

# Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:61 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Amy Rider

### 2. Candidate for Ward # (if applicable)

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### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 10204 Johnson Dr.

City/State/Zip : Merriam, KS. 66203

### 4. Phone Number

913-735-0828

### 5. Email Address

amy.4.merriam@gmail.com

### 6. Campaign Website

amy4merriam3.webnode.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

Supervisor at Starbucks

### 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.

### 9. Other recent political/community experience (50 words or less)

Before Covid19 I helped out in my son's classroom and was part of the PTA. Beyond that, we pick up trash when we go on walks.

## 3. Issues and Policy

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### 10. As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues? (100 words or less)

- 1) Make Merriam walkable.
- 2) Advocate for high-value gathering places, like community gardens and dog parks.
- 3) Support the development of affordable and diverse housing options in Merriam.

### 11. What are your views on the services and value the City's citizens receive for their local tax dollars? (100 words or less)

I believe we do a great job maintaining roadways and parks. I think we need to provide more walkways and community gathering areas.

### 12. What changes, if any, would you like to see to the City budget? (100 words or less)

I think the budget is fine. I love that we spend 50% of our budget on our schools.

**13. What role, if any, do you believe the City should play in economic development to bring jobs and capital investment to the community? (100 words or less)**

The city can encourage economic development by beautifying the downtown area and other business districts. I would be interested in exploring possible tax cuts as an incentive for businesses to relocate to our area.

**14. As the City considers future development and redevelopment projects, describe your views on how the City should best manage and balance growth? (100 words or less)**

In addition to developing the business districts we should also provide a wider variety of housing options, such as condos, townhomes, and apartments.

**15. What is your philosophy on the role the City should play in terms of metro-area issues? (100 words or less)**

In order to alleviate metro-area issues the city should provide education, transportation, recreation, and community involvement opportunities.

Education is the antithesis of poverty and crime. Diverse transportation options as well as job opportunities allow for the improvement of one's livelihood.

Recreation creates friendship and community. Community involvement creates empowerment.

**16. What do you believe the takeaways for the City should be, if any, from the COVID-19 pandemic experience? (100 words or less)**

Socializing and being in nature both contribute to positive mental health. By developing more outdoor gathering spaces we can satisfy our mental health needs while reducing the spread of communicable diseases.

**17. What do you believe are the greatest challenges the City faces over the next ten years and how would you address them? (100 words or less)**

The greatest challenges facing our city are the rising poverty level and class segregation. By interspersing a wider variety of housing options among our neighborhoods we can encourage compassion and understanding among neighbors creating a homogeneous support system in the community.

**18. Why are you seeking this public office? (100 words or less)**

I desire to give a voice to those who have fallen through the cracks because I listen to and speak up for those who are under-represented.

**19. What do you believe makes you uniquely qualified to serve in this position and most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race? (100 words or less)**

As a young professional woman with a blended family I represent that majority of our demographic. I also understand the issues facing our seniors and minorities and seek to find solutions for all of our citizens.