

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

WESTWOOD MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Holly Wimer

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Campaign Treasurer: Erica Jenkins

Candidate for Ward #: at large

Candidate's Occupation: Noonday Collection Ambassador and mother

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

I have worked as a Noonday Collection Ambassador, Advisor and Coach since January of 2012. I am also hard at work raising 3 children.

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

I have been a PTA member and school volunteer since August of 2015. I served as a Girl Scout troop leader from 2016-2019.

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. I want to work towards a connected and caring community supporting all individuals in our city. I would love to create opportunities for more residents to be connected with their city government and pathways for residents to serve.
2. I hope to increase pedestrian and bike safety throughout our city so more residents will choose to walk or bike, creating a healthier community and more opportunities for residents to interact. I would love to see more children walking or biking to school, and create safer pathways around this as well.
3. I will steward the green space we have and be thoughtful about new development. I will work to serve the maximum amount of residents we can with how we utilize space in our city, while being mindful of a tax burden on residents with new park space or development.

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

We have a thriving and high performing neighborhood school that continues to draw and keep families in Westwood. Our public works staff is hardworking and attentive and our police force is involved,

accessible and responds quickly when help is needed. From my experience as a resident the services we receive here in Westwood for our tax dollars are excellent.

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

I believe a city budget should reflect the values of the city. I do think our current city budget is thoughtfully and intentionally planned. I would love to see our sales tax revenue increase, so we can continue to provide great services to Westwood residents.

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 the City's primary role is to serve its residents and stewards its resources. That being said, Westwood is a desirable area to have a business because of our location and community. I believe the city should have a great collaborative working relationship with local businesses and those considering Westwood for their business home so that this continues to be true. The city should intentionally work with developers and investors so that neighborhood character is preserved and businesses enhance the lives of Westwood 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?

Our school continues to be a driver for growth in our city, drawing new residents and increasing property value. The school is important to our economy and I will work towards continuing the excellence that this school provides to our community. Homeowners working on improvements and redesigns of our aging housing stock has economic opportunity to our city. Homes should be improved and designed in a way that protects the character of our city. As potential new development happens that increases tax revenue, increasing park space and protecting green space should be the priority within this development

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

The location of our city has us uniquely linked to so much of the metro area. It is important for Westwood to be aware and educated on metro-area issues. There is much to be learned when communities and cities collaborate on issues together. Westwood should take those opportunities to engage, learn, serve and be served when they are presented.

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?

There is potential for development shifting around depending on the location of our school property. I will work on this shifting of spaces by engaging residents and utilizing Westwood's Comprehensive Plan. With these opportunities it is important to me that we balance what we want as a community and the potential tax burden on residents. We have a special opportunity to connect newer residents in our city to long time residents. Utilizing pedestrian friendly design, expanding park space and implementing programs to involve more residents are examples of a few ways to work towards this connection.

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

I really like people and have an ability to appreciate qualities in lots of different kinds of people. Listening to, understanding and connecting people is something I truly enjoy. As the daughter of two public school teachers and a former public school teacher myself, I place significant value on education and will work towards supporting our public school in Westwood. As a mother, I value children and love

raising my children here in Westwood. More than just serving as a policy maker, I will work to be a person who can make relationships grow and thrive in our city.