

Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:44 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Roy Riffel

2. Candidate for Ward # (if applicable)

Spring Hill City Council

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 20024 Barker St

City/State/Zip : Spring Hill, KS 66083

4. Phone Number

913-549-0122

5. Email Address

royriffel@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

<https://www.facebook.com/Roy-Riffel-for-Spring-Hill-City-Council-101207272183686/>

2. Candidate Background

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

Business Management

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.

Chamber of Commerce in:

Salina, KS

Olathe, KS

Overland Park, KS

Wichita, KS

Liberty, MO

Independence, MO

Lee's Summit, MO

St. Peter's, MO

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

3. Issues and Policy

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

1 - Lower the mill levy.

2 - Produce an impactful budget and cut out unnecessary expenses.

3 - Evaluate our current street conditions, budget and plan for repairs/replacement based on the evaluation, and develop a schedule to consistently evaluate our infrastructure so we can update our plan/budget accordingly.

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

Our mill levy is the highest in Johnson county and above average in Miami county. I do not believe all our services and value we have received has been reflective of this.

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

Many changes need to happen with our city's budget.

First, we need to understand ALL our current expenses and obligations.

Secondly, we need to develop a budget that is impactful, we as council are held accountable to, and focuses on the top priorities.

Third, monthly updates on fiscal YTD budget vs. actual.

Lastly, a focus on our city's high amount of debt and a budget to avoid borrowing.

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)

Although a city cannot say what business in particular can come to the city, I believe the city can utilize the tools that are available to them to attract certain types of businesses to their city.

I also believe city staff and leadership in elected positions play a big role in the reputation the city has amongst businesses. We need to be famous for being easy to work with and a city a business wants to partner with.

Lastly, our services and infrastructure need to be top notch to attract more development.

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)

First, we need to update our Comprehensive Plan. It hasn't been updated since 2006. The needs and what makes sense has changed over the last 15 years.

Secondly, we need to find the right balance of residential and commercial. Currently we are too heavy in residential when compared to commercial placing a lot of the tax burden on the residents.

Lastly, we need to evaluate our growth and projected growth and what that means for our demand on city services. These services need to be provided at high quality without increasing the tax burden or city debt.

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

If the city can play a role where they can help influence or support an issue that is impacting the city or its citizens I think they should. A good example of this is when the city supported the formation of the City of Golden.

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

Without the aid the city received from the Federal Government, this would have been very costly for the city with just the equipment purchased for working remotely. Cities/Counties had to furlough employees as tax revenue was reduced with businesses being either closed or having lower sales, reducing sales tax.

As a city, we have to reduce our debt and cut fat out of our expenses to give breathing room during economic downturns. We

need to ensure we have a sustainable and balanced revenue as much as possible.

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)

Infrastructure - we are not budgeting for repairs or replacement. This needs to start.

Debt - we continue to grow our debt. This needs to be paid down. Projects/Expenses need to be budgeted.

Mill Levy - a very high mill levy plays a roll in the cost of living and the attraction to our city. With previous mentioned steps about the budget, we can get this lowered.

Commercial - we need to get unique in attracting more businesses to our city by being easy to work with, great infrastructure, proper services, and a lower tax rate.

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

For years I've been grooming myself to run for council. As the deadline came to file, I could only support one of the candidates. I decided my years of preparing for this office had materialized.

I am excited to run as there are some major decisions on the horizon and several issues fail to be addressed by the majority of the council.

I am not confident these decisions will be made or these issues addressed, by most of the council, with the voices of the citizens influencing their decisions.

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've attended/spoke at council meetings for several years. Knowing the history of decisions, public comments, I know what the citizens want. Some of my opponents started attending meetings after they filed.

You will find me on public record pushing for most of the items I am running on for the last several years. Some of my opponents have never spoke at council on any of the items on their candidate agenda.

I have a history and proven record of listening to others.

I have no conflict of interest should I be elected. My income does not come from tax dollars.
