



2019 City of Kansas City Missouri Municipal General & Special Election

Our Advocacy Committee has sent volunteers to each of the six Kansas City mayoral forums, featuring candidates Councilwoman Jolie Justus and Councilman Quinton Lucas, as well as forums with City Council candidates. Some of our members were able to ask questions at the forums, depending on the format and size of the audience. The committee worked diligently to engage in these important election forums to represent YOU and our profession. Here are some highlights.

5th District Mayoral Forum, May 20

Rockhurst University

6-person citizens panel (asked one question each)

Only two audience questions were asked (not from our volunteer); one was about affordable housing and rent control, the other was about funding the Open Spaces arts festival and sales taxes.

Questions from the panel(s) were on a wide variety of topics, including violent crime, racial equity, transparent government, illegal dumping, economic development incentives, working with the City Manager, and arts funding, among others.

Both candidates had similar responses on all of the above except for a few highlighted differences:

- Quentin Lucas (QL) thought Jolie Justus (JJ) experience as a two-term state senator was not applicable to KCMO governance, need to solve issues locally.
- JJ thought QL tends to start initiatives but never sees them through – QL chair of housing for 4 years and nothing has changed.
- Both talked about treating mental health and providing conflict management classes to reduce crime. Both agree pre-K education is important to solve this issue as well.
- QL stressed rehab of houses not tear downs – didn't agree that spending \$10 million on tear downs did anything to repair neighborhood fabric.
- QL was not in favor of the funding for Open Spaces, JJ was in favor of supporting all the arts (most in the crowd agreed with her)
- QL mentioned tax incentives going to the wrong projects and the wrong places in town multiple times. How we should be spending money on basic services and filling potholes and not on parking garages and "new roads to nowhere." JJ wasn't as vocal on the subject, but acknowledged the need to spend money in order to attract money to town.

Labor-Management Council of GKC forum featuring City Council 6th District candidates, June 13

MarkOne Electric

- Only Andrea Bough showed up out of the three candidates.
- Questions were asked from the board members in attendance.
- Andrea opposes Question 1.
- When we are using City Dollars, Prevailing Wage should be used in public work.
- How to fund affordable housing trust? Don't have the path forward decided or the answers but she says the taxpayers are not palpable to a tax raise. She is unsure if \$75 Million is enough to solve the problem and wants to work with local nonprofits.
- Andrea spoke about the issues of Affordable Housing and Violent Crime being things she is worried about.
- Andrea is *KC Star*-endorsed.

At-large and in-district council candidates forum, May 20

Plaza Library

The questions were developed from BikeWalkKC and RTA; no questions allowed from the audience. Estimated attendance was 40.

The questions, roughly:

- 1) what would you do to improve pedestrian safety throughout the metro?
- 2) what would you do on a regional basis and how would you treat the current 1/2 and 3/8 cent sales taxes that are supposed to be used for transit?

In-District Candidates

1st District

Heather Hall (Incumbent, unopposed) / Did not Show [DNS]

2nd District

Dan Fowler [incumbent] / spoke with experience and knowledge and some clarity about the opportunity with a new council

Kevin McEvoy / did not really get off the ground with his ideas

3rd District

Melissa Robinson / DNS

Joseph "Joey Cuts" Thomas / DNS

4th District

Eric Bunch / He had precise, knowledgeable and experience with all of these issues and spoke very clearly about how the council could help make a difference in addressing the questions of how to build a better community. (note: this committee member is a campaign volunteer for Eric Bunch)

Geoff Jolley / has a very convincing voice and presentation, but mostly based on community service without any specific drive or experience with any of the issues.

5th District

Edward Bell, II / super articulate, sounded like a planner with a vision. He had clear responses from potholes to regional planning.

Ryanna Parks-Shaw / DNS

6th District

Kevin McManus (Incumbent, unopposed) / DNS

At-Large Candidates (Voters will see all six of these on the ballot.)

1st District At-Large

Kevin O'Neill (unopposed) / Spoke in general terms

2nd District At-Large

Theresa Loar (Incumbent, unopposed) / DNS

3rd District At-Large

Brandon Ellington / spoke forcefully and clearly about his comprehensive vision. Against the sales taxes but supported regional approach

Wallace Hartsfield, II / DNS

4th District At-Large

Katheryn Shields (Incumbent) / DNS

Robert Westfall / DNS

5th District At-Large

Lee Barnes, Jr. (Incumbent) / spoke with experience and knowledge about the practicalities of getting the vision but difficult without the dollars

Dwayne Williams / very simplistic answers; starting at the base level of information; not qualified to start making informed decisions without more research

6th District At-Large

Andrea Bough / spoke in generalities and light on a sense of vision. With most of the questions, didn't have a solid conclusion.

Stacey Johnson-Cosby / super articulate, very informed as member of PIAC; lots of connections and ties to the community.