political/Community Experience (25 words or less):

As a Chamber President I worked with State, County and local elected officials and candidates for many years.

Are you, or have you been, affiliated with a local or state chamber of commerce? If yes, please list chamber(s) and any leadership positions you have held (25 words or less):

President/CEO Shawnee Chamber of Commerce, President Kansas State Chamber Executives, served on JCPPC, JCCPC, SEDC and Local Coalition of Chambers in Kansas.

Are you, or have you been, affiliated with any other business organization(s)? If yes, please list organization(s) (25 words or less):

President/CEO Shawnee Chamber of Commerce, President Kansas State Chamber Executives, served on JCPPC, JCCPC, SEDC and Local Coalition of Chambers in Kansas.

As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues (25 words or less per line):

1. Support public safety, police and fire, to keep our neighborhoods safe and secure.
2. Support our leadership in growing our economy with the planned development of our city.
3. Build on our vibrant neighborhoods for best quality of life.

What are your views on the services and value Lenexa citizens receive for their local tax dollars?

The Lenexa citizens are very fortunate to live in a city that provides the highest quality services and an excellent value to residents. Our business-rich city provides Lenexa with the ability to financially support these services.

What changes, if any, would you propose to the current City budget?

The 2020 recommended budget to be approved by the governing body on July 16, shows a strong financial position and continues the tax base growth while maintaining an appropriate reserve level for

all city funds. I personally sat through the June 25 budget review session and certainly support the hard work and expertise the staff has put into the 2020 budget. I would not offer any change at this time.

What role, if any, do you believe the City should play in economic development to bring jobs and capital investment to Lenexa?

Obviously with my professional experience, I believe the city in partnership with economic development professionals should play a key role in bringing jobs and capital investment to Lenexa. The city continues to achieve record development with over \$460 million in 2018, a 10% increase over the previous year.

Lenexa continues to grow dramatically. As Lenexa considers future development and redevelopment projects, describe your views on how the City should manage this growth and balance the need for residential, commercial, and green space?

Lenexa's record new development does create challenges in meeting the goal in balancing new with redevelopment needs in the eastern part of the city. Maintaining streets, public buildings, storm water and our parks must always be a priority in the CIP planning each year. Lenexa has made a key investment in Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park this year and is looking at Community Center/Senior Center improvements in the 2020 CIP. The governing body will need to be aware of the needs in the older areas of Lenexa in allocating additional revenues generated from the major new developments and business expansion.

What is your philosophy on the role Lenexa should play in terms of metro-area issues?

There are specific projects and issues Lenexa should be a player in the metro-area. The best example is the opportunity to recruit new business to the hottest urban development project in the metro - City Center. The arts, entertainment and sports are other metro-area issues that Lenexa needs to be engaged in with other players.

Lenexa residents just completed a Vision 2040 process. What do you think are the greatest challenges and/or opportunities for Lenexa in the next twenty years and how would you address them?

I had the opportunity to be a member of the 2040 Citizens Task Force and participate in the discussions. Of the five major themes that came out of the Vision 2040, Healthy People, Inviting Places, Vibrant neighborhoods, Integrated Infrastructure & Transportation and Thriving Economy. I believe the vision for transportation will be the most challenging as it will require major regional initiatives to achieve a smart transportation system that will connect different modes of transportation. Lenexa has great opportunity to continue its thriving economy, growing the business sectors and building on the outstanding success of City Center.

What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race, making you best suited to serve?

I am the best candidate to serve on the City Council with a strong business background. My leadership experience includes 17 years as President/CEO of Shawnee Chamber & Economic Development. I partnered with my chamber city and worked closely with their governing body. For 40 years my husband and I have called Lenexa home. I have a passion to keep our neighborhoods vibrant, safe and secure, support our growth and development and embrace the vision for our future. I am retired and have the advantage to place all my energies into doing the best job for our community.