



**SHAWNEE  
COUNTY  
GOP**

## **Shawnee County Republicans Local Candidate Primary Survey**

### **1. Tell voters about yourself:**

I am the eldest son of Jim and Margaret Bolden, who moved from Michigan to settle in Topeka, Guided by Pastor Templeton of Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, where my parents instilled in myself and my sibling's a strong faith and belief in Christ. Guided by various leaders, I developed the skills to lead in my community with a focus on gratitude and manners. Recently, I married my beautiful wife, who has encouraged me to become who I am today.

I am the owner and operator of Paradigm II, and we have been in business for over 25 years. This has given me expertise in government contracting in procurement on the local, state, and federal level.

I graduated from Devry, formerly Missouri Institute of Technology. My studies prepared me to understand and appreciate the diverse cultures in our community, helping us not only coexist but thrive in our differences.

### **2. What is the state of the Topeka economy and what is the biggest thing the mayor or city council can do to improve it?**

The economy is stable seeking growth. As the mayor, moving forward I will work with the city council and the city manager to create and work on a plan that will ensure consistent growth for our hotels, restaurants, families, and the overall economy. We cannot change what has happened in the past or is currently happening. We will begin a future if elected that will ensure other resources by growing our economy into a place where people all over the world will want to visit!

**3. Roads are a major concern to the residents in the city of Topeka. What is your plan to address this major concern?**

The roads are a major concern in the City of Topeka – We need to work with the city engineers and other experts to evaluate the problem. Begin with a citywide assessment to identify and categorize street conditions. Prioritize repairs based on factors such as traffic volume, safety concerns, and the severity of deterioration. Transparent criteria and public input can help ensure the process is fair and effective.

The 1/4 cent sales tax, approved by the community and endorsed by the Mayor and Shawnee County Commissioners, will be implemented. Invest in regular preventative maintenance, such as sealing cracks and resurfacing, to extend the lifespan of existing roads and reduce long-term costs. Initiative-taking care can prevent minor issues from becoming major, expensive repairs.

By taking a strategic, transparent, and community-focused approach, Topeka can make meaningful progress in improving its streets, enhancing safety, and supporting economic development for years to come. I serve the citizens, not the contractors. Money will not influence me.

**4. How satisfied are you with the current City Council's demands of property tax collection and their use of public funds? And compared to the current Topeka City Council, what, if anything, would you seek to do differently concerning property tax demands and the spending of taxpayer dollars?**

It is my belief that there are continuous opportunities to reassess and enhance the methods of property tax collection and the allocation of public funds. While the current City Council has made efforts in these areas, I think it's important to continue listening to the residents and considering adjustments as needed if given the chance, I would look for ways to ensure that tax policies and spending decisions are fair transparent and responsive to the needs of the community.

I would like to meet with the current non-government organizations that receive taxpayer funding to better understand their perspectives and processes related to economic development.

- 5. Do you agree with the purchasing of Hotel Topeka and are you in favor of or opposed to the continuation of taxpayer dollars being used to maintain it. Why or why not?**

Guests in Topeka will stay at Hotel Topeka throughout their visit. As stated before, we cannot change what has happened in the past or is currently happening. We will begin a future if elected that will ensure other resources by growing our economy into a place where people all over the world will want to visit!

- 6. Should DEI be utilized in the hiring/recruitment process of city employees or government contracts?**

DEI is a merit-based system currently in use. DEI initiatives are designed to create fair and more inclusive environments, and they often aim to balance a variety of factors including merit. Merit is considered, and DEI programs also assess other attributes to enhance representation and opportunities. The relationship between DEI and merit can vary depending on the specific policies and practices in place. So, keeping that in mind we would need to look at all aspects of the DEI and make sure that we have specific policies and practices in place that do not violate DEI and our merit-based hiring. I am unaware of any system other than the good ole boy's that might not use this method. If elected, a merit-based system will be implemented. We will ensure access for individuals with disabilities.

- 7. What lasting thoughts would you like to leave with primary voters and what is your message of why they should vote for you in August?**

Vote for James Bolden, a committed friend who wants to give back to his community. The citizens of Topeka have shaped him into the man he is today. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Democracy is encountering significant challenges, and the disparity in wealth between affluent individuals and the general population is increasing. It is essential to ensure that individuals are not subjected to an excessive or inequitable tax burden. Warren Buffett has stated that he is willing to contribute more to taxes.

It is crucial if we are to keep our democracy, and most important that we do not cave in to the pressures of the wealthy. Thru fear and intimidation, we must fight we must not allow ourselves to choose wealth over human decency for our fellow man.