

Johnson County Commission 2020

Response ID:4 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Charlotte O'Hara

2. District Number of Office Being Sought

District 3

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 15712 Windsor St

City/State/Zip : OP, Ks. 66224

4. Phone Number

913-304-4148

5. Email Address

charlotteiohara@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

OharaforJoCocommission on Facebook

2. Candidate Background

7. Occupation/Work History (last 5 years - 25 words or less)

Real estate investor. Previous background as a residential general contractor / developer

8. If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list which organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held.

I was a member of Kansas City Builders Assoc. and Olathe Builders Assoc., both several years ago.

9. Other recent political/community experience? (25 words or less)

Ks. Rep, 27th District

JoCo Heritage Trust Fund Board

Board of Code Review

Republican Party 3rd Congressional District Chairwoman

3. Issues and Policy

10. As a candidate, what are your top three priorities for Johnson County? (30 words or less)

Transparency and Accountability with:

Votes on property tax increases

Votes on Tax Increment Finance Districts

Votes on state of emergency orders, elected officials must stop hiding behind staff.

11. What is your philosophy and approach to managing the county budget? (75 words or less)

We can always find efficiencies and that is the philosophy that will guide me, always look for efficiencies.

12. There has been much discussion about metro-area regionalism. Please explain your views on regional cooperation. (75 words or less)

MARC is the conduit for federal funds coming into the area. However, this is not "free" money; these are our tax dollars. If JoCo takes federal dollars, we lose control of how to spend our money. The less we depend on federal dollars, the better.

13. Describe your views on the balance between the distribution of costs and services between incorporated and unincorporated areas of Johnson County. (75 words or less)

I oppose island annexation because it shifts infrastructure costs from individual cities to the county taxpayers as a whole and feeds into leapfrog development. Also, I support the state statute that protects land owners from forced annexation. Property rights must be protected.

14. What do you believe the role of the County should be in economic development? (75 words or less)

Study after study, including Ks. Legislative post-audit reports, has shown that tax incentives do not deliver what they promise. Picking and choosing winners and losers through tax giveaways is bad public policy. Therefore, the commission should allow a veto vote on all TIF districts as prescribed by state statute.

15. What do you believe the takeaways for the County Commission should be from the COVID-19 pandemic experience? (75 words or less)

Elected officials should have made policy decisions in an open vote, instead of hiding behind staff. Transparency and accountability should have been the highest priority.

16. What would you describe as the top five functions of county government? Please list them in your order of priority. (75 words or less)

Public safety/Judicial
Roads
Appraiser's office
Parks
Libraries

17. What changes, if any, to the Johnson County Home Rule Charter do you believe should be considered? (75 words or less)

Return to partisan elections; everyone wants to know with which party a candidate is affiliated. Also, the Office of County Sheriff must remain an elected position.

18. What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race? (50 words or less)

Real world business experience along with my political experience enables me to drive to the heart of issues quickly, succinctly, and without political fluff.