

Johnson County Commission 2020

Response ID:3 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Pam Shernuk

2. District Number of Office Being Sought

3

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 8905 W. 157th Street

City/State/Zip : Overland Park 66221

4. Phone Number

9137065661

5. Email Address

pshernuk@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

pam4joco.com

2. Candidate Background

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

I retired from the BV School District in 2015, after 20 years of service. Since then I have been volunteering and doing private consulting.

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 have not been affiliated with any Chamber of Commerce in the area.

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

Johnson County Commission on Aging, vice-chair.
Board of Directors for Johnson County Christmas Bureau.
Blue Valley Legislative Advisory Group.

3. Issues and Policy

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

Economic Development
Mental Health and Aging Services
Public Safety

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

I will work to promote fiscal accountability and government transparency. COVID-19 has had a profound impact on our

community and the county must fund the agencies and services the community has deemed as priorities without raising taxes. These include public safety, mental health, aging services. The County must work in innovative ways to reallocate dollars within the existing budget to meet the needs of the community.

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

Realistically, I am a proponent of regionalism in the Kansas City metro area. Federal dollars are sent to this area and all local governments need to be at the table to ensure their share. We are becoming more and more a global society and we must work together to be successful.

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)

Basically, the County is the caretaker of the land in the unincorporated areas until the cities annex it for development. It is to everyone's advantage for the County to maintain services and infrastructure requirements so when the time comes for annexation, the cities are in a more desirable position.

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

I believe the County should provide the overall quality of life that potential businesses are seeking. For example, public safety, libraries, regional parks, museums and environmental services. We must also work with and support our local public schools and educational institutions.

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

The primary take away is that the County provides public health services to its residents and needs to maintain high quality health services. Once the pandemic has declined, it will be incumbent upon the County to be vigilant in providing services needed to attract new businesses without raising taxes.

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
Government Transparency
Fiscal Accountability
Provide services for vulnerable populations
Maintain overall quality of life to attract new businesses and residents

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

There has been much discussion about whether or not to make the race for County Commission a partisan race, as it was before the Charter change. No changes can be made without convening a Charter Commission. Ultimately, this decision should be made after much discussion and input from the public. Once due diligence is done and a public vote is taken, I will support the people's decision.

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

I have a master's degree in public administration, with an emphasis in state and local government.
I am familiar with the county's organizational structure and budget and have served on the Johnson County Commission on Aging for three years.
This is the only office I am interested in holding.