

2024

CITY COUNCIL & MUNICIPAL JUDGE

Candidate Profiles



LEE'S SUMMIT
C H A M B E R ®

2024 City Council & Municipal Judge Candidates

The Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce remains invested in the future of the community, as well as the interests and prosperity of its member businesses. With its membership in mind, the Chamber advocates for a strong business climate while pursuing improvements to infrastructure, education and technology. The forum offers a great opportunity to meet the candidates and learn more about their stances on certain issues. The candidates are:

- Sam Buccero (Judge)
- Venessa Maxwell- Lopez (Judge)
- Hillary Shields (District 1)
- Trish Carlyle (District 2)
- Bob Gough (District 2)
- Shari Frazier (District 2)
- Cynda Rader (District 3)
- Fred DeMoro (District 4)

Please Note: All answers were copied directly from answers provided by candidates and were not edited by the Chamber. **This Program was paid for by the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce president, Matt Baird.**

Current City Council



Mayor Bill Baird
 Councilmember Mia Prier District 1
 Councilmember Hillary Shields District 1
 Councilmember John Lovell District 2
 Councilmember Andrew S. Felker District 2

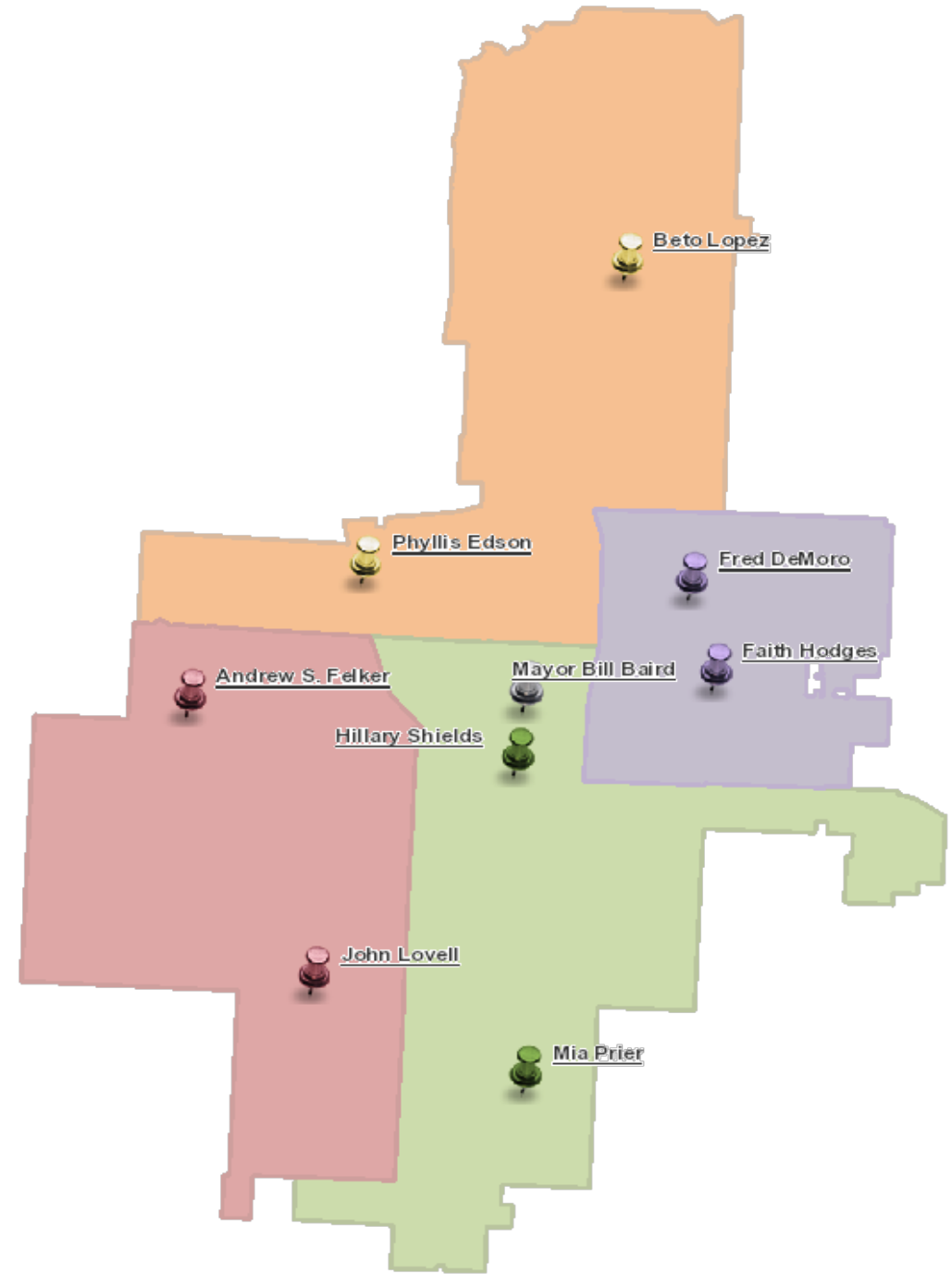


Councilmember Phyllis Q. Edson District 3
 Mayor Pro Tem Beto Lopez District 3
 Councilmember Fred DeMoro District 4
 Councilmember Faith Hodges District 4

Special thanks to our forum sponsors



City Council District Map



Judge Candidate



Sam Buccero

Education: BA Administration of Justice UMKC Law Degree- Washburn Law School 1985

Business Name: Samuel J. Buccero Law Office

Occupation: Attorney

Political Experience: None

Memberships/Activities: Missouri Bar Association

Campaign Web Address: Sam Buccero for Judge of Lee's Summit-Facebook

1. What compelled you to run for municipal judge?

I want to give back to the city in which I have lived and raised my family for the past 34 years.

2. What are the most pressing issues you want to address as municipal judge?

To always be mindful that the municipal court may be the only court that the majority of people appear in, and their experience in Lee's Summit Municipal court might reflect on their opinion of our city government as a whole.

3. There are other candidates who have filed to run for this position. What makes you the best candidate to fill this position?

My 38 years of experience as a lawyer, and extensive experience in municipal courts. I was an assistant prosecuting attorney in Kansas City, Missouri Municipal Court for 25 years, and the Domestic Violence Prosecutor in Blue Springs, Municipal Court for 6 years. Also, I have been the Public Defender for the City of Raytown, Missouri for the past 23 years.

4. What do you think is the most important skill of being a good municipal judge?

Being a good listener and treating all people with respect and fairness

5. When becoming a judge, which is more important: the number of cases you've handled as an attorney or the types of cases you've handled? Please explain. Both the types of cases and the number of cases

I have spent most of my 38- year legal career practicing in our local municipal courts. I have had the experience handling exactly the types of cases that are heard in Lee's Summit Municipal Court. Also, as a prosecutor, I have spent thousands and thousands of hours in municipal court.

6. What type of community engagement, organizations or public service positions have you been part of or involved in?

For years I coached youth baseball in Lee's Summit. I continue to speak at schools regarding students interested in careers in the legal profession. My service as Raytown Public Defender representing indigent defendants for nominal pay is a public service to the legal system.

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Judge Candidate



Venessa Maxwell-Lopez

Education: : Juris Doctorate, University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law, 1991, Class rank 25/152
Bachelor of Arts, Northwest Missouri State University, 1987, cum laude

Business Name: Law Offices of Venessa Maxwell-Lopez, LLC

Occupation: Attorney licensed in Missouri and Kansas

Political Experience: None

Memberships/Activities: • Leadership Lee's Summit – Class of 2024

• Commissioner: Jackson County, MO Merit Commission

• Commissioner: Jackson County COMBAT Commission

• Membership: LS Rotary, LS Chamber of Commerce, MO Bar, KS Bar, Clay County Bar

• Volunteer: LS Octoberfest, Chamber Gala, Guadalupe Center Corporate Board, Mission Trips to Guatemala, Non-Profit work with Hope Network, local PTA, LS Parks and Rec coach, Booster Club President

• Church: Governance Committee, Choir, Praise Team, Children's Ministries, hold estate planning seminars

• Educator: Teaching attorneys at UMKC School of Law, KC Metropolitan Bar Association, Clay County Bar Association and Eastern Jackson County Bar Association regarding legal updates and practice techniques

• Founder: Corona Singers, singing for nursing homes, senior living facilities, and homebound individuals

1. What compelled you to run for municipal judge? I knew I wanted to be a judge when I was 10 years old. My brother and his girlfriend were seriously injured by a drunk driver who died at the scene. Both families were devastated. Later, there was a trial between the insurance companies regarding the accident. Although I was too young to really understand the details of the trial, I was not too young to appreciate the magnitude of a courtroom. I can still picture that judge as if he were sitting in front of me now. I watched him treat everyone in a manner that was firm, fair, and respectful, yet compassionate. All these years later, I still want to be that judge and share in his demeanor.

2. What are the most pressing issues you want to address as municipal Judge? First, we need to reinstate regular bond forfeiture hearings. The court has not been forfeiting bonds for many years and is sitting on hundreds of thousands of dollars that now belongs to the city and could be used for other purposes. When bonds are not forfeited, it sends a message to defendants that failing to appear in court is not taken seriously. Second, we have significant number of defendants battling mental health issues, and our court is underfunded and ill-equipped to handle them. When individuals are suffering from untreated mental health issues, they are unsuccessful on probation or court ordered programs, and there is a lot of recidivism. Repeated incarceration is expensive for the city, and if there is an opportunity to address an underlying issue, we need to do so to keep our community safe. The LS Police Department is aware of the mental health crisis and has been actively implementing programs to address these issues. There needs to be a fresh dialogue between the court and the police department on how to best address these issues together. The community benefits from a decrease in recidivism for those who are successful and able to become productive members of our community. Third, other courts have certain specialized courts such as mental health, drug and veteran's courts, which we do not have. We need the ability to explore more specialized docketing to address the needs of our community.

3. There are other candidates who have filed to run for this position. What makes you the best candidate to fill the position?

Experience. I have worked at the Lee's Summit Municipal Court every week for the last 17 years. The Court has continuously selected me as their contract attorney. In this role, have worked with the court, prosecutors, probation officers, police department and court staff. I understand what works well and where we can improve the court system for everyone. I believe this experience makes me uniquely qualified to be the next Lee's Summit Municipal Court Judge and the best candidate to fill the position. The Lee's Summit Police Officers Association agrees and has endorsed me to be the next Lee's Summit Municipal Court Judge.

4. What do you think is the most important skill of being a good municipal judge? Listening. As a Judge, your role is to be impartial. You need to approach every case in a neutral position and make sure the law is followed and that everyone is treated fairly and with respect. A judge needs to be able to listen to everyone involved including witnesses, victims, defendants, police officers and prosecutors and ensure that everyone's voice and perspective is heard and considered.

5. When becoming a judge, which is more important; the number of cases you've handled as an attorney or the types of cases you've handled? They are equally as important. In my 17 years with the LS Court, I have represented thousands of defendants in undoubtedly every type of ordinance violation there is. No other attorney has had more experience or handled more types of cases in Lee's Summit than I have due to my longevity in this role. I am not only familiar with Lee's Summit ordinances, but in my 33 years of practice, I have represented clients in every local municipal and county court in both Missouri and Kansas and understand the differences and nuances of the various types of ordinances and statutes. I also have contracts with Roeland Park and Shawnee Municipal Court. Three different cities have awarded me contracts and chosen to work with me because of my experience, demeanor and work ethic. As a Commissioner with the Jackson County Merit Commission, I have presided over merit hearings analyzing how certain Jackson County rules apply to County employees. I also have experience working in the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office making me well rounded and experienced in handling many types of cases.

6. What type of community engagement, organizations or public service positions have you been part of or involved in? So as not to be redundant, please see the activities listed above or talk to me further about my experiences.

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District 1 Candidate



Hillary Shields

Education: BA, Truman State University

Business Name: Midwest Housing Equity Group

Occupation: Closing Manager Real Estate

Political Experience: I have served on the City Council since 2020

Memberships/Activities: AFS Host Parent and Volunteer, 2009-2020

Campaign Web Address: <https://www.facebook.com/shieldsformo>

1. What compelled you to run for Lee’s Summit City Council?

I care about Lee’s Summit, and I want to serve the community. .

2. What are the three top issues/concerns you have as a candidate for City Council and why?

Promoting public safety, supporting responsible economic development and working to ensure a great quality of life for all our residents are my top priorities. I want to make sure that our first responders have the resources and tools to keep our community safe and strong and promote responsible development that will allow us to continue providing the services and amenities our residents expect.

3. The next City Council will have the opportunity to play a key role in the City’s major economic development projects. What are your thoughts on the incentive policies that have been adopted?

The incentive policies our City has employed have been important tools in bringing new business to our community and retaining existing businesses. It is important that we continue to evaluate the use of these tools to make sure that the type and size of incentives are compatible with our future growth and needs while still making Lee’s Summit an attractive place to do business and create jobs.

4. It is important that we create an attractive environment for new commercial investments in our community as well as investments in our existing businesses. When looking at our community, tax rates and regulations on development can discourage this type of activity. As a potential elected official, what policies would you support to encourage new investments to increase our current commercial base?

Overall, Lee’s Summit is a very business-friendly community. However, I believe there are always things we can do to improve and cut out some of the red-tape. For example, we routinely grant variances to allow for smaller trees to be used in landscaping than our code requires since the larger trees are difficult to obtain and often don’t survive transplanting. I believe we should revise our code to allow for the smaller tree size and stop requiring new businesses to go through the process of requesting a variance for every project.

5. Housing affordability is not only an issue facing Lee’s Summit, but regionally as well. How should the city of Lee’s Summit address this growing issue?

One of the most important things we can do as a local municipality is to remove the barriers to creating a larger supply of housing of all types. I look forward to continuing discussions about allowing smaller lots and other changes that would make it easier to build starter homes. I also believe we should expand the option to create accessory dwelling units (“granny flats” / “mother-in-law quarters”) to more of our community to provide more housing choices.

6. With much excitement around the World Cup coming to Kansas City in 2026, what steps should Lee’s Summit take to properly prepare for something as massive as this will be for the region?

We have been forward-looking in our plans to establish a Destination Marketing Organization. I hope that we can get that organization off the ground soon, as it will be very useful in marketing our community to this influx of guests.

7. What type of community engagement, organizations or public service positions have you been part of or involved in?

For over a decade, I’ve volunteered with AFS Intercultural Programs as a host parent for high school foreign exchange students and a volunteer with our local families and our schools to support cross cultural exchange. I love seeing my host students become a part of our community and doing all I can to make their experience a great one.

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District 2 Candidate



Trish Carlyle

Education: Paralegal Studies, Business Management

Business Name: N/A

Occupation: Paralegal

Political Experience: Previously served as LS Council Member for District 2

Memberships/Activities: LS Chamber, LS EDC

Campaign Web Address: Facebook @Carlyle for the Community

1. What compelled you to run for Lee’s Summit City Council?

I have always had the desire to serve my community. The encouragement of community leaders, members of my family, neighbors and many residents encouraged me to serve the community again.

2. What are the three top issues/concerns you have as a candidate for City Council and why?

Fiscal responsibility has always been a top priority for me. Elected leaders should be sure that they are spending taxpayer dollars appropriately.

Complete streets and sidewalks are important to allow the community to safely move about. With the amount of growth we have seen and what is likely to come in the future, I believe this needs to be a top priority for the city and its elected body.

Responsible, measured growth is very important to me. We will have many opportunities for growth in the future and I believe we need to be sure we are getting the best investments and not growing our community faster than the services our city can provide.

3. The next City Council will have the opportunity to play a key role in the City’s major economic development projects. What are your thoughts on the incentive policies that have been adopted?

I think our incentive policy is a great guide for any business that wants to come to LS. Once a project gets to the Council for presentation, I believe it should be looked at on its merits and given feedback as needed. I believe the goal should be to ensure that our citizens are getting the best ROI possible.

4. It is important that we create an attractive environment for new commercial investments in our community as well as investments in our existing businesses. When looking at our community, tax rates and regulations on development can discourage this type of activity. As a potential elected official, what policies would you support to encourage new investments to increase our current commercial base?

As stated previously, the current incentive policy is a great start for any business that wants to come to LS. As for current businesses looking to expand, in the past, the EDC has been great at bringing projects to the council for review.

5. Housing affordability is not only an issue facing Lee’s Summit, but regionally as well. How should the city of Lee’s Summit address this growing issue?

Housing supply quality and affordability is not only local and regional but also a national issue. I believe Lee’s Summit needs to look at the many regional and national programs out there as well as searching out local public-private partnership opportunities to help solve this issue.

6. With much excitement around the World Cup coming to Kansas City in 2026, what steps should Lee’s Summit take to properly prepare for something as massive as this will be for the region?

The World Cup gives us a great opportunity to showcase our beautiful city! Now is the time for the city and the business community to explore possible marketing partnerships, events, tours, etc.

7. What type of community engagement, organizations or public service positions have you been part of or involved in?

In the past I have been a member of the MCC Paralegal Advisory Committee, Hope House Young Professionals, which has become Emerging Leaders of Hope House, and multiple Chamber Committees.

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District 2 Candidate



Shari Frazier

Education: Master Public Health (MPH) University of Minnesota
Political Science, Public Policy (BS) – University of Missouri
PMP – Project Management Certification, Project Management Institute
Business Name: Centers for Disease Control
Occupation: Program and Resource Manager
Political Experience: N/A
Memberships/Activities: PMI Student Mentor – Summit Technology Academy International Studies Program
Volunteer Pulmonary Hypertension Support Group Co Lead
PTA, Treasurer, University of Missouri Alumni Association, University of Minnesota School of Public Health (SPH) Alumni Association
Campaign Web Address: N/A

1. What compelled you to run for Lee’s Summit City Council?

Initially, I did not feel I was adequately represented as a citizen of district two. It soon became so much more than that. I had to accept some of the responsibility for this as I did not fully participate in the process. A Councilmember’s job is to represent and serve the community. My job, in part, was to be present and to bring community issues to the Council. Communication is a two-way street. I then decided to become part of the solution, lending my skillset and experience as a future Council member.

I have been a public servant for many years. I have served in positions, professionally and personally, providing support and assistance to those navigating through various bureaucratic processes. I have served in positions connecting regulation and policy to impacted citizens ranging from healthcare mandates, insurance selection, housing and education requirements, Medicare plan choice, volunteer committees and HOA covenant review. I have served as student mentor at Summit Technical Academy (STA) International Studies program. I have directed a multiple site Customer Care department charged with outbound community education and inbound customer account requests. Additionally, I have managed projects charged with the implementation of a national, enterprise-wide rollout of a Veteran’s Affairs/Dept of Defense electronic health record collaboration effort.

I want to represent and serve as a channel of communication, better connecting the community to things impacting their lives.

2. What are the three top issues/concerns you have as a candidate for City Council and why?

In the next 12 months, we must keep the channel open to provide a voice to the Lee’s Summit community regarding areas that significantly impact their families, their livelihood, and their homes. The prevention and redirection of the development of the proposed landfill in south Kansas City is paramount. The proposed landfill borders our city and is near neighborhoods and schools including Summit Pointe Elementary. Its mere presence has the potential for immediate adverse health, economic, and infrastructure impact to our community. As a concerned citizen and candidate, this is a top concern. The effects are far reaching and may curtail future expansion, economic development, construction and the promise of environmentally healthy communities

3. The next City Council will have the opportunity to play a key role in the City’s major economic development projects. What are your thoughts on the incentive policies that have been adopted?

Lee’s Summit’s current population is approximately 106,000 citizens with a landlocked land mass of a little over sixty-five square miles. Balancing economic development, infrastructure, affordable housing, safety and security with the city’s projected growth is paramount.

Many incentive policies are implemented with varying tenures and expiring timelines. The Council and local government have authority and input into the allocation of resources to pay our bills. They also are responsible to align the budget and fiscal policy to reflect the priorities set forth in the City’s Mission, vision and future obligations, and approved economic development plan.

4. It is important that we create an attractive environment for new commercial investments in our community as well as investments in our existing businesses. When looking at our community, tax rates and regulations on development can discourage this type of activity. As a potential elected official, what policies would you support to encourage new investments to increase our current commercial base?

Primarily, local oversight and direction. Balance and sustainability is key. Investment not only in brick and mortar but human capital, infrastructure improvements and healthy communities, all of which drive economic growth, development and security.

Available finance, reasonable tax incentives, recreational opportunities and a focus on innovation will carry Lee’s Summit forward. As an elected official, I will push and encourage the Council to seek out and implement vetted options for our city while balancing current accountability with future obligations. I understand, all too well, the challenges when public policy meets private and impacts operations, and even the bottom line for business. Balance, innovation and local strategic planning is key.

5. Housing affordability is not only an issue facing Lee’s Summit, but regionally as well. How should the city of Lee’s Summit address this growing issue?

There is no one simple answer. Affordable housing is a public health issue with significant downstream impacts to our community. Addressing this growing issue should be a collaborative effort with input from local businesses, resources, developers, planning, the City, the Council, public safety leadership and the citizens. In some cases, Federal and State agencies may offer policy guidance and technical assistance, resources and support.

6. With much excitement around the World Cup coming to Kansas City in 2026, what steps should Lee’s Summit take to properly prepare for something as massive as this will be for the region?

The World Cup has the potential to generate millions of dollars in revenues not only for the Kansas City region. As an arterial community, the 2026 World Cup will put Lee’s Summit front and center. Regional and local planning commenced long before the site was announced. The foundation of which lies in the preparation of our emergency response, public safety staff, first responders and the strengthening and infrastructure improvements to support the influx of individuals, traffic, communication. We must ensure our public servants are well equipped to respond to and resolve all situations presented. They must be provided with the resources, equipment and training to address all potential scenarios. The seamless protection of life, security and safety is paramount for all citizens and visitors to our city. With just under three years until kickoff, planning and preparation is well underway.

7. What type of community engagement, organizations or public service positions have you been part of or involved in?

I have been a public servant for many years. I have served in positions, professionally and personally, to support and assist those navigating through bureaucratic processes. I have served in positions connecting policy and regulations to impacted citizens ranging from healthcare insurance mandates, housing and education requirements, Medicare plan choice, HOA covenants to having served as student mentor for the Summit Technical Academy International Studies program. I have directed a multiple site Customer Care department charged with outbound community outreach and education. Additionally, I have managed projects charged with the national implementation of a phased healthcare rollout of a Veteran’s Affairs and Dept of Defense collaboration effort. I have been on the Board of Directors of Brookridge Homeowners Association for several years. We have made decisions that have made Brookridge an attractive housing complex.

District 2 Candidate



Bob Gough

Education: BA Mathematics San Jose State University; post-grad Business Admin courses
Business Name: N/A
Occupation: Retired
Political Experience: None
Memberships/Activities: Founder and Executive Director Jackson County Taxpayers Association
Campaign Web Address: N/A

1. What compelled you to run for Lee’s Summit City Council?

As Executive Director of the Jackson County Taxpayers Association, I have been concerned about tax rates and why they are so high. Many homes in Lee’s Summit had huge recent tax increases. The taxes on my home increased 66.5%! Did the taxes on your home increase?

2. What are the three top issues/concerns you have as a candidate for City Council and why?

As bond issues are paid off, Lee’s Summit City Council quickly presents a “no tax increase tax increase” to the voters for their approval on the off-season ballot.

Tax increase measures and City Council elections should be on the Primary and General election ballots, not on election dates that have low voter turnout.

3. The next City Council will have the opportunity to play a key role in the City’s major economic development projects. What are your thoughts on the incentive policies that have been adopted?

The results of retail economic projects have been successful. The Chipman Road and Pryor Road retail projects are successful. Lee’s Summit has benefited from the high tax and high crime rate of Kansas City. Many Kansas license plates are on cars bypassing Kansas City to shop in Lee’s Summit.

4. It is important that we create an attractive environment for new commercial investments in our community as well as investments in our existing businesses. When looking at our community, tax rates and regulations on development can discourage this type of activity. As a potential elected official, what policies would you support to encourage new investments to increase our current commercial base?

Lee’s Summit should resist new taxes and regulations to encourage our current and future tax base. Previous Lee’s Summit Council administrations opposed the back-to-school sales tax holiday driving buyers to shop in other cities.

In the past, the Lee’s Summit Chamber supported a massive new fuel sales tax on gasoline. Not an attractive policy.

5. Housing affordability is not only an issue facing Lee’s Summit, but regionally as well. How should the city of Lee’s Summit address this growing issue?

Lee’s Summit is growing because of people fleeing the corrupt city officials, crime, and earnings taxes of Kansas City. Lee’s Summit should encourage new housing and not raise taxes.

6. With much excitement around the World Cup coming to Kansas City in 2026, what steps should Lee’s Summit take to properly prepare for something as massive as this will be for the region?

“Much excitement”? The World Cup should not require any Lee’s Summit tax dollars. The existing Royals’ and Chiefs’ housing, restaurants, and transportation requirements are already in place for use by World Cup attendees.

7. What type of community engagement, organizations or public service positions have you been part of or involved in?

I have been involved in efforts to stop tax increases. Unfortunately, Jackson County has been a real estate tax disaster.

I have been on the Board of Directors of Brookridge Homeowners Association for several years. We have made decisions that have made Brookridge an attractive housing complex.

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District 3 Candidate



Cynda Rader

Education: 1 year college and then the school of hard knocks

Business Name: Cynda Sells Real Estate Company

Occupation: Broker

Political Experience: Planning Commission

Memberships/Activities: LS Chamber, Downtown Main Street, Lee's Summit Symphony BOD, LS Water Utilities Board, LS License Tax Review Committee, LS Cultural/Wellness Commission Liason, KCRAR and NAR Realtor Associations, PTA

Campaign Web Address: cyndaforcitycouncil.com

1. What compelled you to run for Lee's Summit City Council?

Serving on the Planning Commission was a great pre-requisite and preparation to getting firsthand knowledge on how our city is run. Since I have lived here for nearly 50 years and watched our small-town grow, I want to continue to stay involved by being a part of the future leadership and success of Lee's Summit. I am excited for the opportunity to represent the residents in District 3.

2. What are the three top issues/concerns you have as a candidate for City Council and why?

- Engaging with builders and developers to create a plan for entry-level homes.

- Create a stable commercial tax base, high-paying jobs and entrepreneurship through association with Industrial, manufacturing, and Class A commercial companies.

- Cautionary use of incentive policies.

I think these are 3 major issues that are on the minds of many residents and will greatly impact the success of Lee's Summit in the future and they will be a top priority.

3. The next City Council will have the opportunity to play a key role in the City's major economic development projects. What are your thoughts on the incentive policies that have been adopted?

I am most concerned with the amount of incentives given to developers of apartment buildings. I want to ensure that our city receives an equal benefit and return on our investment from these projects for the long term.

4. It is important that we create an attractive environment for new commercial investments in our community as well as investments in our existing businesses. When looking at our community, tax rates and regulations on development can discourage this type of activity. As a potential elected official, what policies would you support to encourage new investments to increase our current commercial base?

Over-regulation increases costs. Look for ways to deregulate and simplify all processes. Be more builder/developer friendly. Simplify the implementation of the building codes process involving the inspector and the builder getting on the same page. Create a think tank with city leaders, our top business leaders, real estate brokers, and people who share a vision for the success of Lee's Summit to attract new business and development. I visualize this as an ongoing Mastermind group.

5. Housing affordability is not only an issue facing Lee's Summit, but regionally as well. How should the city of Lee's Summit address this growing issue?

I want to delve more deeply into building codes, regulations, and potential impact fees attached to the residential permits to see if there is a possibility for cost savings and alternative avenues to imposing impact fees. We need to explore alternative ways of building that could be more cost-effective than the traditional stick-built home. That might include exploring factory-built homes, for instance.

6. With much excitement around the World Cup coming to Kansas City in 2026, what steps should Lee's Summit take to properly prepare for something as massive as this will be for the region?

I think our newly formed tourism department should create a massive advertising campaign featuring the assets of our city. Our award-winning downtown with quaint shops and restaurants. That we are soccer-oriented community that features Paragon Star, Sporting LS, Lee's Summit Legends and Legacy Park Fields. We are a growing community looking for business opportunities and partnerships with people and companies that want to buy into our vision for the future.

7. What type of community engagement, organizations or public service positions have you been part of or involved in?

Lee's Summit Planning Commission, Leadership Lee's Summit, Lee's Summit Symphony BOD, Vice Chair of Water Utilities of LS and the Tax Review Board of LS, Downtown Main Street Lee's Summit, Lee's Summit Chamber member, Chair and sponsor of many committees and events through the years.

District 4 Candidate



Fred DeMoro

Education: University of Central Missouri

Business Name: City of Lee's Summit

Occupation: Councilmember

Political Experience: Lee's Summit City Council – 7 years, Community and Economic Development Committee, Public Works Committee, Rules Committee, Finance and Budget Committee, Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Charter Review Commissioner 2016, Planning Commission 2009-2017

Memberships/Activities: Public Safety Advisory Board, Water Services Advisory Board, Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce, Hero Fund USA

Campaign Web Address: N/A

1. What compelled you to run for Lee's Summit City Council?

I want to continue the important work and follow the projects that I have either started or participated in for the last seven years on the city council. As an experienced councilmember I am in a unique position to promote the interests of District 4 and the entire city to insure Lee's Summit will thrive and grow.

2. What are the three top issues/concerns you have as a candidate for City Council and why?

Infrastructure, (maintenance and improvement), Public Safety, and Economic Development is necessary for maintaining the quality of life, attracting development and providing a safe and functioning environment. Public safety issues include ensuring our professional public safety employees have advanced technology and necessary equipment in order to keep Lee's Summit safe and a desirable place to live while continuing to retain and attract our professional staff. Economic development is the generator of sales and use taxes that fund our city services and helps retain our credit rating providing for future growth and interest in the metro area.

3. The next City Council will have the opportunity to play a key role in the City's major economic development projects. What are your thoughts on the incentive policies that have been adopted?

Incentive policies should be reserved for developments that improve a challenging parcel of land that will not be productive otherwise. A true need for abatement increases property taxes by thousands of percent over the life of the incentive.

4. It is important that we create an attractive environment for new commercial investments in our community as well as investments in our existing businesses. When looking at our community, tax rates and regulations on development can discourage this type of activity. As a potential elected official, what policies would you support to encourage new investments to increase our current commercial base?

Attracting viable commercial development and investment in current Lee's Summit businesses should be pursued for favorable economic return and sustainable wages that are generated from these enterprises.

5. Housing affordability is not only an issue facing Lee's Summit, but regionally as well. How should the city of Lee's Summit address this growing issue?

In my current role as a councilmember we are exploring ways to decrease the price point on new construction. I have been in the forefront leading changes in lot sizes, design standards and more housing options.

6. With much excitement around the World Cup coming to Kansas City in 2026, what steps should Lee's Summit take to properly prepare for something as massive as this will be for the region?

As a Lee's Summit Councilmember, I have been a conspicuous advocate for Lee's Summit in preliminary planning stages of the World Cup campaign. Discussions are still ongoing and Lee's Summit plans to have the Downtown Market Plaza substantially completed in time and will be a very crucial addition to the activities calendar.

7. What type of community engagement, organizations or public service positions have you been part of or involved in?

Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce, Coldwater Lee's Summit, Lee's Summit Social Services, Pro Deo Lee's Summit, Whiteman Air Force Base Community Council, Lee's Summit Chamber Military Affairs Committee, Hero Fund USA

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20 24

MAKE AN EDUCATED VOTE

April 2, 2024



Voters must be registered by
March 6, 2024.



Absentee requests must be received on
or before Wednesday, March 20, 2024.



For more information scan the
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