

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

OVERLAND PARK CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Roger Tarbutton

Candidate for Ward #: 2

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Campaign Treasurer: Roger Tarbutton

Candidate's Occupation:

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

I retired last year after working for nearly 30 years as an Assistant County Counselor representing numerous departments for Johnson County Government.

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

I was recently on the Empire Estates Homes Association Board for several years and helped establish the Homes Association trash program.

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 words per line):

1. I favor the implementation of a public comment period before city council meetings to encourage citizen engagement.
2. I favor a balanced approach to development that places priority on maintaining quality of life in adjoining neighborhoods.
3. I oppose the use of tax incentives whose sole purpose is to lure private development and benefit the balance sheet of private developers.

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?

I believe Overland Park citizens generally receive quality services and value for their tax dollars, however, there is always room for improvement and if elected, I will take the following steps to conserve tax dollars: 1. Reduce the number of projects outsourced to consultants which can be handled

by city staff. 2. Reduce reliance on increased property valuations due to inflation to balance future budgets since such increases are not guaranteed. 3. Deny the use of tax incentives whose sole purpose is to lure private development and benefit the balance sheet of private developers.

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

Currently, the City is spending down its cash reserves and relying on increased property valuations due to inflation to balance future budgets. I would reduce reliance on these methods as future inflation is not guaranteed and reasonable cash reserves are necessary in the event of economic downturns.

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 formula that has worked for Overland Park from the beginning remains viable. The City is consistently ranked as one of the most livable in the U.S. because it has historically provided quality public services to citizens at reasonable tax rates. This formula has been effective in attracting new businesses, jobs and residents to Overland Park in the past and will continue to be effective in the future.

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?

I favor preserving as much green space as possible when planning new developments. In addition to its aesthetic appeal, green space mitigates the impact of increased traffic, noise, and water runoff. I oppose the use of tax incentives for the sole purpose of luring private development and benefiting the balance sheet of private developers I would limit the use of tax incentives to projects that provide measurable and tangible benefit to the City and its residents.

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?

1. Overland Park's property tax rates are lower than its neighbors and other first-class cities in Kansas. This is very advantageous in attracting new businesses and residents and should be maintained. 2. Residents of Overland Park enjoy a lower overall cost of living compared to residents of similar sized cities in other regions of the U.S. This should be emphasized in nationwide marketing campaigns. 3. Overland Park residents enjoy and expect a high quality of life as reflected in its high nationwide livability rankings. The City should prioritize maintenance of vibrant neighborhoods and quality of life of its residents .

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

My highest priorities would include sound financial stewardship, community engagement and maintenance of vibrant neighborhoods. To promote these goals, I propose reducing reliance on increased property valuations from inflation to balance future budgets, adopting a mandatory public comment period before city commission meetings and promoting balanced development that does not negatively impact 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?

As the second largest city in a metropolitan area that shares many common issues, Overland Park should take a leadership role in addressing common goals. However, City leaders should also recognize that their ultimate allegiance is to the citizens of Overland Park.

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 am running for several reasons. My roots run deep in Overland Park and Johnson County and I would like to see the City continue to prosper and maintain a high quality of life for its citizens. I grew up in the Johnson County, raised my family in Overland Park, and worked for Johnson County government for nearly thirty years. I would like to restore quality of life, fiscal responsibility and citizen engagement as top priorities for City government. I have the experience, academic background and desire to engage with citizens of Overland Park and work toward a great future.