

2019 Overland Park City Council

Response ID:69 Data

1. Policy Questionnaire

1. Candidate Information

First Name

Dan

Last Name

Osman

Candidate for Ward #

4

Street Address

12563 Eby St

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City

Overland Park

State

KS

Zip

66213

Phone Number

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Daytime Phone Number

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Campaign Email Address

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Campaign Website

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Campaign Treasurer

Dan Osman

Candidate's Occupation

Attorney

2. (untitled)

1. Occupation/Work History (last 5 years - 25 words or less)

I run a small business consulting as a government liaison, assisting with contract compliance and affirmative action compliance issues.

2. Most recent Political/Community experience? (25 words or less)

I have been elected twice and served for six years as a school board member. I've served three years as president of my HOA.

3. 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)

As part of the school board, I've worked with and been a member of the South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

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

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

1 : Open Microphones at all City Council meetings, with increased communication between council and residents

2 : Greater oversight of developments and developmental agreements

3 : Sound financial stewardship of Overland Park taxes and its budget

6. At 13.566 mills, Overland Park's tax rate is approximately half of our neighboring communities and remains the lowest of any first-class city in Kansas. Do you believe Overland Park citizens receive quality services and value for their tax dollars? What improvements, if any, would you make to the existing City budget? (100 words or less)

My campaign is not about making monumental changes to how Overland Park is run and structured. I believe we receive great services from Overland Park and in walking across my district and talking to hundreds of residents, that their responses bear that opinion out. The single biggest complaint is the chip & seal method of repairing roads, which I promise to investigate further once elected. Short of that, there were almost no major complaints about how Overland Park is run or the services that it provides.

7. What changes, if any, would you propose to the current City budget? (100 words or less)

We need to focus less on the reliance of fines and fees as line items in the budget. They're an inconsistent source of revenue. They rely to heavily on the malfeasance of the residents of Overland Park. It also establishes an adversarial relationship between the population as a whole and the people whose job and department's budget now relies upon that source of revenue to continue functioning.

8. What role, if any, do you believe the City should play in economic development to bring jobs and capital investment to Overland Park? (100 words or less)

Cities should step in when the market alone cannot solve the problem and the city determines that it is a problem that is necessary to solve. For instance, when a developer comes before the council seeking tax incentives or abatements, I would support it if it can be shown through clear and convincing evidence that the project is necessary for the growth of Overland Park and would not be financially feasible without assistance.

9. What is your philosophy regarding the appropriate mix of residential, commercial and green space in development and redevelopment projects and the use of incentives for these projects? (100 words or less)

Overland Park is right now about 85% developed, making green space a premium asset. New developments must take this into consideration. I do not support overcrowding through development of excessive multi-family residences in a confined space.

What I do support are more robust mixed-use areas allowing for our residents to live, shop, and work in more centralized locations.

As for the use of incentives, I wrote my opinion about that in the previous question (#9).

10. What do you think are the three greatest opportunities for the Overland Park economy in the next ten years and how would you capitalize on them? (100 words or less)

Overland Park needs to consider is the "Dark Store Theory" making its way through the courts. If we do not adequately prepare for it - and the current City Council is not - we could potentially lose 25% or more of our revenue over the next decade. This would be disastrous.

Second is working with other cities, including in Missouri, improving communication and increasing transportation options.

With increased transportation comes increased visitors. We have multiple major convention centers in Overland Park. The easier it becomes to go from MCI to Overland Park, the greater our tourist dollar influx will become.

11. What specific elements of Forward OP's Action Agenda do you consider to be among the highest priorities for implementation? (100 words or less)

There are two core areas of the Forward OP plan that need prioritization: those centered around connectivity and welcomeness. Overland Park stretches from 49th street to 199th street. That rivals KCMO in area covered. We need people to not feel lost in this city. "Lost" as in both an ability to easily travel and a sense of inclusiveness across the metro. Having the city help the areas help the neighborhoods help the people will naturally translate to better place to live where more people will want to move to. That, ultimately, is the most important function of a city government.

12. As the second largest city in the metro, what is your philosophy on the role Overland Park should play in terms of metro-area issues? (100 words or less)

We are not just the second largest in the metro. We're the second largest in the state of Kansas. Where Overland Park goes, others will follow. Sadly, that does not appear to be the case now as there are many issues where Overland Park lags behind other municipalities and the current City Council is reluctant to catch up. We can and should be reaching out to other municipalities and working together on a coherent transportation plan, a unified development incentive structure, along with a host of other things.

13. Why are you seeking public office? What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race, making you best suited to serve? (100 words or less)

So many people asked me to run for a simple reason: they did not feel represented by their current city councilman and were frustrated that their legitimate concerns were continually ignored. They knew that I spent six years on a school board with the commitment that the community's concerns were heard and they were involved in decisions that were made. I'm knowledgeable, passionate, and dedicated to continually improving Overland Park for the people that live and work here.