

# Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:80 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

---

### 1. Candidate Name

Rick Walker

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

Mayor

### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 31755 W 89th St

City/State/Zip : De Soto

### 4. Phone Number

9133757729

### 5. Email Address

rwalker514@gmail.com

### 6. Campaign Website

---

## 2. Candidate Background

---

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

Civil Engineer, Estimate/Project Manager at Bedrock Concrete

### 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.

De Soto Chamber, no office held.

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

De Soto City Council 2009-2018

De Soto Mayor 2018-present

## 3. Issues and Policy

---

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

Stable, sustainable growth

Stable tax rate

Improvement of the City's infrastructure, Water, Sewer, street, sidewalks, trails and Parks.

### 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 City returns a good value to our citizens for the tax dollars they provide. We have implemented and expanded a street maintenance program, sidewalk program, asset management programs where funds are set aside every year to cover costs for routine maintenance on our facilities. We have developed and 5-year capital improvement program with extensive public outreach and input to outline the projects that we will be looking at over the next 5 years, and how they might be

funded.

---

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

We need to find some way, without raising taxes to direct more funds toward parks and recreation projects and activities.

---

**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)**

City is the key player in economic development pursuits. We have developed and adopted a comprehensive economic incentive policy that outlines the basic levels of incentive that will be offered, and what parcels are eligible for incentives.

---

**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)**

Incentivize project that bring benefit back to the community with the greatest level of incentive going to the projects that bring the greatest level of benefit. Ensure that our local school district is not adversely impacted by any incentive proposal.

---

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

De Soto is often left out of the discussion regarding issues that affect the metro-wide area. I have worked to become involved in regional organizations and committees to represent our community and presents a favorable image of our community metro-wide.

---

**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 Covid-19 pandemic forced De Soto and other communities to do business in a different way. We have been live streaming our City Council meetings over the internet for a number of years but the pandemic forced us to look at remote meeting tools to allow remote participation of our Council Members, interested parties and constituents. We will keep and continue to improve and enhance our ability to allow remote participation in the regular meetings of our City Council, Planning Commission, and Boards.

---

**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)**

De Soto is in the next tier of the metro that will see tremendous growth. We need to manage the growth in a way that we get a good return on the communities investment in these economic development opportunities. The growth will also place additional pressure on the local housing market. We need to find ways to encourage quality development for housing in all price ranges.

---

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

To continue the progress that has been made and provide stability in the leadership of our community.

---

**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)**

Experience.

---