

Overland Park City Council 2021

Response ID:24 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Logan Heley

2. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 8335 Santa Fe Lane
City/State/Zip : Overland Park

3. Phone Number

9136604727

4. Email Address

loganheleyforkansas@gmail.com

5. Campaign Website

www.loganheley.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Community engagement manager for Harvesters—The Community Food Network since 2017. Previous White House and Congressional intern.

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

- Overland Park City Council since 2017
- advisory board of One RideKC
- member, Johnson County Transportation Council
- advisory board of Climate Action KC
- board of the Metropolitan Energy Center
- previously served on the Shawnee Mission UU Church Board of Trustees and the Alumni Network Advisory Board for the Youth Volunteer Corps
- Johnson County Citizens Academy graduate.

3. Issues and Policy

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

- housing affordability
- sustainable physical and human infrastructure (streets, stormwater management, parks, trees, social services, education, healthcare, etc.)
- social equity and community engagement/transparency

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

We are a lean, efficient city in terms of the services city government provides. Taxpayers receive good value for the taxes they

pay compared to the quality of life we've achieved. We have, by far, the lowest property tax rate of any city in Johnson County.

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)

Yes, I support the Mental Health Task Force, its recommendations, and the mill levy to fund those recommendations. As social services funding has dwindled at the state and federal level over the past several decades, our police officers, firefighters, and school teachers have been asked, inappropriately in my view, to go above and beyond in meeting the social and mental health needs of our communities, often in emergency situations. This will help our city hold up its end of these vital community resources. I hope Topeka and DC will step up too.

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

We need to put our money where our mouth is on housing affordability. And we need to invest more in maintaining and growing our city's tree canopy (we do have "park" in our name). We have a high quality, but too lean professional staff, and need to invest more in them.

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)

I only support incentives if there is a financial return on investment for our taxpayers and for our schools. I have worked hard to ensure tax and incentive policies are focused on residents and community benefits, not wealthy developers.

The key for me is always if our community is getting more benefit from the deal than we're giving up. Since joining the Council, I've advocated for our city to update its incentive policies to prioritize diversifying our community's housing portfolio, environmental sustainability, and social equity considerations as well as infill development (rather than greenfield).

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)

We need to focus on additional investment and growth in our already-established parts of the city where our infrastructure is already built, rather than building new infrastructure that we can't afford long-term.

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)

As a recent first-time home buyer, I know first-hand that housing affordability is one of our community's biggest challenges right now.

Our city is 60+ years old now and some bills are coming due! We cannot rest on our laurels. We need a sustainable plan for the next 60 years of our city. Working to implement ForwardOP would be a start.

As a city with "park" in our name, we need to be leaders in climate action.

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)

I support our current form of government with a professionally-run city government.

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've advocated to increase funding to our concrete neighborhood street reconstruction program so we can transition off of the Chip Seal street preservation method, meaning we'll get away from the neverending cycle of trucks, disruption and street maintenance in favor of better, smoother, longer lasting streets. As we do this we also need to be sure we support safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists.

In my first four years and next four, if the voters allow, I will work to make our city more walkable, bikeable, and better connected.

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

The 2021 Johnson County Housing Study was recently released with recommendations on how to make our community more healthy and affordable for all. We need to do our part in Overland Park to help implement those recommendations. Among those recommendations, which I support, was adding more townhomes, patio homes, du-and tri-plexes, co-housing, and Accessory Dwelling Units to our city's housing stock.

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)

Updating our Comprehensive Plan, as we plan to begin next year, will be a big benefit in this regard. We also need to be better about focusing on implementing ForwardOP.

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

Yes, but we cannot rest on our laurels.

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?

Our city government has opportunities for improvement when it comes to transparency and engagement. We have many processes that seem more current to the 1990s than the 2020s. For example, other cities have more modern ways of seeking input on the city's budget, such as online surveys, public meetings (beyond our public hearings), and even "gameifying" the budget experience so residents can give input under realistic scenarios.

21. Why are you seeking this public office?

I'm running for re-election to the Overland Park City Council to ensure we continue the long, hard work towards a more sustainable, healthy, and just community.

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'm experienced, yet innovative. I'm engaged and effective. I trust our professional staff and listen to my constituents. I prepare for meetings and I work hard for our community.
