

2019 Overland Park City Council

Response ID:68 Data

1. Policy Questionnaire

1. Candidate Information

First Name

Rick

Last Name

Collins

Candidate for Ward #

OP Ward 6

Street Address

15423 Woodward

Apt/Suite/Office**City**

OVERLAND PARK

State

Kansas

Zip

66223

Phone Number

9136853148

Daytime Phone Number**Evening Phone Number****Campaign Email Address**

rcollins31@kc.rr.com

Campaign Website

www.collinsforopcitycouncil.com

Campaign Treasurer

Dan Stock

Candidate's Occupation

Retired from American College of Clinical Pharmacy

2. (untitled)

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

Retired from American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Prior to that, I was the Vice President of Administration for W+D Machinery Co. in OP.

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

OP City Council and Council President. OP Planning Commission and Chairman. OP Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and Chairman.

4. 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)

Chairman of OP Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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

OP Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Board Chairman, and OP Economic Development Council.

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

- 1 : Manage growth responsibly with common sense ordinances, design guidelines and policies.
- 2 : Maintain and improve infrastructure with fiscal responsibility using general funds and bonds when appropriate.
- 3 : Promote quality public education and economic development to create quality jobs and quality of life for our graduates. r graduates.

7. 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)

Yes. OP Police and Fire departments are fully accredited. Parks, including Arboretum and Farmstead, can be maintained at current levels. OP enjoys an excellent reputation for its well maintained streets, public facilities such as community centers and pools. We have improved our property code enforcement We pay attention to our expenses such as employee salaries and benefits. No other city can match the quality of services that we provide at such a low mill levy.

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

Budget for 2020 is already approved. I would like to see more public input on future budgets Our citizen surveys tell us that public safety and infrastructure are very important, and, if we do have an opportunity to increase our revenues, those two areas would be at the top of my list.

9. 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)

OP should be able, where appropriate, to use public investment to conserve areas before they become blighted and to promote new development to bring quality jobs, amenities, and options for our citizens. At the same time, our current policies require a substantial amount of private investment, and this is very important for growth in our city.

10. 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)

OP needs all three mixes of uses for our citizens. OP should judiciously use public investment where a project includes significant private investment for infrastructure, amenities, and quality jobs. This is especially true for a mixed use development. which allows local residents the opportunity to avail themselves of retail/office uses that they might not otherwise have.

11. 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)

1. Help to create quality IT environment for high paying jobs. 2. Leverage state and federal funding for 69 highway improvements to make residential and commercial areas more accessible. 3. Work with all of our education partners to provide career opportunities that may not include a college degree,

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

Creating spaces where people can gather to promote a better sense of community. Improve connectivity from anywhere to anywhere in the city. Promote physical and mental well being.

13. 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)

OP is not an island in the metropolitan area. We all share a common desire for quality education for our children and grandchildren, a need for a safe environment, and an understanding of the positive impact of inclusiveness and diversity. OP has been and should continue to be an example of that.

14. 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)

I want to leave OP a better place than I found it. My 30+ years in OP has taught me where OP has been, where it is now, and where it can move forward. My efforts on the OP Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the OP Planning Commission and City Council have provided me with experience that our citizens can trust.