

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE

LENEXA CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Chris Poss

Candidate for Ward #: 1

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Candidate's Occupation: Construction Manager

Work History – Last Five Years (25 words or less):

Aldi, Inc. - Construction Manager General Services Administration - Construction Project Manager

Most Recent Political/Community Experience (25 words or less):

Lenexa Planning Commission 2012-Present Chairman 2016 - Present Youth baseball coach, school volunteer, A New Look at Old Town Advisory Committee

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 words or less):

No

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

No

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

1. 1. Continued investments in the core city functions - Fire, Police, Parks & Recreation and maintaining existing infrastructure.
2. 2. Planned growth and strategic development - Quality developments in undeveloped areas of the city while maintaining and redeveloping older areas of the community.
3. 3. Fiscal responsibility - Make investments when needed but also pulling back and reevaluating when necessary, while still maintaining core city services.

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

I believe Lenexa residents receive excellent value for their tax dollars. From the high quality roads and sidewalks, exceptional parks, free or affordable recreation programs to the well-trained police and fire departments-Lenexa has invaluable services to offer its citizens. This is shown consistently in the citizen satisfaction surveys which polls Lenexa residents rating above the metro and national average on places to live, raise a family, quality of life, and services provided.

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

I believe the current city budget is in line with the governing body's goals of Fiscal Responsibility, Economic Development, Reinvestment, City Center and Sense of Community. If elected, I plan to listen to feedback provided by Lenexa residents, while also working with city staff and other members of the council to be responsible stewards of tax payer funds.

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

I believe municipalities play an integral role in economic development. Local government creates the environment so private industries can thrive to provide benefits to the entire community. Clear and consistent governance establishes the certainty for the business and development communities to invest in jobs, real estate, goods and services, etc. in the community.

Lenexa continues to grow dramatically. As Lenexa considers future development and redevelopment projects, describe your views on how the City should manage this growth and balance the need for residential, commercial, and green space?

I believe finding a balance of residential, commercial, and green space is essential for healthy development within the community. The city's comprehensive plan is the road map for how the community will develop. With recent development and the completion of the 2040 visioning process and the forthcoming build-out study the comprehensive plan will be updated in 2020. Consistently evaluating development is essential, and I look forward to participating in the process.

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

I believe the city should work with other municipalities to move the metro in a positive direction when appropriate. Communicating, coordinating, and developing relationships with other communities has the potential to move the region forward as a whole. That being said, this would need to be determined based on the issues and circumstances at hand and how it would impact the city of Lenexa.

Lenexa residents just completed a Vision 2040 process. What do you think are the greatest challenges and/or opportunities for Lenexa in the next twenty years and how would you address them?

When vision 2020 began in the 1990s, the city had significantly more agricultural land and open spaces. As we look forward to vision 2040, the open areas will be further reduced. This presents challenges in creating responsible commercial and residential development. The way the city addresses housing, businesses, infrastructure, environmental challenges, and city services will need to be continually evaluated and adjusted accordingly to meet current and future needs. I would use my experience as a Construction Manager and Planning Commissioner to follow local and national trends and technological advances to provide the best quality of life for our residents.

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

I believe my experience makes me best suited to serve Lenexa Ward 1 residents. I've served on the Lenexa Planning Commission for seven years, including three as the Chairman. During this invaluable experience, I have learned the processes involved with local government, leadership, working with city staff, and the governing body of Lenexa. Professionally, I have managed residential, commercial, and government construction projects. I'm currently a Construction Manager for ALDI, Inc. In this position, I have worked with numerous municipalities across the Midwest and this experience allows me to see how other cities operate.