

Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:67 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Richard (Rick) Gendvil

2. Candidate for Ward # (if applicable)

2

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 5508 Hayes St

City/State/Zip : Merriam KS 66203

4. Phone Number

913-703-7334

5. Email Address

cgnscti@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

2. Candidate Background

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

Professionally retired. The last Seven years I work in Animal Rescue. I am the Feral Cat Caretaker of Merriam, Ward 2. Walking the streets daily.

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.

Not Applicable

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

NA

3. Issues and Policy

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

Being a Humanitarian and Animal Advocate I am considered a Voice for those who have none. I intend to be the same for my fellow citizens of Merriam. I have been disappointed by the apparent lack of "participation/involvement" in the council. I intend to be an active and vocal advocate for the needs and desires of the citizenry. Home values, dependency upon auto dealerships for tax revenue, location of affordable housing, use of citizen taxes for special projects, whether Parks and Recreation or otherwise. The defense of our citizens and property. Animal Rescue and TNR programs on a personal note.

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

Being a native New Yorker but my Home being Ward 2 of Merriam for the last 24 years one thing that struck me was the degree of private sanitation. Why on the dead-end of Hayes, are there no less than six private sanitation trucks a week?

Private sanitation is for businesses and corporate use. This City needs to provide PUBLIC Sanitation. The lack of imagination of P&R spending needs to be reviewed. The "seedlings" of Warner Park are a transparent imitation of the shuttlecocks of the MoA. The concrete caterpillar of Waterfall I could have constructed myself for a tenth.

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

While Merriam is considered a "hub" for new car sales with multiple dealerships housed here I fear we are too reliant upon such and need to expand sources of revenue. Diversification of businesses needs to be lured into our area. Concerns about the possible increase in home property tax for our residents, especially in light of all the talk of "affordable" low-income housing being considered. Location of such a development is crucial. I have been in the Financial Services sector for 51 years as a commodity and stock fund manager domestically and abroad with a Fundamental belief in Risk Control.

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)

This should be the principle goal of the city. Economic growth. Expansion of goods and services. Diversification of businesses being brought in. Merriam Ward 2 needs a Grocery Outlet yet the Henhouse building has stood vacant for four years. Now they are bringing in Bob's Discount Furniture. Across the street from IKEA. Merriam doesn't need this. The city should have taken an active role. Get involved. Now we have umbrella-ed the K-Mart property under the I35 redevelopment program - Who/What is going in? The city needs to be more active in such for the good and needs of our people.

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)

This is as I have already suggested. The city needs to take a more active role. We need diversification. When the IKEA property first began it had Circuit City as its anchor, a company that was teetering on the cliff of bankruptcy and failed, bringing that entire development down with it. WHO was/is watching these things? As a Financial Professional I knew of this and would have stood as a wall against it. Due Diligence. Risk Control. Work with and influence developers towards the NEEDS of our City.

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

Much the same question. The City needs to be Proactive. Support our police. Exhibit more involvement. Listen to our people and their desires, their needs. I see too much of city officials patrolling the streets, searching for violations of this or that on private residential properties. I think this is unnecessary and heavy-handed. I don't like the way the parks are being handled. The destruction of the Cottonwoods at the entrance of Waterfall to make way for the new depot exit was totally unnecessary. Workaround them. They are our State tree. It is a park entrance. Find a way.

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

Be aware. Be informed. Stay safe. Do not overreact to mass-media manipulations. Insanity in individuals is actually quite rare - in mobs... it is the norm. Realize this. Mob hysteria is the greatest fear and threat. It is what makes people crush each other to death against fences and locked gates in stadium riots or fires in nightclubs. Or run rabid through the night vandalizing others' property, setting cars on fire. Do not be manipulated. If you can keep your mind, your wit about you when all others are losing theirs - this is your greatest asset and strength.

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 City needs diversification in sales tax revenue. Downtown to be fully developed into a thriving marketplace. Merriam Town Center to be further developed with Independent businesses, a privately held bistro restaurant, not a chain, and a WARD 2 grocery outlet.

The tracks crossing Johnson Drive need to be raised onto an EI. This must be taken to the Governor and KDOT, but who else is to instigate such an enterprise, if not Merriam.

A train stops traffic blocking Both I35 exits. It is inevitable for the proper development of Downtown and perhaps should be included in the Redevelopment Project.

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

My work in Animal Rescue has brought me into contact with nearly all businesses along the Drive, then our Police Dept, whom I support completely. From there I drew the attention of the City Council. TNR (trap-neuter-release) is not correctly understood by many and as I explained what I do, Whitney Yadrich approached me to run. At first, I thought this could benefit what I do in Rescue... then I realized... as I am a Voice for those who have none, the Innocents of our streets, I can be a Voice for the citizenry.

THIS... is why I am running.

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)

A Humanitarian. Animal Advocate.

Resolute and stand up for what I believe in.

But... I examine, every side... every perspective.

Analysis. That is my Profession.

Risk control.

Fifty years in the Financial Industry.

Eight years on the trading floors of NYC.

SVP of Prudential Bache,

Chairman of two firms, managing foreign fund investments, living in Taipei, Taiwan.

Decades chairing, presenting market analysis, risk control in boardrooms... around half the Globe.

Psychologist of the Marketplace.

I will not adhere to pre-ordained dogmas, nor political banners.

Approaching each issue individually, they will stand... or fall... on their own merits, or lack thereof.