

Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:25 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Kevin Makalous

2. Candidate for Ward # (if applicable)

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3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 20815 W 68th St
City/State/Zip : Shawnee, KS 66218 (home; campaign uses PO Box)

4. Phone Number

913-609-5129

5. Email Address

kmakalous@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

www.kevin4shawnee.com

2. Candidate Background

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

I am a Certified Financial Planner and limited partner at Edward Jones investments.

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.

Shawnee Chamber
Shawnee Tomorrow Leadership Team
Member of Small Business Task Force
Member of Government Affairs Committee

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

2015-2019 USD232 Board of Education (De Soto Public Schools) At Large Position

3. Issues and Policy

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

First Class City, Hometown Feel: Let's work to protect the hometown feel, while finding ways to grow our property tax base by strategically and carefully building upon our nationally recognized and award winning amenities and services.
Build on what's working: Let's continue to invest in our award winning, police, fire, parks and rec, and public works while focusing on keeping our family-friendly neighborhoods and great public schools as the heartbeat of our city.
Remember we're part of a larger community: Let's make sure Shawnee is front and center when it comes to economic development opportunities in the metro area.

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

To put it simply, we offer an AMAZING MIX of public safety, fantastic parks and rec, and a public works team second to none. Let's keep what's working and when there are opportunities to thoughtfully and intentionally invest in additional services, I'll be eager to be a part of that dialogue.

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

I come to the table with no preconceived thoughts on the city's budget. I'd like to get elected, roll up my sleeves, and learn where we need to invest and if there are any opportunities we might find to save without cutting into what makes Shawnee a great place to call home and raise a family.

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)

Pedal to the metal. Shawnee is a well kept secret. Thoughtfully, and with wisdom, we need to be sharing the success stories of Shawnee to those businesses that are looking to grow and expand in the Kansas City metro area!

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)

Our city needs to grow. Every city needs to grow. The alternative is undesirable (shrinking/dying). But, I hear time and time again that we're growing without a vision, a plan, a sense of purpose to how projects are approved. I very much want to see Shawnee grow! But I want to make sure we're thoughtful and patient in our approach. Let's find a balance between growing the city and doing so with a real sense of purpose and vision for what that growth will become in 10 or 15 years into the future.

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

Let's make sure Shawnee is front and center when it comes to economic development opportunities in the metro area. Let's find ways to attract business and industry to our great city! There's nothing worse than seeing empty store fronts and closed restaurants scattered throughout our home town. As someone with a passion for entrepreneurship, let's find a way to put the "we're open" sign out for great businesses that want to come alongside our neighborhoods as we work together continuing the progress of refreshing and revitalizing downtown and expanding on the exciting energy happening out west.

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

Do everything we can to support our businesses and families in good times and in bad. It honestly is that simple in my opinion.

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)

We have to find a way to move forward with positivity. A city must constantly be reinventing itself (the only thing constant in this world is change). Sometimes, Shawnee, struggles with accepting change. And, I'm learning that sometimes the change that's happened in the past hasn't always worked out for the benefit of the city and it's residents the way it may have first been presented. Somehow we have to find a way to continue moving forward and trusting that the leaders of this city (elected and on staff) are trying their absolute best to move the city forward.

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

I LOVE Shawnee. I feel like, if I'm lucky enough to be elected, I can be part of a team of leaders working to find ways for our city to stay healthy and vibrant for the next generation. There's nothing more important to me than being a good steward of what Shawnee is today, and a servant leader helping guide this city forward. I hope I have the chance to serve. It would be a tremendous honor and I would be humbled to have earned the trust of the voters in November.

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 don't know my opponent. Her profile leads me to believe she's a great candidate and I'm excited to meet her. That being said,

I'm told she hasn't lived in Shawnee for more than a year or two. I've been part of this community for almost 20 years now. I am thoroughly invested in this community as a homeowner, a business leader, and a previously elected public official. I think that the combination of time, experience, and my education and business skills give me a unique mix of talents that would serve the city well.