

## 2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

### SHAWNEE MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate Name:** Andy Rondon

**Candidate for Ward #:** 2

**Address:**

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Shawnee, Kansas 66203

**Campaign E-Mail:** rondon.andrew@gmail.com

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**Campaign Treasurer:** Andy Rondon

**Candidate's Occupation:** Solar Sales

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

I have been working in the solar industry for 3 years as a solar consultant. Before that I was an estimator at a construction company.

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

Active member Clean Energy Business Council Contributing member Climate Action KC, Policy Playbook team

**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):**

no

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

no

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

1. Restaurants - We have a lot of empty store fronts in downtown and across Shawnee. I would like to see them filled with shops and restaurants
2. Biking/Walking Trails, Green Spaces - As we fill our empty storefronts, our residents should be able to access the restaurants/shops with ease. Many neighborhoods do not even have sidewalks.
3. Sustainability - At its core sustainability is about long term thinking, increased efficiency, and reducing waste.

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

While I strive for constant improvement, I believe that we are getting good value for our tax dollars. However, we need to ask ourselves if our investments are being used as efficiently as possible. Are we making the most out of our investments in things like infrastructure? Our current infrastructure investments, like roads, are being used by our residents to spend money, and sales tax dollars, in other cities where they have shops and restaurants. I would like Shawnee to look for ways to put those same roads to work keep money here and bring in money from surrounding cities.

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

As the governing body reviews the budget every year, we need to make sure that we are doing everything we can to reduce waste. As it so happens, Sustainability is all about reducing waste. We need leaders who are not going to discount Sustainability because they don't understand it. If we are really going to keep a tight budget, that minimizes waste, we need our governing body to take a look at all possible solutions. We need a governing body who is asking new and thoughtful questions about where our dollars are going and how to maximize our budget.

**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 plays a huge role in economic development as we plan the city. It is our responsibility to build and maintain infrastructure. We need to make sure that our infrastructure investments are designed to serve the needs of our residents and drive investment into the city. I've heard from a lot of residents that they want more restaurants. The city needs to take that request, and others like it, into account when planning and making sure that our investments help achieve the goals of our citizens. I am a leader who can help do that.

**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) Downtown - There are tons of empty storefronts downtown and throughout Shawnee. We should fill them with restaurants/shops. 2) A July 2019 US Today article named Zip Code 66203 (Ward 2) one of the "10 Hottest Housing Markets in the Country". Young families are moving here, but we need to make Shawnee a place that they want to stay, not just a place for their starter home. Amenities such as restaurants/shops/trails will help keep families here. 3) Sustainability - The KC Metro will experience more rainfall as we experience climate change. We need to have a functioning storm-water system.

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

We are a key part of the metro. One of the reasons that Shawnee residents love Shawnee is because of how close it is to everything. However, we are not using that proximity to our advantage. Instead, we are spending our money, and sales tax dollars, in the neighboring communities where they have restaurants and other amenities that our citizens want. We should plan towards a city that has amenities for our residents to enjoy here so that our residents aren't forced to go to the other parts of the metro.

**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?**

Continuation of Q10: 1) Restaurants/Shops - Since the empty storefronts are scattered throughout Shawnee we have the opportunity to bring restaurants to all parts of town. I'd like to see every neighborhood have more restaurants options within walking distance. 2) Families, Young & Old - In addition to bringing in restaurants/shops, our residents need to be able to get there with ease. Many of our neighborhoods, including those around downtown, do not even have sidewalks. Residents would benefit from being able to walk safely through our neighborhoods. 3) Sustainability - examples above include walk-ability, which is an example of sustainability.

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

I am forward-thinking, optimistic about the future and a creative problem-solver. I believe that we can do anything that we put our minds to. However, if we are to accomplish anything we need to work

together. It takes a creative problem solver to work with people from different backgrounds to get things done. Forward thinkers can see problems early and work to address them more efficiently. I am an Eagle Scout. The biggest lesson that I learned in Scouting was "Leave the campsite better than you found it". I promise to leave city hall better than I found it.