

Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:59 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Cole Robinson

2. Candidate for Ward # (if applicable)

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3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 5336 West 67th Street,
City/State/Zip : Prairie Village

4. Phone Number

7859796094

5. Email Address

colemrobinson@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

www.coleforpv.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Self employed financial trader primarily of equity indices and commodities

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.

No

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

Campaign manager - Melanie Haas for KS BOE
Founding staffer - Sharice Davids for Congress
Campaign manager - Jerry Stogsdill for KS House
Member of Kansas Democratic Party state executive board
Member of Johnson County Democrats executive board

3. Issues and Policy

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

- 1) Keep taxes low and fair in Prairie Village - opposing any raise to our mill levy
- 2) Continuing to allocate at least 75% of all tax dollars to police and public works in PV
- 3) Prioritize locally owned small businesses for our limited commercial spaces

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

The median PV resident pays \$70 a month in taxes to Prairie Village and is only 16% of their overall property tax burden. In exchange, they receive world-class fire and police services as well as wonderfully maintained roads, sidewalks and parks. City administrative salaries are at 12% of total budget and properly compensates the talented individuals that adeptly manage our city.

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

75% of our budget goes to roads and public works, 12% goes to staff salaries, and 3% goes to our municipal courts. The remaining 10% of all spending is the only portion that I feel is up for debate, and I'm satisfied with the current use of those funds as well as the processes that are in place for the debate and allocation of those funds.

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 should be a partner in hand with the business community. In our case, however, we are primarily a residential community and a dense one at that. Overall, I do not believe in passing off business risk to the taxpayer, which I feel like is something that happens all too frequently. I far prefer an example like Meadowbrook park where the city took out \$20m+ in bonding that will be entirely repaid through the revenues generated from the development. This is closer to a situation where everyone wins.

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)

PV continues to attract new residents every day while lacking new land for expansion. This has put a lot of pressure on our housing values - generally a good thing and part of a larger macroeconomic trend. Much of the housing stock is two or three generations old and nearing the end of its useful life. I support building updated homes while adhering to our system of codes and enforcement. However, I also strongly support creative solutions that will help allow residents on a fixed income to age-in-place. This will continue to be an issue for years to come.

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

As a primarily residential, land-locked community of 25,000 people, the needs of Prairie Village can often be different or more nuanced than some of other neighbors. Something that works well in KCMO or Overland Park might not be as effective in our city. Likewise, Prairie Village can also craft policy mainly focusing on single-family homeowners - prioritizing parks, streets, and public safety, among many other things. The relative homogeneity of our community allows us to be more effective in serving them. Therefore, I trust our municipal government

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 am generally pleased with the way our city navigated and continues to manage the challenges created from the pandemic. We followed the guidance of medical experts and law enforcement when it came to keeping our community safe. Even in the midst of a large drop off in some revenue sources, we were able to see that our balance sheet is robust and that the city can handle periods of extreme uncertainty. This provides an additional layer of security for our residents and businesses since they know that the municipal government is a stable backstop in a time of crisis.

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)

Rising home values and property taxes pressuring long term, single-income residents - PV isn't the only city in the country or even county with this problem, and I look forward to researching how other cities have handled this in the past. Some sort of tax abatement program for qualifying long term residents makes a lot of sense to me

Refreshing the city's housing stock - A large quantity of our homes were built before 1970 and are nearing the end of useful life. Working with developers to create new inventory while following codes is imperative.

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

I love Prairie Village. It has been my home for nearly my entire life and I am now raising my own family here. I have seen how

this community provided opportunities for myself and so many others to be successful. The quality of its institutions, the strength of its public safety program and police department, as well as its focus on curbside aesthetics, among many more things, has created a truly world-class municipality. When a local government is run well and by competent, genuine people, it adds enormous intangible value to its residents.

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 am a third-generation Prairie Village resident. My family has been here nearly since the inception of the city. I have worked closely with candidates and lawmakers at all levels of government and am familiar with what the job entails. Also, as a commodities and stock indices trader, I bring a knowledge of financial markets as well as macroeconomics that can be useful in a role on the council. I've always worked for myself and found a way to get things done. I look forward to bringing this skill set to voters and hopefully the council.