

**2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE**

**SHAWNEE MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Candidate Name:** Matthew Shaw

**Candidate for Ward #:** 4

**Address:**

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**Campaign Treasurer:** Brandon Kenig

**Candidate's Occupation:** Reinsurance Consultant

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

Past 5 years have been with Swiss Re, first as an Outsourcing Analyst then as Reinsurance Consultant. Previously worked as analyst & manager at TCS.

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

Elected as precinct committeeman in 2016 & 2018. Additional was a KU student senator all four years of college and served as communications director.

**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 am a small business owner and supporter of the chamber, but not officially affiliated

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

I am a small business owner and supporter of the chamber, but not officially affiliated

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

1. Drive the creation of a vision for Shawnee, including a 5, 10,15 year plan
2. Market the city to the business community, particularly those industries/businesses that are identified in the vision & long term city plan
3. Expand the commercial tax base of Shawnee to make it less reliant on residential taxes

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

In my view the citizen of Shawnee currently receive good value for their tax dollars for the services which the city sees as clearly a part of its mandate. Parks & Rec, police, fire, etc. are doing a good job. Where the citizens are less well served is by city leadership, which has struggled to identify and execute on projects which would have the citizens support (rec center, shopping center at 75th & Quivera)

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

I consider myself to be a pragmatic moderate and would want to ensure adequate funding continues for basic city services such as parks & rec, road improvements, police & fire, etc. continues. I would also be keen to review allocations made for storm water drain repairs and assess whether they are sufficient

and realistic. My greatest interest would be in the economic development fund expenditures, to ensure those are in alignment with Shawnee's vision and of a nature that brings the most strategic value to the city.

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

One key role I am keen to help the City do a better job of is market itself to the business community as a good place to grow and find true partnership. Having a vision for the city would be greatly helpful in this regard, as it will help focus our activities to those industries/organisations which we most want to pursue. While the Chamber does good work, my view is that Shawnee needs more engagement from its leaders to go out, build relationships in the business community and champion the benefits of Shawnee vs the wider metro area.

**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?**

Because Shawnee is not "known" for any particular industry, but has thus far been mostly a "bedroom community", there is a wonderful opportunity for Shawnee to come up with a vision for itself and then aggressively market itself according to that vision/strategy. This would of course involve use of the economic development fund and tax/economic incentives if the projects are appropriate and in line with our overall goals.

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

Shawnee needs to be a good partner to the rest of the metro area. I certainly don't believe we need to lead on many issues, but we have to maintain a good reputation and perception of being responsive, capable, pragmatic and sensible to work 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?**

Significant city resources need to be put into storm water & pipe replacements over the next several years. Funding this repair activity in a timely manner is a huge challenge, made more difficult by the fact that it can be difficult to predict the exact deadline of when systems may date fail. Move too slowly, and the costs of fixing an emergency can be huge. The challenge/opportunity will be to balance this repair effort such as that it does not stymie activities aimed at city growth.

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

I believe my business experience causes me to stand out. I have founded two small businesses, but also have 10 years experience working for large international corporations, all of which has given me strong business acumen. The city needs leadership which can champion the city to the business community in an effective way, and can actually deliver on economic growth via attracting new businesses to Shawnee. I am the best candidate to do this.