

Overland Park City Council 2021

Response ID:29 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Amy Goodman-Long

2. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 12704 Mackey St

City/State/Zip : Overland Park

3. Phone Number

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4. Email Address

amygood@hotmail.com

5. Campaign Website

2. Candidate Background

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

I am a licensed social worker and have worked in the healthcare field mainly in hospice, long term care and rehab settings.

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

- Volunteer committee member for Boy Scouts of America Pack 9131
- Administrator for Caris Hospice and HomeWell Care Services
- Participated in Greater Kansas City Alzheimer's Walk and led fundraising efforts for various organizations/teams.
- Facilitated 20+ end of life dream requests for hospice patients and families.

3. Issues and Policy

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

1. Affordable housing measures
2. Continued healthy economic development while maintaining low taxes
3. Cultural and social issues

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

OP citizens receive high quality city services. Our Public Safety organization is one of the top in the region. Our amenities stand out: the Farmstead, Arboretum, pools, soccer complex, parks and recreation, community centers and wonderful Farmer's Market.

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)

I support the task force recommendations. If a mill levy is needed this would be right direction for it. Mental health needs are at

an all time high and I'd like to see solutions implemented sooner rather than later.

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

I think the proposed budget is sound and agree with most all of it. I do think some awareness of emergency financial needs should always be closely observed and implemented as appropriate. COVID has emphasized the importance of this.

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)

The City must balance the need for economic development with the wishes of its citizens. Only the City can be where these two competing efforts meet. Where economic development is needed and the level of requested City participation is appropriate. Priority must be given to redevelopment and infill projects. Generally, providing incentives to greenfield projects should be avoided, unless what is proposed directly benefits the City and its surrounding neighbors. Additionally, the developer must be able to demonstrate that without City participation, the project would not be built.

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)

The city should continue to evaluate each project on its merits and what is best for the citizens overall. Ongoing participation by a planning commission of diverse, knowledgeable group of people should continue as the first step.

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)

Overland Park is increasingly becoming an urban area as opposed to its character as a suburb since its incorporation in 1960. With that change of character, OP faces new challenges, such as: crime, traffic, maintaining infrastructure and balancing competing priorities between the older areas of OP and those of the newly-built neighborhoods in the south. I would do my homework by reading materials and respecting the professional advice of City staff, relying on their expertise. I also believe it is important to treat them with the respect they deserve, even if I don't always agree.

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)

Yes, with City Council guidance, the City Manager runs the day-to-day operation of the City. It has worked well for over 25 years in OP and there is no reason to change it. The alternative is to have a Strong Mayor form of government which would allow politicians and their cronies to run the City. That would only set up OP for failure.

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)

I support eliminating the chip seal process and believe it should be done in phases. I'm looking forward to the recommendations of the task force on how to make this happen.

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

We should concentrate on existing housing stock and rental opportunities as opposed to thinking solutions will come through new construction. I'd like to see continued work with the United Community Services and other social service organizations to make this happen in fair and equitable ways. I'd support policy making and potential zoning changes to make this happen.

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)

Elect leaders who are objective and fair, who leave their prejudices and ideologies at the door. I would continue to base decisions on the law and facts and not political considerations. I would not only consider my wards needs, but the overall best

decisions for the City as a whole. The citizens deserve nothing less.

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

I do. Overland Park is something to be proud of. I believe it's going through growing pains and working to establish a new identity. However there is still so much to be proud of. By building on the fundamental principles of trust, dedication, sincerity and community I believe the City of Overland Park will make it through and possibly even come out better than before!

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?

I believe the council is very responsive to the needs of the community, but it's not always easy to make decisions everyone agrees with. Surveys reflect overall a very high satisfaction rate and I think it's important to keep reminding ourselves of these results. Good decision making requires a leader who is willing to sometimes stand alone, but always does so respectfully, using sound judgement, fairness, positivity and objectivity. This is my approach in my daily life and also how I feel I would be in a City Council role.

21. Why are you seeking this public office?

To continue to keep Overland Park as one of the best places to raise not just my family, but also to others who want the same opportunities I have been given.

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?

I am a social worker by background and have mainly worked in the healthcare field, often helping people during their most vulnerable moments. I know people! I have seasoned skills mediating in situations and a sincere desire to come up with solutions that will benefit everyone in some way. I work with the primary philosophy to leave people with a feeling they have been heard, respected and empowered.
