

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. *

Dr. Mike Kemmling

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

 191019_Kemmli...

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

<https://www.facebook.com/Dr-Mike-Kemmling-Ward-II-Councilman-Shawnee-260440834025454>

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

KFL and NWJCR

Shawnee and Me

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

I was a home owner and a Shawnee business owner. I didn't like the way that the city was headed so I decided to run to make a change.

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.) *

Roads, stormwater drainage, and public safety (fire and police). These are the most basic functions of government and should always be fully funded.

What do you love most about Shawnee? *

I love the character of our city and that it's a bedroom community. It isn't trying to be Lenexa or Overland Park.

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 think it depends on who is using the term. Literally, it means housing that can be affordable to low income residents and seniors on a fixed income. To some, this is code for section 8 housing and high density developments. I'm opposed to the latter.

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

Make sure that your proposals fit the neighborhoods. Heavily take into account the opinions of the neighbors. Also, don't ask for tax payer handouts.

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 think it is too high and have fought to lower it.

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? *

I've yet to see a reasonable request for incentives from a developer. I have opposed every one of them because they ask for far too much: 20 year tax abatements and increased sales taxes. These incentives are a mistake and it doesn't matter if other communities are making those mistakes, we still shouldn't. It's hard to justify handing out millions of dollars of tax payer money when Ward 2 doesn't even have curbs and gutters.

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

My ward mate Eric Jenkins and I have tried very hard to be the voice for the citizens. I do think that there is a mindset at the city that any citizen that raising an issue is a "trouble maker". It's an unacceptable way of thinking and I believe that certain staffing changes need to be made.

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

Right now, I think that we have to get our house in order first. We need to make sure that our roads aren't crumbling and that our stormwater management is preventing issues and flooding. We need to make sure that our fire stations are properly updated and that we have the appropriate number of police officers.

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