

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

OVERLAND PARK CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Taryn Jones

Candidate for Ward #: 1

Address:

7320 Floyd St.
Overland Park, KS 66204

Campaign E-Mail:

Campaign Website:

Phone: (913) 669-7635

Campaign Treasurer:

Candidate's Occupation:

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

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

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):

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

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

1. Transparent and accessible city council representation. Too often everyday concerns get lost in bureaucracy as government officials deal with the projects they deem more important.
2. Passing a non-discrimination ordinance for Overland Park. This would provide legal protection prohibiting discrimination against LGBT individuals regarding employment, housing, and public accommodations in Overland
3. Creating a greener more sustainable city

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 that our low tax rate is part of what makes Overland Park attractive to people looking to buy a home. Home ownership has become unattainable for a lot of people and having a lower tax rate is an incentive for people to move here. I do believe that residents are receiving quality services. However, there is always room for improvement. One thing that I would like to see in the budget is funding for storm debris cleanup. Overland Park did have drop offs during the latest storm, but people who are elderly or do not have access to

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

I would make sure that there is money in the budget for storm debris cleanup. This is something that is particularly important in ward 1 which is the oldest part of the city.

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

I think we need to be attracting development and jobs to Overland Park. However, I feel that we need to be careful about how much TIF money and other tax breaks that we are giving to businesses. I think there needs to be a balance between attracting businesses and new development and fiscal responsibility. I also believe that if we are giving tax incentives to developers building apartments that these apartments need to have a percentage of the apartments set aside for low income housing.

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 believe that mixed use development is a good way to make use of limited space. With the population of Overland Park growing having mixed development makes the most sense. I believe that there should be some type of financial incentives for developers who are willing to build mixed use development.

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?

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

I believe that the two most important aspects of forward OP's plan are creating more affordable housing and fostering better mental health and social services resources and wellness centers. As a social worker I know the importance of having good mental health and affordable housing. It is important that while we make all these improvements to the city that we are able to offer affordable housing options for those that want to make Overland Park home. It's also imperative that we are taking care of our citizens by making sure that we have social service and wellness resources for those

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?

I believe that Overland Park needs to be the leader on metro area issues. That's one reason I support a municipal non-discrimination ordinance. There have been multiple other smaller municipalities that have adopted them. None of bigger cities in Johnson County have adopted a non-discrimination ordinance and I believe that Overland Park as the largest city needs to be

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 seeking office to bring a new voice to Overland Park. As a social worker I have experience working with diverse populations and have had to mediate situations where I was not always popular. I believe these experiences will serve me well on the city council. One reason I want to serve on the city council is to bring some diversity to it. As someone with a physical disability. I grew up having to speak up for myself in ways my peers never had to. I was lucky enough to have a strong support network to help me find