

# Lenexa City Council 2021

Response ID:10 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

---

### 1. Candidate Name

Bill Nicks

### 2. Candidate for Ward #

2

### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 21310 W. 98th Street

City/State/Zip : Lenexa KS 66220

### 4. Phone Number

913-424-9228

### 5. Email Address

HistoryKC@gmail.com

### 6. Campaign Website

NA

## 2. Candidate Background

---

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

Site Administrator for Kansas Historical Society, and  
1st person historical re-enactor and historic bus-tour guide for www.HistoryKC.com

### 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.

Have served on Lenexa Chamber Convention and Visitors Board,  
Currently serve on Lenexa Historical Society Board, and  
Serve on Board of the Kansas City Interpretive Site Coalition

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

Elected to Lenexa City Council in November 2017

## 3. Issues and Policy

---

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

My top three policy issues are:

- to make sure that our current roads, infrastructure, city buildings and city equipment are maintained in top working conditions,
  - to update and stay the course, in good long range planning, by following the city's comprehensive plan,
  - to develop vacant properties in western Lenexa with a balance of residential, commercial, business and natural areas.
- Lenexa leaders must be alert to zoning change requests and consider carefully the impact such requests have on surrounding properties.

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

I think Lenexa residents receive great quality city services, but more importantly the residents seem to agree. The latest scientifically valid ETC citizen survey poll (2019) showed that 89% were satisfied with the overall quality of services. The National average is 48%. Police, fire, parks, trails and city building upkeep all scored above 90%. 96% said Lenexa is a good or excellent place to live and 94% said it was a good or excellent place to raise children. These numbers are 2 years old, so Lenexa must do everything possible to keep up quality services.

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

I think Lenexa has a very good budgeting system. Both the revenue and expense sides of the budget project out 5 years in the General Operating fund (including reserves) and in the amount of Debt carried, which affects bond ratings/interest rates and Capital Improvement Investments. That 5 year projection allows Lenexa to balance out the ups and downs. Special attention needs to be paid to insure that adequate money goes into road repairs and building/equipment maintenance/replacement.

**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)**

Lenexa should continue to partner with The Chamber/Economic Development Council to bring quality development to Lenexa. Top notch city services in fire, police, streets, snow removal, parks, trails, quality planning (along with out great school districts) are the best economic development tools. And Lenexa should continue to use incentive tools to attract jobs and investment, when they diversify tax base, retain or expand existing businesses, improve aging areas, produce jobs etc. However, if the project that received the financial package does not hit expected goals on the expected timeline, there needs to be a payback provision in the agreement.

**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)**

Lenexa has, and should continue to, manage and balance growth by 'staying the course' in following the city's Comprehensive Plan and zoning maps. Those plans, with regular updates, have served Lenexa well. Input from all quarters, gathered through public hearings and community wide conversations, goes into those plans and they are wonderful guides for residents and businesses alike when determining investments and quality of life issues. Those documents provide for orderly and balanced growth and are a large reason Lenexa is such a great city.

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

Lenexa should continue to take a leadership role in terms of metro-area issues. Lenexa is already very active with the Mid-America Regional Council and has staff and elected representatives on MARC and County efforts. Lenexa has talented staff that can, and do, provide expertise on a host of issues. Lenexa also has long time Governing Body and Chamber leaders who are experienced in moving things forward.

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

I believe the big takeaway is that we are, indeed, all interdependent and that we must work together for good. Two other takeaways are:

1. We must be flexible in delivering services; whether it is how to work remotely and still deliver those services, or how to respond safely to people who need help, or even how to open a swimming pool in a safe and clean environment, and
2. The value, in good times and bad, of open spaces such as parks, lakes, trails etc. During COVID people rediscovered the outdoors and reminded themselves of why they value them.

**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)**

The greatest challenges are developing the undeveloped areas and redeveloping/refurbishing the aging areas so that Lenexa stays beautiful and a great place to live. The challenge of insuring that revenues exceed expenditures for effective city services will always be with us, but working with the Chamber to diversify Lenexa's job market and tax base will guard against economic downturns as well as maintaining a strong bond rating and continuing with multi-year budget forecasts to even out

the peaks and valleys.

---

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

I am seeking this office because, I like to think that I have something to offer in helping to keep Lenexa a great place to live. Marci and I raised our children here and have been involved in the community since 1978. We think it is great and we want to offer our might, in keeping it great.

---

**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)**

Since I am running unopposed, the second part of the question does not apply.....as for the first part; I am ACCESSIBLE, EXPERIENCED and HAVE A PASSION FOR LENEXA.

ACCESSIBLE, Since taking office in 2018, I have hosted 13 "Talk to Bill" sessions where residents come tell me what is on their mind. I answer my phone, mail, email and door.

I am EXPERIENCED, having served on the city council and for decades as Lenexa's 1st Parks and Recreation Director.

And I have a PASSION FOR LENEXA and strive to be her greatest ambassador. Thank you for the survey.

---