

# Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:43 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

### 1. Candidate Name

Joe Berkey

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

At Large

### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 206 N. Madison St.

City/State/Zip : Spring Hill, KS 66083

### 4. Phone Number

913-548-1304

### 5. Email Address

berkeyjoe@gmail.com

### 6. Campaign Website

N/A

## 2. Candidate Background

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

I have worked as the owner of a residential Construction and Maintenance company for many years.

### 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.

My business is a member of the Spring Hill Chamber of Commerce.

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

I have attended many City Council meetings over the last couple years, either in person or online.

My wife and I have volunteered at our church youth group for 17+ years, and many Spring Hill teens currently attend our youth group, and have over previous years.

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

1. I believe our infrastructure, and specifically our roads need some serious attention. I believe we can identify additional grants, and other forms of revenue, that can help fund these needed improvements, without putting all the burden on the taxpayers.

2. Help attract/promote new growth, and draw new businesses to the Spring Hill area. This will increase the tax revenue, and allow us to fund infrastructure and other needs/desires in our community, and lessen the residential tax burden.

3. Create a transparent budget that maximizes available funds, and what we can accomplish with them, but minimizes the burden on taxpayers.

**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 the City of Spring Hill does a pretty good job of maximizing the services and value of our tax dollars, but I believe we can do even better. I would like to see many more infrastructure projects be completed in a timely manner (specifically roads), and also more options/opportunities for citizens to enjoy the outdoors (walking/biking trails, park improvements, sidewalks.....).

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

I would like to see more of the City budget assigned to infrastructure needs. Our roads need some work, in many areas around town. There are also some additional infrastructure needs that need addressed.

I would like to see more money allocated to parks, and different recreational options here in Spring Hill, that would encourage residents to stay in town more, and spend their time/money locally in our hometown.

**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)**

I believe the City should have policies and procedures in place that streamline the application/permit process to help attract and promote new growth, and draw new businesses to the Spring Hill area. This will provide work opportunities for our community members, along with providing additional options for food, retail, and other amenities that will greatly benefit those that enjoy shopping and supporting local businesses. This will also increase the tax revenue, which will allow us to better fund infrastructure and other needs/desires in our community, and hopefully lessen the residential tax burden.

**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)**

I believe residential and commercial growth are great for our community in many ways. I believe we can create more opportunities for housing, and commercial development, without jeopardizing the hometown feel that we all love. This will have to be done with strategic planning, and detail, to best meet the needs and desires of the residents of Spring Hill. The city will need to address each case and decide on the best plan of action for our city and for our community members.

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

I believe that we as a City should focus on our Spring Hill residents. That is what we are elected to do. I believe we should always look at ways to serve others as best as possible, but I believe we should focus on our residents first and foremost.

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

I believe that we have found that we need each other, and we need community. Every one deserves to have a voice, and have that voice heard. Everyone also deserves the right to decide what is best for them and their family.

**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)**

I believe handling the continued growth properly, and all the infrastructure needs (some due to the growth) will be the greatest challenges we will face as a City. We will need to address them in strategic ways, and with the least amount of burden placed on the taxpayers. We will need to assess them as they come, and put forth the best budget friendly plan, that will still meet the needs that arise. Being able to identify possible additional grants, and other forms of revenue will help fund these needs, without putting all the burden on the taxpayers.

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

I am running for City Council so I can give back to the community I love. I believe I have the skills necessary to listen to the people, and implement their desires for Spring Hill, in a successful, strategic, and economic way. My family and I have lived in Spring Hill for 16+ years. I have kids in each of the school levels, and we are very invested here. The future of Spring Hill is very important to me, and my family, and I want to help ensure it continues to be a community I am proud to call home.

**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)**

I believe my energy, my passion for this community, and the fact that my family is/has been so invested in this community helps set me apart. We have lived in this community for 16+ years, and every one of our (4) kids was/is being raised here, and are going K-12 through our Spring Hill schools. My small business also calls Spring Hill home. The future of Spring Hill is very important to me, and my family. I believe I can bring that passion, and fresh ideas to the City Council, all while honoring the legacy of those who serve/have served.