

2019 Overland Park City Council

Response ID:75 Data

1. Policy Questionnaire

1. Candidate Information

First Name

Scott

Last Name

Hamblin

Candidate for Ward #

6

Street Address

17735 Garnett Street

Apt/Suite/Office**City**

Overland Park

State

KS

Zip

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Phone Number

913-278-3356

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

Scott@ScottHamblinforCityCouncil.com

Campaign Website

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Campaign Treasurer

Tara Brune

Candidate's Occupation

Air Traffic Control

2. (untitled)

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

Air Traffic Control

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

For many years I have held elected positions with a local labor union. I also spend time daily coaching youth sports.

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)

No

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

No

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

1 : Spending

2 : Communication with Residents

3 : Public Safety

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)

Something you don't hear many candidates talk about is the our current mill levy, while being low, is somewhat artificial. When revenue does not keep up with spending and you have to spend reserves to cover the shortfall you will be forced to cut spending or raise the mill levy. As for services, our police force is drastically understaffed and we are currently considering all options to keep up infrastructure such as streets and sidewalks with money we don't have. I believe there is a lot of room for improvement in the services we provide.

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

Since there are way to many potential changes to list in 100 words I will sum it up this way. Overland Park has to opportunity to save vast amounts of money without having to drastically cut one single budget item. For instance, the current council and staff use consultants for virtually everything they do. This cost taxpayers an extraordinary amount of money. An example being that my opponent recently motioned to spend 98K of taxpayer money to a consultant to design, not build, design a playground. That kind of spending is not sustainable.

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)

If we are talking about tax incentives that too broad of a term to get into the weeds on details. That being said, while there may be great opportunities to use them it can not be the standard practice of every new business and development. Overland Park is an amazing city and it is time for our city council to let go of the idea that we have nothing to offer and must pay business to locate here. Not only is that not sustainable, it's time to actually believe in our city, our schools, and our people!

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)

Mixed-Use areas can be very appealing in the market. The greatest challenge is deriving the evidence of whether or not it is sustainable in the long term and not just future sprawl the city must clean up later. For instance, take a look a BluHawk on 159th & Antioch. Right now it is thriving and residents enjoy it. That being said, it is so heavily funded with incentives you have to consider what the future holds. When the 10 year incentive on the planned arena is up, what will happen to it and what will that mean for the city.

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)

As I said above, Overland Park is an absolutely fantastic city. We always rank as one of the best cities to live. I believe our three greatest opportunities are to maintain what we have, our schools, our residents, and Overland Park itself. I believe it is the responsibility of Overland Park City Council to capitalize on these great assets by maintain a health financial state, funding public safety, and maintaining infrastructure. If we do these simple things Overland Park will thrive for the next 10 years and well beyond.

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)

I like the idea of Foward OP because it took input from residents which I feel is extremely important. I also see it as a great road map for a city with endless resources. Unfortunately it all sounds great but there are many parts that just are not a reality with the current state our leadership has put us in. A strong economy goes without saying, nobody will argue that plan. I think expanding support for local business should be a high priority. Being highly involved in youth sports I also like to see the idea growing that culture.

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)

Collaboration with other cities, especially in a connected metro area like Kansas City is critical. Overland Park need to be at the table when metro wide issues arise. I do not believe this means we collaborate by joining the race to the bottom when it comes to paying off companies to come here. Overland Park has a lot to offer that other cities do not so while we need to collaborate on metro issues and do not believe we need to lower ourselves and copy everything cities with less to offer do.

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 think it goes without saying that anybody willing to run for office loves this city. That being said, I believe this is the most important election Overland Park has faced. The current leadership is outspending revenue, there is potential to lose 30% of our revenue in a situation the city manager calls "catastrophic", and infrastructure such as roads and sidewalk that we fail to maintain. I do not believe the leaders that put us in the position are the leaders best suited to get us back on the right track. That is something I will do.