

## 2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

### WESTWOOD MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Candidate Name:** David Waters

**Candidate for Ward #:** Westwood Mayor

**Address:**

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Westwood, KS 66205

**Campaign E-Mail:** davidewaters@gmail.com

**Campaign Website:**

www.WatersForWestwood.com

**Phone:** 9137068344

**Campaign Treasurer:** Julie Peterson

**Candidate's Occupation:** Attorney

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

Attorney-at-Law (Partner) with Lathrop Gage LLP, in Overland Park, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri

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

Westwood City Council (2016-present); Westwood Planning Commission (2008-2016); 47th and Mission Road Area Development and Management Committee (2010-2016).

**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):

Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce (Board of Directors, 2012-present) (Board Chair, 2019); Leadership Kansas; Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (Public Policy Council).

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

Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce (Board of Directors, 2012-present) (Board Chair, 2019); Leadership Kansas; Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (Public Policy Council).

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

1. A Mayor for all of Westwood, to ensure that all stakeholders have a seat at the table.
2. A Government that is Accountable, to ensure properly-balanced revenues and provide the services our citizens expect.
3. A Westwood that is Moving Forward, to seize upon our opportunities and take concrete steps toward progress.

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

Westwood's residents receive tremendous value for their tax dollars. Our City's professional police department provides exceptional service and protection. Our public works department works incredibly hard providing storm sewers, road and sidewalk improvements, street lighting, park amenities, snow removal, and leaf pick-up. Westwood also promotes community, through summer pool access to Woodside and resident events such as Movies and Music in the Park, Oktoberfest, and the annual

Holiday Tree Lighting and Easter Egg Hunt events. We have done so while maintaining a stable mill levy rate, while also preparing for our future needs.

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

It has been said that a budget should reflect the values of a community. Westwood's budget emphasizes the importance of safe and secure neighborhoods, accommodation for families and walkability, and attractive streetscapes. However, our City will continue to face challenges associated with aging infrastructure and municipal facilities, and while we have made large investments recently, we will need to plan and budget carefully to ensure that Westwood's tax base continues to broaden and diversify, and that we save appropriately so as to remain self-sufficient during any difficult financial periods.

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

As Mayor, I will be a champion for our City in economic development. For Westwood, that first means ensuring the continued growth and future expansion of our Westwood Elementary School and continuing to attract families and investment into our single-family neighborhoods. It also means continuing to invest in our streets and infrastructure, to provide an environment where residents and businesses feel secure in investing and growing. Finally, Westwood should take advantage of what resources it has to encourage business investment so as to diversify our tax base, helping ease the burden on our residents.

**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. Westwood View: Our school attracts residents and investment in our single-family neighborhoods. Ensuring its viability is of the utmost importance, and I would work with SMSD to see that future expansion is planned and funded, allowing Westwood to proceed on other needed projects, such as park improvements. 2. 47th Street: With "The 47" campaign and a planned street diet with added bicycle lanes, 47th Street can continue to grow as a premier commercial corridor. 3.

Woodside Village: Completion of phases 2 and 3 will attract new residents and new businesses to what may be Westwood's most important commercial corner.

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

My philosophy is that Westwood can be, and should be, a leader in the metro area. Westwood borders six other municipalities (including two different counties, and one different state), and is in an ideal position to lead on regional issues. From walkability, to housing options, to nondiscrimination, to complete streets, and with a mix of housing and businesses in close proximity to each other, Westwood is ideally situated to consider and act on new ideas and new models.

**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?**

Westwood has many unique opportunities ahead of it, and it is time to move forward on them. The redevelopment of Westwood View Elementary and the former Entercom property; expansion and updating of our Park; street improvements on 47th Street, including designs for multi-modal transportation such as busing, bike lanes, and widened sidewalks; the provision of affordable housing, especially for our aging-in-place population; and continued revitalization of our commercial corridors. Planning for these opportunities requires knowledge of the issues, an understanding of the big picture, and an appreciation for the impacts on our residents, businesses, City finances, and City services.

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

Although I am unopposed for the position, I have the right kind of experience to lead the City. I currently serve on the Westwood City Council, and am on the Public Works Committee and the Public Safety Committee. I am an attorney, specializing in municipal law. I was a member of the Westwood Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals for eight years, and I was one of Westwood's representatives on the 47th Street Committee for five years. Above all, I am called to service for our City, and I consider it among my greatest privileges and responsibilities.