

Gardner Mayor/City Council 2021

Response ID:6 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Todd Winters

2. Candidate for Ward # (if applicable)

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 28504 W 162nd terrace

City/State/Zip : Gardner, KS 66030

4. Phone Number

913-271-3587

5. Email Address

drtoddwinters@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

<https://www.facebook.com/Todd-Winters-for-Gardner-Mayor-105087008353382>

2. Candidate Background

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

I have owned and operated Winters Chiropractic in Gardner for 20 years.

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.

Past Chairman of Gardner Chamber

Current Board member of the Chamber

Member of Chamber for 20 years

Board member of the SWJCEDC

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

Current President of City Council

Served over 10 years on City Council

Past President and current Board Member of the Gardner Rotary Club

Past Chairman and board member of the Festival on the Trails

3. Issues and Policy

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

1: Affordability: Gardner maintains one of the lowest mill rates in Kansas for a city of its size. Our city-owned utilities rates are very comparable to others. Our housing prices remain more affordable than many other Johnson County cities.

2: Safety: Insuring our public safety (police) have what they need to keep our community safe is (and always has been) very important to me.

3: Responsible development: Bringing commercial businesses to Gardner provides more options for our residents and also

helps to lower the tax burden for citizens.

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 our citizens receive a great value for their tax dollars. Our roads are generally well-kept (main st/56hwy maintained by the State of Kansas being the current exception.) Our community scores high on Safe places to live. Our park and trail systems offer many amenities. And, owning our utilities allows affordable rates with exceptional service.

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

We are nearing a finished budget, so most changes I wanted to see have already been accomplished. What I would like to see is more citizen input on the budget itself.

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 plays a large role in economic development. I am a big proponent of bringing responsible development to Gardner. As a city, we have many options to incentivize the right businesses to locate here if it is mutually beneficial. I believe investing in the Chamber and the EDC is very important as they are often the first contact for interested businesses. The right developments bring jobs, capital investment, and shopping/dining options for our community and I fully support the city's role.

14. How do you plan to communicate effectively with the businesses and citizens of the community? (100 words or less)

I plan to have a weekly update available through social media. Additionally, I am always open to questions through emails, phone, or just stopping by my office!

15. 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 carefully evaluate all projects to determine if it is a good project that will benefit the community.

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

If it ultimately benefits Gardner citizens, I think we should play a role.

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

I think Gardner (to date) has shown its resilience. We buckled down as a city and have come out stronger than many other cities. My takeaway is that we have a strong staff that helped carry us through.

18. 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

As we grow, our infrastructure needs (roads, water, electricity, wastewater etc.) will grow with it. Balancing those needs while keeping taxes low is a top priority. Bringing the right development projects to town helps to accomplish this. Additionally, as we grow, it is important to me to keep that "small town" feel. Investing in our downtown is a great way to do this.

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

I am a resident and business owner in Gardner for over 20 years. From day one, I have been involved in the community. After years of serving on numerous committees, boards, and 10 years on the city council, I wholeheartedly believe this is the right next step for me. I cannot wait to guide Gardner for the next four years!

20. 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 am the only resident AND business owner in this race. I have served in leadership roles for over 20 years through boards, committees, youth coaching, and 10 years on the City Council. I have the experience and leadership to keep Gardner a safe, affordable, great place to live work and play!

