

Overland Park City Council 2021

Response ID:33 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Tony Medina

2. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 9510 Chadwick Dr

City/State/Zip : Overland Park

3. Phone Number

9139098528

4. Email Address

tonyforop@gmail.com

5. Campaign Website

www.tonyforop.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Stein Mart, Inc. -- Marketing Director (through 9/15/2000)

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

Friends of Johnson County Mental Health Center -- Board of Directors

Johnson County Suicide Prevention Coalition -- Leadership Team

Kansas City Pride Community Alliance -- Board Secretary

3. Issues and Policy

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

My primary goal is to earn the trust of residents by engaging them, being responsive to them, and making decisions on their behalf with transparency and accountability. I believe we need to protect our established neighborhoods to maintain their character and not allow new developments to infringe upon them. Finally, I believe economic incentives need to be scrutinized more closely to determine their full impact on the future tax base.

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

It is well known Overland Park has the lowest mill levy rate in Johnson County. Additionally, the overall satisfaction opinion among residents is generally favorable. Overall, I feel residents receive a great value for their tax dollars but also believe there are opportunities to improve such as chip seal that is addressed in a later question.

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 am a mental health advocate, serving on the Board of Directors for Friends of Johnson County Mental Health Center, I do support the task force recommendations. I am not outright opposed to a mill levy increase to support these recommendations but believe all city services should be reviewed as part of the budget process to determine if there are additional needs that would benefit from a mill increase.

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

I do not have specific changes to propose for the 2022 budget but am in favor of establishing a zero-based budgeting method as opposed to the traditional incremental budgeting method using a baseline to build from.

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)

Local government should work to attract and retain businesses while focusing on providing the best quality of life to residents.

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)

I support development and redevelopment throughout the city when done in a collaborative manner that includes residents impacted by the development. Single-family homeowners should not be subjected to a multi-story apartment building constructed adjacent to their property, detracting from the character of the long-established neighborhood. Residents deserve to be represented by city staff in the same manner as developers.

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)

Also mentioned in a different question: housing affordability, access to public transportation, climate action, and infrastructure maintenance are some of the challenges ahead of Overland Park. The best way to address these is to engage residents in a meaningful way, seeking their input, valuing differences in opinion, and working to find solutions to maintain the outstanding quality of life we have in Overland Park.

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 believe our current structure serves the city well.

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 am in favor of eliminating chip seal. My understanding is the greatest portion of the \$20 million estimate is due to having to reconstruct sidewalks and gutters as many streets currently are not ADA compliant. All options should be explored to address the number one resident complaint.

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

I would support zoning changes specifically intended to provide additional affordable housing options. This could be a combination of streamlining the permitting process, increasing the density limits and revising parking requirements. We can also explore multi-family townhome developments and accessory dwelling units (ADUs). I would explore rehabilitation and maintenance programs for single family homes for both owner-occupied units and rental properties. I would support providing tax breaks or incentives to developers of affordable housing projects for lower-income residents. Additionally, we can explore providing rent subsidies to tenants, especially when experiencing a critical shortage of affordable housing options.

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)

The City has Vision Metcalf and Forward OP to be used as blueprints for the future. I believe these plans should be living, breathing guides that should be evaluated on a regular basis by a broad group of stakeholders to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the city. Additionally, a larger plan is needed beyond the Metcalf corridor to guide development in all parts of Overland Park.

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

I believe Overland Park is in a position to continue to be a top-rated city but there are challenges that must be addressed. The perceived lack of transparency and responsiveness by the Council needs to be corrected; elected officials have an obligation to engage with their constituents and to represent their views. Housing affordability, access to public transportation, climate action, and infrastructure maintenance in aging parts of the city are all challenges that define the direction the City is going.

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?

As I walk neighborhoods and talk with residents, I have heard too often that City Council does not care, they do not listen, and residents are frustrated. I would hold regular community meetings with residents, provide updates through social media and email messaging, and have an open dialog with residents to learn all sides of issues that matter to them.

21. Why are you seeking this public office?

I am running for the city council to represent the residents of Ward 2, but also to make the best decisions in the interest of all of Overland Park. To me, that means engaging with people, seeking their input, and listening to a variety of opinions. I would make decisions using common sense to do the right thing while being responsive and accountable to those I represent.

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 leader and my actions will reflect the interests of those I represent. I am able to listen to people, consider alternatives, and make the right decision.

With a customer service background that spans thirty years, I have the skills to make decisions in the best interest of those I serve. My most recent position as a marketing director challenged me to attract and retain customers. I will use this experience and apply it to serving Ward 2, ensuring the needs of residents are met, and planning for the future of Overland Park.
