**2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE**

**OLATHE CITY MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Name:** Alan Marston  
**Candidate for Ward #:** At-Large

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**Campaign Website:** www.Marston4Olathe.com  
**Campaign Treasurer:** Jill Rogers

**Candidate’s Occupation:** Senior Asset Protection Manager at Lowe's Home Improvement, covering 4 stores

**Work History – Last Five Years** (25 words or less):  
I have been employed by Lowe's Home Improvement for the past 16 years and have been in the Asset Protection field for over 27 years.

**Most Recent Political/Community Experience** (25 words or less):  
Olathe Strategic Planning Board  
Olathe Parks & Rec  
Olathe Noon Rotary  
Co-founded the Coalition of Diversity & Equality, a metro-wide organization

**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 word limit):  
No

**Are you, or have you been, affiliated with any other business organization(s)? If yes, please list organization(s)** (25 word limit):  
No

**As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues** (25 word limit):  
1. Affordable housing  
2. Strengthen our infrastructure and make it more sustainable  
3. Transparency & accountability of government

**What are your views on the services and value Olathe citizens receive for their local tax dollar?**  
Olathe citizens enjoy world class services from the City of Olathe. My concern is ensuring that we maintain that level of service without straining resources as we continue to experience exponential growth. With the current ruling of the Tax Board concerning business tax valuation, Olathe may see a reduction of revenue, which would likely place the burden on citizens. Ensuring that there is a true partnership between business and government to strike a fair balance on taxation will be paramount.
What changes, if any, would you propose to the current City budget?
Our budget is solid and does not need many changes. The only changes I would make would be to prioritize needed Public Safety facilities (Fire Station #9 & #10, for example) to be higher on the list of proposed projects. Otherwise, watching for the changes in revenue due to business valuation changes is going to be very important.

What role, if any, do you believe the City should play in economic development to bring jobs and capital investment to Olathe?
The City of Olathe should continue to partner with the Chamber in attracting positive investment in our city. Promoting a strong entrepreneurial spirit, coupled with an appropriate level of pro-business initiatives and incentives, will help Olathe remain an attractive location for development. I believe that focusing more attention on the Technology sector will reap great benefits as many companies are looking to relocate to the Midwest to take advantage of our lower cost of living. There is an abundance of available commercial real estate to accommodate these initiatives.

Over the past 20 years, the City of Olathe's development has outpaced other Johnsons County communities, how would you help continue high quality growth in Olathe?
By continuing to develop business centers, entertainment districts, and industrial space, Olathe will continue to grow for many years to come. Our city should continue to aggressively seek quality investment in our community by businesses. This, in addition to our strong school system and city services, will inherently attract people to work and live in Olathe. Our schools need to encourage vocational and technical training to ensure a ready labor force. Housing developers need to ensure we have a wide range of affordable housing, so people CAN work and live in Olathe.

What do you think the three greatest opportunities are for the Olathe economy in the next ten years and how would you capitalize on them?
(1) Sports tourism is a huge opportunity for Olathe. With the redevelopment of Lake Olathe, the new soccer complex, and the Mentum complex across from Olathe Med, the city can capitalize on a booming market. (2) The revitalization of Downtown Olathe will attract residents and businesses to the area. Working to ensure the right mix of housing, retail, dining, and entertainment, if done correctly, will reinvigorate the city core. (3) There are looming questions surrounding the tax valuation of businesses, particularly large retail establishments. That uncertainty will have an impact on city revenue and the services the city provides.

What is your philosophy on the role Olathe should play in terms of metro-area issues?
Olathe should be a leader in the Metro on a multitude of issues. From sustainability and renewable resources to innovation and development, Olathe stands above the rest as the Johnson County seat. Our growth in population and business development has outpaced everyone in the area. We are already poised to lead, and we should. Forming strategic coalitions on various initiatives (climate change, public transportation) should be a Metro concern led by Olathe.

What do you think are the greatest challenges and/or opportunities for Olathe in the next ten years and how would you address them?
Olathe’s infrastructure wasn’t designed to handle the amount of growth we have sustained. We need to partner with engineers and manufacturers to develop more durable and sustainable materials. Olathe is facing a shortage of affordable housing. We must provide various living accommodations in a variety of price ranges. We have a great opportunity to bring more renewable energy to the area. As the second largest city in Johnson County, we should take the lead in protecting our environment with more
proactive practices. We recently agreed to participate in the KCP&L Renewables Direct Program, but we must do more.

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

My life experience is different than my opponent. I served in the Army and as a Police Officer for six years. For the last 27 years I have worked in Asset Protection and Safety. All of this leads to a different style of management and perspective on a variety of issues. I do not have a lifetime of political experience, which I believe is a strength. I have a history of developing partnerships and building bridges to reach new goals. I believe it is time for a fresh voice to help take Olathe forward, and that I am that voice.