

Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:51 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Eric Persson

2. Candidate for Ward # (if applicable)

Ward 2

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 6115 Westgate St

City/State/Zip : Shawnee

4. Phone Number

8162175102

5. Email Address

ericperssonforshawnee@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

www.ericperssonforshawnee.com

2. Candidate Background

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

I am a sales leader in the payments industry and I manage a team of 10 reps throughout the country.

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 am a member of the Merriam Park PTA where my kids go to school. I am engaged in my neighborhood and community and use Shawnee Connect as a way to help my neighbors seek answers and solve problems.

3. Issues and Policy

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

Continued focus on Downtown. We need to attract more businesses to continue diversifying our tax base. We can do this while protecting the rich history of the surrounding neighborhoods and continue providing exceptional services to our residents.

Economic and Environmental Resiliency.

We have an opportunity to create a better future. Sustainability and efficiency not only save money and have a positive economic impact, they improve our quality of life.

Community Engagement and Government Transparency. Together we can create a unified Shawnee, and I will encourage engagement and welcome feedback, acting with integrity to serve the best interests of our community.

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

Shawnee is a first class city and I believe that our services reflect that overall. There is always room for improvement but Shawnee does a great job in maximizing funding to serve it's residents. Part of my job as a council person will be connecting residents with these services and I've already been doing that as I am out campaigning and meeting with my neighbors.

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

I would like us to find ways to better our infrastructure, make our town more walkable and bikeable and increase public safety. We also need to continue to diversify our tax base to help alleviate the tax burden off of our residents.

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)

We need to make Shawnee a welcoming place for residents and businesses alike so that businesses will invest right here in Shawnee making us a stronger community. The strength of the relationship between the City and the Chamber as well as the Economic Development Council goes a long way in helping this cause.

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)

Every project should be looked at through a unique lense. We should understand neighborhood needs and be sensitive to the history and the topography of each individual neighborhood. By doing so, we can create organic growth while keeping our important 'hometown' feel.

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

Being a first class city in Johnson County and one of it's largest we have an opportunity to make a difference in terms of climate, transportation and other infrastructure initiatives. Through regional collaboration we are able to bring opportunities and investments directly into our community which puts dollars directly into parks, roads, stormwater projects, etc.

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

The City should have some major takeaways from Covid-19 from how do we communicate effectively during a crisis and how do we support our residents and businesses. How do we make sure we are better equipped as challenges arise. I lost a parent to Covid and many other people that I know lost loved ones as well. We can do better as a community as long as we learn from experience.

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 think that economic and environmental resiliency needs to be big on our radar. How do we create a city that is not just built for now, but ready for the future as well. It will be through our efforts to increase sustainability and efficiency which will also have a positive economic impact in addition to a better quality of life. Also, how do we continue to stay relevant as our surrounding city's continue to grow and thrive? We need to continue to expand our tax base and make sure that we are building a diverse and welcoming community.

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

I felt a calling to run for a many reasons. One of those reasons is that my parents instilled in me at a young age what it means to serve your community and why that is important. My wife and I are raising our young children with that same sense of community pride. I want to work with you to make sure that this is a place that we are all proud to call home so I am stepping up to serve and make a difference right here in Shawnee. I want to be a voice for my neighbors.

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 am running with no agenda other than truly wanting to do what is best for our community. I am compassionate but able to weigh out what is presented to me and use critical thought in making decisions. Each project, each issue, etc. is different and contains it's own nuances and deserves to be treated as such. I will be available and responsive to my community. My time

canvassing has made me realize that such representation has been lacking and I want to change that for Ward 2.