

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

SHAWNEE MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Tammy Thomas

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Campaign Treasurer: Lesia Henry

Candidate for Ward #: Ward 1

Candidate's Occupation: Safe Families for Children

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

Regional Director - KS Department for Children and Families. Responsible for 5 full service centers in five counties. Currently work for Safe Families for Children.

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

Working to serve through the Department for Children and Families. Balancing politics from Washington/Topeka and the needs of families within the Kansas City Region.

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. Public Safety
2. Infrastructure
3. Property Taxes

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

My family and I love Shawnee - this is why we live here. Shawnee is a safe, and wonderful place to call home. People expect city government to provide public safety, a solid and reliable infrastructure, clean and quality parks and recreation, and be supportive of small business and families. We need to ensure that tax dollars are prioritized on these items and in a fiscally responsible way. The city needs to listen to Shawnee citizens and include them in the process. Together, we can ensure the value of city services matches the investment the city asks from the people.

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

This is a good question. Given the level of concern that has been reported regarding the failing pipes, certainly our infrastructure needs to be a key priority. We need to continue to make progress on improving our streets, and of course, ensuring our police and fire have the funding they truly need to protect our growing city. Once these *needs* are met, we can have a discussion about increased funding for amenities and what that should look like, in a collaborative way with the people who pay the bills - the taxpayers.

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

Certainly, the city has a role to play in promoting economic development within its borders. That starts with recognizing opportunities and ongoing communication with different stakeholders in the business community. It also means policies that promote an environment that is favorable to all business, such as low tax rates and removing regulatory barriers that discourage business. I favor this approach instead of policies that pick the "winners" through incentives that benefit only one developer. While there is a role for incentives, we should be deliberate in how and when we use them.

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?

First of all, I think there is a great opportunity at improving and highlighting "downtown" Shawnee so it is attractive for people to live, work, and play. Second, Shawnee has a rich history of being an attractive place for families - and we need to ensure our residential neighborhoods remain vibrant. People like the fact we are a bedroom community and we should maintain that reputation. Finally, I think the city has a great opportunity to expand our industrial business base, which will lessen the property tax burden on residents.

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

We are part of the greater Kansas City Metro. Be at the table when discussion opportunities take place across city, county, and state lines. Be a partner to our boarding cities. Remember, we represent citizens of Shawnee; our behavior becomes the impression of our city to those we come in contact.

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?

*Challenge is the fact we have experienced only a fraction of residential growth when compared to the exponential increase of our budget during that same time. Why? *Challenge is the state of our infrastructure and the pricetag attached to bring it where it should be. *Opportunity is taking corrective action in being more efficient with our budget. Be intentional and deliberate about allocating taxpayer resources and maintaining effective services. Public safety and infrastructure are the priorities. The only standard of acceptance is excellence.

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

My entire work history has been about service, stewardship, and leadership. 1) Healthcare 2) Board of Education USD 232 3) State of Kansas Long Term Care Liaison for the elderly 4) Regional Director State of Kansas Department for Children and Families 5) Safe Families for Children I've had the blessing and privilege to care for our greatest asset and that's family. In multiple facets throughout my career, families are the central focus. Shawnee is not a city of people, we are a community of families! Families are the bullseye for every step/decision we make. This is why I'm running.