

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. *

Tony Gillette

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

 TonyG - Revised ...

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

www.tonygillette4shawnee.com

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

not yet

Shawnee and Me

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

My wife and I moved to Shawnee over 25 years ago, and chose Shawnee as great place to own a home, start our family with two sons, attend great public schools, and build the American Dream. This is why I'm running for Ward 1, As your councilman, I'll bring common sense back to city spending and make sure we maintain the hometown feel of our community.

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.) *

We need to listen and represent the wishes of Shawnee voters, high density apartments are not the only building options for our city. Secondly, we need to be better stewards of the peoples money, as tax dollars do not grow on trees. Lastly, we need to prioritize the Parks & Pipes funding, maintain high quality police and fire departments, all while growing responsibly with citizen input.

What do you love most about Shawnee? *

We moved to Shawnee for it's great single-family home neighborhoods, great schools, accessible walking/biking trails and parks. All with a strong and safe small-town feel community near all that the Greater Kansas City area has to offer.

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? *

Shawnee offers a full wide range of single-family homes in all price range options, and has several options for 55+ condo style homes and apartment option as all pricing levels. High-density apartments have their place, but they are not the only option we can grow with in Shawnee. More step-down home options like the Town & Country neighborhood is needed to keep our current residents here in the Shawnee they love.

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

Shawnee development needs a wide range of housing and retail options. The more creative projects the better. Let's avoid the group-think one-size-fits all approach, and grow with a proper fit and feel within each neighborhood and section of town.

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? *

We all want lower taxes. We can achieve this by taking a hard look at the city budget and applying the same cost savings measures Shawnee residents are doing at their kitchen tables. We should always consider the option to lower the mill levy rates, not just in election years.

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? *

The Shawnee SEED Program is available for current businesses. We can use this wisely to enhance the growth of downtown selectively. However, we need to avoid 20+ year TIF's and CID's, as the retail world is rapidly changing. The focus should be on supporting small businesses that enhance the growth in their neighborhoods.

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

I believe strongly in citizen input on future developments. All city staff, and elected officials need to engage with the ideas our citizens desire and grow responsibly, and help maintain the the best hometown feel that Shawnee has to offer.

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

We have many neighborhoods in Shawnee that still do not have curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. We should invest in this infrastructure which will make the community values rise, walkable, and family friendly.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms