



LAWRENCE BOARD OF REALTORS®
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2021 CITY COMMISSION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: **Shawn Pearson**

Mailing Address: 1920 Massachusetts St _____

Lawrence, KS 66046 _____

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Telephone Number: 785-840-81100 _____

Biographical Information

Occupation: VP Strategy @ US Bank _____

Previous Government Experience: None _____

Involvement in Community Activities: Special Olympics, People Serving People (Minneapolis) and Big Brothers / Big Sisters

Positions on Important Issues

Priority Issues:

1. What are your three top public policy priorities if you are elected to the City Commission?

Small Business, Quality of Life Issues (inc. Police Reform, Mental Health, Homelessness, Equality), and Environment Issues _____

Housing Affordability:

Reasonable cost for homes, apartments, and KU campus living, as well as homeless shelters that are safe and well run

2. What does “housing affordability” mean to you?

Reasonable cost for homes, apartments, and KU campus living, as well as homeless shelters that are safe and well run_____

3. In 2018, the Commission received the results of the BBC Housing Market Analysis. Among other things, that study told us:
- Between 2001 and 2018, Lawrence saw an 85% increase in the median price of sold and listed homes (Section II, page 9);
 - An affordably priced home using the HUD 80% MFI (the definition adopted in Plan 2040 for “affordable housing”) for Lawrence in 2019 is \$180,000 (Figure II-13, Section II, page 12);
 - Nearly 50% of non-student renters in Lawrence want to buy a home and could afford a home priced between \$110,000 and \$262,000 (Section II, page 12);
- Since then, housing prices have steadily increased in Lawrence while inventory has declined. How would you suggest Lawrence address this availability and affordability gap?

Open development on more open land to increase supply_____

4. The Lawrence Board of Realtors® believes that everyone in Lawrence should have access to safe, affordable housing and that everyone should be able to experience homeownership within their means. Meeting the demand for moderately priced housing is difficult. The City of Lawrence has identified Affordable Housing as a major priority. Do you support new development policies that increase the cost of residential development? Please explain.

Yes, I support additional development to meet the housing demand_____

Would you support new development policies that would incentivize new residential development meeting market demand to supply workforce housing at \$250,000 or less? Please explain.

Yes, I would support that_____

Energy Efficiency

5. In March 2020, the City of Lawrence adopted Ordinance 9744, establishing a goal of 100% clean, renewable energy in all municipal operations by 2025 and city-wide by 2030. The Kansas Legislature preempted this ordinance during the 2021 session with the Energy Choice Act. What is your opinion regarding clean energy policies and how should we balance environmentally conscious policies with the rising cost of housing and utilities?

I do support renewable energy such as solar and wind, with a realistic view that we will continue to utilize coal and oil in the short term, there needs to be a balance that people can afford_

Sidewalks

Reasonable cost for homes, apartments, and KU campus living, as well as homeless shelters that are safe and well run

6. The City of Lawrence has implemented a policy requiring landowners to maintain and repair sidewalks on their property or the City will do so at the landowner's expense. Do you support this policy? Please explain.

I support this policy with the exception of those that cannot afford the repairs based on income, then the city's general fund should cover that expense. we need safe sidewalks and I have seen many that are not

Economic Development:

7. In 2012, the Lawrence City Commission and the Douglas County Commission approved a proposal submitted by the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce to create the Joint Economic Development Council that is responsible for a wide range of economic development activities in our community. Do you support this partnership, and do you support the continued funding of the Joint Economic Development Council? Do you intend to promote economic development in the City of Lawrence and Douglas County? Please explain your answer.

I have yet to read all the details of that proposal. I do support an Economic Development council and promote growth both of the county and Lawrence. There is unrealized potential in this city.

8. When appropriate, do you support the use of economic development incentives (such as industrial revenue bonds, tax abatements, rebates, community improvement districts, etc.) to attract or retain jobs and economic development investments in our community? Please explain your answer.

Yes, I do, as they have proven to work in other places. _

9. How would you propose to balance the need for economic development and increasing density in our City with preservation of the City's character and historic resources and monuments?

I think both can be achieved if development occurs in a planned out fashion. Downtown Lawrence in particular is historic and must be preserved while realizing we need a revitalization of downtown.

City Budget Issues and Property Taxes:

10. In terms of your priorities on the City Commission, how highly would you prioritize your commitment to decreasing, or limiting future increases in the mill levy rate?

Limiting future increases _____

Thank you for your valuable time and cooperation in completing this candidate questionnaire. Your response will be greatly appreciated and will be distributed to our membership so they can make an adequate judgment on the merits of the candidates. Please return this questionnaire to our office by June 18, 2021.

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