

Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:49 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Kevin P Gilmore

2. Candidate for Ward # (if applicable)

At Large

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 16326 W 171st Street

City/State/Zip : Olathe, KS 66062

4. Phone Number

(913) 768-8285

5. Email Address

GilmoreForOlathe@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

www.VoteGilmore.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Director of Pensions and Benefits USA, Church of the Nazarene

Self-employed Business Consultant

CFO, Behavioral Health Holdings

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.

Olathe Chamber of Commerce

Member

Board Member, Past President

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

Olathe City Council (Ward 3), appointed (Oct 2020)

Olathe School Board (8 yrs), Chairman (2 yrs)

Kansas State Board of Education (4 yrs), President (2 yrs)

3. Issues and Policy

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

- Quality of Life and Services – highest in importance and satisfaction in community surveys and must remain a focus.
- Infrastructure – Significant importance to our quality of life. We are a growing community challenged with the need to maintain/replace existing infrastructure while addressing needs for growth. Traffic flow and congestion management must

remain a high priority. • Fiscal Responsibility – Taxpayers are not an unlimited source of funding. Evaluate available revenues to meet growing needs - balanced by a reasonable tax structure. Maintaining a stable property tax mill levy.

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

Community members are highly satisfied with the value received for tax dollars and fees rating the City at 73% compared to 53% for the KC Region and 37% nationally. The top two citizen satisfaction score perception factors listed as "Satisfied or Very Satisfied" were the "overall quality of life" (94%) and "provided services" (90%). The Council's decisions and planning must ensure a continuation and/or improvement of these types of results.

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

Our City's budget process has been recognized with numerous awards and our bond ratings are AA+. My focus with our budget is to try and maintain a stable property tax mill levy while continuing to meet the demands of our growing infrastructure and population base. This is more "art" than science, but we must continue to focus on an appropriate balance between the tax burden and our revenue needs. Our budget focus should start with available revenues and then align our level of expenditure from there.

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 is critical in this role. First through engaging our local Chamber for economic development services and then by offering appropriately structured tax incentives to attract businesses that will grow our economic base in an accelerated manner that would not otherwise naturally occur.

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)

In recent years the percentage of revenues received by the City has shifted more towards sales taxes and less towards property taxes. I believe the City's practice of requiring new growth to largely pay for itself is a sound approach and should continue to be implemented as a means of supporting the goal to keep a stable property tax mill levy. Attention to our comprehensive plans cannot be dismissed, but we must also recognize there have been changes in the market due to recent events (such as COVID) that may cause us to rethink some of these plans.

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

We are fairly independent in Olathe, but we are part of a broader community and we should do all we can to be a good neighbor. But that has to be appropriately balanced to ensure whatever actions we may take is in the ultimate best interests of the community I serve. I am opposed to any movement towards bi-state taxation agreements.

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

Our people are the best! Our staff endured some very challenging circumstances and demonstrated they had the ability to adapt and do "whatever it takes" to get the job done in serving our community and the people of Olathe also demonstrated a high degree of patience and understanding when City services were modified or not as readily available. The pandemic also taught us new ways to conduct business that may prove beneficial in the future, especially with the use of technology.

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)

Pressure on our property tax mill levy to support the maintenance of an ever-growing level of infrastructure and the debt service associated with growth. The lack of affordable/attainable housing, which used to be prolific in Olathe, has become scarce and needs to be addressed by the Council because it is not happening naturally in the marketplace. Another important issue is the need for the renewal, by the voters, of our park and street improvement sales taxes which expire in the next few years.

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

I have been a member of this community since 1979 and have seen it change tremendously over that period of time. Our City Council, under the leadership of Mayor Mike Copeland, has led the way for many years and his passing left a tremendous gap on our Council. I was honored to be selected by the Council to fill the Ward 3 vacancy last Fall and I would like to use my extensive experience in demonstrated service to the broader Olathe community to continue this level of excellent leadership in the at-large position.

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 was previously elected and entrusted the opportunity and responsibility to serve in public office by our community on three different occasions. I have demonstrated an ability to work with others to gather input and data, take the long-range view, and make decisions in order to develop the most appropriate pathways to meet the needs of our community not just for today but, more importantly, for decades to come. I believe our City needs this type of leadership and all of my collective years of experiences and investment in our community make me uniquely qualified to serve!