

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

SHAWNEE MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Michelle Distler

Candidate for Ward #: Mayor of Shawnee, KS

Address:

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Shawnee, KS 66216

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Campaign Treasurer: Michelle Distler

Candidate's Occupation: Cyber Security

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

Program Manager in Cyber Security Mayor of Shawnee, KS

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

Mayor of Shawnee, KS

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):

Shawnee 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):

Shawnee Chamber of Commerce

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

1. Collaboration, Visibility, and Accountability
2. Public Safety & Infrastructure
3. Economic Development

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

The average homeowner pays \$67 a month in city property taxes. From that \$67 a month, investments include: \$26.80 for Public Safety \$22.11 for Public Works \$8.71 for Administration \$5.36 for Parks, Shawnee Town 1929, Trails, Aquatics, and Special Events \$4.02 for City Planning Considering our Public Works, Fire, and Police Departments are accredited, we have a AA1 Bond Rating, GFOA Budget Award as well as many other recognitions and awards, I believe we are getting a lot of value for our tax dollars.

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

We currently use priority based budgeting but I think the priority of our budget will become even clearer once we complete our strategic plan that includes community input.

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

We play many important roles but most importantly, being easy to do business with and making people feel welcomed in our city. We want to help overcome any obstacles. We want to make sure we keep our crime low and our infrastructure strong. We want to make sure they have a safe and clean city. We want to advocate for quality development and responsible growth. We want to make sure we have the workforce available to them as well as the customers. We work very closely with our Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council.

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?

We need to bring more destination experiences to our city. With those destinations, especially when family friendly and/or sports oriented, will bring the restaurants and other entertainment that our residents seek. Revitalization of our downtown area is also crucial. We as a city have made investments in this area and have been meeting with developers and talking ideas as we look to make this area a destination as well. Additionally I go back to our strategic plan we are currently working on. What do the residents and businesses want?

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

We need to build relationships and partnerships and work together as it benefits us all if we work in a collaborative way versus with a competitive attitude.

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?

I believe the greatest upcoming challenge will be once we have our strategic plan figuring out how to overcome any obstacles and turn that vision into reality. Things take time and how do we keep that momentum and excitement going while we work to make Shawnee the city we all want it to be.

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

I have a proven record of visibility and accountability. I have proven my support of public safety, infrastructure, and supporting our businesses. I respect and have implemented many programs and meetings to be accessible to the residents. I have worked collaboratively with everyone in the city. I have implemented many programs to get our youth involved. We have proven residential and commercial growth. Outside of the elected office I give all of my time volunteering to make our city better and am a founding member of many of these programs. I am a lifelong resident. I am a servant leader.