

# Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:76 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Susan Leonard

### 2. Candidate for Ward # (if applicable)

Ward 3; Fairway City Council

### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 5831 Cherokee Drive

City/State/Zip : Fairway, KS 66205

### 4. Phone Number

8166957060

### 5. Email Address

sleonard16@gmail.com

### 6. Campaign Website

leonardforfairway.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

For the past 5 years, I have been an associate principal at Shawnee Mission East HS.

### 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.

Greater KC Chamber of Commerce; Centurions Leadership Program (2009 graduate)

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

Kansas School Mental Health Advisory Council, 2017-2019

KU Alumni Network, KC Chapter Board Member, 2014-2020; Executive Committee At Large (15-17P); Student Recruitment Co-Chair (17-20)

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

I intend to listen, learn and represent the views of my community. I am not seeking this office with any particular policy challenges.

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

I have been pleased as a resident of Fairway with the value of our services. I believe it is due to strong leadership and I hope to continue to make good and sound decisions to ensure that good and fair value.

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

n/a

**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)**

I believe the City has a unique opportunity to help provide vision in the planning of any large capital investments in order to attract the right kinds of tenants, goods and services to our communities.

**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)**

Always look to be fair, equitable

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

It is important to both support and follow the trends of the larger metro area, but to also be sure not to lose sight of the ways particular issues may or may not serve our city best. It is a balance that requires a thoughtful approach, and consideration from multiple perspectives.

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

Strong communities are very important. We rely on our neighbors and friends who live nearby and our local city governments to ensure that our basic needs are met. We have taken many things for granted and that was very much exposed in the past year. In part, it is why I was drawn to serve my community in a more meaningful way by running for office.

**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)**

I am not sure I am well informed enough to answer this question, but I do believe that we have a moment in Fairway to lean in to our proud history of being the first city in JOCO to break the devastating covenants of the JC Nichols era. I hope we are able to convey that our city is one who welcomes, values, respects, appreciates and honors ALL people and that attracting a more diverse residency will help us to make our great city even better.

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

I am seeking this office because I have enjoyed living in Fairway for the past 15 years, and I want to serve my community in an effort to provide a safe, welcoming and enjoyable place to live for all kinds of people.

**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 have served communities through my professional life for 25 years and the importance of a strong + supportive community for their local schools cannot be overstated. I have experience building relationships, listening and serving the needs of a variety of different stake holders in order to meet the needs, wants, hopes and dreams of the many young people I have served.