

Lenexa City Council 2021

Response ID:8 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Joe Karlin

2. Candidate for Ward

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3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 17707 W 83 Terrace

City/State/Zip : Lenexa KS 66219

4. Phone Number

913-477-7560

5. Email Address

joekarlin@me.com

6. Campaign Website

2. Candidate Background

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

I have worked in the banking and credit union industry, currently as a consultant. I also own several small businesses.

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.

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

I have volunteered on a number of civic and community organizations:
Tom Karlin Foundation for teen suicide prevention (Founder & Exec Dir)
CHASE for Autism
UCS Drug & Alcohol Council
SM West Booster Club (co-president)

3. Issues and Policy

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

1. Public Safety - Continue to support and promote the strong public safety (fire and police) that Lenexa has enjoyed.
2. Continued, Prudent Growth - Lenexa has enjoyed growth and development in the past 10 years. I believe it is important to continue this growth, and to do so in a prudent manner: not growth for growth's sake, but to provide the development that Lenexans want.
3. Continued Reinvestment - Continue to reinvest in the established parts of the city as we have in the recent past, including infrastructure (roads, underground drain pipes), pools, and roads.

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

The citizen surveys speak clearly that Lenexans value the services and amenities the city provides. I believe and have heard from many of my constituents that they are OK paying higher taxes because they get the higher quality of services than other cities. This shows in our roads, parks, public safety, etc. Those services and amenities don't come without a price.

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

I wouldn't necessarily change anything, but I do think the national economic situation presents great opportunities to leverage those funds toward the benefit of Lenexa for generations to come. By leveraging federal infrastructure funds, and obtaining financing now while rates are at historic lows, we can invest in improvements (e.g roads, parks, trails, pools, public buildings, developments) that will benefit the community for generations.

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 has a great relationship with the Lenexa Chamber, as well as other organizations (such as MARC). While it would be great if we didn't have to offer incentives to get businesses to move to Lenexa and developers to develop here, unfortunately that is not the case. Other cities actively offer economic development packages, and so we must also to compete. As a matter of our policy, each economic development incentive is evaluated as to the positive economic benefit it will create, and I believe that helps manage the use of those tools.

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)

First on redevelopment, I believe the city should (and does) focus on redeveloping existing portions of the city. That can be in infrastructure projects, as well as promoting development and redevelopment in those areas.

As to future development, I believe the city should (and, again, does) focus correctly on development opportunities. We need to ensure that development occurs that creates a positive future for Lenexans of today and tomorrow. The best approaches to do so are to 1) continue the formal community input efforts such as Vision2040, and 2) encourage public engagement on zoning changes, plans, etc. We do both

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

Lenexa has been a leader in the metro region, and should continue to play that role. Often we lead by action - by doing the right thing. For example, we often take extra time to study a problem/issue, instead of reacting too quickly.

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

As with any community, we learned that we are a city of PEOPLE. Not roads, not businesses, but PEOPLE. We learned how we value each other and what each person contributes. And we learned the value of those "everyday heroes": firefighters, police, teachers, nurses, doctors, etc, who work tirelessly to keep us safe and well.

17. What do you believe are the greatest challenges Lenexa faces over the next ten years and how would you address them? (100 words or less)

I believe we, like any government agency, will be faced with budgetary constraint issues. We have a long list of exciting projects we want to complete, but our budget is finite. We need to continue to spend wisely.

I think the other challenge we will face - and this is not just Lenexa - is the impact of social media and lack of face-to-face socialization. We need to socialize, and we need to do so beyond our screens. That is how communities are built...and maintained. For its part, Lenexa promotes that with Festivals, parks, activities, and other opportunities to mingle

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

Because I truly love Lenexa. I feel so blessed that my family has the opportunity to live in such a wonderful city, and I want to do all I can to protect, grow, and continue improving our amazing Lenexa!

19. What do you believe makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the City Council and most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race? (100 words or less)

While I don't have an opponent, I believe my experience over the past several years, my community service, and my community engagement makes me a better Councilperson.