

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

ROELAND PARK COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Leonard Tocco

Candidate for Ward #: 2

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Campaign Treasurer: John S. Clements

Candidate's Occupation: Supervisor-Cyber Security Operations

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

Currently I'm a Supervisor over Cyber Security Operations for a local utility company.

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

Recently elected to the Roeland Park Aquatics Advisory Committee.

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):

N/A

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

N/A

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

1. Make Roeland Park Debt Free by 2022 -
2. Reduce Property Taxes - Encouraging local and start-up businesses to develop land here. With broader tax base we will be able to lower property taxes for homeowners.
3. Improve Quality of Life - Investing in our parks, sidewalks and streets, as well as infrastructure improvements like our community center and pool, we can improve the lives of residents and make our neighborhoods safer for everyone.

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

Roeland Park recently just completed a citizen satisfaction survey. Citizens continue to be very supportive of our Police Department. However, the 3 main areas the city needs to focus on is core infrastructure(streets, sidewalks, facilities), Parks and Recreation(This process has started and a new Parks and Rec director will be hired by the 1st of the year), and finally traffic flow. We also continue to see improvements to our newly revamped leaf pickup.

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

I believe in the concept of zero-based budgeting, which means that every expenditure should be justified each year for its purpose and effectiveness. That will reveal any potential savings. Our citizens expect fiscal responsibility - as they pay the bills.

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

Roeland Park needs to be a place where people want to move to and stay. That means keeping our taxes low, particularly property taxes. The 47 business corridor is also a good example of measures we can take to make our city attractive for businesses and families alike.

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?

1.) Roeland Park is and should remain a great place for young families to live. 2.) The 47 Business Corridor is exciting and is something we should continue to embrace 3.) Keeping Roe Blvd vibrant and attractive to both big and small business is essential.

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

With Roeland Park being a smaller city, it is the city council's responsibility to at least look at metro-area issues. There we can determine what is feasible, if we have the resources, and does it represent the city and our residents. Having these conversations allows the city to get the much needed input from residents to ensure forward progress is being made.

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?

Problem every city faces include creating a place where residents wants to live and stay. Opportunities and challenges will arise through out the years but having strong leadership to guide you through those times is key. Certain challenges the city has faced is the decrease in our sales tax. With future development we can resolve this by broadening our tax base. With development in mind, that is an opportunity for the city. With the 47th corridor and the rocks, the city has the ability to bring in new businesses and allow residents to stay local.

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

I have lived in Roeland Park for 32 years. Roeland Park has always been and will continue to be my home. I am running for office not as a stepping stone on my political agenda but because I care about my community, have had time to get to my know neighbors, and know I can be a good representative of what our citizens need from their city. I'm committed to the local issues and continue to find ways to volunteer within the city.