

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

SHAWNEE MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Kurt Knappen

Candidate for Ward #: 3

Address:

22119 Clear Creek Pkwy
Shawnee, Kansas 66226

Campaign E-Mail: kurtknappen@gmail.com

Campaign Website: kurtknappen.com

Phone: 913-608-2724

Campaign Treasurer: Lexi Knappen

Candidate's Occupation: District Business Manager

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

District Business Manager, Novo Nordisk Inc.

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

Coaching Shawnee youth girls soccer, boys soccer, football and wrestling.

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):

NA

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

NA

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

1. Fiscal Conservative
2. Economic Development
3. Basic City Services

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

Shawnee is on a solid path; my pledge would be not to reduce the percentage of tax dollars currently going toward public works, police or first-responder services. I also support additional green spaces and trails as we build out Western Shawnee. My goal will be not to raise taxes, and to ensure fiscal responsibility in our local government while luring more businesses to Shawnee.

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

I believe we need to put a plan in place to address the current storm pipe issues facing the city. Additionally, top infrastructure priorities for me in Western Shawnee include street improvements south of Shawnee Mission Parkway, sidewalks leading to Erfurt Park and improving the one-lane bridge on the Gleason Road bus route.

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 play a very active role in luring and encouraging economic development in Shawnee. I am not against reasonable incentives in order to encourage developers and companies to invest in our community, and I look forward to working with the Chamber of Commerce, fellow City Council members and the Mayor to create a business friendly environment and ensure that businesses thrive throughout Shawnee.

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?

In Ward 3 (Western Shawnee), the 3 greatest opportunities are: 1. Successfully adding high-paying corporate jobs by bringing new corporations to Shawnee. 2. Filling out the available plots are Walmart with new restaurants and businesses. 3. Revitalizing the area around the Old Price Chopper west of K-7 by securing an anchor business in that area.

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

Shawnee needs to elevate its' role within the metro area by branding ourselves as "open for business" and ensuring that Shawnee is the easiest city in the county to work and do business with.

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?

The greatest challenge will be fixing our current storm pipe situation. I would work with fellow council members to form a coalition committed to a long-term plan which will provide a systemic approach that will address this issue over the next 20 years. Additionally, we need to re-address the long-term zoning plan in order to review and decide how many multi-family additions we want to add in Western Shawnee and how we can encourage more patio-home/ 60+ developments for those looking to downsize in the near future.

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

I best represent voters in Western Shawnee! My wife and I have deep ties to this community in including service in the schools, hours spent coaching our youth, volunteer hours at church and our connection to so many families in western Shawnee. Additionally, my professional experience in terms of people management, budget management, leadership and corporate success are directly transferable to this City Council role. I will be committed to fighting for families and all residents in western Shawnee.