

# Johnson County Commission 2020

Response ID:17 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Shirley Allenbrand

### 2. District Number of Office Being Sought

6

### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 26879 W. Shadow Circle

City/State/Zip : Olathe, KS 66061

### 4. Phone Number

913.579.8206

### 5. Email Address

Shirley@shirleyallenbrand.com

### 6. Campaign Website

www.ShirleyAllenbrand.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

Working as a consultant designing and marketing in several states primarily in senior living communities. I have developed over \$150 million in development & design.

### 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.

During my business career, I served in many leadership positions for several Johnson County Chambers. Currently, I am a member of the Olathe, De Soto, and Gardner/Edgerton Chambers.

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

Olathe Planning Commission,  
Board for University Kansas Health Systems, 100 Women Olathe Schools, Friends of Cedar Crest, Women Who Mean Business, Heart to Heart Airlift

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

Keep our businesses open in a safe healthy environment.  
Rebuild- county economy  
Ensure- excellent Public Safety  
Provide-quality libraries & Parks & Recreation services.  
Support- fiscal responsibility with taxpayers dollars.

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

I have looked back on the early years and respect the earlier commissioners that were in place of putting a reserve into place. It's not the role of county commissioner to micromanage the management team. As a business owner in the healthcare industry, we managed millions of dollars in revenue and managed thousands of employees you cannot be a micromanager. You will create failure. With Covid 19 expenses we need to listen to medical data.

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

Johnson County is active in positive regional efforts such as collaboration with the Sheriff's office, membership in the Mid America Regional Council, a partner in the regional transit system, membership in the CORE 4 and working with the KC Civic Council, KC Area Development Council and the Greater KC Chamber on the KC Rising effort, a long term effort to grow the economy of the region. Regional efforts are important when they help every area.

**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)**

A significant part of the 6th district contains a large unincorporated area. The current system of the county providing essential services to the unincorporated area has worked well because it has allowed cities to provide contiguous development and planned growth as well as shared services with the county.

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

If I were voted as your county Commissioner, I would listen to the chambers, local businesses, and citizens to help restore economic development and tourism. Johnson County is a great place to live and work along with the amazing school districts. Every voice counts and we need to work together as a team.

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

I believe the some of commissioners turn the COVID-19 into more of a pandemic by not providing answers to not opening our businesses safely. We should listen to our medical experts, secure our businesses and not make COVID-19 a political agenda.

**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)**

1. Help rebuild our economy and keep our businesses open in a safe environment with COVID-19.
2. Ensure public safety, fire department, sheriff office and district attorney
3. Provide quality library's and parks & recreation services.
4. Improve mental health and affordable housing in the county.
5. Support fiscal responsibility with taxpayer dollars to rebuild our economy. Collaborate with citizens, medical community, businesses, nonprofits, local government to continue a high quality of life.

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

I believe the home rule charter should stand as written. I know there has been discussions of making this a partisan position of the county commissioners and I think this is wrong. The sewers, jails, libraries, airports and parks are not partisan. Every voice should be heard and it shouldn't matter about political agendas. Administrative positions should not be elected but hired by the county manager.

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

I'm a native of Johnson County and have raised my children here. Now my grandchildren are growing up in the DeSoto school district. I have spent my life volunteering and dedicating myself to community and state. Leadership style is to listen to all voices. It's time!