

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

MERRIAM CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Bruce Kaldahl

Candidate for Ward #:

Address:

7210 mastin street
Shawnee, KS 66203

Campaign E-Mail: kckaldahl@yahoo.com

Campaign Website: facebook:
@KaldahlForCouncil

Phone: 9137083043

Campaign Treasurer:

Candidate's Occupation: Systems Specialist-Store Fixtures

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

Hallmark Cards, 1979 to present

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

First time candidate.

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):

No

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

No

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

1. Budget/Spending discipline
2. Launching new Community Center
3. Maintaining Momentum

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

Merriam citizens receive a great deal of value for their local tax dollars. We have 10 years without an increase in the property tax levy.

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

No major changes. We need to be very vigilant with spending. 51% of our city revenue is from Sales Tax, primarily from the sale of cars. We need to be prepared for a downturn in the economy that will negatively impact car sells. Also we need to be prepared in case the "Dark Store" valuation of commercial property negatively impacts our property tax collections.

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

Merriam has done a good job of economic development. The city should continue to use TIF funds to attract development.

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?

I-35 and Shawnee Mission Parkway both bring a large number of people through our town twice a day, Monday through Friday. We need to get them to stop and buy a few more things. Turning the vacant K-Mart space into a vibrant retail location, getting another grocery store into the vacant Hen House space and re-developing the space where the Library is currently located will all give people another reason to stop.

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

Merriam needs to continue to be a quiet leader. We should strive to be a leading community in regard to diversity, affordability and livability.

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?

The greatest challenges and opportunities are the major traffic thoroughfares that cross our city. I-35 and Shawnee Mission Parkway bring us great retail opportunities and they physically divide us. We need to continue to develop the retail opportunities while building community with each other.

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

We are invested in Merriam, we own a home and we plan to stay. We love the community and I want to do my part to keep Merriam moving - in the right direction.