

# Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:14 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Michael Poppa

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

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### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 4400 W 55th ST

City/State/Zip : Roeland Park, KS 66205

### 4. Phone Number

9132142875

### 5. Email Address

vote@michaelpoppa.com

### 6. Campaign Website

<https://michaelpoppa.com>

## 2. Candidate Background

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

Mainstream Coalition, Executive Director

NEJC Chamber, Member Engagement Director

OH & BC, Inc., Operations Director

### 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.

NEJC Chamber

Staff – Member Engagement Director / Leadership Program Director

Member – President, Leadership NEJC, Class of 2016 / Chamber Ambassador / Legislative Affairs Committee

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

Committee Member, Roeland Park Racial Equity Committee, 2020-present

Committee Member, Roeland Park Arts Committee, 2020-present

Advisory Committee Member, Climate Action KC, 2018-2020

Board Member, The Barn Players Community Theatre, 2018-present

Board Member, Suicide Awareness Survivor Support, 2016-present

Council Member/President, City of Roeland Park, 2015-2019

Metro KC Chair, Equality Kansas, 2014-2015

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

- Continue to decrease the property tax burden on residents and expand city services like the tax relief and Neighbors Helping Neighbors programs.
- Invest in streets, sidewalks and stormwater infrastructure to further connect our community and ensure a sustainable future.
- Roeland Park is known to be a welcoming city. And, we must continue to ensure we live up to that title and stand for a future of equity and inclusion.

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

Roeland Parkers enjoy high quality amenities and city services for our local tax dollars, including safe neighborhoods, clean and well-maintained community gathering spaces, a vibrant public art program, and curbside leaf pickup. During my first term we were able to enhance the quality of life for Roeland Parkers by strategically investing in critical infrastructure, parks, the aquatic center, and more while maintaining a balanced budget and strong financial position, without increasing the mill levy.

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

I would not make any changes at this time.

**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)**

The City has a critical role in economic development and investment in our community. While Chair of the Development Committee during my first term, we worked to foster public-private partnerships to create an environment where both residents and businesses thrive. During my next term on City Council, I will continue to create economic development opportunities that help to decrease the residential tax burden.

**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)**

Roeland Park is land-locked, so our opportunity for new development growth is limited. Instead, we have opportunities to bring in new businesses that meet the needs of our residents and enhance the community for all who enjoy it.

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

Metro cities have been working together for years, and I believe that should continue. When we work together, anything is possible.

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

City leaders expertly handled the COVID-19 pandemic by proactively taking measures to mitigate infection risk. We saw businesses and residents working together to ensure the safety of our community. One takeaway is that we care about our community members and take great pride in our city.

**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)**

The greatest challenges Roeland Park faces over the next ten years are redevelopment, maintaining critical infrastructure, and further enhancing public spaces and city services while maintaining our strong financial position and not raising the mill levy. I will continue working to ensure that current and future generations of Roeland Parkers enjoy a safe and thriving community with a stable economy, sound infrastructure, and quality amenities.

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

I am seeking another term to build on the progress we made during my first four years on City Council and beyond, including upgrades to parks and community amenities, critical infrastructure improvements, increased resident participation, and attraction of new businesses to diversify our tax base.

**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 proud of what we achieved during my first term on the Roeland Park City Council. I understand what it takes to get things done, and I value feedback and engagement from our residents and business community. In my next term, I look forward to deepening relationships and working together to keep our city moving forward.