

# Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:50 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

LeEtta Felter

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

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### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 14220 S Copper Creek Dr

City/State/Zip : Olathe, KS 66062

### 4. Phone Number

9134867809

### 5. Email Address

lefelter@yahoo.com

### 6. Campaign Website

www.felter4Olathe.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

LeEtta is the Vice President of AAG Investments where her responsibilities include strategic planning, administration, managing human capital, marketing and communications, technology & purchasing.

### 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.

Member, Olathe Chamber of Commerce

Leadership Olathe class of 2016

Kansas Association of School Boards

National Association of School Boards

JoCo Leadership Academy 2017

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

Olathe Public Schools Board of Education '11-current

Kansas Children's Cabinet Board '13-current

Founder, Masks of Mercy

Cathedral Builder Award Recipient 2021

Olathe 2040: Future Ready Advisory Board

Leadership Olathe 2016

Olathe Public Schools Foundation '15-'18

JoCo Suicide Prevention Coalition '13-current

JoCo Leadership Academy '17

OPFO Board '20-current

Selective Service '13-current

### 3. Issues and Policy

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

Implement the strategic plan "Olathe 2040: Future Ready" of which my top three priorities are:

1) Exceptional Services

To provide high quality services efficiently. We must continue to improve our services and to be responsive to the needs of our citizens.

(2) Infrastructure

To provide a smart, connected, integrated, innovative infrastructure that is safe, reliable, efficient, and sustainable.

(3) Economic

To remain an economic leader in the region our strong economic base should be built by attracting and fostering highly successful businesses of all sizes, entrepreneurs, a skilled workforce, a vibrant downtown, and other attractive places throughout the community.

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

My views align with citizen views...Olatheans cherish the quality of services provided by Olathe. In a recent citizen satisfaction survey (DirectionFinder) the "Satisfaction with the "Overall Quality of City Services" in Olathe rated 94 percent; 25 percent above the Kansas City metropolitan average, and 46 percent above the U.S. average." Our citizens want us to provide quality services in the most efficient manner possible, without sacrificing the quality. Also from DirectionFinder: "Satisfaction with "Value Received for City Tax Dollars" in Olathe rated 73 percent, 20 percent above the Kansas City metropolitan average, and double the U.S. average of 37 percent."

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

I am grateful for the transparency in the budgeting process that has been the tradition in Olathe. I would like to see the City Budget lined up with our strategic plan Olathe 2040: Future Ready, so that the public can see how the budget dollars are being invested to accomplish their vision for the future. I would expect Olathe to continue to use data-driven best practices in the management of Olathe. Olathe is governed under strong financial management, with strong financial policies and practices. We should continue strong budgetary flexibility with a slight operating surplus in the general fund.

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#### 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)

Cities play an important role in economic development. The policies, culture, and practices of a city form the framework for competing for business, workers and residents. Olathe must strategically foster an environment that nurtures and protects our existing local businesses and draws in new businesses to our great community. In order to economically thrive as a community our quality of life offered, affordability, responsiveness, innovativeness and transparency are critical. To succeed, we must be a place where people want to live! A robust economic development plan, and the right team in place to implement the plan, is vital for Olathe.

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#### 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)

Managing a growing city like Olathe

in ways that support and drive economic growth while safeguarding resources and

maintaining our competitiveness requires intentional management of growth and redevelopment. Targeted public-sector investment may be required to attract business to Olathe. Olathe should forge connections between businesses, investors,

and talent by holding regular conversations with industry leaders and citizens. We need to foster a culture of growth in Olathe with the City embracing development that takes into account regional growth and cooperation of surrounding municipalities and regional service providers. We must be flexible.

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

Good city leaders must be regionally minded, working together with the cooperation of surrounding municipalities. Without a regional mindset there will likely be local competition and conflict, over-investment or under-investment in infrastructure due to silo thinking, and confusion over roles and responsibilities. Olathe has a long tradition of working in collaboration with metro area municipalities.

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

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided us with many valuable lessons.

The pandemic has shown us that:

- We must be flexible, innovative, and creative problem solvers.
- Effective communication is critical for communities experiencing stress.
- Coordination of effort is key in an emergency.
- We must be financially prepared for the unknown.
- We can work from anywhere.
- Infrastructure matters.
- Isolation isn't good for human beings.
- Mental health matters as much as physical health.
- One person can make a difference.

Most of all, the common theme I take away from the pandemic is that Olatheans LOVE one another and we care.

**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)**

Our greatest challenges:

1. Access to quality employees and the skills gap.
2. Economic development
3. Affordable housing and homelessness
4. Infrastructure and strategic land use
5. Budgets
6. Public Safety

While it's hard to go into specifics on what I believe the solutions/strategies to address these challenges are, in 100 words or less, my long track record of sensible policy making should speak volumes about my ability to handle the broad range of challenges facing our great City. We must have the right strategies in place to navigate these challenges and the right team on the ground to implement plans.

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

I never intended to run for City Council, in fact I'm surprised to find myself as a candidate. There are no burning issues that drove me to file for this position, my platform is not a message of major change or call-to-action on any specific advocacy item. The City of Olathe has invested a lot of resources into creating our strategic plan Olathe 2040: Future Ready, so the priorities for our future have been generally defined based on your input. What we need now is a leader that can make our dreams happen! I believe I am that person!

**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 the only candidate with extensive public service experience and elected policy maker experience. I am a relational visionary leader with the charismatic spark. I have the experience needed in both the private and public arena with a

successful track record. I have shown time and time again that I care about Olatheans. I do not wait for someone to come up with a solution when presented with a problem... I get to work and make a difference. I am the leader that Olathe needs for Ward 3 on the City Council of Olathe. I ask for your vote!