

Overland Park City Council 2021

Response ID:1 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Michael Czerniewski

2. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 8504 W 80 Terrace

City/State/Zip : Overland Park, KS 66204

3. Phone Number

913-221-7501

4. Email Address

mistermws@yahoo.com

5. Campaign Website

Facebook.com/Ski4Kansas

2. Candidate Background

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

Current chess instructor, delivery driver, and freelance videographer and podcaster. Past: security officer, warehouse stocker.

7. Please list political, community and business organizations with whom you have been affiliated and any leadership positions you have held.

Johnson County Democratic Party, Executive Board 2007-2011. Independent Filmmakers Coalition of Kansas City Board.

Kansas City Podcasters Meetup Organizer since September 2020.

Boy Scouts of America, Merit Badge Counselor.

3. Issues and Policy

8. List your top three policy issues? (100 words or less)

Having a city government that will listen to the citizens.

Finding a balance between history and progress, particularly in older parts of the city.

Same fiscal policy.

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

We currently have a city government that willfully ignores the will of its citizens to enrich themselves and developers.

Examples of this include the use of chip seal on residential roads, taking out traffic lights at 91st and Glenwood, using COVID relief funds on video equipment, and most recently allowing toll lanes on US 69.

10. Regarding the City's budget, a 1-mill property tax increase to fund the recommendations of the Mental Health Task Force has been proposed for 2022. Do you support the task for recommendations? Do you support increasing the mill levy for this purpose? Discuss why/why not and how you would fund the recommendations if you support them but not the mill levy increase. (100 words or less)

As someone who does suffer from mental illness, I support anything that increases funding to better study this.

11. What changes, if any, would you like to see in the City's proposed budget for 2022?

Would need to see the budget to make an informed decision.

12. 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)

TIFs are clearly not the answer, not are they needed in our city. Access to available affordable housing is a must to attract workers and give them a place to live.

13. 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)

If it isn't broke, don't mess with it. Get the citizens' input before making any decisions in this area. Also, we desperately need to stop sprawling to the south.

14. 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)

Finding the proper balance between history and progress. No new developments unless they're absolutely necessary.

15. Do you believe the current city manager form of government we have is appropriate for Overland Park or would you favor a "strong mayor" form of government? (100 words or less)

City manager form of government is not the problem, so no need to change that.

16. It is estimated that replacing chip seal road resurfacing with a method similar to surrounding cities will cost more than \$20 million per year. Do you favor eliminating the chip seal process, and if so, how would you pay for the increased cost? (100 words or less)

Yes, I do. Would need to look at all alternatives to find something inexpensive yet durable and sustainable.

17. What specific proposals do you have to support the goal of providing access to affordable housing throughout the City? (100 words or less)

In Downtown Overland Park, no fewer than 5 mini-high rises were recently built. Make some of those apartments affordable before building any more.

18. Since its founding in 1960, Overland Park leaders have had a long history of visionary planning. What do you believe the City should do today to ensure the City's prosperity for the next 60-years? (100 words or less)

Listen to the people. Also, and I know this is more of an issue for KCATA, we need to seriously consider improving our public transit system in some fashion.

19. Do you believe the City of Overland Park is headed in the right direction?

No.

20. Do you believe the City of Overland Park City Council is responsive to the needs of the community? What is your approach to governance?

No.

21. Why are you seeking this public office?

The city council, especially in my ward, has failed and continues to fail to listen to the citizens. I seek office because I want to be part of the solution.

22. What do you believe makes you uniquely qualified to serve in this position and most distinguishes you from your

opponent(s) in this race?

Life experience and the fact that I'm not completely bought.