

Candidate for 6th District at Large Stacey Johnson-Cosby



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- 1. Each candidate brings a passion for office and special skills to help them succeed. Describe what drives you most to run for office, your qualifications and skills, and why we should elect you versus your opponent. Include any current endorsements.**

I've been here serving alongside many of you. I know our community through my hands on service for 18+ years. I want to build on my service and institutional knowledge for the benefit our my community and city. From neighborhood leadership and service, business organizations, to 2 city committees where I have bought millions of our taxpayer dollars back into our neighborhoods and committees with my work on PIAC & NTDF. From founding and leading a coalition that I led to build the South Kansas City Alliance into a collaborative organization to support and speak with one voice for South Kansas City - our businesses and neighborhoods. I envisioned an Economic Development Summit to highlight the best of South Kansas City's business community - and highlight it as a great place to live, work and play. i am the most prepared candidate for the job, and am ready to begin working on Day One. Why you should elect me versus my opponent would simply be based on preparedness. in a recorded video from a candidate forum, my opponent has herself said that she is not prepared on Day One, but would basically figure it out once she got there. I'm ready to serve today, and on Day One of the next council session. Please see my resume on my website that more fully reflects my work in our community at staceyforkc.com

2. If elected, what will your top 3 priorities be in your first year of office? Name 3 things you plan to accomplish during your term.

1. Increasing housing options (especially affordable) & all things neighborhood related including targeting infrastructure project (sidewalks, streets, etc) through hosting a Housing Summit in My First 100 Days in Office (plan is on the website)

2. Reducing violent crime, again we would convene a summit of professionals and community members to put a game plan into place (will include law enforcement, mental health professionals, community members, school counselors, etc)

3. Connecting people to good paying jobs (see Action Plan for \$15+/hr Quarterly Job Fairs)

3. Over the last decade, Kansas City has experienced so many positive changes, but the murder rate and number of violent crimes are still major issues. What suggestions do you have for reducing crime in Kansas City?

I have thought about the best way to tackle this and decided that community support would be the best way - bringing in experts to work alongside us. Please see my Action Plan for My First 100 Days in Office & my plan to convene a Violent Crime Reduction Summit on my website: staceyforkc.com

4. The limited availability of affordable housing and limited access to public transportation options make it challenging for low-income residents to find stable housing and employment opportunities. Likewise, employers describe difficulties filling jobs and finding stable employees because housing, transportation and distance to work. How do you propose to increase affordable housing and access to employment opportunities in Kansas City?

Wonderful question for a 32 year real estate agent, investor and landlord. Please see my Action Plan for My First 100 Days in Office & Housing Summit at staceyforkc.com. With a collaboration of experts and community members, we will diagnose the problem, get a plan in place and implement it. What we are doing now isn't working. It's time for a change.

5. Many citizens are still confused about what the approved GO Bonds will fund, how moneys are being used, when improvements are expected, property owner responsibilities in the interim, and whether there are still shortfalls in funding. This has led to unrealistic expectations, mis-information and frustration. How would you propose to educate the community, and improve communication and transparency about projects and schedules?

I'd do regular community meetings to update the progress of the projects chosen (and set up for funding through in-district allocations). I actually strongly advocated for the process

to have citizen input/feedback and transparency in my role on PIAC. I would not continue monitoring and enforcing from the council.

- 6. The condition of roads, curbs and sidewalks is a major issue for the City. Developers and property owners often cite infrastructure as a major issue impacting property values, development feasibility and decisions about private investment. Likewise, the perception of well-established centers like Brookside or re-emerging corridors like Troost are impacted by crumbling infrastructure. How would you propose to prioritize infrastructure for established and emerging areas versus infill or new infrastructure? What ideas do you have for additional funding to address shortfalls?**

I would continue to do as i have on PIAC for the last 8 years. Plus, as a councilmember, I could direct exploration of finding other funding sources (ie federal dollars, like 75th & Broadway, etc).

- 7. Illegal dumping, neglected properties, and deferred maintenance are major issues. The City's limited resources often mean these issues go unaddressed for long periods impacting the surrounding community. How do you propose to deter bad actors and improve enforcement?**

They have a newer plan in place where citizens call 513-DUMP. The early results appeared promising. So, I'd like to give it more time to see if it continues to hold violators accountable. Plus, in some areas, we need to make sure we are fully staffed, and that staff fully enforced the codes - with consequences and penalties.

- 8. Vacant, abandoned, and run-down buildings and housing can attract crime and destabilize surrounding areas. Likewise, the vacant lots left behind after demolition can have the same impact. What do you propose to address vacant/abandoned, run-down buildings / housing and to stabilize the surrounding areas?**

I'd propose creating new housing and development, but defer to my Action Plan for My First 100 Days in Office and my Housing Summit where I am bringing the community together with industry experts to discuss options. See it at: staceyforkc.com

- 9. The delivery and cost of basic City services including sewer, water, trash collection, and snow removal affect us all. What suggestions do you have to improve and maintain city services without major financial impacts to residents?**

As a PIAC Rep, I know the staff members and I know the overall process, and would simply work closely with the staff to keep them accountable to the tasks at hand, and the citizens. I'd ask for regular public updates.

- 10. Tax incentives have helped spark new investments but have come under scrutiny for use for high-end projects and projected impacts to taxing districts. At the same time, real incentives can be warranted in distressed areas or for rehabilitation where development and reinvestment are challenging. Would you propose to modify tax incentive policies, and if so how? If so, how would you help ensure investment in distressed areas like Troost Avenue, Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, and 63rd Street is encouraged and what incentives or other tools would you support using?**

I think we need councilmembers that the citizens can trust to determine which projects are worthy of incentives. We need to use a commonsense approach and make the process fully transparent to the public. I want to create a strategy of being deliberate about our economic development strategy.

- 11. A lot of resources are dedicated to attracting large companies, but statistics show that Kansas City's small businesses create more new jobs and have a more financial impact on the local community. How will you help foster and support small businesses, and minority and women owned businesses, in addition to working to attract major employers? Any suggestions on how incentives or resources might be better weighted toward small businesses?**

I am already working as part of a task force of small businesses dedicated to identifying city support and financing options for entrepreneurs when 65% of the net new jobs to our city are created by them. So, the process is already in place- and I am a part of it. As a matter of fact, in the last budget cycle, we were successful in getting additional budget dollars beyond the allocated \$150,000. I will continue the effort to increase that greatly in the next budget.

- 12. The 1/8th Central City Economic Development Sales Tax is intended to help a portion of the City's distressed neighborhoods and commercial corridors but doesn't include several fringe areas just outside the sales tax district like Troost Avenue or Marlborough Heights. What incentives, programs or support do you propose to help other distressed areas, or areas on the fringe? Do you support the creation of similar districts or use of other tools, and if so, how would you fund them?**

I would support using the tools available to us today, including Opportunity Zones in areas that qualify. But, I would welcome exploring a sales tax, if it can win support from the businesses, voters and overall community. Working with the community - businesses and voters, we may come up with some new innovative ideas during my Small Business- Entrepreneurial roundtable to explore ways to support our small businesses. This is in my Action Plan for My First 100 Days in Office (please see my website: StaceyforKC.com).

- 13. Community Improvement Districts have helped improve several KC areas including commercial districts and neighborhoods through cleaning, security, added maintenance, promotion and other efforts. However, the use of CIDs has come under scrutiny when used for single properties or when controlled solely by development interests. Do you support the use of CIDs, would you propose any limits or conditions, and if not supported, what other tools would you propose be used to achieve improvements?**

I do support CIDs- but, I want to make sure we have a level of transparency in the process, and that voters are engaged early and often in the process. There is typically a way to make them win-win, but we will need to work together on how we accomplish that (based on the project, the process may look different).

- 14. Many projects like redevelopment of City property at 63rd and Prospect require long-term support and coordination across multiple council districts. How do you plan to work with other council members to address these types of issues? Do you have any suggestions on how to energize stalled projects like at 63rd and Prospect?**

I will continue to work with the council members to support the development project being discussed. We've been waiting for someone to come along for a while and need to get project details out to the community for our vetting once it's appropriate. Let's see the details, then we can build on that going forward.

- 15. Kansas City's population has been affected by the limitations and perceptions of public education. Alternatives and improvements are helping change that perception. Although the City has limited authority, what are some ways you would propose to help foster improvements and collaboration around education?**

To begin with, I will support the effort to reopen Southwest HS. Then, I will continue my involvement with the Center & Hickman Mill School Districts to eliminate homelessness amongst the 700 students impacted. I serve on Impact projects in both districts and on the Hickman Mills Superintendents Advisory Committee.

- 16. Elected officials have to balance time needed to make change, with need to engage the community and be available to constituents. Likewise, there has been recent frustration over limited public engagement in some major projects and initiatives. How would you propose to remain available to constituents and to work with organizations like ours, area neighborhoods, and other major stakeholders if elected?**

I will continue to be engaged in my community as I am now, attending many meetings and events in the Southland. As a councilperson, I will be sure to continue and even elevate my engagement, happily.

17. Is there anything else you'd like us to know about you or how you would serve?

I've enjoyed working with Sean Ackerson (and Marti Lee before that) a lot. Sean is very hands on and willing to be engaged in collaborating with other entities to advance your missions across all of the organizations. His presentations to PIAC on your behalf are well done, and have been effective in bringing back dollars to your service area. I'd love to continue working with Sean, and your Boards - working to implement as many of your well thought out projects (NTDF-events, and PIAC-infrastructure) as we can. Stacey Johnson-Cosby, candidate 6th district at large.