

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

OVERLAND PARK CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Paul Lyons

Candidate for Ward #: 2

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Campaign Treasurer: Wendy Kite

Candidate's Occupation:

Work History – Last Five Years (25 word limit):

Software development manager and project manager for DST Systems, Inc. until December 2017.
Presently retired.

Most Recent Political/Community Experience (25 word limit):

Served as city council member representing Ward 2 since April 2007.

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):

I have never been affiliated with a chamber of commerce.

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

I have never been affiliated with a chamber of commerce.

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

1. Define and execute an implementation plan for the recently completed Forward OP visioning process, which articulates what our citizens want Overland Park to look like over the next 20 years.
2. Invest in our neighborhoods to keep them strong.
3. Continue to attract a diverse, well-educated and talented work force to help expand our business community.

At 13.566 mills, Overland Park's tax rate is approximately half of our neighboring communities and remains the lowest of any first-class city in Kansas. Do you believe Overland Park citizens receive quality services and value for their tax dollars? What improvements, if any, would you make to the existing City budget?

According to the most recent citizens survey, 72% of residents are satisfied with the overall value they receive from their tax dollars. Feedback I am receiving from talking to voters during the campaign confirms those results. I believe our budget is efficient and well balanced.

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

I don't see any need for changes to the current city budget. As a member of the city council who voted to adopt the current budget, I believe it is conservative and matches the expectations of our citizens. It's five-year horizon allows us to react to unexpected problems while maintaining funding for critical services.

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

I believe the city council is responsible for creating an attractive environment for new businesses to consider moving to Overland Park by being willing to enter into public-private partnerships when appropriate and bringing a diverse, well-educated, and talented workforce into the community.

What is your philosophy regarding the appropriate mix of residential, commercial and green space in development and redevelopment projects and the use of incentives for these projects?

The city's master plan defines the layout and relationship of residential, commercial and green space. It is updated every year. The city council is responsible for maintaining a proper balance between the three as changes to the master plan are requested. Incentives can help developers achieve an appropriate return on investment while giving the city leverage to insure the balance is maintained.

What do you think the three greatest opportunities are for Overland Park's economy in the next ten years and how would you capitalize on them?

Overland Park is in a unique position where we have few problems today allowing us to focus on building a better city in the future. First, we need to build on the city's reputation and attract new, innovative and growing businesses. Second, we need to develop a talented, well-educated and diverse workforce to support the growing business community. Finally, we need to invest in making Overland Park a great place to live, work and play.

What specific elements of Forward OP's Action Agenda do you consider to be among the highest priorities for implementation?

My highest priorities from ForwardOP include: 1. Make Overland Park an innovative environment for new entrepreneurs and leading edge businesses. 2. Find ways to improve connectivity through better public transportation, walkability, and bicycling options. 3. Ensure Overland Park is a welcoming place, attracting diverse residents living in strong and vibrant neighborhoods.

As the second largest city in the metro, what is your philosophy on the role Overland Park should play in terms of metro-area issues?

Overland Park needs to play a leading role in identifying and solving metro area issues. We must work together to build open communication among cities on both sides of the state line. Overland Park should continue participating in organizations like MARC to share ideas and solutions to those issues.

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

I want to continue serving the public and being part of the decision making process to move our city forward. During my time on the council, our city has developed a reputation for being one of the best cities in the nation. I have experience working with the business community, city staff, government partners, and our citizens. My background in project management with 40 years in the private business sector gives me an understanding of how to analyze problems and find solutions to benefit all.