

# Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:22 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

David Schmitz

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

### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 1908 W 49th St

City/State/Zip : Westwood Hills

### 4. Phone Number

(913) 228-2908

### 5. Email Address

[schmittforthecity@gmail.com](mailto:schmittforthecity@gmail.com)

### 6. Campaign Website

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070265701424>

## 2. Candidate Background

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

Food Service for 20+ years

### 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.

I have been in professional leadership roles since I was a teenager. I am OSHA safety certified and served as the Safety Chair/District Safety Coordinator for several organizations over the last ten years. I have also been involved in several Diversity and Inclusion networks.

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

Volunteering is important to me. Currently, I make regular food donations to feed homeless people at Morning Glory pantry at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. I have also volunteered for the Michigan Humane Society, Detroit Dog Rescue, Alcatraz Gardens, Habitat for Humanity, and several other organizations.

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

My top policies as a candidate are below but I am very interested to hear constituency interests and would certainly shift priorities if I may better serve the community.

1. With a large and still growing population of children within the community, I would like to see more city resources go toward safe, fun, and inclusive activities for them to interact with each other.

2. I'd like to see more city partnership at the Shops on State Line, revamp the intersection for safety and promote events that drive tax revenue.

3. Update legacy policies on home improvements.

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

WWH City Government has done an admirable job in managing tax dollars. With a small community and limited tax revenue or ability to expand, the city has continued to make capital improvements (such as the roads) with sure-footed planning and implementation processes. I also appreciate the transparency and real-time availability for the city budget.

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

I would like to see preventative inspections and maintenance plans for the aging infrastructure that our historic city has. Lifespans are limited for all things and ensuring there is budgetary concession for maintenance in advance can help to prevent catastrophes like flooded streets and homes.

**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)**

Our Mayor has been doing a nice job securing outside funds from the County, State, and Federal levels. Without much space for commercial expansion and limited city assets, it would be difficult to ask for too much effort to be put toward economic development. Certainly there can be improvements made and more tax revenue collected but it would be incremental at best.

**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)**

Safety will always be my #1, so fixing the intersection of 50th St & State Line should be high on the priorities list. A safer intersection can also be a boon for The Shops there.

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

We are part of a larger community and need to respect that there may be times when the larger community calls for help and we should do what we can. We should work with our local cities and JoCo partners to make sure we are all doing our part to maintain/grow/thrive together.

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

WWH responded appropriately, taking measures to keep everyone safe. Zoom council meetings, several events unfortunately suspended/cancelled, made it not a super fun year. The cautious approach that we have all taken getting community events back up and running is the right thing to do and it seems like our neighbors are wanting to get these events back up and moving again, which is a good thing! Some of my favorite memories from my childhood are going to neighborhood picnics and events, we should work toward the youth getting a chance to have those memories as well.

**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 is a primary factor in a city with great history. If we are going to be updating these things we should plan appropriately to take long-term and environmentally conscious steps to update and improve.

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

When I am voting for candidates, I always want to know who is honorable, truthful, and really listens to the concerns of the people in the community. I believe that I am that person, and want to actively represent people and work to improve our lives.

**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 a blue-collar guy, level headed but I can be scrappy if needed. I am just as comfortable maintaining the status-quo as I am pushing the envelope and making the best of uncomfortable situations if it is in the best interest of my neighbors. This is my home, this is our home, give me your vote and I will give you my best to make a great city even better.