

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

ROELAND PARK COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: A. J. Cameron

Candidate for Ward #: 4

Address:

4300 W 54th Street
Roeland Park, KANSAS (KS) 66205

Campaign E-Mail: aj.cameron1@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.ajcameronward4.com

Phone: 9132627738

Campaign Treasurer: Julie Huff

Candidate's Occupation: Semi-retired, working PT @ Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.

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

2015-16: I sold advertising to businesses seeking to be visible on U. S. military bases and installations
2017-Current: Semi-retired, working part-time at Dick's Sporting Goods

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

2000, 2002, & 2004: GOP Precinct Committee Person candidate - Elected 2000; St Patrick's Day Parade Committee 1982-1990; NSDGKC President 1990

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):

Through my employer (Summit Publications), I was involved with the Leawood, Shawnee, Lenexa, OP, Olathe & Louisburg Chambers, from 2004-2007

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

Through my employer (Summit Publications), I was involved with the Leawood, Shawnee, Lenexa, OP, Olathe & Louisburg Chambers, from 2004-2007

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

1. Acting in property-owners' best interests, regarding personal property taxes, both in offering relief, due to improved property values, and not exposing them to extravagant commitments.
2. Of those who have engaged me, as I have walked Ward 4, many have expressed a desire for increased transparency coming from the city council.
3. Focus upon traditional, basic infrastructure and safety needs, including street maintenance and repair, and residential street lighting for resident safety.

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

I appreciate the law enforcement, waste removal, and leaf pick-up program provided. I agree with other residents who have expressed a desire for a traditional, family-friendly, non-fast food restaurant. I question the apparent efforts of deploying agendas, pushed by outside organizations, at the expense of the finances and liberties of the residents of Roeland Park. It appears that beneficial actions are

embedded within a larger agenda, similar to what is being deployed throughout the metropolitan region. I believe this is why some residents have expressed a need for increased transparency.

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

While our economy appears to be flourishing, there are areas of weakness. At some point, a 'correction' in the economy, or worse, may happen. I believe those elected to represent the residents of Roeland Park are responsible for the current and future needs of the city and its residents, to ensure the livability and viability of the city, for current and future residents. Because of this, I believe every budget should have a buffer built into it, to allow for contingencies, and not commit property owners to the maximum resources available, via revenues and loans.

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

The city council should explore opportunities that might exist, that can bring employment and capital investment to Roeland Park, for the benefit of the residents, property-owners, and existing businesses. Several residents have expressed a concern of extending tax incentives to private businesses, as an inducement for locating within our city. An equivalent quid pro quo should be pursued for any invitation to, or expressed interest by, an entity, for locating to the city, void of any additional agenda or encumbrances. Reducing property taxes can assist in this effort.

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?

Roeland Park is a gateway city for Johnson County, and the home of family-friendly neighborhoods. I believe we should take advantage of our low crime, geographic location, especially as a transportation hub link to I-35, and relative lack of encumbrances, already levied upon cities within the metro, on both sides of the state line, to provide a welcome alternative for individuals, families, and businesses to call Roeland Park 'home'.

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

I believe each city council should pursue efforts for the benefit of its residents, businesses, and property-owners, void of outside influences. Members of a city council are elected to represent their wards and city, not act as agents for outside organizations. This includes collaborating with neighboring cities, to cross-share city venues and services, including the Roeland Park swimming pool and law enforcement, and what another city offers that is not offered by the city of Roeland Park, for the mutual benefit of the residents, property-owners, and businesses of each city involved.

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?

Every city council has the responsibility to act in the best interests of its residents, property-owners, and businesses. There appears to be an effort to homogenize the cities within the metropolitan region. This stifles innovation and steals a diversity of options. It also creates an environment for public-private partnerships, which leads to picking winners in the private sector vs. an open bidding process, for all who seek to do business with government entities. I'll entertain all points of view, with a bias towards the benefit of the residents of Roeland Park, via traditional, constitutional governance.

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

I've been a resident of Roeland Park since August 1986. I have no intention of relocating. I was asked to become a candidate by a good and trusted friend. I have been concerned about some of what has been happening within the city, and the metropolitan region, for a number of years. During my conversations with residents of Ward 4, many have expressed a desire to retain their neighborhoods of single-family homes, as they currently exist. I welcome progress, but only as it benefits those I seek to represent. I promise to act in the best interests of my constituents.