

# Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:72 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Angela Stiens

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

#3

### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 5409

City/State/Zip : Aminda KS 66226

### 4. Phone Number

913-909-9903

### 5. Email Address

sstiens@everestkc.net

### 6. Campaign Website

Angela Stiens for Shawnee

## 2. Candidate Background

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

Occupational Therapist

### 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.

N:A

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

Common Core activist for sound math curriculum

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

1. Preserve our neighborhoods.
2. Stand with residents, not developers – this has been a very important issue in Ward 3.
3. Respect for taxpayers.

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

In this instance, my views are not as important as those I seek to represent. For example, I am concerned about the amount of staff time that was put into pushing for a Community Center that earned 27% of the vote. While not an issue for Ward 3, there were a number of concerns in the eastern part of the city about the amount of money spent on Nieman Now. So, while the city

does a number of things well, I do think there are areas where money has not been spent wisely.

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

My general view of government at any level is that it should be limited and focused on core services such as public safety, roads, parks, and the like. It is the taxpayers' money, not the city council's money. A thorough review of the budget with this mindset would likely present ideas for changes. Certainly, my opponent voting to give the city manager a 25% pay raise, when many Shawnee residents were facing unemployment, was deeply problematic an example of a poor decision the city has made in recent years.

**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)**

I believe in free markets and that the best way to promote development is by leveling the playing field and having policies in place that benefit all businesses, not just those the city favors. That means having low tax rates and a business-friendly environment for all. Unfortunately, a slim majority of the city council has repeatedly voted to pick winners and losers by granting generous corporate welfare incentives to developers who often turn around and break their promises.

**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 and foremost, listen to residents. As a resident for 23 years, I know it is current residents who will help best promote growth by telling their friends how great it is to live in Shawnee. Too often in the past, this has not happened, and the City Council has taken controversial votes on a number of projects which were not in the best interest of the people of Shawnee. We also need to involve more citizen voices in the development process.

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

The city should always be engaged in issues that impact our broader metro area, as no city exists on an island. However, we should also not ever be afraid to stand alone in doing what is right for the people of our city.

**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 needs to again, listen to businesses and listen to people. The county's decisions to close or restrict businesses had a devastating impact on a number of local businesses, and our city leaders were silent during this process. We need to follow the lead of people like Senator Mike Thompson, who stood alongside our local businesses and for the rights of individuals and led the right against mandates and restrictions.

**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)**

We need to make sure we continue to invest in repairing any aging infrastructure. We need to ensure our neighborhoods remain strong and safe. Finally, we need to make sure that Shawnee remains an affordable place for everyone to live.

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

In recent years, I have become concerned with some of the decisions the city council has made. Having been a resident for 23 years and engaged in a number of these issues, I am running so the people of my ward have a voice and they know will fight for them.

**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)**

As a resident of Shawnee for 23 years, I have witnessed the incredible growth in western Shawnee, and being a homeowner, wife, and mom, I understand the impact each decision the city council makes has on our way of life and our community. A city government, by definition, is closest to the people – and as such, the city council needs to reflect the people it serves. Whether

it is in preserving our neighborhoods, keeping our taxes low, or defending our values, I will always stand up for what is in the best interest of the people of Shawnee.