

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

SHAWNEE MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Eric Jenkins

Candidate for Ward #: 2

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Campaign Treasurer: Laurie Grove

Candidate's Occupation: Retired FEMA Mgr & US Army Colonel

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

City Councilman/retiree

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

City Councilman

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. Reconstitute aging and failing infrastructure
2. Expand and improve public safety- police and fire.
3. Expand and recruit business presence in Shawnee

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

I believe we are doing a good job with bang for the buck. Our current tax base does not allow us to do some of the nice-to-have projects that a number of Johnson County communities. As far as essential services I believe we compete well with anyone.

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

I have proposed and I am pressing for greater funding to meet the \$140M demand for replacement of collapsing storm pipes. I am also pressing for improved staffing of our police and fire responders at the operational level. We have too many "dark" periods.

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 we have an essential role. I want minimized regulation and a streamlined development process. I will consider TIFs, CIDs, IRBs and other incentives on a case by case by case basis. I believe in some instances these incentives are over used and have really stymied improvement of our tax base. The cost of financing the city continues to grow but revenue from new development is often on 20 year deferral. We have to be able to pay the bills.

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?

There are great opportunities along the Nieman corridor, opportunities for multi-family development in the vicinity of I-435, big opportunities for warehousing and industrial on 47th St and a big market for 55+ age group and elder citizens housing.

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

Shawnee has access to and shares in metro area activities. I believe we have a basic obligation to support those activities for the common good and welfare of all. I believe we have been and are a willing partner in that area.

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?

We have to prepare our infrastructure we need to be attentive to the aging areas of the community (my Ward). We need to complete our comprehensive and provide for a strategic and well managed growth in the future. Shawnee may close to double in size as the growth plays out. It is essential that our business and homeowners growth compliment each other.

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

My background and experience and my 25 plus years of serving my community. 2 years on SMNW Advisory Board to Board of Education, twenty plus years on Planning Commission, Johnson County Charter Commission and 4 years on City Council. 34 years of military service retiring as a Colonel was great leadership training and complex problem solving and 30 years as a senior manager at FEMA Region 7 here in the metro. I have experience, leadership and multiple skills and abilities.