

## 2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

### SHAWNEE MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate Name:** Jim Neighbor

**Candidate for Ward #:** Shawnee Ward 1

**Address:**

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Shawnee, Kansas 66203

**Campaign E-Mail:** jim.neighbor1@gmail.com

**Campaign Website:** www.jimneighbor.org

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**Campaign Treasurer:** Tom Coffman

**Candidate's Occupation:** Retired Airline Pilot

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

Mandatory retirement from United Airlines 2003. Since 2010, Shawnee City Council.

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

Shawnee City Council since 2010. Attend 70-75 City and Chamber events as representative and volunteer. Participate in Shawnee Rotary events and volunteer activities.

**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 been a member of the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce as Ward 1 Representative since 2010.

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

I have been a member of the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce as Ward 1 Representative since 2010.

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

1. Aggressive Economic Development to raise the Shawnee commercial tax base to help reduce the pressure in homeowner personal property tax responsibility.
2. Expand the Kansas Neighborhood Redevelopment Act to attract new residents to the older parts of Ward 1 to promote regretting, and redevelopment.
3. Sustainable solutions for our aging infrastructure. As we repair our infrastructure, use sustainable solutions and efficiencies to increase longevity economically. I.e. LED streetlights.

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

The cost of City Services to the average Shawnee resident is \$70/month. Includes, Fire Protection/Prevention Services, Police Protection, Street Lights, Parks & Recreation activities, Codes Enforcement, Civic Center, Pools, Shawnee Town 1929, Traffic Control, Snow Removal, Crossing guards, Animal Control, Street and Sidewalk Maintenance, Planning and Zoning Services, and more.

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

Shawnee operates on a very efficient and transparent budget process using Priority Based Budgeting to run the 280 + City Programs. Continued Aggressive Economic development to creat an increased

Commercial Tax base to reduce tax pressures on Shawnee Homeowners, use sustainable and efficient solutions as we maintain our aging infrastructure, and create a future Vision for Shawnee that addresses the needs of today, but anticipates the future requirements, in an affordable way.

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

Shawnee maintains an Economic Development Contract with the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce to actively solicit new businesses to Shawnee, while at the same time working with existing businesses to grow and expand. This is done through the Shawnee Economic Development Council. This arrangement has been very successful, offering efficiencies and outcomes that the City alone would be unable to accomplish. 2018 saw \$57M in Capital investment, 992, jobs, and \$48M in payroll come to Shawnee, and 2019's results will substantially pass these numbers. Primarily with the Homeland project which will build out at 2.4 million feet under roof.

**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. Continued Aggressive Economic Development to attract new business. Equally important is to support growth and expansion of our existing businesses. Continued redevelopment of the Neiman Corridor. Promote the building of spec space to give the SEDC an inventory ready space to put new/expanding business. Lastly, promote the building of affordable housing throughout the city, and include Seniors in the mix who are downsizing, but don't want to leave Shawnee. Shawnee is taking off, and the next 10 years will see growth in Shawnee unlike anything the City has ever experienced.

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

Shawnee is a truly unique cog in the large wheel of Cities that make up the metro area that covers 2 states. We're the 3rd largest city in Johnson County, and the 7th largest City in Kansas, and although Shawnee is ably represented through the Shawnee Chamber and City Staff in the Metropolitan Area Regional Council, I believe that Shawnee should continue to work diligently through a proactive Governing Body and Chamber to increase our presence in the County, State, and Metro taking advantage of the 435 corridor and new airport facilities, while maintaining the uniqueness that is Shawnee.

**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?**

Maintain and increase the current Economic Development Momentum. Increase affordable Housing throughout the City for new families, existing families, and senior families that are downsizing. This increases the rooftops/population density that will generate the demand that will bring new shopping, restaurants, and amenities that our citizens desire. Develop a Long Term Vision for Shawnee, including these goals in the Priority Based Budgeting process to insure that they come to fruition. Find sustainable solutions for our aging infrastructure that address those needs efficiently yet economically. Shawnee is a very desirable Large/Unique City. The challenge will be to maintain both traits.

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

During my Airline career, we were continually trained to work with others crew members of achieve the best possible solution to a situation in an appropriate and timely manner to achieve a positive outcome. During the past 44 years as a Shawnee resident, 9 serving on City Council, I understand the City, it's Needs, present and future, Priority Based Budgeting, and the critical importance of Public-Private

partnerships to achieve this Future Growth. The next 10 years are critical for Shawnee, I have the experience and background to provide the continuity of leadership to accomplish this future vision for Shawnee.