

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Overland Park City Council

Ward: 2

Name: Paul Lyons

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Committee Name and Mailing Address:

Paul Lyons for City Council

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Occupation/Work History (last five years – 25 words):

Software Development Manager at DST Systems, Inc., Kansas City, MO since 1993.

Most Recent Political/Community Experience (25 words):

City Council Member serving Ward 2, first elected in 2007, re-elected in 2011.

Are you, or have you been, affiliated with a local or state chamber of commerce?

If yes, list chamber(s) and explain your level of engagement (25 words or less):

No.

Are you, or have you been, affiliated with any other business organization(s)? If

yes, list organization(s):

No.

As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues (10 words per line):

Public funding of infrastructure to maintain viability of our neighborhoods.

Encourage private investment across our city.Maintain low taxes through stable and efficient financial management.

I am seeking public office because (50 words or less):

I want to our residents to enjoy the highest quality of life, safest neighborhoods and a growing business community. During my eight years on the council, I supported policies that resulted in forward progress in all these areas. I am asking for the opportunity to keep Overland Park among the best cities in the nation and one residents can be proud of.

What role, if any, should the City play in economic development to bring jobs and capital investment to Overland Park? (50 words or less):

The city must create an atmosphere where businesses are welcome and encouraged to grow. It includes partnering with the chamber to recruit new businesses, providing a superior infrastructure and attracting an educated and motivated work force who want to live and raise their families in our community.

At 12.837 mills, Overland Park's tax rate is approximately half of our neighboring communities and remains the lowest of any first class city in Kansas. Do you feel Overland Park citizens receive quality services and value for their tax dollars? What improvements, if any, would you make to the existing City budget? (50 words or less)

Results of a recent 2014 city-wide survey say citizens are satisfied with the quality of services and value received for their tax dollars. The survey also says residents want more investment in parks. I would like to develop a dedicated funding source for city park improvements as well as expanding the bike/hike trail system.

As Overland Park considers its future and new development and redevelopment projects being proposed, what is your philosophy regarding the appropriate mix of residential, commercial and green space in those projects and the use of incentives for their developers? (50 words or less):

I generally support the concept of mixed use development, but we don't have enough experience yet to know whether it will be successful in our city. I believe incentives for redevelopment projects are sometimes necessary to help offset the costs of removing structures and improving infrastructure to encourage investment in the older parts of our city.

What role should Overland Park play as the region's second largest city in terms of Metro issues that impact the local and regional economy? (50 words or less):

I support cooperative involvement of the city with the rest of the metro area in organizations like the Mid-America Regional Council. We must recognize the success of Overland Park is dependent upon the success of all cities across the metropolitan area. I believe we can attract major new businesses as well as national level events when we cooperate across the state line. We are in this together.

What do you think the three greatest challenges/opportunities are for the Overland Park economy in the next ten years? (50 words or less):

I believe the greatest challenges we face come from the state legislature. First, actions they take to resolve self-inflicted budget shortfalls can impact our financial standing. Second, they continue to erode our ability to make decisions at the local level. Otherwise, the city's demographics and reputation put us in good position to continue growing over the next 10 years.