

2026



CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE PROFILES



**LEE'S SUMMIT
CHAMBER**

2026 City Council Elections

On April 7, 2026, Lee's Summit voters will cast their ballots in the Municipal Election to elect City Council members in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 (4-year and 2-year terms).

The Chamber encourages residents to make an educated vote on Tuesday, April 7, 2026. Contact Chamber President, Matt Baird, at 816.524.2424 or mbaird@lischamber.com for more information.

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, Matt Baird, President.

2026 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

District 1

- Mia Prier

District 2

- Shari Frazier
- Will Kraus

District 3

- Melanie Adkins
- Dana Arth

District 4 (2-year term)

- Nyauna Cravens
- Bob Jones
- Scott Shepherd

District 4 (4-year term)

- Zak Al-Shawish
- Donnie Funk

Current City Council



Mia Prier
Councilmember
District 1



Hillary Shields
Councilmember
District 1



John Lovell
Councilmember
District 2



Trish Carlyle
Councilmember
District 2



Beto Lopez
Mayor Pro Tem
District 3



Cynda Rader
Councilmember
District 3



Faith Hodges
Councilmember
District 4



Donnie Funk
Councilmember
District 4

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For more information about the City Council, visit cityoflls.net



Mia Prier

Education: Not Listed

Activities & Organizations: Not Listed

Political Experience: Not Listed

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

I ran to serve my community and to ensure that practical, common sense decision making remains at the center of city government. As a parent and the wife of a first responder, I wanted to make sure public safety, fiscal responsibility, and quality of life have a strong voice at the table. I also wanted to show my children that stepping up to do hard things for your community matters. What I didn't realize before my first term is how much I would love showing up and advocating for my constituents. One of the biggest reasons I chose to run for a second term is to continue that advocacy for four more years.

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

Public safety, responsible growth, and infrastructure. Keeping Lee's Summit safe requires supporting first responders and proactive planning. As the city grows, development must be thoughtful and financially sound. Finally, maintaining roads, utilities, and core services is essential to protecting residents' daily quality of life.

3. The city of Lee's Summit has become a regional hub for major economic development projects. Do you support the current incentive policies that have been adopted and if not, please explain what you would do differently?

I support incentives when they are used strategically, transparently, and provide a clear return for residents. Incentives should align with long-term community goals, protect existing taxpayers, and include accountability measures. I believe each project should be evaluated on its individual merit rather than a one size fits all approach.

4. The next City Council will be directly impacted by actions taken to update the city's charter. What changes, if any, would you like to see with the current charter?

I would support changes that strengthen transparency, fairness, and good governance. Specifically, I believe the Mayor Pro Tem should be elected by the full City Council rather than appointed by the mayor. I also support reviewing council compensation, including a possible adjustment to salaries and exploring participation in LAGERS for council members, as other comparable cities have done, to ensure the role remains accessible to a broad range of residents.

5. If elected, how will you balance long-term planning with immediate community needs when resources are limited?

By prioritizing essential services first while using data and community input to guide long-term investments. Smart planning means addressing urgent needs without creating future financial strain, and making decisions that are sustainable rather than reactive.

6. 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 affordability is a complex issue, and to be honest, there is no single definition of "affordable" that works for everyone. What is affordable varies greatly depending on individual circumstances. The city has taken some positive steps, such as reducing minimum lot size requirements and approving accessory dwelling units within the core of the city when standards are met. Moving forward, I believe our role is to continue evaluating policies thoughtfully, focus on removing unnecessary barriers, and work collaboratively with residents and developers to support housing options while maintaining the character of our community.

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

I currently serve on Lee's Summit City Council and have been actively involved in community engagement through public service, school-related involvement, and advocacy for public safety. My focus has always been listening to residents and helping connect concerns with practical solutions.



Shari Frazier

Education/Training: Master Public Health (MPH) University of Minnesota; Public Policy, Political Science (BS) University of Missouri – MIZZOU; PMP Project Management Cert. Project Management Institute; Six Sigma Black Belt – GE; Organizational Change Management (OCM), PROSCI; Notary Public, Missouri; OSHA 30 cert

Occupation: Consultant, Program/Project Management, WilliamsFirstLLC

Activities & Organizations: KCPMI mentor, Summit Tech Academy, Pulmonary Hypertension Co-Lead, Treasurer, Indian Creek PTA, University of Missouri Alumni Association, MIZZOU Alumni Association, Lee's Summit Planning, Commissioner, Jackson County Public Health InCoLab, Member, Leadership Lee's Summit, Citizens Leadership Academy

Political Experience: Lee's Summit Planning Commission

1. What compelled you to run for Lee's Summit City Council? As our city continues to expand, it is essential to act as a representative and advocate for the community to the city council and other local leaders. Addressing local needs and concerns remains a top priority. I am committed to ensuring that every resident has full information and a voice in decision-making processes. My goal is to serve as a bridge between the community and leadership, so decisions accurately reflect the values of our residents, support local businesses, and foster sustainable economic growth for future generations.

2. What are the three top issues/concerns you have as a candidate for City Council and why? As the sixth largest city in Missouri, with predictions for continuous growth upwards of 120,000: Ensuring public safety, security, and readiness for emergencies continues to be of utmost importance. Promoting economic development while ensuring sustainable growth through the reduction of procedural barriers affecting businesses of all sizes. Enhancements to infrastructure such as water systems, roads, traffic management, and waste disposal are essential for meeting both the immediate and long-term needs of the community.

3. The city of Lee's Summit has become a regional hub for major economic development projects. Do you support the current incentive policies that have been adopted and if not, please explain what you would do differently? Yes. The council has reviewed numerous proposed development projects, each varying in scope and complexity. These projects may request combinations of tax incentives, infrastructure improvements, and adjustments to the UDO and PDP. Council members, city staff, planning officials, and residents are engaged throughout this process. The efficacy of such incentives is subject to a range of mitigating factors, which should be and are carefully considered. Each proposal ought to be assessed independently, using relevant applicable data, metrics, alignment with the strategic plan, and projected community impact. Continuous improvement and opportunities to streamline procedures remain essential to reducing barriers and facilitating development.

4. The next City Council will be directly impacted by actions taken to update the city's charter. What changes, if any, would you like to see with the current charter? Ensure broader representation in the charter design by including residents from various backgrounds, such as different age groups, professions, business leaders, employers, city staff and future generations. The selection process should feature a well-defined recruitment and communication strategy that outlines key objectives, procedures, and steps for implementation and execution.

5. If elected, how will you balance long-term planning with immediate community needs when resources are limited? Ensure processes are in place to promptly address matters of public safety, essential services, and basic living standards. As such, each immediate action should fit into a broader plan to prevent future complications. Incorporate data, performance metrics, and community input when making complex decisions. With constrained resources, understanding residents' priorities is crucial. Emphasize initiatives that advance multiple objectives simultaneously. For sustainable outcomes and enhanced resilience, consider improving infrastructure to lower maintenance expenses, implementing advanced technologies for superior service delivery, or establishing collaborations that expand capacity without increasing—or while limiting—taxes.

6. 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 are mixed approaches to addressing the challenge of providing affordable, attainable housing for the "missing middle"—a difficulty faced not only in Lee's Summit but across the United States. Strategies include reimagining infrastructure to decrease reliance on cars, encouraging mixed-use developments, and investing in shared amenities that can reduce costs while enhancing quality of life. An integrated focus on increasing supply and improving access to funding is essential, especially as federal and state legislative actions continue to influence affordable housing finance. The core issue behind the affordability crisis remains a shortage of available, attainable housing and its relationship to our dynamic economy. This problem extends beyond Lee's Summit and is evident nationwide. Producing housing at the scale required to ease pricing pressures demands significant time and resources. Local governments monitor federal activities—such as employment trends—which ultimately impact local implementation. Zoning and planning decisions dictate the types and locations of housing projects. Cities like Lee's Summit often confront unfunded or delayed mandates and policies lacking financial support, making full implementation challenging.

7. What type of community engagement, organizations or public service positions have you been part of or involved in? With more than 20 years of experience across civil and public service as well as corporate and strategic operations, I have consistently worked to bridge policy within regulatory frameworks to meet the needs of citizens and stakeholders. My background includes healthcare insurance mandates, housing and education requirements, Medicare plan selection, and both the alignment and development of corporate strategies. I offer expertise in Organizational Change Management, Operational Efficiency, Vendor Relationship Management, and Infrastructure Transformation. Recognized as a thought leader, I balance strategic vision with agility to address emerging issues as they arise, guiding teams through conflict resolution, issue facilitation, and organizational transformation. I have led a multi-site state Customer Care/Outreach department, overseeing community education, account management, resource allocation, clinical advisement, and budgetary planning and oversight. My project and program management experience includes spearheading the nationwide phased rollout of a joint initiative between Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Defense, managing healthcare IT and infrastructure projects, and driving process improvements. As a long-term resident of Lee's Summit, I am grateful for opportunities to serve in local leadership roles, such as student mentorship with KCPMI at Summit Technical Academy, and volunteering with organizations including the Jackson County Public Health Department Collaborative Housing and Economic Stability Initiative InCoLab, Pulmonary Hypertension Association, Leadership Lee's Summit, Citizen's Leadership Academy, and the Lee's Summit City Planning Commission.



Will Kraus

Education: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a minor in Military Science, graduating Summa Cum Laude

Occupation: Pilot, US Army, Missouri National Guard

Activities & Organizations: Lee's Summit VFW and American Legion

Political Experience: Missouri House and Senate

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

In the early 2000's, I was frustrated with the government and was complaining one day, and Carmen, my wife, said something like you need to shut up or run. Consequently, I filed for Alderman (Raytown's City Council), later withdrew due to a deployment to Iraq and when I returned from deployment ran for State Representative. I can no longer just sit back and just complain, I have decided to be part of the solution.

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

Public Safety- I believe our top priority should be to protect our citizens. That means ensuring we retain and attract the best police officers and firefighters. Promote Efficient Government- We should ensure all tax dollars are being used wisely. We need to identify ways to use AI and automation to streamline processes to eliminate unnecessary delays and waste in our City Government. Provide Quality Infrastructure- Ensure our roads and infrastructure are safe.

3. The city of Lee's Summit has become a regional hub for major economic development projects. Do you support the current incentive policies that have been adopted and if not, please explain what you would do differently?

I believe each project should be evaluated on its own merits, the city council needs to evaluate the benefits vs the cost to each project.

4. The next City Council will be directly impacted by actions taken to update the city's charter. What changes, if any, would you like to see with the current charter?

Currently the Mayor Pro Temp is appointed by the Mayor. The Charter should be amended to have the Mayor Pro Temp selected by a vote of the City Council.

5. If elected, how will you balance long-term planning with immediate community needs when resources are limited?

Listening to the citizens of Lee's Summit and prioritizing resources on what the citizens of Lee's Summit desire. We should also continuously eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse of tax dollars.

6. 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?

Encourage development of starter homes, so first time buyers can find a home here in Lee's Summit. We should stop giving away millions of dollars in incentives and look at reducing taxes to help make it more affordable to first time buyers. I do not believe all incentives should be eliminated, some help bring needed employment opportunities.

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

I have served in the US Army since 1992, currently I am in the Missouri National Guard and fly UH-60M, Blackhawk helicopter out of Whiteman Air Force Base. I am a member of the Lee's Summit VFW, and American Legion. When I was an elected official, I attended as many meetings and events as possible. I plan to continue to make myself available to the community.



Melanie Adkins

Education/Training: BA, Organizational Communications- Northwest MO State Univ, Maryville MO; MA, Integrated Marketing- Emerson College, Boston MA

Occupation: Owner, Checklist Media; Director of Marketing, Truman Heartland Community Foundation

Activities & Organizations: LS Charter Commission (2025-Present); LS Creates Board (2025-Present); LS World Cup Committee (2025-Present); LS Noon Rotary, Appreciation Luncheon Chair (2023-Present); Graduate-City of LS- Citizen's Leadership Academy (2021); Graduate- LS Chamber- Leadership Lee's Summit (2020); LS Chamber, RISE Committee (2019-Present); PTA President/Hazel Grove (2014-2019); Girl Scout Troop Leader (2 troops) (2012-2016); Lakewood Activities Chair- Co-Founder of Lakewood BBQ, Moms Club, Front Nine & Wine (2012-2017)

Political Experience: Frequent Volunteer for local School Board & Mayoral races

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

As a 3rd generation resident & LSHS Graduate, I'm committed to the long term success of our city- so that our kids and grandkids can thrive here like we have. I'm highly engaged, have been following City Council for many years, and I'd be proud to serve.

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

1) Modernized communication, 2) Public Safety- supporting training, recruitment and full staffing, 3) Smart Growth; following our 2018 Strategic Plan that lays out researched formulas for where & how to develop property, create jobs, repair infrastructure, protect parks, improve our public safety, and keep our tax base diversified.

3. The city of Lee's Summit has become a regional hub for major economic development projects. Do you support the current incentive policies that have been adopted and if not, please explain what you would do differently?

I would suggest that LS is a regional hub BECAUSE of the willingness of LS to collaborate more with developers. We've experienced huge single family home growth since the 80s. But sustaining our high quality of life through that growth requires 1) creating diverse revenue sources to pay for the added infrastructure & public safety needs, and 2) generating increased amenities & jobs for residents. Since developers could go anywhere (ie, Overland Park), it requires a collaborative approach to lock in the long term gains we need for our citizens. The recent incentives have been responsible, low risk, and will provide millions more in tax revenue for us than if the land was left vacant. I'll evaluate each case individually on its merits and net impact, but strong collaboration is what ensures our city can afford the quality of life we've all grown accustomed to having. Big Picture vision is required.

4. The next City Council will be directly impacted by actions taken to update the city's charter. What changes, if any, would you like to see with the current charter?

I would like to examine the policy around setting our operations & pay schedule for our elected judges, to keep court services proportionate with city growth.

5. If elected, how will you balance long-term planning with immediate community needs when resources are limited?

Long term planning done correctly is what keeps a city from running out of resources. The smart long term vision we have now is what led to the boom in our local economy- as well as the 2023 no-tax-increase bond which is currently powering \$186m in emergency preparedness, transportation, & city facilities projects. Likewise, our long term land use plan reserves space for 5 Activities Centers (walkable, mixed use areas), to generate revenue and services while leaving plenty of space for single family homes, green space, and established neighborhoods. Establishing and following long term plans is how we will continue to thrive across leadership cycles.

6. 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?

This is a VERY complicated regional topic with lots of variables. I strongly support establishing a new LS housing commission or coalition, to laser focus on evaluating policies & best practices that will serve the needs of our residents and workforce throughout all phases of life.

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

I've been a community organizer for decades, and am routinely stepping into roles that help bring communities together, while continually improving the projects at hand. Please see my list above for brevity.



Dana Arth

Education: BSBA Rockhurst University, MBA Rockhurst University

Occupation: CPA/Business Owner, Dana Arth CPA LLC

Activities & Organizations: I am the current chairperson of the Lee's Summit Planning Commission and was recently appointed to the Lee's Summit Charter Commission. I am an active supporter of Lee's Summit Symphony, by providing in-kind accounting services throughout the year. I serve as treasurer of the Missouri Society of Accountants and am a member of the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce.

Political Experience: This is my first political campaign

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

As a City Planning Commissioner, I have served Lee's Summit since 2017. My desire is to serve an expanded role as a City Council member, so I can represent the people of Lee's Summit.

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

We must make sure that we have the resources to make Lee's Summit a safe community for all. Accountability: It is imperative that residents trust City Leadership; this can be accomplished through strong systems of accountability and transparency. Housing: Housing is a top issue because we have had a lot of growth and residents have voiced concerns.

3. The city of Lee's Summit has become a regional hub for major economic development projects. Do you support the current incentive policies that have been adopted and if not, please explain what you would do differently?

I believe it is time to stop incentivizing apartments. Furthermore, if incentives are used, we should use them to bring employers to Lee's Summit who will provide living wage jobs. This kind of economic development enhances quality of life by reducing commute times and making Lee's Summit truly a place where residents can live, work, and play.

4. The next City Council will be directly impacted by actions taken to update the city's charter. What changes, if any, would you like to see with the current charter?

- A. Change the mayoral appointment of Mayor Pro tem to a City Council appointment.
- B. Limit Mayor Pro tem one-year appointments to two terms.

5. If elected, how will you balance long-term planning with immediate community needs when resources are limited?

An immediate community need is public safety. This means we must, on a fiscal year basis, budget for adequate fire and police services in addition to making sure that our infrastructure stays maintained. Longer term projects will be funded over a longer time period, as the budget allows, and should be prioritized according to need and resource availability.

6. 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?

We should be willing to look at factors that affect the cost of housing: materials, construction methods, lot sizes, and labor costs. We have to be willing to ask questions that are outside the box. For example, is it possible to create a vision for a housing product and then use incentives that both encourage builders/developers to hire local employees while reducing the cost of the product?

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

I am the current chairperson of the Lee's Summit Planning Commission and was recently appointed to the Lee's Summit Charter Commission. I am an active supporter of Lee's Summit Symphony, by providing in-kind accounting services throughout the year. I serve as treasurer of the Missouri Society of Accountants (and am past president of the organization as well). I have served on the boards of Summit Art, Highland Park PTA and The International Dyslexic Association. I have actively served on Lee's Summit Chamber committees, and as an at-large board member of Lee's Summit Cares.



Zak Al-Shawish

Education: MBA Rockhurst University

Occupation: Agriculture Connectivity Product Manager & Owner, PTxTrimble (AGCO) & Parisi Speed School

Activities & Organizations: N/A

Political Experience: N/A

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

Lack of genuine representation for the residents & tax payers, and the absence of a level playing field for local businesses in Lee's Summit.

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

- Tax Relief for Residents-Cost of living is too high in Lee's Summit and people are being priced out of the community and out of their homes.
- Standard Public Services: Public Safety, Roads, & Water-The residents expect us to provide these basic services before doing anything in addition to them. We currently aren't able to do them without burdening the residents with excessive taxes.
- Level playing field for businesses-Minimizes special incentives and abatements, so that tax relief can be applied universally to all businesses who invest in Lee's Summit.

3. The city of Lee's Summit has become a regional hub for major economic development projects. Do you support the current incentive policies that have been adopted and if not, please explain what you would do differently?

I do not support the current approach. City leadership has taken the developer subsidies and incentives too far. This has created a tax revenue deficit, which has led to more taxes on the residents. The additional taxes hurt both the residents and local businesses.

4. The next City Council will be directly impacted by actions taken to update the city's charter. What changes, if any, would you like to see with the current charter?

I don't have any major changes that I'd recommend. Obviously as we did into the charter and discuss items, we may find changes that I would recommend making.

5. If elected, how will you balance long-term planning with immediate community needs when resources are limited?

Resources are already limited. The previous City Councils have over extended the city with long-term investments. \$630 Million in Developer subsidies and incentives over the last 8 years. The focus should be on fixing the budget, while these long-term investments pay-off, and providing tax relief to the residents and businesses.

6. 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?

The City has been subsidizing apartments and townhomes, but unfortunately most of these subsidies go to luxury apartments and town homes, so they do little to offer affordable housing in Lee's Summit. The overall housing market would be out of my control as a City Councilperson. What I would focus on is providing tax relief to the residents so that Lee's Summit overall becomes more affordable for its residents.

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

I'm heavily engaged with the community and run a news page on Facebook that covers the City Council and Lee's Summit governmental operations.



Nyauna Cravens

Education/Training: MBA

Occupation: President, Propkey Investments

Activities & Organizations: Jack and Jill of America, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc

Political Experience: Not Listed

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

Lee's Summit is growing quickly, and I want to ensure that growth strengthens not strains our community. I'm running to help keep Lee's Summit safe, guide smart and sustainable development, and make sure residents and local businesses have a strong voice in the decisions shaping our future.

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

Public Safety: Maintaining safe neighborhoods is foundational to quality of life and economic vitality. As our population grows, we must ensure police, fire, and emergency services keep pace. **Smart Growth & Infrastructure:** Growth must be intentional and aligned with infrastructure capacity—roads, utilities, schools, and public services. We need development that enhances our community without overburdening it. **Economic Development & Value-Added Business:** Attracting and retaining high quality employers strengthens our tax base and reduces pressure on residential property taxes. Strategic business growth supports long-term financial stability.

3. The city of Lee's Summit has become a regional hub for major economic development projects. Do you support the current incentive policies that have been adopted and if not, please explain what you would do differently?

I support the responsible use of incentives because they are often necessary to compete for high-quality projects in a regional market. Surrounding communities are offering competitive packages, and without strategic incentives, Lee's Summit risk losing development that expand our tax base, create jobs, and reduce the burden on residential property owners. That said, incentives must be performance based, transparent, and tied to clear community benefits. Incentives should be a tool not a giveaway and used only when they deliver lasting value to our residents and business community.

4. The next City Council will be directly impacted by actions taken to update the city's charter. What changes, if any, would you like to see with the current charter?

I support charter updates that increase transparency, clarify roles and responsibilities, and improve accountability. Any changes should strengthen public trust, preserve checks and balances, and ensure efficient, responsive governance.

5. If elected, how will you balance long-term planning with immediate community needs when resources are limited?

It requires disciplined budgeting and prioritization. We must focus on core services first, use data to guide decisions, and invest in projects that deliver measurable long-term return. Strategic planning and responsible fiscal management allow us to meet today's needs without compromising tomorrow's stability.

6. 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 needs housing that fits all stages of life—young professionals, families, seniors, and our local workforce. We should support a mix of housing types and price points while ensuring development aligns with infrastructure and preserves neighborhood character. Thoughtful planning and strong partnerships can expand options and maintain long-term stability.

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

I have been actively involved in a variety of community engagement efforts, including participation in community outreach programs and grassroots organizations focused on local issues. I currently serve in a national parent lead children's organization, served on a public safety task force, and created and supported tutoring and mentorship programs.



Donnie Funk

Education/Training: Not Listed

Occupation: Not Listed

Activities & Organizations: Not Listed

Political Experience: Not Listed

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

After spending (10) years as a Planning Commissioner I got the opportunity to become a council member after several months in the role I see the need to continue the responsible development and growth of our public safety services. I have a deep passion for our community and want to keep this going for the generations to come.

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

Continue to keep public safety at the forefront of our goals-people move to our community based on this.
Continue to keep focus on diverse housing options- look at opportunities to lower housing cost.
Continue to partner with our PSA groups and LSR7 to sustain reasonable and responsible growth.

3. The city of Lee's Summit has become a regional hub for major economic development projects. Do you support the current incentive policies that have been adopted and if not, please explain what you would do differently?

I do support our current incentive policies; these are not subsidies these are "Incentives" that increase tax revenues and assist in moving challenged development projects forward.

4. The next City Council will be directly impacted by actions taken to update the city's charter. What changes, if any, would you like to see with the current charter?

I honestly don't see any changes needed; we continue to govern in a responsible manner.

5. If elected, how will you balance long-term planning with immediate community needs when resources are limited?

We need to continue the partnerships we have with other entities like MODOT and work with our lobbyist not only at the State level but also the Federal level to capture those dollars to assist in our continued growth.

6. 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?

We need to engage our stakeholders to continue reviewing our zoning codes/UDO to make sure there isn't any options we are missing. As a council we need to continue discussions about possible incentives for infrastructure options to help develop these areas.

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

I am a chamber member, rotary, LS Cares advocate and soon to be board member, LS youth court board member, and sit on the MARC Total transportation policy advisory committee. I am also a volunteer for Have a Heart dog rescue.



Bob Jones

Education: BS Ed, Millersville University, Millersville, PA

Occupation: Deputy Juvenile Officer II

Activities & Organizations: Lee's Summit Symphony Board of Directors – Current; LS Creates – Former Board Member

Political Experience: Mayor of Lee's Summit, Alderman Ward 3, Lee's Summit Charter Commission, Lee's Summit Arts Council Chairman

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

I am running because I love Lee's Summit and want to continue serving my community. The current seat for District 4 is for a two-year term due to a resignation, and I believe my experience and sensibility can make a positive impact during this critical time. I'm committed to doing what is in the best interest of the city.

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

- 1) The seemingly endless construction of apartments. We need to protect the integrity of our neighborhoods and green spaces.
- 2) Giving tax incentives. Lee's Summit is a desirable location, and we shouldn't sacrifice tax revenue unnecessarily.
- 3) The proposal to have a city contracted trash hauler, people want to have a choice.

3. The city of Lee's Summit has become a regional hub for major economic development projects. Do you support the current incentive policies that have been adopted and if not, please explain what you would do differently?

Tax incentives should be used judiciously and only when necessary to attract significant economic development that aligns with the city's long-term goals. As I've said previously, Lee's Summit is a desirable location, and we should not sacrifice tax revenue unnecessarily. My experience has shown that quality economic development can be attracted without giving away too much in incentives. I will carefully weigh the costs and benefits to ensure that such incentives are truly necessary and will not compromise the city's fiscal stability.

4. The next City Council will be directly impacted by actions taken to update the city's charter. What changes, if any, would you like to see with the current charter?

I served as a pioneer member of the original Charter Commission that spent one year creating the charter in 1995. It was then adopted by the voters in 1996. Provisions were included for it to be reviewed by a group of ordinary citizens every 10 years, whose recommendations are then presented to the voters. I am interested in hearing what the new review commission comes up with, without outside influence. I do like it better when the mayor only votes to break a tie.

5. If elected, how will you balance long-term planning with immediate community needs when resources are limited?

I believe in finding a balance that allows for growth while preserving the character of our neighborhoods. This involves careful planning, engaging with the community, and ensuring that development aligns with the city's long-term vision. As I have already stated, quality economic development can be attracted without giving away too much in incentives.

6. 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'm committed to responsible land use. With my experience in city leadership, I understand the need to balance development with neighborhood preservation. My goal is to ensure that growth is managed in a way that benefits our community, while preserving the character of our neighborhoods.

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

Mayor of Lee's Summit: Two terms 1986-90

City Council District 3: 1978-86, 1992-96

Lee's Summit Charter Commission: elected to the original commission

Lee's Summit Arts Council: Two terms as Chairman

LS Creates: Founding Board Member

Lee's Summit Symphony Board of Directors: Current



Scott Shepherd

Education/Training: BOS – Computer Information Systems – Missouri State EDU

Occupation: Director of software Engineering / Owner, PerfectServe / Paul's Drive In

Activities & Organizations: HOA board member Summit Mills/Mill Creek, Delta Sigma Pi Alumni

Political Experience: N/A

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

I'm running because Lee's Summit is drifting toward heavy corporate incentives and losing focus on small businesses and community character. I want growth that keeps our city unique while protecting taxpayers.

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

First, excessive corporate incentives that risk taxpayer money; second, strengthening small businesses and tourism; third, modernizing outdated city technology and slow repair processes. Fixing these improves finances, services, and long-term growth.

3. The city of Lee's Summit has become a regional hub for major economic development projects. Do you support the current incentive policies that have been adopted and if not, please explain what you would do differently?

I support incentives only when they show clear public return and accountability. I'd require transparent ROI, clawbacks, and prioritize projects that support local businesses and real community needs.

4. The next City Council will be directly impacted by actions taken to update the city's charter. What changes, if any, would you like to see with the current charter?

I'd support stronger transparency and reporting rules for major incentive deals and long-term financial commitments. Residents deserve clear information before big decisions are made.

5. If elected, how will you balance long-term planning with immediate community needs when resources are limited?

I'll prioritize projects that do both, like infrastructure maintenance, fair first-responder contracts, and technology upgrades that reduce long-term costs. Smart planning should improve daily services today while protecting tomorrow.

6. 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?

Encourage mixed-use walkable development, starter homes, and missing-middle housing without over-reliance on large incentive-driven apartment projects. Growth should match infrastructure capacity and preserve neighborhood character.

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

I bring 20+ years in technology leadership, ownership of several KC-area small businesses, and HOA board service. These experiences help me understand budgets, technology, and how city decisions affect families and local employers.

Lee's Summit Chamber Supports Full Proposition C Waiver

The Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors recently voted to endorse a full waiver of the state-mandated property tax rollbacks associated with Proposition C, which will appear on the April 7, 2026, ballot.

The LS Chamber believes the full waiver would enhance and support the economic ecosystem of the Lee's Summit community, which necessarily lends to the furtherance of the LS Chamber's mission, vision and values.

Prop C is a state-wide 1 cent sales tax for public education, approved in 1982, that supports Missouri school districts. Prop C also requires school districts to reduce or "rollback" their local tax levy unless their voters approve a proposition to eliminate or "waive" that requirement. LSR7 is asking voters to consider a full waiver of its Prop C rollback.

If approved, a full waiver generates additional operating revenue each year that the LSR7 School District plans to use to fund and maintain increases in staff salaries and benefits. Approval also aligns LSR7 with the 91% of Missouri school districts whose communities have already approved a full waiver, provides the district a stable and predictable funding source, helps improve competitiveness with other Kansas City-area districts and supports recruitment and retention of quality staff.

"Approval of the Proposition C waiver is extremely vital to the growth, development and future of Lee's Summit and the Lee's Summit school district," said Matt Baird, President of the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce. "The LSR7 school district is a key partner and contributor to the success of the Lee's Summit community, and by approving this full waiver, we will ensure our district can retain top talent and that the community is still a top-rated destination for businesses to grow and flourish."

The Lee's Summit Chamber supports a full Proposition C Waiver and encourages the citizens of Lee's Summit and the business community to show their support for by voting yes on April 7!

ABOUT THE LEE'S SUMMIT CHAMBER

The Lee's Summit Chamber was incorporated in 1968 and is a member-supported organization of businesses dedicated to creating opportunities for business success through networking, advocacy, and business and professional development. For additional information, call the Chamber at 816-524-2424.

Interested in other legislative priorities supported by the Chamber? Visit [lschamber.com](https://www.lschamber.com) to learn more.

Don't Forget to Vote on April 7th, 2026!

Yours Truly,



LEE'S SUMMIT
C H A M B E R