

# Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:53 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Gregory Shelton

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

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### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 9057 Rosewood Dr.

City/State/Zip : Prairie Village, KS 66207

### 4. Phone Number

816.810.6240

### 5. Email Address

greg@sheltonforpv.com

### 6. Campaign Website

www.sheltonforpv.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

I have led marketing and business development efforts in the engineering and construction industry spanning the power, water/wastewater, transportation, and site/civil engineering/construction sectors.

### 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.

American Council of Engineering Companies

American Marketing Association

Hydrogen Council

United States Energy Association

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

Johnson County Charter Commission (2021 - 2022)

Sunflower House Board Member (2017 - present)

Vice Chair, Johnson County Democratic Party (2018 - 2020)

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

My first priority is to maintain or modernize our City's core infrastructure (e.g. roads/sidewalks, facilities, fleet vehicles) so we improve operational efficiency and increase the overall quality of life for everyone in Prairie Village. Second, as we evaluate new commercial and housing developments I'll emphasize sustaining the sense of community that makes Prairie Village one

of the most coveted places to call home. Third, I'll apply principles of sustainability to our budgeting process, like those outlined in Climate Action KC's playbook, so we are maximizing the potential for triple bottom line results (people + profit + planet) in 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)**

Per Prairie Village's most recent annual financial report, the average homeowner pays \$70/month for City services. More than 70% of this amount funds our public safety (e.g. police, etc.) and public works departments, which means our community development, administrative services, and park & recreation cost less than \$20/month. When put into this context, I believe Prairie Village's city services deliver exceptional value when compared with other essential services like water, electrical, internet, and even cell phones.

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

In the near term, I expect to assess how our current budget allocations align to our 2040 Comprehensive Plan, or Village Vision 2.0, and ensure the priorities outlined in the "Action Plan" are aligned with current expectations and needs of our community.

**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 plays an important role in aligning development interests with the interests of our residents and existing businesses. This ensures our City experiences healthy growth that sustains the unique aspects of our neighborhoods and continues to make Prairie Village one of the most coveted places to call home in the Kansas City metro-area.

**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)**

We need to be diligent in evaluating development plans and partners in Prairie Village. As a relatively small city with finite land for development, we can and should align with those development partners that share our standards of development outlined in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

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

Our City has earned the reputation as a leader in the metro-area due to the quality of life and value our residents and businesses receive from City services. With this reputation comes an expectation to contribute to solutions on issues that affect Prairie Village and our fellow metro-area residents on both sides of the State line. We need to continue to earn this level of influence by leading our City on issues related to aging infrastructure; diversity, equity & inclusion; and other important topics in accordance with Home Rule, State Law and Federal Law.

**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 main takeaway for me is the solemn duty elected officials and City staff have when it comes to protecting public health and safety, and how to do this effectively by collaborating with all levels of our government: County, State, and Federal.

**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)**

Our city has some aging facilities and other essential infrastructure that will need to be modernized or replaced. And, as we recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we'll need to keep an eye on lingering impacts to retail sales that may reduce our City's revenue from sales taxes. These two things could present difficult choices as we strive to lower the lifecycle costs and reduce the carbon footprint of our facilities, fleet vehicles, and other critical infrastructure in future budgets.

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

The World Economic Forum has reported we are entering into the fourth industrial revolution, and this new era of innovation will be defined by the decarbonization of our economy rather than the digitization we experienced over the past 60 years.

We need people in public office who understand these emerging market trends and can apply their practical, pragmatic perspective to the City's policies and budget, so Prairie Village can continue to thrive.

**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)**

My experience in the engineering and construction industry has offered me a very practical perspective on the fundamental processes and practices that make our City's essential services work well. This perspective coupled with my expertise in communications and local government means I have a unique ability to communicate complex topics in a concise format, so our residents can better understand what our City is doing and why those activities are a good value for them, or not.