

## 2019 Southtown Council Election Guide: Kansas City, Missouri Candidates in the June 18, 2019 Election

*The Southtown Council, Brookside Business Association, Brookside CID, Troost Avenue CID* and *Southtown Foundation*, and our members and partners, greatly appreciate the time, passion and dedication of our Kansas City elected officials. We also greatly appreciate the time each candidate for office dedicates to meetings, forums and trying to connect with so many in the community. Even then, we know there are so many that are never reached. For that reason, we asked candidates to complete an election questionnaire rather than attending another forum. The questions are based on priorities of the organizations above and issues raised by our Board and committee members and other community partners. They are intended to help better understand each candidate, their aspirations and ideas for office, and how they envision tackling several of the City's toughest challenges. We understand there are many other important issues facing Kansas City, and the questions were not intended to be all inclusive or exhaustive.

In addition to the following questions, we have prepared a resource guide with information about each candidate, how to contact them, and where to find additional information. We have also included links to other community resources. Our questionnaire and the resources are nonpartisan and intended to help provide additional information regardless of party or affiliation.

### Candidate Survey Questions

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.
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.
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?
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?
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?

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?
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?
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?
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?
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?
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?
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?
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?

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?
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?
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?

See [www.Southtown.org](http://www.Southtown.org) for responses.

## Districts serving our area

**Background:** Kansas City, Missouri is divided into [six council districts](#) that are revised according to population at least every five years. The mayor and six City Council members are elected at large (elected by all registered voters in KC). The other six members of the City Council are elected from within the districts they serve (elected by only registered voters in that District).

The **Southtown Council & Southtown Foundation** primarily serve portions of the of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Council districts. The **Brookside Business Association & Brookside CID** fall entirely within the 6th Council District. The **Troost Avenue CID** falls within the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Council districts. Candidates for Mayor and the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th District are listed first followed by at large candidates from the 1st and 2nd Districts.

Candidates below are listed in the order listed on the [Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners Sample Ballot](#). Contact information provided by the [City of Kansas City, Missouri](#) and [Fox 4 News](#). For the Council races, incumbents are marked with an (i) after their name.

## Mayor

***Jolie Justus***



Council, 4th District (In-District)  
816-605-6956  
[jolie@joliejustus.com](mailto:jolie@joliejustus.com)  
[www.justusforkc.com](http://www.justusforkc.com)

***Quinton Lucas***



Council, 3rd District at Large  
816.679.1662  
[qlucas@gmail.com](mailto:qlucas@gmail.com)  
[quintonlucas.org](http://quintonlucas.org)

## 3rd Council District

### 3rd District (In-District)

**Melissa Robinson**



816.824.4332

[community.together@gmail.com](mailto:community.together@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/MelissaRobinsonkc](http://www.facebook.com/MelissaRobinsonkc)

**Joseph "Joey Cuts" Thomas**



816-309-9411

[JCThomas01@hotmail.com](mailto:JCThomas01@hotmail.com)  
[www.citizensforjoeythomas.org](http://www.citizensforjoeythomas.org)

### 3rd District at Large

**Brandon Ellington**



816.679.1386

[electellington@sbcglobal.net](mailto:electellington@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.electellington.com](http://www.electellington.com)

**Wallace Hartsfield, II**



404.245.0130

[whartsfield02@gmail.com](mailto:whartsfield02@gmail.com)  
[www.wallacehartsfield.com](http://www.wallacehartsfield.com)

## 4th Council District

### 4th District (In-District)

**Geoff Jolley**



816.645.4912

[geoff@jolleyforkc.com](mailto:geoff@jolleyforkc.com)  
[www.jolleyforkc.com](http://www.jolleyforkc.com)

**Eric Bunch**



816-536-9146

[bunche@gmail.com](mailto:bunche@gmail.com)  
[ericwbunch.com](http://ericwbunch.com)

### 4th District at Large

**Katheryn Shields (i)**



816.561.2174

[kshields1979@gmail.com](mailto:kshields1979@gmail.com)  
[www.shieldsforkc.com](http://www.shieldsforkc.com)

**Robert Westfall**



816-929-8711

[info@robertwestfall.com](mailto:info@robertwestfall.com)  
[robertwestfall.com](http://robertwestfall.com)

## 5th Council District

### 5th District (In-District)

**Ryana Parks-Shaw**



816.204.5925

[ryanaparksshaw@gmail.com](mailto:ryanaparksshaw@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/RyanaParksShaw4KC](http://www.facebook.com/RyanaParksShaw4KC)

**Edward Bell, II**



816.213.8751

[electedwardbell@gmail.com](mailto:electedwardbell@gmail.com)

[joincampaign.edwardbellfor5thdistrict.com](http://joincampaign.edwardbellfor5thdistrict.com)

### 5th District at Large

**Lee Barnes, Jr. (i)**



816.509.5839

[LEBlk1@hotmail.com](mailto:LEBlk1@hotmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/leebarnesforkc](http://www.facebook.com/leebarnesforkc)

**Dwayne Williams**



816.674.2718

[dawilliams61@aol.com](mailto:dawilliams61@aol.com)

[www.facebook.com/Williams4KC](http://www.facebook.com/Williams4KC)

## 6th Council District

### 6th District

**Kevin McManus (i)**



816.868.3489

[kevinjmcmanus@gmail.com](mailto:kevinjmcmanus@gmail.com)

[kevin4kc.com](http://kevin4kc.com)

*running unopposed*

### 6th District at Large

**Andrea Bough**



[info@andreaforkc.com](mailto:info@andreaforkc.com)

[www.andreaforkc.com](http://www.andreaforkc.com)

**Stacey Johnson-Cosby**



816-591-5921

[staceyforkc@gmail.com](mailto:staceyforkc@gmail.com)

[www.staceyforkc.com](http://www.staceyforkc.com)

## 1st & 2nd Council Districts

### 1st District at Large:

**Kevin O'Neill**



816.820.5930

[labonkevin@aol.com](mailto:labonkevin@aol.com)

[kevinoforkc.com](http://kevinoforkc.com)

*running unopposed*

### 2nd District at Large

**Teresa Loar (i)**



816.863.2552

[taloar@aol.com](mailto:taloar@aol.com)

[www.facebook.com/Councilwoman-Teresa-](https://www.facebook.com/Councilwoman-Teresa-Loar-of-Kansas-City-Missouri-358997030831736)

[Loar-of-Kansas-City-Missouri-](https://www.facebook.com/Councilwoman-Teresa-Loar-of-Kansas-City-Missouri-358997030831736)

[358997030831736](https://www.facebook.com/Councilwoman-Teresa-Loar-of-Kansas-City-Missouri-358997030831736)

*running unopposed*

## Election Resources

### June 18th Election Sample Ballot-

[kceb.org/useruploads/2019\\_mayorCC/General/Sample Ballot Final Rev 4-30-19 6-19.pdf](http://kceb.org/useruploads/2019_mayorCC/General/Sample_Ballot_Final_Rev_4-30-19_6-19.pdf)

Council district map- [kcmo.gov/map-of-city-of-kansas-city-mo-council-districts](http://kcmo.gov/map-of-city-of-kansas-city-mo-council-districts)

Mayoral Candidates- [ballotpedia.org/Mayoral election in Kansas City, Missouri \(2019\)](http://ballotpedia.org/Mayoral_election_in_Kansas_City,_Missouri_(2019))

Council Candidates- [ballotpedia.org/City elections in Kansas City, Missouri \(2019\)](http://ballotpedia.org/City_elections_in_Kansas_City,_Missouri_(2019))

KCUR election coverage- <https://www.kcur.org/term/elections-0>

KCUR council candidate responses- <https://www.kcur.org/post/your-guide-kansas-city-council-election-candidates-own-words>

Kansas City Star election news- <https://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/election>

Fox 4- Council candidates information\*- <https://fox4kc.com/2019/03/26/beyond-the-mayoral-race-a-look-at-whos-running-in-kansas-citys-upcoming-election/>

\* Note: From the primary election but includes information about candidates in the current election.