

**2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE**

**SHAWNEE MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Candidate Name:** Kris Durbin

**Candidate for Ward #:** 4

**Address:**

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**Campaign Treasurer:** Tim Durbin

**Candidate's Occupation:** Project Controls Manager

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

During the past 13 years, I have been a Project Controls Manager in private industry, assisting complex projects with cost, schedule, risk, and performance management.

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

No political; I have volunteered with Christmas in October among other charitable causes.

**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):**

None

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

None

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

1. Prioritize budgets to existing infrastructure and service needs that are not currently covered in our budgets.
2. Develop measurable and objective metrics to assess economic incentive relationships for their value to the city.
3. Maintain our existing commitments to citizens, partners, and city employees without "shocking the system."

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

Shawnee citizens have high expectations for these 3 things from their city: a safe place to live and work, well-maintained city infrastructure, and quality space to play. Our budget reflects these priorities in many positive ways. The city can do more to deliver its commitment to residents by prioritizing key projects that citizens have been asking for: ensuring our storm drains are well maintained, building new walking trails, and expanding roads that are a threat to biker, pedestrian, and driver safety. These items should be top priorities, funded from existing revenue sources.

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

Objective cost performance reviews should be regularly conducted to identify waste, increase vendor competition, and ultimately reduce the tax burden on citizens and businesses. More than \$100M in stormwater infrastructure will need to be replaced in the next decade. We should recognize this as the city's top budget priority. We should introduce a temporary and selective reduction in existing budgets (by identifying cost savings) to fund this work without requiring a special tax increase. Once the infrastructure reaches an acceptable state, the cost savings can be returned to the original department, re-allocated to new priorities, or returned to the taxpayer.

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

I prefer a more organic approach to commercial growth, but I also recognize the competitive metropolitan we live in. The city has a toolkit of incentives available to attract developers and employers to our city. I do not believe these incentives should be used on every development opportunity. They should be reserved for special and unique opportunities that allow the city to gain more than it loses in the incentive relationship. Examples could be a large number of skilled, and full-time job growth; or opportunities to improve a blighted area that will have measurable impacts on crime reduction.

**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?**

Shawnee has some of the greatest attributes a city can have: convenient access from many major highways, beautiful terrain and foliage, and a diverse economic makeup. These attributes are the perfect combination for organic economic growth. People want to be a part of this community, and businesses want to serve our community. We need to continue to foster an environment that offers the right balance of city services along with a competitive and livable tax burden, to continue to attract residential growth, and the economic growth will naturally follow.

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

Our city participates in many inter-governmental agency and department initiatives, such as the Community Emergency Response Team and the county Stormwater Management Program. I think these programs model the culture of cooperation that exists in our County, and I believe that our city should lead in efforts to improve such collaboration. We should also actively seek out and participate in programs that share resources on projects and initiatives that would bring mutual cost savings to our city and our partners'.

**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?**

Considering our city has identified a ten-year deficit in funding for stormwater infrastructure repairs, this is naturally the biggest challenge we face in terms of funding those repairs without increasing taxes. The greatest opportunity in the next ten years would be the economic growth as the population in the metro continues to grow. Shawnee has the room for growth and the ability to attract new residents and businesses alike. We are primed to grow in new and meaningful ways, which will increase and diversify our tax base and make Shawnee an increasingly attractive place to be.

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

I want to bring common sense back to the governing body. Putting the people and businesses of Shawnee first means addressing problems with an open mind. I specialize in addressing problems from an objective point of view. Measuring, quantifying, and monitoring fiscal performance is at the center of what I have spent my 18-year professional career doing. I want to bring the same kind of financial and risk management to our City's operations.