

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

SHAWNEE MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Lisa Larson-Bunnell

Candidate for Ward #: Shawnee City Council,
Ward 3, Unexpired Term

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Campaign Treasurer: Britt Lagemann

Candidate's Occupation: Attorney

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

I am a healthcare regulatory and contract attorney at a non-profit hospital.

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

-Shawnee City Council- November 2018-present -Johnson County Christmas Bureau-Annual Benefit Chairperson (2019)

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 work with the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce on issues related to city governance and development.

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

I work with the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce on issues related to city governance and development.

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

1. Infrastructure--The corrugated metal pipes used throughout our city's stormwater management system are failing. If they are not replaced before they fail, they will cause sinkholes.
2. Public Safety-- I want to make sure our police and fire departments are appropriately structured and funded compared to other cities our size.
3. Our Community--Keep Shawnee a welcoming, accessible, and inclusive community.

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

The city is able to provide an incredible amount of infrastructure and services for the tax dollars we pay. We have always done more with less. Unfortunately, it does not always feel like residents are getting a "good deal" because we are a large city with a small commercial tax base compared to our neighboring cities. Therefore that tax burden is shouldered by homeowners and local shoppers.

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

None. I think the 2020 budget is a good mix of investment in vital services as well as maintaining existing amenities. Any new amenities that are proposed are being paid for with funds previously set aside and budgeted for that purpose.

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

Economic development is difficult to achieve when you have a city and governing body that do not work to work to bring people and businesses to the city. Without such commitment, developers will look to other cities. I think the partnership that Shawnee has with the Shawnee Chamber and the Economic Development Council is a perfect way to say that we are "open for business."

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?

First, we must work to attract and retain young professionals who work in the "tech corridor." We should work to increase amenities along with retail/restaurant options to help. Second, we have space and the opportunity to diversify our housing stock. I am in support of both market rate and luxury multi-family housing in Shawnee as well as smaller units such as studio apartments. Third, The "Eco Devo" or "Project Homeland" project proposed to be located west of K-7 and 43rd will bring in a substantial amount of industrial business and daytime workers.

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

Shawnee cannot afford to isolate itself from surrounding communities. A perfect example of the ill-effects of such isolation is our history of approaching stormwater management at the municipality level instead of the county or metro level. As a result, we have a fragmented system that does not do enough to protect our cities. We have gained much from cooperation. A great example is the collaboration among local police departments that has led to enhanced communications and greater ability to catch suspects quickly.

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?

First, Shawnee must compete with neighboring suburbs to attract residents/businesses. The first step will be to decide what we want Shawnee to look like through our Imagine Shawnee comprehensive strategic plan. Second, Shawnee is an economically diverse city. We must offer services and amenities that address our population's needs while being fiscally responsible. To accomplish this, we must assess the state of our community and identify the needed services. Third, improving and maintaining infrastructure, including storm water management and roads, is vital to sustaining the city's viability. We should continue to evaluate the most effective way to finance these projects.

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

I listen, learn, and work tirelessly to improve our city. I bring no rigid political ideology to my position. I am beholden to no interest group or party. I've heard stories of past councils filled with acrimony and petty personal battles. That has not been my experience on the council, nor will it be. I treat all with respect and dignity at all times, working with community leaders and citizens across the spectrum to solve problems and improve our lives. Whenever I leave the council, I know I will have set a positive example for my son and our community.