



Shawnee County Republicans Local Candidate Primary Survey

1. Tell voters about yourself:

My name is Tyler Stansfield Jagers and I'm running for the position of City Council District 1 seat for Topeka, Kansas.

I'm a Video Game Developer and I've lived in Topeka for 4 years.

My 1890's Home Restoration has been great for the creative process for making games. This home is dear to me and I was very concerned when two homes went ablaze and nearly completely burnt down in a fire last winter right next to me.

This happened two weeks after I had already warned the city via the Non-Emergency line that a large homeless encampment had appeared in a short amount of time right next to one of the homes that burnt down.

Since then, I knew that I needed to get more active in City Government if I want to protect my business and my neighbors. The last thing I want to see is more fires as I approach the finishing line for my 3rd game developed here in Topeka. Feel free to check out Overidon Omnimedia to see the games I've released on Steam.

If we don't have a clean city, then the police will be apprehensive when trying to enforce laws and code.

Additionally, I'm starting to grow my own food now that food prices have skyrocketed. I'm sharing that process on Youtube on my channel of OveridonTV with the Kansas Now podcast.

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 state of the Topeka Economy is rough. Since I'm running for City Council District 1 seat, that means I represent the interests of Kansas Avenue Downtown economy all the way to 17 th street and as far west as Gauge for the Northern part of the district and as far west as Washburn Avenue for the Southern part of the district.

I've personally done an audit of Kansas Avenue and I'm seeing an absurd number of businesses that are closed. My audit in May showed a minimum of 18 businesses that were inactive and many of them didn't even have for-lease signs. Now it's late June and that number seems to have increased instead of decreasing.

If the city wants to generate sales tax revenue and see a growing property tax base by properties having more value...then business owners need to have a profit incentive to take the risk of running a business. Currently, the City Council's priorities are not helping customers see value in spending their hard earned dollars consistently. And conversely, businesses need people to spend money in order to warrant the extreme risk of running a business during a recession.

Let's combat this contracting economy, we need the City Council to stop wasteful spending NOW...Not in a few months, not after the next 5 – 10 million dollar pipe-dream investment deal is complete...but NOW.

Then, as we stop hemorrhaging money, we can put resources toward the basics of a functioning city, Streets, Roads, Safety and illumination to promote business.

As someone who came from California four years ago, I can tell you that Topeka is trying to emulate the exact form of government that failed formerly beautiful cities in California and now lie in ruin. **Right the ship or else people will jump ship.**

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

After talking with many Topeka citizens I've found that Roads and Streets are the #1 issue and concern for Topeka.

The problem is that the city has been treating Streets and Roads like a side issue as opposed to the key to having a professional and streamlined transportation process. When people work in Topeka, they want to get food and get home...without needing a chiropractor after all the bumps and potholes.

After volunteering for the Dreams 1 – Historic Revitalization program I've learned a few things. It looks like the City of Topeka has a budget for doing road repair work which has

a schedule based on need and population / activity levels in a specific area. There is also such a need for Alley, Road and Street repair as well as Sidewalk repair in certain areas that you have things like Dreams 1 and 2 and so forth where additional money is allocated to target certain areas with some community involvement in deciding what streets should get worked on etc.

The problem is that 1.5 million dollars for doing repairs barely scratches the surface of all roadwork required to keep District 1 with functional alleyways and roads. When we factor in sidewalk repair that is in dire need, you can easily see that the costs will rise.

The City isn't getting ahead of the problem of Kansas weather and how our roads require maintenance because of the hot and cold seasons. That's just part of Midwest life.

Heat expands the cement, tar, and the asphalt in the Summer.

And of course, the cement contracts in the winter.

This perfect storm for street erosion is nothing new and we need to stop acting surprised when it happens.

Instead, we should simply have a battle plan for repairing all the areas of the city. This includes both alleyways and roads systematically. Far too many parts of District 1 are getting roadwork unevenly distributed.

Simply being upset at the roads isn't good enough. You have to vote so that way we all don't have to go to that business on Topeka Avenue all the time for "Alignments".

If you're sick of changing lanes because you've memorized pothole patterns like you're playing frogger, then vote for Tyler Stansfield Jaggers and let's just get this done.

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?

Well, quite simply, the city has had more of a prioritization of "**Business Development**" than doing the basics.

Your property tax dollars have been used more like a political campaign slush fund. It's hard to believe, but the City of Topeka spends Property Tax dollars on funding Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) and charities. The Chamber and its many arms that are so spread out into every corner of decision-making in Topeka has become a quasi-government entity in of itself.

What needs to be focused on is what will attract new business investment both from new small business and farmers from within Topeka as well as out of the area.

We need to encourage couples to become married and create healthy families...that way Topeka won't be so dependent on importing talent from outside city limits. This will require supporting school boards as they make tough decisions on demanding actual results and scholastic competence from our youth.

Entrepreneurs need to feel confident enough to make their next big innovation. This includes having a clean city with police that are confident that the council will support them in fighting crime. We should put our tax dollars toward creating an environment that fosters organic growth, not picking winners arbitrarily and subsidizing a few large projects and/or charities. **Redistribution is not the primary responsibility of an efficient government.**

Topeka actually does have the money to be more proactive for its roads. The issue is that the city is spending millions of dollars on projects that are not yielding results. The approach to roads needs to be more systematic and become a staple of minimum-competent governance for Topeka. District 1 has not had decent roads in the entire four years I've lived here...imagine what's it's been like for people that are lifetime residents.

If elected, I will be able to raise attention to how the city is spending money on ineffective programs.

Did you know that the city of Topeka is still spending money on programs that give free legal advice and legal assistance to people that are being evicted for non-payment of rent? Topeka has much bigger fish to fry than making the process of eviction more cumbersome from the perspective of the landlord. Many families are trying to make extra streams of income by renting rooms...would you want to be sued by a non-paying tenant that is getting legal help subsidized by the city and your own tax dollars? Well I was just in a City Council meeting a few weeks ago and they unanimously approved more funding for that very program. Spending like that simply needs to get trimmed out of the budget. We need to manage resources as if we're out of the Covid era and want to turn the lights back on.

The hard-working people of Topeka need to have their faith rewarded and see their tax dollars either put toward the basics or else used to reduce the debt. That way we won't be constantly having to service Topeka's debt at such high levels. Let's reward businesses for staying, and instead of pushing events that attract food-trucks only...I will roll my sleeves up and get to the bottom of why so many businesses are vacant on Kansas Avenue and across Topeka. Long-term tenants and businesses are the key to rebuilding trust in Topeka's economy.

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?

Hotel Topeka is an exemplar of an even larger issue. That issue is that the City Government is attempting to be a Government, a Land Bank, an entrepreneurial incubator support system, a wealth redistribution facilitator and a business all at the same time. And as you can see from how empty downtown is, and the amount of cash sunken into Hotel Topeka, that splitting the focus of the City Council on so many fronts has spread its effectiveness way too thin.

At this point there are estimates saying that over 10 million dollars has gone into Hotel Topeka...and this is just one shiny issue that people have learned about. But believe me, Hotel Topeka is just the tip of the iceberg.

The problem that Topeka faces is not that some of the ideas don't have good intentions. And yes, some of these ideas are "packaged" well and are discussed in the Council like they are fiscally reasonable.

But actually, the problem is that the City Council currently is more of an echo chamber than a critical analysis point and decision making apparatus.

It's the squeaky wheel gets the oil scenario, feedback is received and then all the chamber members, "weigh in" on a hot-button issue.

But actual systems analysis isn't happening, and when there are good reports coming in from some of the city departments in the meetings, IE: The ones that say that Topeka is on the path to becoming insolvent if it continues acquiring debt ...those reports are taken lightly as if these "Hail Mary" wishful thinking ideas like Hotel Topeka are going to solve the budget issues.

Basically, Topeka has over 500 million dollars in debt. That's a lot. Currently Topeka "services" that debt by paying approximately 20 million dollars per year. When they say, "servicing debt" imagine that as paying the minimum payment on a credit card. It's money that is going right out the window. Imaging a world where Topeka had an extra 20 million dollars per year to spend on streets, roads, alleys, more police officers and first responders. That could be possible if we reel in this out of control spending. And the Hotel is the prime example some kind of bureaucratic idea that confused a city government with a real-estate firm.

City Governments are designed to be good at zoning, creating ordinances, and creating a system where businesses feel comfortable purchasing real estate. When the government confuses itself with a business, it will have a vested interest in believing its own propaganda. In 2008 the banking system was plagued by the idea of "Too Big to Fail"

...now in Topeka in 2025 the Government is being weighed down by, “Too Bloated and Complex to Succeed.”

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

First of all, **DEI** or Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is an absolute Trojan horse. Whenever you hear the words, “Equitable” spoken by someone in government you should simply hear the phrase, “I’m about to steal from you and make you feel bad if you complain.”

Let’s put this in perspective, over the last 2 months I’ve been able to go to about 3 or 4 City Council meetings...and you are not going to believe this. In the last 3 meetings I’ve been at, changing some DEI terminology has shown up in EVERY MEETING. That’s a minimum of 3 hours of city council discussion time being spent of some phraseology changes and wordplay in order to still get government grants.

Can you see how bonkers things get when everyone has the exact same perspective? Imagine you’re at the city council meeting and the council is assuming its base deeply cares about federal level politics. Trust me, the core concerns from the people of Topeka are that we don’t get priced out of our houses and apartments by this rising tide of cost of living inflation.

Also, if the city is losing people, and the young couples aren’t earning enough to start families that generate 2.7 children or more...then we’re missing the entire point of being a city.

The jobs and especially city jobs where there are opportunities for pensions and stable income should absolutely be given to the most qualified candidates. If the city was performing extremely well and businesses were bumping and movie theaters were completely full, that’d be one thing. But since everything is so empty lately we need to put the best people in the best jobs and careers...no discrimination means don’t turn away people with outstanding qualifications and want to make a difference. The time for debate on this subject ended when the city started looking like a ghost town.

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?

Foothold. We need a foothold in local politics in order to start using common sense for spending, infrastructure and safety. Even if a single conservative voice is out voted by extreme left-leaning council votes...at least we can start making an underpinning so people can see some real debate in the council chambers. What I’ve been talking about in

the answers to these questions aren't really "Republican" as much as they are a common sense approach to very costly problems.

Imagine asking your Grandma,

"Hey Gremma, I don't have enough money to fix all the roads... now the people are *mad*...what should I do?"

And your Grandmother would fix her glasses on her face and say something like, "Maybe don't spend all your money on old Hotels and paying rent at old Camera stores to the tune of millions of dollars. Now be a dear and get me my iced tea please."

In this scenario, your grandmother wouldn't be trying to be mean, she's trying to help you use common sense in order to not repeat the same mistakes over and over again.

The good news is that massive amounts of people in Topeka now are starting to see the wasteful spending pattern and are willing to vote accordingly to get the change they want.

My computer models and estimates show high-voter fatigue regarding the incumbents especially for District 1 where some of them have been in power for 15 years plus and deterioration is occurring at a hastening pace.

For District 1, the bulk of us are on board to Survive the Flood of Wasteful Spending by voting for Tyler Stansfield Jagers for the District 1 City Council Seat.

As someone who writes code and enjoys debugging things for a living as a Software Engineer and Video Game Developer, this is nothing more than a series of interconnected puzzles that we can all solve together and make new friends in the process.

Let's get some fresh air into the City Council and new blood flowing to raise the energy level!

Let's pump Topeka up and Enjoy Life!

Sincerely,

-Tyler Stansfield Jagers