

# 2021 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidates: Please provide your responses to these questions, along with your desired headshot and social media profile, for publication by the Citizens for a Better Shawnee. Your responses to the candidate questions will be published in their entirety and without editing.

If you encounter any problems, please reply to the e-mail invitation and we will be happy to help!

## Candidate Profile

Please enter your name as you would like it to be presented with your responses. \*

Sophia Theodore

Please upload a headshot to be used when we publish your response.

 DSC\_4518 - Soph...

Please provide a link to your most preferred social media profile or website.

[www.sophia4shawnee.com](http://www.sophia4shawnee.com)

Do you have any endorsements you would like to share? \*

No

## Shawnee and Me

What is your connection to Shawnee and why did you decide to run for City Council? \*

We moved to Shawnee 13 years ago, and have embraced this community, and the city of Shawnee as our home. I'm running for City Council Ward 1 to ensure Shawnee keeps moving in a direction with economic growth, safety, and community at the forefront.

What do you see as the top three priorities for the City of Shawnee and why? (Your answers do not necessarily have to be of a political nature.) \*

Economic Development- To lower the tax burden on our homeowners, we need to grow our tax base by attracting new businesses that give our residents opportunities to live, work and play in Shawnee. To have citizens from other cities come to Shawnee and spend, adding to our sales taxes.  
Support our our nationally accredited police, fire, and public works departments so they can continue to meet the ever-changing needs of our community.  
Services and Infrastructure- As a first class city we deserve high quality services and amenities. We need to complete the Stormwater Drainage Project, as well as enhance our greenspace and make Shawnee a more walkable and bikeable city.

What do you love most about Shawnee? \*

The small town feel. The pride that those who live here feel about our City. It's just such a great community.

## My Policies

For the following questions, please consider your objectives as a Councilmember and how you would vote as a representative for the City and your Ward:

How do you define “affordable housing” and how does that translate for what you see as a need or priority for future development in Shawnee? \*

I'm not in a position to say what one person considers "affordable" and another does not. Shawnee needs a balance in its development. A balance that affords our aging citizens to continue to live in the community that they have raised their families in, a community that is affordable to first time home buyer, young families, and all who want to be apart of this city.

What guidance would you give to prospective developers who look at Shawnee for their projects? \*

Know this community. Enhance this community. Don't expect City Council to grant you tax incentives, and don't expect them to reject giving tax incentives. Bring a balance to the community and a good reason for what you are proposing.

Do you consider the tax burden for Shawnee residents to be generally acceptable or unacceptable? How would your policy support maintaining or changing this balance? \*

I see it as currently acceptable. But things don't tend to get cheaper, I don't expect the materials we need to improve our services and the amenities we have come to expect to go down in price. I also do not want taxes to increase for our homeowners. That's why diversifying our tax base is so important.

## My Policies (cont.)

For the following questions, please consider your objectives as a Councilmember and how you would vote as a representative for the City and your Ward:

A variety of economic incentives are available for developers who want to build in Shawnee. How should Shawnee approach the use of these incentives in the future? \*

Does it make sense? Does it bring jobs to Shawnee? Does it enhance Shawnees future?

How should the Council, commission(s), and/or city staff enhance community engagement on policy and future planning? \*

I think it's a two way communication process. The city website has so much information. The community needs to take advantage of all the platforms for communicating with the Council and the City. The City Council and City Staff should be open and responsive to questions, and keep mailings clear and concise.

If we had the opportunity to enact one large, public project in Shawnee, what do you think that project should be and why? \*

Bike and walking paths. Shawnee is a great place to drive, but not a safe place for walkers and cyclists.

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