

# Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:28 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Sophia Theodore

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

Ward 1

### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 13904 W54th Terrace

City/State/Zip : Shawnee, KS 66216

### 4. Phone Number

913-221-5409

### 5. Email Address

sophia4shawnee@gmail.com

### 6. Campaign Website

sophia4shawnee.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

The University of Kansas Health System- Medication Coordinator

Optum Rx- Patient Care Coordinator

Blind Box BBQ- Manager/Event Coordinator

Soma Photography Studio- Co Owner

### 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.

Shawnee Chamber of Commerce

Ada MI Chamber of Commerce

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

No Political. Community: Shawnee Rotary SMSD PTA President and Boosters President

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

Economic Development and Infrastructure- Attract quality businesses to Shawnee that meet the needs of residents and generates a diversified tax base.

Support City Services-

Continue to provide the financial support necessary for our nationally-accredited police, fire and public works departments so that they can be responsive to the ongoing and ever-changing needs of our community.

Connect Shawnee-

Enhance our parks, pathways and family-friendly recreation so that Shawnee can be a great place for all residents to live, relax and play. Create ways for walkers and cyclists to access a safe and interactive community.

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

I believe the schools in Shawnee are among the best in the state. I also support our nationally accredited Police, Fire and Public Works departments. We do great things with our tax dollars. I would like to see more taxes go to our Parks and Recreation department. Families being able to ride and walk through Shawnee safely would be an enhancement to our city.

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

The city has its priorities right in the way it distributes our tax dollars. I believe that we could apply for state and federal grants for specific infrastructure and transportation projects.

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**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 the city should attract quality businesses that meet the needs of residents and generates a diversified tax base. The city should create incentives that benefit both the incoming business and the neighborhood around it.

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**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)**

This city needs to grow with respect for the current businesses in Shawnee. The greatest challenge is to keep the our neighborhoods and business in harmony with each other. I would start by looking at our zoning codes to see how they can help our small businesses. The city should consider the Achieve Shawnee plan where it makes sense.

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

My philosophy would be cooperation between metro area communities. If we have the same needs and issues, we should work together to solve our problems.

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

COVID wreaked havoc on the country, and our city and its employees did a great job keeping our services in tact. The pandemic also brought to light some issues that weren't a result of COVID. For example, during the pandemic, with families spending so much time together, we noticed that Shawnee was built for cars and not for people. Our takeaway from the pandemic should be to take every lesson we have learned and make a community that is safe for everyone.

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**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)**

Growth. This city needs to grow with respect for the current businesses in Shawnee. The greatest challenge is to keep the our neighborhoods and business in harmony with each other. I would start by looking at our zoning codes to see how they can help our small businesses.

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

Shawnee is our home. I see its path forward, we have so many great things in our city but I believe with fresh eyes and an open mind to new ideas we can build upon Shawnee's great foundation.

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**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 have strong leadership skill that are rooted in our community. From being a small business owner in Shawnee to being immersed in our schools parent leadership, I lead with integrity and the belief that our community includes all of our residents.

