

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

SHAWNEE MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Stephanie Meyer

Candidate for Ward #: Shawnee Mayor

Address:

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Campaign Treasurer: Sam Hawkins

Candidate's Occupation: Communications

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

Architecture and Construction business development and communications. Currently serving as the Education Funding Specialist for DLR Group.

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

President of the City Council (third time), Shawnee Rotary Club Past President, Theatre in the Park Council Chair, Prairie Paws Animal Shelter Board of Directors.

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):

Graduate of Shawnee Tomorrow, Leadership Kansas, and Centurions. Currently serving on the Shawnee Economic Development Council, and as a representative for DLR Group.

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

Graduate of Shawnee Tomorrow, Leadership Kansas, and Centurions. Currently serving on the Shawnee Economic Development Council, and as a representative for DLR Group.

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

1. Economic Development: Growing our business base is the only sustainable means of lowering our residential property taxes, while maintaining quality services.
2. Community: We can maintain our amazing sense of community, while also providing and planning for our future.
3. Vision: Until our residents know we have a long-term plan for core services, as well as development, we can't expect them to support change.

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

Our residents receive a great value for their tax dollars - we have outstanding public safety departments, amazing parks and recreation facilities, and an unmatched public works program. That being said, as our infrastructure continues to age, there is an even greater need to broaden and diversify our overall tax base to spread the cost of needed maintenance and on-going services out more evenly. Growing our

business base is the only sustainable means of lowering our residential property taxes, while maintaining quality services.

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

I believe our budget is well-balanced and representative of our priorities as a city. We have an outstanding credit rating, our reserve balance is high, and we're appropriately saving for public safety capital needs. I would like to see increased emphasis on economic development to bring additional businesses to our city to broaden the base, which will allow for more funding to address needed infrastructure repairs and maintenance, as well as an overall reduction in the mill levy.

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

I believe the city plays a critical role in economic development. Beyond incentives, developers and businesses look for opportunities in cities that are dynamic, forward-thinking, and perhaps most importantly, stable. They want to be in a city that has a solid understanding of who it is and where it's going. And they want certainty both in terms of the application process, and the overall city management through the life of their investment. We must do more to demonstrate these characteristics, while also doing all we can to show potential businesses that we'd love to have them here!

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?

1. Our downtown corridor is an incredible opportunity for continued and creative re-investment, and we should build off the (soon to be) completed Nieman project, new businesses, and federal opportunity zone to maximize the impact to the city and our residents. 2. The Valley of Champions: Shawnee is hot spot for youth sports activity and we should build upon the existing facilities in the Johnson Drive corridor to grow business and retail opportunities here. 3. On the far western side of the city, the Eco-Commerce Center is an incredible location to continue to establish ourselves as a key commerce hub.

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

Shawnee should absolutely have a seat at the regional table on all metro-area issues. As the third largest city on the Kansas side, we should be playing a critical role in these conversations, as well as helping to lead our region forward. We should always be learning from and looking for opportunities to partner with other cities to the benefit of our residents whenever possible - what is good for the metro is good for Shawnee.

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?

Shawnee is at a crossroads. We must come together as a city and determine both who we want to be, and where we want to go. We have an incredible opportunity to chart our course for the future, which I believe should include a focus on additional business growth to broaden and diversify our tax base, while preserving our unique character. This will aid in solving our other great challenge - managing our aging infrastructure - by providing greater funding without additional burden on our residential property owners.

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

I have the professional and personal background that reflects our diverse population and best prepares me to lead our city. My path to living in western Shawnee started in a working class, single parent home where we struggled to make ends meet. I understand the value of hard work and pinching every penny in a budget, not as an abstract concept, but as a necessity of everyday life. This experience, combined with my master's degree in public administration and a career working in government and economic development, uniquely qualifies me to oversee our growing and diverse city.