

**2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE**

**ROELAND PARK COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Candidate Name:** Michael Rebne

**Candidate for Ward #:** 4

**Address:**

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**Campaign Treasurer:** Kristi Meyer

**Candidate's Occupation:** Teacher

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

I have been a physics, English and engineering teacher at Wyandotte High School and a leader within the National Education Association.

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

Most recently I have been a precinct captain in my neighborhood and an education advocate for the state of Kansas.

**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):**

I have had some connection with the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce through my work at Wyandotte High School

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

I have had some connection with the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce through my work at Wyandotte High School

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

1. Community Investment
2. Street Safety
3. Preservation of parks and green space

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

The most important thing for government stewards of local tax dollars is to maximize their impact. In Roeland Park we are largely a residential community, with a small proportion of tax-generating business compared to our neighbors. We love the sense of community we feel because of this, but also shoulder a larger tax burden as individuals. Roeland Parkers appreciate businesses that choose to invest in our city and pay a fair share toward the maintenance of city services they enjoy. It is important we attract businesses that want to offer valuable services and be contributors to our community.

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

Because Roeland Parkers are concerned about property tax, I want to stay vigilant in making sure that we spend every dollar in a way that benefits the quality of life in Roeland Park. I know we want safe streets, parks with amenities, and accessibility for folks from all walks of life. Making sure we meet these goals and stick to transparent, thoughtful, and precise budget is essential to me.

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

I believe Roeland Park has a significant role to play in bringing jobs and investment to our city. Most residents I talk to want businesses that are also good community members. When businesses provide a service that our city desires and they aim to treat all stakeholders well, including customers, employees, and residents, that is the kind of organization the we want to encourage to come in to Roeland Park. Great businesses can be a part of great communities.

**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 Parkers have described several key opportunities in the city's strategic plan. These key opportunities are: Listing and marketing available commercial properties in Roeland Park, forming public-private partnerships to attract new business and diversify the tax base, and building on our commercial development plan to bring desired business to 47th and Mission, and the "old pool site". I would continue to market Roeland Park and work with neighboring cities to aggressively pursue these economic opportunities for our city and tax base.

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

I believe that because of our size and the collaborative nature of our community, Roeland Park can be a leader in tackling issues and showing larger cities how people can come together to solve complicated problems.

**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?**

One opportunity is the development of the vacant commercial spaces. The city needs to use creative tools responsibly to market and develop these properties. Again, according to the strategic plan generated by our residents, the other big opportunities are to connect our residents through community engagement and investing in walkable and bikeable spaces, as well as making Roeland Park more of a destination by offering things like a Farmer's Market and promoting our city for our amenities and positive climate.

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

I am deeply committed to public service and believe there is a healthy and essential role for a city council to play in making sure we create the best possible environment for all of our residents.