

## 2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

### SHAWNEE MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate Name:** Jill Chalfie

**Candidate for Ward #:** 4

**Address:**

7404 Summit St  
Shawnee, KS 66216

**Campaign E-Mail:** jillchalfie@yahoo.com

**Campaign Website:** www.jillforshawnee.com

**Phone:** 9173309540

**Campaign Treasurer:** Courtney Klahn

**Candidate's Occupation:** stay-at-home mom

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

I have been able to be a stay at home mom to my three children and am heavily involved in several volunteer positions.

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

I am a first time candidate for office.

**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 do not have any previous affiliations with a local or state 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 do not have any previous affiliations with a local or state chamber of commerce.

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

1. Development: attract commercial / residential development while maintaining small-town feel, collaborate with business community, encourage streamlined processes, support incentives when development provides benefit to community
2. Sustainability: promote a sustainable community by focusing on efficiency, renewable energy use, and green infrastructure in both commercial and residential areas
3. Recreation: Continue offering a variety of cultural and recreational opportunities and special events in well-maintained parks and facilities, further Shawnee's walking and biking opportunities

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

I believe our city taxes are reasonable and that residents receive good value from their property taxes. That being said, city leaders always need to look for ways to maximize tax dollars, especially in Shawnee, where our commercial tax base is lower than desired and residential property taxes are heavily relied-upon. Focusing on economic growth and development will allow Shawnee to fund essential services, maintain infrastructure, and offer more amenities while keeping our residential property taxes at a reasonable level.

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

I agree with the additional staffing needs that were met and appreciate that the police and fire departments are fully staffed. I believe we have a good balance of spending across city departments and that the budget reflects our identified priorities well. While we work to maintain infrastructure (especially the needed stormwater repairs over the next 20 years), I believe that increased revenue from economic development is a more long-term solution and a better way to fund those needs rather than diverting money from Parks and Recreation, which can be a catalyst for attracting businesses and residents.

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

The city should value partnerships with developers and be open to offering incentives when a proposal provides a true benefit to our community such as fulfilling an unmet need, creating new jobs, or building on an area with challenging topography. Attracting businesses that will bring good-paying to our city is vital to the future of Shawnee as these employees will generate sales and property tax revenue. The city, in close collaboration with entities such as the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council, should seek innovative options for growth while being responsive to citizen input.

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

Downtown revitalization: capitalizing on the city's 38 million investment to upgrade the Nieman Road corridor and ensuring that we take full advantage of the benefits available as a result of the Opportunity Zone designation of this area. Developing the city-owned land that was the site of the proposed community center into some type of recreational amenity to promote Shawnee's desirability and live/work/play environment. Changing Shawnee's reputation into one of an inclusive, welcoming, business-friendly place for new development by streamlining processes at a city level.

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

As one of Johnson County's larger cities, Shawnee should be a major voice in regional issues. Our city leaders should work to build solid relationships with other leaders, learn from what neighboring cities are doing, and work for the betterment of the entire Kansas City Metro Area. While we need to be competitive in attracting residents and businesses to Shawnee, we all benefit when the entire region grows stronger.

**What do you think are the greatest challenges and/or opportunities for the City in the next ten years and how would you address them?**

We must focus on diversifying our tax base. Many residents feel strongly about maintaining low property taxes, so commercial development is crucial to funding our city's needs and keeping property taxes low. We must also bridge competing visions for the future of our city. While some prefer the small-town feel of Shawnee, others desire growth and development. I firmly believe we have and are capable of maintaining both. Lastly, we need to respond to our infrastructure needs. With these challenges come opportunities to work together to find innovative solutions for the betterment of our city as a whole.

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

There is no one more passionate about building a strong community than I am. What sets me apart is my desire to listening to concerns and ideas from both sides of an issue and keeping open lines of

communication in order to make the most thoughtful decisions for the betterment of our community as a whole. I am choosing to raise my three children here and hope to make Shawnee a place that is great for current residents and a place that our children would consider as a place to raise their own families someday.