

Johnson County Commission 2020

Response ID:2 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Stacy Obringer-Varhall

2. District Number of Office Being Sought

3

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 14020 Stearns St

City/State/Zip : Overland Park

4. Phone Number

9134512511

5. Email Address

stacy@stacyov.com

6. Campaign Website

<https://www.stacyov.com/>

2. Candidate Background

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

Blue Valley Board of Education member since 2013 including 4.5 years in leadership.

Executive experience at Sprint prior to past 18 years of volunteer service.

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.

Blue Valley Educational Foundation Board of Directors

KSHSAA Board of Directors

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

PTA President

PTO Vice-President

Blue Valley Recreation Advisory Board

Girls softball coach

Additional extensive volunteer service for BV Schools, BV Educational Foundation and BV Recreation

3. Issues and Policy

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

Obviously, the response to COVID-19 in the county is #1 priority, but other priorities include:

-Keeping citizens safe

-Rebuilding Johnson County economy

-Enhancing services for mental health and aging

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

Allow the professionals of each department to guide the communication of needs and revenue components of the budget.
Extensive outreach to the community with more robust public hearings and input.
Balancing fiscal responsibility with providing the needed services for the county.

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

Working together with other communities benefits everyone. Johnson County took a big step forward with the organization of Core 4. Together we were able to:

- Work to combat COVID-19
- Collaborative effort to coordinate services in the metro such as coordinated system of testing public alarms
- Achieve economic development results through work with the Kansas City Area Development Council
- Transit partnership has improved service throughout the region

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)

There is no doubt that city tax base, especially commercial, subsidizes services to the unincorporated areas of our county. However, the county has worked well with the cities to ensure contiguous, well-planned development as well as collaborative provision of services for efficiency sake. That balance must be constantly monitored as the cost of quality services continues to rise.

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

Johnson County provides a high level of services that attracts businesses and workers. This in turn grows the tax base and helps keep residents' taxes lower. There is a high rate of start-ups and growing companies who appreciate the good labor source and newer facilities here. By supporting partnerships between the county, economic development agencies, and local cities we can effectively market Johnson County as a great place to live and work.

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

There are many lessons to be learned from the past four months on an issue that has never occurred before and it was not without road bumps. But leadership worked tirelessly to come up with a reasonable and fair plan to reopen the community. I applaud leaders in the local offices who worked together across government entities and followed the science and not the politics in responding to COVID-19.

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) Public safety and health of citizens (COVID-19, Sheriff, District Attorney, juvenile justice, drug abuse, etc.)
- 2) Wastewater (high priority for all!)
- 3) Social services (mental health, aging, disabled, etc.)
- 4) Parks, Recreation, and Libraries
- 5) Transportation and transit issues (public transit offerings, airport, roads, etc.)

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

In the next year there will be an opportunity to review the current Home Rule Charter approved in January 2012. I do not personally believe any changes are currently needed to the charter. However, if it is decided that another vote on the Charter is necessary, I would support the voters right to choose. I believe the county is currently flourishing under the leadership of the non-partisan elected officials and the appointed administrative positions.

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

- Experience with professional staff, large public budgets, and setting policy while serving on the Blue Valley School Board.
- Proven leadership for over 25 years with a 7-member nonpartisan board, in community service, and as part of the Sprint organization.
- Demonstrated inclusiveness and transparency with the public.