

Mayor and/or City Council 2021

Response ID:29 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Jacklynn Walters

2. Candidate for Ward # (if applicable)

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3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 6815 Summit St.

City/State/Zip : Shawnee, KS 66216

4. Phone Number

913-302-3053

5. Email Address

jacklynn.walters@ymail.com

6. Campaign Website

https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fjacklynnwalters.com%2F%3Ffbclid%3DlWAR1i305zpt1-DeBKn3JQGScLlnJ6ned7JgP9JUwW60OZaLT7VuW6tj_8skBk&h=AT0C9AKyh_bpoDbIFid6Y9k0ynrfqZqwQvkS46HKlb-bt4JZYhBxrzbEt1GzYmMgE94295dlbn1JIAhDsnmcfjQ3E_CORRSUNm4A_6ARgPByEDuYRfoGZM8ix6ZuPKyYy24I-P-2

2. Candidate Background

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

Stay at home wife and mom to 4 children.

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)

I currently volunteer with organizations that provide support to girls and young women in need. I serve in a variety of ways at our home church, Lenexa Baptist Church, in children and youth activities.

3. Issues and Policy

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

- 1) Remember who pays the bills: property and sales taxes have increased, cost of living continues to climb and families and seniors feel the pinch. Easing the burden on our taxpayers and being good stewards of taxpayer funds is top priority!
- 2) Support our police and fire departments: public safety is key to preserving strong neighborhoods. We must protect those who protect us!
- 3) Demand strict scrutiny on developer incentives: some on city council have repeatedly granted excessive corporate welfare to wealthy developers who made promises that were not kept. We must be judicious with public incentives and demand

accountability.

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

Shawnee police and fire departments are wonderful and must be well funded. Our beautiful parks should remain clean and well maintained. Our infrastructure must always be a priority. However, the city must be mindful of recent decisions to invest time and resources into promoting a property tax increase for an expensive community center or on the Nieman Now project, which took too long to complete and was incredibly expensive. I will keep a watchful eye to ensure our tax dollars remain focused on what matters most.

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

Transparency and accountability are key to a strong budget in a thriving city. The taxpayers want to know how and what their funds are being used for. If we are doing the best with what funds we have, and running the city with good stewardship, there is nothing to hide. However, there is always room for improvement. We have to discern between needs and wants and live within our means, similar to how I run my own budget for a family of 6.

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 use of corporate incentives has gotten out of hand, often granted to developers who then break promises. The failure of these projects demonstrates the short-sightedness and overuse of such incentives. I would rather take the approach of having policies that impact everyone, such as keeping taxes low and making it as easy as possible for businesses to locate and remain here, but without picking between winners and losers.

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)

Business development is key to help increase our tax base and create jobs in our city. However, we need to be judicious with public incentives and demand accountability. We need to consider what businesses will serve our community and draw more families to our city.

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

Shawnee should always be engaged in topics that impact our broader community. In doing so, Shawnee should also always stand up for our residents, even if it means going against the grain.

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 facts demonstrate that our businesses and people were severely hurt by the restrictions imposed by government. While these decisions were enacted largely by the county and the state, I do believe the city should stand against actions which harm the ability of people to earn a living or keep their business afloat. We cannot talk about the importance of economic development while at the same time being silent when government itself places severe limits on economic activity.

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)

Shawnee is well known for being attractive to families - that's why my family moved here. To maintain this tradition, we need to ensure our neighborhoods remain safe and strong and that our community is an affordable place to raise a family, to start a business, or to retire.

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

I see the role of local government as a voice for the people of that community. I recognize they are accountable to the citizens who elected them. We live in one of the best Counties and Cities in the nation and I want to see that continue. Our city attracts families and small businesses that can grow and develop. I desire for my children to grow up in a safe, family friendly town with beautiful history and modern growth. I am your neighbor, your voice, and I'm focused on Shawnee.

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)

Born and raised in Johnson County, I have served my community in a variety of personal and professional settings. My husband, Justin, and I chose Shawnee as our home because we wanted a family friendly community and the strong, vibrant neighborhoods - something we know our neighbors here in our community feel strongly about, as well. My opponent is the hand-picked replacement of the incumbent, who dropped out on the filing deadline and became his treasurer, and would continue her track record of promoting higher taxes, unchecked corporate welfare, and on issues that divide our city.