

Lenexa City Council 2021

Response ID:3 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Craig Denny

2. Candidate for Ward

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3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 8938 Cottonwood Street

City/State/Zip : Lenexa, KS 66215

4. Phone Number

816-225-5891

5. Email Address

craigkdenny@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

www.craigdenny4lenexa.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Geotechnical Engineer (BS, MS, PhD) at Terracon for 47 years. Retired as Senior Principal & Senior Engineering Consultant in 2021.

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.

Terracon: 27 years on Board of Directors

Lakeview Village: 12 years on Board of Directors

Lenexa Chamber: Executive Committee and Board Chairman

Lenexa EDC: Member & Chair

Lenexa Rotary Club: President

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

Shawnee Mission BOE: 20+ years, Lenexa Parks & Recreation Board: 25+ years,

Lenexa Vision 2030: Co-chair, Lenexa 100th Anniversary Event: Chair, Lakeview Village BOD: 12+ years, Iowa State Alumni

Association BOD, Iowa State Foundation: Governor & BOD

3. Issues and Policy

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

After restarting paused projects (e.g. Public Safety Facility and Community/Senior Center) and in-person events and festivals, Lenexa should:

1. Continue to provide the high level of services and amenities that Lenexa residents expect and deserve.
2. Continue to attract new development and continue to reinvest in established areas across all of Lenexa in a responsible manner consistent with established comprehensive plan and Vision 2040 goals.
3. Continue to collaborate with countywide and metrowide public and private entities on regional issues/initiatives/programs of mutual interest. E.g., climate, housing, transit, mental health, etc.

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

According to the 2019 ETC Institute Survey, when asked to rate the "overall value that you receive for your City tax dollars and fees", 70% responded with "satisfied" or "very satisfied". This response compared to a KC Metro response rate of 51% and the U.S. Average response rate of 37%.

As a Lenexa resident, I am very satisfied that the services and amenities I receive from Lenexa; they are well worth the tax dollars I pay.

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

I have scanned the proposed 2022 Lenexa City Budget. The 149-page budget document presents details for each department. It provides for a reduction of the property tax mill levy while maintaining appropriate reserve levels in all city funds for 2022. The budget continues to focus on providing high quality city services. It continues funding for the pavement management program and parks/civic projects from the 2008 voter-approved 3/8-cent sales tax. The 2022 budget is well-reasoned and consistent with Lenexa's philosophy of providing high quality services and amenities to all residents. I would make no changes.

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)

Working with chamber, metro and state economic development professionals, our city officials and staff collaborate and contribute in major ways to bring jobs and capital investment to Lenexa. When and where appropriate, incentives should be considered to foster development. Continued growth of the commercial sector of our city can provide balanced growth of our tax base.

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 support continued balanced growth and high quality development throughout all of Lenexa. Growth is integral to Lenexa's future prosperity. Lenexa's Comprehensive Plan, Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Vision 2040 documents provide a framework for guidance and management of growth.

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

Lenexa is not the largest city in the metro area and usually does not take the lead on issues that affect the entire metro area. Lenexa proactively cooperates and collaborates with other entities on issues of common interest and strategies that make sense to Lenexa and the region. Lenexa's acceptance of Climate Action KC's Climate Action Playbook is one example. I support this approach to metro-wide issues.

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

One immediate takeaway is pride in the organization. All staff continued to provide excellent service to Lenexa's residents, even as they were exploring new methods of delivery. The city's ability to flex and adapt to changing conditions while continuing with daily services was truly amazing and it speaks directly to the high performing, highly qualified city employees.

Another is how Lenexa residents responded positively to Lenexa's changes in providing services. Change is hard, but residents adapted and continued to support their city.

17. What do you believe are the greatest challenges Lenexa faces over the next ten years and how would you address

them? (100 words or less)

One immediate challenge is finding, hiring, training and retaining high performing people to fill critical city positions so that Lenexa continues to provide excellent quality services. Considering the national birth rate has been declining for more than a decade, this issue will remain challenging for years to come since ever fewer people will enter the workforce.

Some neighborhoods and commercial centers are older than others, but all are aging. Lenexa should continue to allocate resources across all areas of Lenexa to maintain and enhance neighborhoods to the level expected by residents. Our continuing street maintenance program is one example.

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

I have lived and worked in Lenexa for over 35 years. My family appreciated and enjoyed the services and amenities of Lenexa. My children were on the Lenexa Lazars Swim and Dive Teams and worked as lifeguards at Lenexa pools. We participated in many festivals and events that make Lenexa such a great place. I serve on Lenexa's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and have chaired several community wide volunteer committees. I like Lenexa. Serving on the Lenexa City Council is my opportunity to give back to the City that has given so much to me.

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

I will bring leadership, listening and common sense experience to the Lenexa City Council from 1) a 47-year engineering career; 2) 27 years on Board of Directors of Terracon; 3) 20+ years on the Shawnee Mission School Board (President-5 years and Vice-president-3 years), 4) 25+ years on the Lenexa Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (10 years as Chair); 5) Chair of Lenexa Chamber of Commerce; 6) Chair of Lenexa Economic Development Council; 7) Lenexa 100 Chair; 8) Vision 2030 Co-chair; and 9) 12 years on Board of Directors of Lakeview Village.