



2020 Tulsa Area Voter Guide

General Election:
Nov. 3 7am-7pm



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF METROPOLITAN TULSA is a nonpartisan organization that provides information about political issues and candidates for public office in order to promote greater citizen responsibility and participation in government. As a nonpartisan organization, The League neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. It publishes and distributes factual information for citizens to use when preparing to cast an informed vote.

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The cover design of this guide is based on the official flag of Tulsa, adopted in 2017 (tulsaflag.com), and the flag of the National Woman's Suffrage Congressional Union.

Colors: In 1914 Alice Paul split from the more conservative National American Woman Suffrage Association, eventually founding the National Woman's Party. The organization described the meaning of these colors in a newsletter published December 6, 1913: "Purple is the color of loyalty, constancy to purpose, unswerving steadfastness to a cause. White, the emblem of purity, symbolizes the quality of our purpose; and gold, the color of light and life, is as the torch that guides our purpose, pure and unswerving."

Flower: In 1920, suffragists and anti-suffragists met in Nashville, Tenn., to lobby the state legislature for and against ratifying the Nineteenth Amendment. Tennessee became the last of the necessary 36 ratifying states to secure amending the Constitution. Both sides wore rose-shaped pins to indicate which side of the battle they were on: suffragists wore yellow roses, and anti-suffragists wore red roses.



Women's Suffrage in Oklahoma: In 1890, the House of Representatives of the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature voted to grant women the right to vote—but only in school elections. In 1907, the Oklahoma and Indian Territories merged to become the state of Oklahoma. Women's suffrage was among the issues heatedly debated during the Constitutional Convention held at Guthrie between 1906 and 1907. One of the few issues that united convention delegates was the desire to deprive Black people of votes and break Republican domination of the state. The possibility of women's suffrage meant Black women would vote, and would most likely vote Republican. The result was the restriction to vote only in school elections would be upheld.

In time, the question gained needed legislative and political support. The Democratic party endorsed the question and, in 1917, the Legislature acted favorably. The House voted 75 to 12 and the Senate, unanimously, in favor of suffrage. A state constitutional amendment on women's suffrage would go to the people in the 1918 general election. On November 5, 1918, almost two years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment, Oklahoma passed a universal women's suffrage amendment to its state constitution.

This Voters' Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. The League offers this Voter Guide to help citizens make informed decisions at the polls. The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes any candidate. Offices are listed in the order in which they appear on the ballot.

Candidates who drew no opponents and candidates who drew opponents from their own party and were elected in the June 30th primary or the August 25th run-off elections will not be on the General Election ballot and are not listed in this guide.

Every candidate in Tulsa County was sent an invitation to participate and those who responded received a link to Vote411.org in order to input their answers to questions and to provide biographical information. The League neither edits material nor changes spelling, punctuation, or grammar of candidate submissions.

Two state questions will appear on the ballot but are not covered in this guide. For comprehensive information about the state questions you may visit <http://www.okvoterguide.com> or pick up a print edition of The Oklahoma Voter Guide at any public library in Tulsa County.

On occasion, the League of Women Voters decides to oppose or favor initiatives that appear on the ballot when warranted by League public policy positions adopted after extensive study. In such cases, the League's stance will be detailed in a separate publication.

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa provides complete voting information on our website at <http://www.lwvtulsa.org>

Lastly, check out <http://www.vote411.org> to create your own personalized ballot and go into the voter booth informed and prepared!

VOTER INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

The proof of identity law requires every voter who votes in person at the precinct polling place or during early voting at the County Election Board to show proof of identity before receiving a ballot.

There are three ways to prove your identity.

1. PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

A document used for proof of identity must have been issued by the U. S. government, the State of Oklahoma, or a federally recognized tribal government.

The law requires a document used for proof of identity for voting to contain the following information:

- The name of the person to whom it was issued
- A photograph of the person to whom it was issued
- An expiration date that is after the date of the election, unless the identification is valid indefinitely

The law requires the voter's name on the proof of identity document to "substantially conform" to the voter's name in the Precinct Registry. In other words, your name on your proof of identity must match your name in the Precinct Registry.

2. COUNTY ELECTION BOARD VOTER IDENTIFICATION CARD

In addition, voters may use the free voter identification card they received by mail from the County Election Board when they registered to vote. The law allows use of the voter identification card even though it does not include a photograph.

3. AFFIDAVIT WITH PROVISIONAL BALLOT

If you do not have or if you refuse to show proof of identity, you

may vote by provisional ballot and prove your identity by signing a sworn affidavit. It will take time to do the paperwork, but all County Election Boards say your vote will be counted if the name on the affidavit that accompanies the provisional ballot matches the name on the voter rolls and your provisional ballot is cast in the precinct where you are registered to vote. Be sure the name you put on the affidavit matches the name you used to register to vote.

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Polls open at 7 a.m. on Election Day and remain open until 7 p.m. If you are in line by 7 p.m. you can vote. You can vote in person at your polling place in the precinct in which you live.

There are three ways to find your precinct:

- Look at your Voter Identification Card for the name and address of the polling place;
- Go to Vote411.org;
- Use the Oklahoma Election Board's OK Voter Portal at <https://www.ok.gov/elections/OVP.html>

ABSENTEE & EARLY VOTING

The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, October 27, 2020. Here are two options for you to obtain the Absentee Ballot Application:

- Complete and submit on-line at this link: <https://www.ok.gov/elections/OVP.html>
- Download a copy to print and mail in at: https://www.ok.gov/elections/documents/Oklahoma_Absentee_Ballot_Application_fillable.pdf

Completed standard absentee ballots may be mailed or dropped off in person at the County Election Board up to 5:00 pm the day prior to the election. Completed absentee ballots CANNOT be dropped off at ONEOK Field during early voting.

Voters may also cast their vote in person during the early voting period. Early voting will take place as follows:

Location:

- ONEOK Field, 201 N. Elgin Ave, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Times:

- Thursday, October 29, 2020 – 8:00 am. – 6:00 pm
- Friday, October 30, 2020 – 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Saturday, October 31, 2020 – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

For more information about the absentee voting process and the current COVID-19 guidelines/updates, please check the following website:

https://www.ok.gov/elections/Voter_Info/Absentee_Voting/index.html

TIME OFF TO VOTE

Employees who begin their work less than three hours after the polls open (7am) and finish less than three hours before the polls close (7pm) are entitled to two hours leave to vote. You must give notice the day before the election and must provide proof of voting to not have your pay reduced. The employer can set the time the employee can leave to vote.

TULSA COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES

Pursuant to Oklahoma statute, Tulsa County is governed by a three-member Board of County Commissioners elected by geographic district. All County elected officials serve staggered four-year terms.

Among the Board's responsibilities are the powers to make orders and authorizations, to inspect and approve county programs and facilities, to supervise the financial affairs of the county, to investigate the performance of county officials and to designate, construct and maintain a county highway system.

TULSA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Josh Turley (Republican)

Campaign Address: 21403 W 20th Street South Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063

Campaign Phone: (918) 852-5674

Web Site: <http://www.turleyforcommissioner.com>

Email: turleyforcommissioner@gmail.com

Professional Experience: 20+ years with Tulsa County as a Risk Manager. 20+ years as small business owner.

Education: Bachelors of Arts Master of Arts - Organizational Management Doctorate of Management

Volunteer Service: A variety of nonprofit assistance to include clean up of Katy Trail, Cystic Fibrosis associations, and pretty much anywhere I feel a calling to assist.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/dr-Josh-Turley-forCommissioner-538769046290854/>
Twitter: twitter.com/TurleyCommiss



Questions:

Q: What in your background qualifies you to be a County Commissioner?

A: My history with Tulsa County as a Risk Manager provides me with a unique view of Tulsa problems. Risk Managers review operational issues and litigation. We identify the root causes and then develop long term strategies to mitigate, avoid, or abolish the risk. Many of these problems are managed internally through standards and policy. But at the root cause, they show a need for more communication with citizens. This is why all of my campaign material has my cell phone number.

It's time to put the Government back in the hands of the people. It is time for big ideas, better collaboration, and open government. The people don't need representation, instead they need a government who is quick to respond, open, and honest. These can only come from a candidate who knows Tulsa County and has the advanced education of a Doctorate in Business, experience in the systems, and is willing to put in the hard work for change. It's time for a "Think Right" policy that puts the citizen needs first.

Q: Do you believe the Tulsa City Council and County Commissioners should work together? Why or Why not?

A: Yes, it is very important for the Tulsa City Council and the County Commissioners to work together. A County Commissioners job isn't just roads and bridges. There are a variety of boards and commissions that comprise the entire system. This system is designed to move Tulsa County forward, develop private housing and private business opportunities. When these fail or the County Commissioners office fails to engage all of its citizens, specifically those outside of the Tulsa City area, then we have a continual decline of residences and jobs. As County Commissioner, I will ensure that the County Commissioners Office is engaged with not only the Tulsa City Council but the other Cities as well. These Councils and Commissions need to realize the benefits of a shared knowledge system between them. When knowledge is shared, partnerships are developed. When partnerships are developed we can better utilize the tax dollars we are so fortunate to receive.

Q: What one part of county government would receive more attention if you were elected?

A: Technology. Technology is here and we must utilize technology to our best ability. We are behind. Government is classically behind on a wide variety of things but technology is our weak point. As an example, Tulsa County purchased a program called MUNIS. We use less than 5% of this systems ability. We pay a lot your tax dollars each year but yet we failed to successfully fully implement it.

We must create a common goal, breakdown the barriers caused by each elected official, and implement technology projects that help the Citizen and Tulsa County employees to be the government the citizens want us to be. It's not about any one area getting more attention, it's about maximizing our effectiveness at serving the citizen. If you would like an easy example of how we make technology complicated for the citizen just go look at Tulsa County Open Data Initiative. This initiative was started at the same time brought these issues in light in 2015.

Q: What element of the county's government is most effective, and why?

A: Right now it's our levee system Commissioner Todd Kilpatrick. He is the one who is really fighting for our levee fix. Mr. Kilpatrick took a mound of old dirt, clay pipes, and 1950's pumps and made it as safe as he could. Mr. Kilpatrick then began the process of pushing for our levee rebuild. He and his team saved Tulsa County during last year's flood. These actions, multiple days and nights' on-scene and making decisions with "common sense" are what made his area of government most effective. Let's face it without people like this in our government we would have had a major catastrophe.

But these great actions by a great team of employees should have never

had to happen. The County Commissioners who fund this area have neglected it for years. Any normal business has plans for long term rebuilds and improvements. Why didn't this happen? Because we the citizens failed to elect those who are forward thinking. It's time for a forward thinker. -Dr. Josh Turley for Commissioner.

TULSA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

Karen Keith (Democrat)

Campaign Address: Karenkeith.org

Campaign Phone: (918) 855-7659

Web Site: <http://karenkeith.org>

Email: sheryl@sheryllovelady.com

Professional Experience: -Serving as Commissioner since 2008 -Worked at Tulsa Metro Chamber - Visitors Bureau -Served on Mayor LaFortune's team working on passage of Vision and Implementation of Vision after passage -Worked 26 years in Broadcasting. -Owned a small business "Silver Label"

Education: BA from OSU in Journalism and Broadcasting Muskogee High School

Volunteer Service: Rotary Club of Tulsa (Served 100th President) Oklahoma Historical Society (Executive Committee, OKPOP and Will Rogers Memorial Foundation) Brookside Business Association Work related: Chair of the Downtown Coordinating Council Chair of INCOG also serving on the National Association of Regional Councils VISITTULSA Board Route 66 Commission Member Jail Trust Authority Fair Grounds Trust Authority

Facebook: <http://Karen Keith>

Questions:

Q: What in your background qualifies you to be a County Commissioner?

A: I've have been doing this job that I love for the past 12 years. Getting the doors open to a new state of the art Family Center for Juvenile Justice and working to get the Tulsa/West Tulsa Levee system repaired are top of my list of accomplishments. Last November the Courts and our Juveniles moved into a remarkable new facility and the Engineering and Design is underway for the levee as our Federal Delegation works to get the funds for the rebuild.



While working for Mayor LaFortune I was on the team that helped get passage of Vision2025 that has transformed our downtown. I also formed and worked with the committee in the search for the Arena Architect that resulted in an iconic facility.

My years in broadcasting have helped me communicate with constituents and build a staff here at Tulsa County that is dedicated and responsive to the public. That background has also helped me promote and work for passage of public investment bonds for Vision and the Juvenile Justice Facility.

Q: Do you believe the Tulsa City Council and County Commissioners should work together? Why or Why not?

A: It is my pleasure to work with our City of Tulsa Councilors as well as the Mayor. The Route 66 Commission, River Development and neighborhood issues for starters give us common ground. I have worked for passage of city issues because they are important to the County as a whole. Our current slate of Councilors are dedicated, smart, passionate and involved. I have the highest regard for these relationships. In this job it is important to build relationships with the Mayors and councils in all of the communities we serve. Again, those are valued and respected relationships essential to good government. Serving as Chair of INCOG has given me the ability to forge relationships with Regional leadership so we can all work together on issues that impact all of us.

When Mayor Bynum was a Councilor I got him engaged on the levee issues and that led to a huge investment by the city to help us get matching funds for the federal dollars. The Mayors support on this is unwavering.

Q: What one part of county government would receive more attention if you were elected?

A: County government is efficient and effective and we have not traditionally told our story. Tulsa County has dramatically improved transparency during my term of office... I don't take credit for all that effort but I am proud that all agendas, budgets, meetings etc. are all easily accessible at TulsaCounty.org. It is imperative that we continue to work with INCOG and the Regional Chamber to elevate our workforce to meet the needs of the region. Working together as a region lifts all boats. Coordinated efforts through "ONEVOICE" is helping us get legislative needs met both at the state and federal levels. That essential work must continue.

We have ongoing efforts to increase our diversity among our county workforce.

Q: What element of the county's government is most effective, and why?

A: Tulsa County is easy to work with. Silo's have been mostly eliminated and we work together well as a team on all issues. The Counties distribution of the Federal Cares Act fund is a great example. With short time-lines and under pressure of the pandemic a committee was formed and has worked diligently to disperse the funds to agencies, small business and non profits negatively impacted during these unprecedented times. When work on the new administration building is completed this fall the public will have much easier access to their county government. It is has been a long time goal of mine to give the public defender equal accommodations at the courthouse. With the BOCC, Treasurer, County Clerk etc. moving across the streets we can finally consolidate all the functions of the Courts in one complex. This also eliminates the need for rentals for offices like the Public Defender and allows us to sell off other buildings that will not be part of this new facility.

TULSA CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

The local laws of Tulsa (called city ordinances) are passed by the Council, which is the legislative body. The Council, through ordinances and resolutions, provides for licenses, permits, and certificates which are issued by city departments and agencies. Appeals of such actions are subject to review by the Council. The Council approves the mayor's budget, and has the power to conduct investigations and hearings concerning the conduct of city government.

All city councilors elected will serve two-year terms and are elected by the resident voters in each of nine geographic city council districts. Six city council district elections were decided in the primary election on August 25, 2020. Three remaining council seats will be decided in the general election, between the two candidates in each district who received the highest number of votes in the August election.

TULSA CITY COUNCILOR DISTRICT 5

Mykey Arthrell (Non Partisan)

Campaign Address: 1747 S ERIE PL

Campaign Phone: (918) 508-3816

Web Site: <http://www.ArthrellforDistrict5.City>

Email: Mykey@ArthrellforDistrict5.City

Professional Experience: Mykey has 17 years' experience working for his community as a trainer, hotline worker at a crisis clinic, an advocate at a domestic violence shelter and outreach specialist at the Austin Health Department before moving back to Tulsa. In the 7 years since he has worked with Tulsa's homeless and run a children's shelter while starting a commercial screen printing and coffee roasting business. Mykey currently is an Education Specialist for Urban Strategies Inc. in Tulsa working with Tulsa Public Schools and Tulsa Housing Authority to ensure families are stable and thriving during the redevelopment of the westside.

Education: Booker.T.Washington Class of 2003 The Evergreen State College B.A. Majored in Early Childhood Education

Volunteer Service: Children Justice Act (CJA) Board member Our Whole Lives(OWL) Trainer at All Souls Unitarian Church

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MykeyforDistrict5>

Questions:

Q: What experience, insights and abilities will you bring to the City Council that make you especially qualified for the position?

A: Working for Urban Strategies Inc., I am on the human side of neighborhood development on the west side. As such, I am a problem solver who will do what it takes to make things right for the residents of Tulsa.



I have experience working directly with and organizing communities to push for change and find solutions through effective partnerships. For example: I have regularly had to strategize with Tulsa Police as a shelter coordinator to find positive outcomes for our youth who feel out of options; and I work with Tulsa Public Schools to find transportation and enrollment solutions for families that have limited access to resources.

Through my work and years of volunteer service, I have developed relationships with services and government officials across the state that can help bring sustainable change to our District.

Q: What are your top priorities for your constituent area?

A: The residents I've spoken to all tell me the same basic thing: they want a safer and more prosperous District 5. It is hard to do that when out-of-state property owners refuse to invest in their properties, which drags down property values for everyone.

In order to attract the kinds of people and businesses who will invest in our community, we need to organize people in a way that will support them. Businesses and neighborhoods need to work together to get responsible investors interested in District 5.

I propose creating active Residential and Commerce Groups that will spotlight opportunities in our neighborhood shopping centers, and focus resources on desperately needed updates in apartment complexes across the district. Everyone in the district deserves homes they can be proud of, infrastructure they can depend on, and quality jobs that will support their families.

Q: How do you plan to involve citizens in the decision-making process?

A: I will restart the monthly District 5 Town Halls as soon as we can find a safe way to do it. Furthermore I will create a network of block captains to facilitate communications in the neighborhood to foster a sense of community and two-way channels of communication so that people can stay up-to-date on events in each other's lives. Lastly, I will actively work to organize neighborhood associations and businesses into Residential and Commerce Groups that will work to address the community's concerns with code enforcement, safety, and improvements in the community.

Q: What would you do as a City Council member to positively impact efforts to attract new employers and retain those we currently have?

A: I will work with local organizations to apply for grants that will help us revitalize housing complexes and strip malls. If we can invest in beautifying our district, we will attract investors and residents to move here and our community will prosper. With some of our staple businesses—tenants at Promenade, Sears and Super Saver Cinema—having gone out of business, there is a commerce hole that desperately needs to be filled. The Legacy Plaza is a great example of how we can fill them. Internet proof businesses that provide a service to our community and fill the vacant buildings of District 5.

Q: Do you believe the mask mandate is helpful? Please expand on why or why not.

A: Like every community across America, our city is struggling its way through the COVID-19 crisis and we need to take direct action to prevent it from doing further damage. City government wouldn't be doing its job if it didn't identify best practices to protect the community and act decisively to implement them.

I support those on the council who had the integrity and courage to try to protect the community, rather than worrying about the political backlash of their vote. Councilors were elected to make hard decisions based on the best information available to them. After all, what is the point of spending

money on a health department filled with talented, highly trained, expert advisers if we're not going to follow, or even bother to understand, their advice when it matters?

Q: Are you planning to accept/have accepted campaign contributions from the Fraternal Order of Police, and if so, why?

A: I have not. But I think it is important to note that the FOP, like all unions, does not necessarily speak for all of its members. While I have not courted the endorsement of the police union, I have the support of many individual officers who actually live and work in District 5.

I feel it is important for the City Council to represent all of its citizens, rather than being beholden to big-money organizations that may be pushing national agendas, rather than advocating for what the residents of District 5 actually need and want.

TULSA CITY COUNCILOR DISTRICT 5

Cass Fahler (Non Partisan)

Campaign Address: 7383 E 24th St Tulsa OK 74129

Campaign Phone: (918) 280-1400

Web Site: <http://www.CassForCouncil.com>

Email: cassforcouncil@gmail.com

Professional Experience: 21 yr residential home lender

Education: Dale Carnegie Rhema Bible College Southwestern Christian University

Volunteer Service: Life.Church Oklahoma Mental Health Assoc John 3:16 Mission

Questions:

Q: What experience, insights and abilities will you bring to the City Council that make you especially qualified for the position?

A: The past two years as Tulsa City Councilor have provided me solid foundation upon which to continue the growth and success in District 5.

Previously, I have served for 4 years upon City of Tulsa's Sales Tax Overview Committee, which founded me in the financial operations of the city, and its intricate budget process.

Lastly, my 20+ years of business acumen and being raised in a small-business household gives me a firm footing on what makes Tulsa thrive....our local businesses.

Q: What are your top priorities for your constituent area?

1. Homelessness, social services, opportunity and enforcement
2. Crime, crime reduction, safer streets, safer neighborhoods
3. Infill, continuing to bring businesses back to District 5, retail development, incentives for current and future business operators
4. Beautification, parks enhancement, city funds for development focused in District 5 including street packages



Q: How do you plan to involve citizens in the decision-making process?

A: Continuation of Neighborhood Association meetings, which are most effective in the communication of engaged residents.

Continuation of Town Hall meetings, coffee meetings, office hours and virtual meetings.

Q: What would you do as a City Council member to positively impact efforts to attract new employers and retain those we currently have?

A: This is already underway.

Have established lines of communication with commercial real estate developers and commercial real estate attorneys, inviting businesses to obtain Tulsa's economic incentives for infill and expansion.

This work in progress can be found at 46th & Sheridan, 23rd & Sheridan, 21st & Mingo, 18th & Sheridan, 8500 E Skelly Dr, Remington Tower... just to name a few!

Q: Do you believe the mask mandate is helpful? Please expand on why or why not.

A: I do not believe the mask mandate is helpful.

1. a majority of constituents wanted a no vote against it
2. it places further burden upon the Tulsa Police Department, placing officers in a no-win situation
3. the economic viability of our city solely depends upon sales tax revenue, and this measure drives people to areas that don't have mask requirements. i.e. Jenks, Owasso, Broken Arrow, Bixby, Glenpool, etc.
4. too much ambiguity in the data. 04/2020, Dr. Dart stated Tulsa would have 176k cases and 2k deaths by 08/2020. Today being 08/01/2020, Tulsa now has 8,700 cases and 98 deaths. At these current levels, you have a 1.34% chance of getting covid....nearly the same chance of being killed by lightning.

Q: Are you planning to accept/have accepted campaign contributions from the Fraternal Order of Police, and if so, why?

A: Absolutely.

I wholeheartedly believe in representing and protecting the profession of Law Enforcement.

I graciously accept the officer's contributions via their union to help me connect and serve the residents of District 5.

But keep this in mind, whether their union supports me or not, UNEQUIVOCALLY, I will stand tall for those brave heroes in blue, the men and women of the Tulsa Police Department!

TULSA CITY COUNCILOR DISTRICT 6

Connie Dodson (Non Partisan)

Campaign Address: PO BOX 691781, Tulsa, OK 74169

Campaign Phone: (918) 234-3102

Web Site: <http://www.conniedodson.com>

Email: conniedodson@cox.net

Professional Experience: Tulsa City Council, Realtor, and Photographer

Education: Associates Degree, and Continuing education at NSU

Volunteer Service: Oklahoma Coalition Against Human Trafficking Legislative Committee, NEO Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Joy in the Cause, and United way

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/conniedodson.oklahoma>

Questions:

Q: What experience, insights and abilities will you bring to the City Council that make you especially qualified for the position?

A: My previous terms on the council has provided knowledge and experience, garnered by working through issues, and working with countless residents to address their concerns. I gained experience while working on two funding packages (Vision & Improve Our Tulsa), a Tax Increment Financing project (in District 6), with the Tulsa Chamber on One Voice, and with Oklahoma legislators on city issues and on sales tax exemption bills for Veterans. I have experience gained by countless meetings and discussions over natural disasters & emergencies, funding issues, at the city & state level, budget issues, ordinances, code enforcement, Board of Adjustments, zoning, fire & police, and developers. I was previously employed by Tulsa Transit and have gained additional experience in public transportation and other methods of travel. Additionally, I serve on the "Oklahoma Coalition Against Human Trafficking Legislative Committee" and on the new "East Tulsa Main Street" board in the 21st and Garnett area.



Q: What are your top priorities for your constituent area?

A: With each funding opportunity that has come my way, I have fought for significant investments and improvements in public safety & infrastructure, transportation & street maintenance, targeted economic development, and our neighborhoods & community. These are all still very important to District 6. I will continue to work on funding for street maintenance & transportation, and work to maximize those efforts. I am having discussions on developing a new retail/commercial corridor in District 6 that will serve both the district and the city. I helped develop the new "East Tulsa Main Street" to focus efforts on improving the 21st and Garnett area as it develops into an "International District" within Tulsa. I secured funding for a new fire station, park investments (including the first water feature east of Memorial) and a health clinic. In "Improve Our Tulsa" District 6 gained funding for roadwork on 11 miles of arterial streets, 10 intersections, 7 bridges, and 6 neighborhood sections.

Q: How do you plan to involve citizens in the decision-making process?

A: When I am confident we can do it safely, I will resume my regular town hall meetings, where I engage with the community and get feedback on issues. I bring in speakers like Crime Stoppers, EMSA, emergency management, and cover issues like code enforcement, animal control, project information, and future funding packages. I have quarterly panel discussions, where city department heads come and attendees engage with them. I have occasional breakfast meetings, special project meetings, and Coffee with the Cops. I have a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/District6digest>) where city and community information is shared, and they can always send email to dist6@tulsacouncil.org or call the office at 918-596-1926 or my home at 918-234-3102.

I have considered virtual meetings, but have not yet decided if that format will best serve my constituents, as most of my meetings include a robust question and answer session with the guest speaker(s) as well as myself.

Q: What would you do as a City Council member to positively impact efforts to attract new employers and retain those we currently have?

A: I would continue to support the city and the chamber in its efforts to attract new employers and, continue to support business when we can through incentives, as we are doing now, for businesses that are struggling with economic issues associated with Covid-19. I also support businesses by shopping locally when I can. I will personally work with businesses operating in the district when they have issues and with businesses looking to move into the district. I recently met with a business wanting to move his manufacturing operations from China and connected him with city staff and other contacts to identify potential site locations. I am also working on building a retail/commercial corridor in District 6 and working with commercial developers interested in developing in District 6.

Q: Do you believe the mask mandate is helpful? Please expand on why or why not.

A: I believe the mask mandate helps as it relates to citizens feeling safer as they engage in public activities, but provides a false sense of security. The more important issue is not if you are wearing a mask, but time spent in the presence of an infected person. When asked directly, local experts agree that nearly all positive cases can be traced back to an individual being around an infected person for an extended period of time, not from random activities such as shopping.

The ordinance reads, "There is no specific penalty for violation of this ordinance." Which means if a business has a mask policy, and a person refuses to wear a mask (absent an exemption), and refuses to leave, the business can call the police and file trespassing charges. They could do that anyway, and no business is forced to comply, because there is no enforcement.

Additionally, the entire population under 18 is exempt from wearing masks because the city has limited jurisdiction over juveniles.

Q: Are you planning to accept/have accepted campaign contributions from the Fraternal Order of Police, and if so, why?

A: Yes, I have accepted campaign contributions from the Fraternal Order of Police. I was also named Councilor of the year for 2019, and endorsed for 2020.

I have not always had the support of the FOP. The previous president wanted me to bend on an issue and I refused. That didn't sit well. I had won without their support in my first election for District 6, and felt I could win without their support the second time, and I told him as much.

I don't accept donations in exchange for promises, expected outcomes, or compromising my core values. I accept donations from organizations and individuals who support me because they believe I'm the best person to represent the community.

TULSA CITY COUNCILOR DISTRICT 6

Christian Bengel (Non Partisan)

Campaign Address: 13173 E 29th Street Tulsa, OK 74134

Campaign Phone: (918) 638-9855

Web Site: <http://bengelfortulsa.com>

Email: christianbengelforcouncil@gmail.com

Professional Experience: Level3/CenturyLink 2011-Present WorldCom/MCI/Verizon Business 2000-2010 City of Tulsa 1994-2000 US Army 1986-1994

Education: Electronics Technology 1997 - 2000 Tulsa Community College Tulsa, OK Computer Concepts 1993-1994 Micro Computer

Technology Fairfax, VA Combat Signaler and Electronics 1986-1987
United States Army Signal School Fort Gordon, GA

Volunteer Service: Tulsa County Sheriff's Office Reserve Deputy (retired)
1999-2016.

Questions:

Q: What experience, insights and abilities will you bring to the City Council that make you especially qualified for the position?

A: I have probably the most diverse background of any candidate currently in office, or running. As a combat veteran, a retired law enforcement officer, father, husband, previous business owner, corporate employee, former City of Tulsa employee, I'm not sure anyone can match my life experience. My decision making looks at long-term gains versus short-sighted. I involve as many people as possible to have as many facts available for critical thinking. I believe in wise spending of tax dollars, instead of wasteful spending to emulate the ideas of other cities incomparable to Tulsa's infrastructure. Identify and eliminate special interest groups from having louder voices than citizens, that have agendas that are counter-productive and control leaders.



Q: What are your top priorities for your constituent area?

A: The TOP issue that people voice, are the number of unlawful businesses operating in East Tulsa. This culture that has been allowed to fester, and has angered folks. Allowance has caused legitimate business to leave East Tulsa. We need to create a coalition of businesses in East Tulsa. Public safety. Create more focused groups in neighborhoods that don't have formal HOAs, by using the 4-house approach. Continue the drive to get more participation in the RING doorbell program with TPD, and additional officers at higher times of opportunity for crime. Light up the neighborhood campaign, to make it less attractive. East Tulsa diversity group. Get all cultures together to discuss issues, and determine how we as neighbors can solve some of our own issues without government. Identify respected leaders in those communities. Shed the term "Little Mexico" as a derogatory term used by citizens to describe East Tulsa.

Q: How do you plan to involve citizens in the decision-making process?

A: I plan on using Town Halls, Nextdoor app, and Facebook. Folks who have busy schedules need alternative methods to stay connected in order to know what's going on in their community. I believe that these avenues give more than a handful of folks the knowledge and understanding that is missing with current leadership. They claim to understand the citizens, but don't use the tools readily available, and where their constituents are most connected. Leaders should keep citizens informed, and when big issues arise, such as the mask mandate, they should lead the discussion to involve as many citizens as possible. Votes on an issue shouldn't come as a surprise to the community. Until I started my campaign for City Council, I had never met, nor heard of my representative. This speaks volumes to me as to how little effort was made to reach out to the whole, versus a few.

Q: What would you do as a City Council member to positively impact efforts to attract new employers and retain those we currently have?

A: We have to create a place that people want to visit, and spend their money. The Gathering Place was a great start, but it's not enough. Bell's was

a great family venue that many people have expressed regret in losing. We need to find more business that has that same appeal. Recreational venues are what drive our dollars down the road to OKC. We have to fix that, and create additional attractions for families, and teens. I personally would love to see Bell's come back with updated equipment, but if not them, some other operation. We need to make it easy for businesses to do business in Tulsa by creating tax packages or TIFs that encourage new business. Tesla not choosing Tulsa is a loss of jobs and revenues. This is the most recent, but what caused Tulsa to lose other big opportunities? These are the questions the public needs to know. We also have to eliminate unlawful businesses.

Q: Do you believe the mask mandate is helpful? Please expand on why or why not.

A: I think the intended mandate is having the intended effect as it relates to our services, and business communities. This is where the partnership of the City's government should have created its coalition in the first place in my opinion. The great aspect of business, is that it's not public domain, so they can and may institute restrictions on those they tender services to. I think groups like the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Mayor's Office could have used their influence effectively without resorting to a mask mandate. With controversy over fraud, testing, reporting of data, and selective certification of experts, it created a divide. Leaders need to do a better job at answering questions surrounding this, instead of letting disinformation spread throughout the community. Leaders need to embrace opposing sides of every issue in public forum, so that citizens can better understand, and more readily accept decisions made.

Q: Are you planning to accept/have accepted campaign contributions from the Fraternal Order of Police, and if so, why?

A: The FOP decided in November 2019 to support the incumbent Connie Dodson without entertaining or determining who would be on the ballot for the upcoming election. My campaign started in August of 2019, and I was told at the Tulsa Regional Chamber luncheon that they would be supporting her. I've never met, nor spoken to anyone in the FOP, and wasn't even given a reason why they wouldn't support a retired law enforcement officer. Since the FOP gave Connie an award in 2019, their support was purely political, and they told my strategist that they didn't think I could unseat the incumbent. Being a retired law enforcement officer, and not being supported by a law enforcement group, it has been a little more than discouraging.

TULSA CITY COUNCILOR DISTRICT 7

Lori Decter Wright (Non Partisan)

Campaign Address: 8706 E. 86th Street Tulsa, OK 74133

Campaign Phone: (918) 814-0210

Web Site: <http://www.WrightforTulsa.com>

Email: loridecterwright@gmail.com

Professional Experience: Lori Decter Wright is a dedicated, creative and results-oriented leader possessing an entrepreneurial spirit and more than twenty years of experience as a small-business owner and nonprofit executive. She has a gift for building consensus, achieving strategic goals, and collaborating to accomplish successful outcomes. She has a proven track record of being innovative and pragmatic when recognizing opportunities and resolving challenges. She brings her fresh perspective and energetic enthusiasm to Tulsa City Hall as your City Councilor in District 7. Lori Decter Wright was elected to her first two-year term on November 6, 2018. During her first year on the City Council, Lori Decter Wright has established herself as a leader who actively listens, creates

coalitions, and takes action. She co-chairs the Tulsa City Council's Urban and Economic Development Committee and serves on the Council's subcommittees for the Equality Indicators Special Meetings and Covid-19 Response Team. She also represents the City of Tulsa on the Board of Directors for Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG). She holds regular town hall and constituent meetings in District 7, attends neighborhood meetings, visits regularly with community stakeholders, and represents District 7 and the City of Tulsa at various events across the city and county. In addition to her work as a Tulsa City Councilor, Lori also serves as the Executive Director of Kendall Whittier Incorporated (KWI), a community-based nonprofit organization focused on food insecurity in Tulsa's Kendall Whittier, The Pearl, and Crutchfield neighborhoods. KWI operates the only emergency food pantry in the area that delivers groceries to doors five days a week, 52 weeks a year. KWI also sponsors three organic community gardens. Through her work, Lori has built solid relationships with charitable foundations, corporate sponsors, and individual donors across the city and state. She collaborates with staff and hundreds of volunteers to ensure that thousands of Tulsans in need are fed and nourished. She has an excellent reputation for getting things done and for connecting folks to each other so that they can cooperatively work toward achieving positive outcomes for the people of Tulsa. Prior to joining Kendall Whittier Incorporated, Lori served Director of Education and Membership for Sweet Adelines International, a nonprofit association for women founded in Tulsa in 1948 and headquartered in South Tulsa. During her seven years on the Executive Management Team, Lori helped lead the multi-million dollar organization to innovate new methods for delivering education, programming and member benefits to its 23,000 members worldwide. She also strengthened its youth outreach programs and assisted communities across the globe with empowering young women through music education. A Tulsan by choice, Lori has lived here for 12 years, including nine in District 7. Prior to choosing Tulsa as the place to settle down and raise a family, Lori and her husband were professional opera singers based in the Silicon Valley. Lori is an award-winning singer, performing with world-class opera companies and symphonies across the United States and overseas. Tulsa's own excellent cultural offerings were a major factor in the Wrights choosing to build their lives here rather than other cities in the region. In recent years, she has returned to the stage as a hobby, directing local musical theatre productions, performing around town, and singing the National Anthem for local events.

Education: Lori Decter Wright completed her undergraduate and graduate studies in Vocal Music Performance with an emphasis in Opera at San Jose State University.

Volunteer Service: Lori lives in District 7 with her husband, Joseph, and their two children. She is President of Shadow Ridge Homeowners' Association and actively works to improve the quality of life for her neighbors. Lori has organized community and charitable giving events such as paying off student meal debt at local schools, emergency pantry food donations, winter coat drives, and collecting donated furniture to help families in need. Lori also serves on the Board of Directors for Tulsa Opera, is Board President of Spotlight on Opera and mentors local youth as they prepare for college. The Wrights are members of College Hill Presbyterian Church and Lori regularly shares her musical gifts with the congregation as well as will other local churches and community performance groups.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WrightforTulsa>
Twitter: twitter.com/WrightforOK

Questions:

Q: What experience, insights and abilities will you bring to the City Council that make you especially qualified for the position?

A: I bring the experience of two years on the Council. During my first term, I have established myself on the Council as a voice of reason. I do my homework



before every meeting in order to ask questions that uncover the unintended consequences of the decision or policy we are considering. I work diligently to bring people together, cooperatively seeking solutions and collaborating on the issues, even when those issues seem polarizing. Most importantly, I have actively listened to the people in District 7, kept them informed, amplified their needs, and achieved success on their behalf at City Hall. I have a 100% attendance record for City Council meetings, and am prepared and qualified to represent constituents on every discussion, decision, and vote. My professional business experience as an entrepreneur and a business leader in the local nonprofit sector has prepared me to serve our community well, providing excellent service seeking common sense solutions while conserving resources.

Q: What are your top priorities for your constituent area?

A: My number one priority as a City Councilor is to listen and communicate. I am committed to boldly representing the people of District 7 at City Hall, keeping them well informed of the issues, policies, and projects they care about and that affect them, their family, friends, and colleagues. We currently have tremendous momentum at the City of Tulsa where collaboration and cooperation brings about positive changes and exponential growth. We must continue to work together to build a Tulsa where we want to live, work and play; a Tulsa that we can be proud of and a Tulsa where our kids and grandkids want to stay and create their own businesses, raise their families, and give back to the community.

Top Priorities for District 7, Southeast Tulsa: Reducing crime and investing in public safety; Updating infrastructure including roads and bridges; Innovating and growing opportunities for business development; and Improving the quality of life for all Tulsans.

Q: How do you plan to involve citizens in the decision-making process?

A: I am going to keep doing what I have done since the day I took office. I regularly host in-person Town Halls and attend neighborhood meetings focused on the issues and concerns of residents. Throughout this Covid-19 pandemic, in an effort to maintain social distancing, I have engaged with constituents by hosting a series of virtual Town Halls via videoconferencing platforms. I connect constituents directly to the City of Tulsa staff and community stakeholders to implement policies, strategies, and solutions for them. I maintain a very active social media presence across multiple platforms to engage and inform constituents daily through posts, comments, private messages, emails and phone calls. Finally, I send out regular announcements and solicit input by email. I rely upon input I receive from constituents through all modes of communication and reach out directly to those who may not contact me on their own volition to seek insight and obtain feedback from them.

Q: What would you do as a City Council member to positively impact efforts to attract new employers and retain those we currently have?

A: When District 7 is prosperous it benefits the entire City of Tulsa, as District 7 generates more than 22% of the Retail Sales Tax revenues for our City. In collaborating with the Tulsa Regional Chamber and the Mayor's Office I continually voice the needs of District 7. In my first term on the Council I have sponsored and supported revisions to City ordinances that reduce red tape and improve efficiency for businesses. I am working to create a coalition of District 7 businesses along the E. 71st St. Retail Corridor. I have assisted developers with negotiating the zoning process and facilitated discussions between them and neighborhood residents as well as existing businesses. Tulsa is a great place for entrepreneurs and District 7 is ideally situated for businesses to launch and grow. Providing support and modernizing our antiquated permitting, licensing, zoning codes and ordinances creates a more business-friendly city that attracts companies and entrepreneurs to Tulsa.

Q: Do you believe the mask mandate is helpful? Please expand on why or why not.

A: Not only do I believe the mask mandate is helpful, I was key in getting

it revised and passed by the Tulsa City Council. I had been doing my own research on potential ordinance language and shared that with my colleagues. Knowing the ordinance would be coming up for a vote, I requested that we have area medical doctors attend our committee meetings to provide us with detailed information about wearing masks, the rate of viral transmission in Tulsa, and the situation with our local hospitals and healthcare providers. We were also able to review the draft for proposal from City Legal and pivot toward using the language modeled in Stillwater's ordinance instead. We had to work quickly to make that happen and it helped that I was armed with my research of other municipal mask ordinances. We made the right decision to mandate masks as an effective step to protect the health of our citizens and our local economy during this pandemic.

Q: Are you planning to accept/have accepted campaign contributions from the Fraternal Order of Police, and if so, why?

A: No, and I have declined to accept campaign contributions from the Fraternal Order of Police PAC in the past. I am grateful to the individual police officers and their family members who are supporting my campaign for re-election.

TULSA CITY COUNCILOR DISTRICT 7

Justin Van Kirk (Non Partisan)

Campaign Address: Van Kirk for Tulsa City Council 2020 9175 S Yale Suite 140, Tulsa, OK 74137

Campaign Phone: (918) 850-8827

Web Site: <http://vankirkfortulsa.com>

Email: Justin@vankirkfortulsa.com

Professional Experience: My wife and I have started multiple businesses from scratch. Our main company Affordable Auto was started 7 years ago in the heart of our district. We have the privilege of hiring from and serving the same community I plan to represent.

Education: I was Homeschooled throughout high school while still being involved in multiple team sports. At 17 I graduated and attended Rhema Bible College, where I played college basketball and studied evangelism.

Volunteer Service: My wife and I love to give back, we know if it wasn't for others giving to us we would not have the life we do. We are both involved with our church, and supporting missions, I have also been involved with the "Wise Foundation" serving our burn survivor community. We are a sponsor of Dave Ramsey's financial class for local high schools. Along with campaigning for other candidates and other charitable events.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/vankirkfortulsa>

Questions:

Q: What experience, insights and abilities will you bring to the City Council that make you especially qualified for the position?

A: I bring the ability to connect with people and the energy that is needed to accomplish the hard work.

I have ran and operated our business for 7 years in the district. I feel I have had a chance to not only hire and employ some of the community



but also to serve and learn from them.

Running my business has taught me how to manage large budgets, network and bring people together for a common goal.

Q: What are your top priorities for your constituent area?

A: 1: Be a champion for common sense governance.

2: Strengthen the business of our district and look for ways to attract new business.

3: Improve community relations with police and emergency services.

4: Protect and defend our constitutional rights and freedoms.

Q: How do you plan to involve citizens in the decision-making process?

A: There will be monthly district meetings for feedback from the community that will double as a way to inform them of changes with the City that may effect them and their businesses.

When larger decisions are being voted on I will make a conscious effort to reach out to the constituents and hear what our district wants.

I also apply an open door policy to encourage feedback.

Q: What would you do as a City Council member to positively impact efforts to attract new employers and retain those we currently have?

A: We need to support our local small business we already have, and continue to research MISSED opportunities by the City to see how we can improve in the future.

One way is for the City of Tulsa to make a percentage of all purchases LOCAL.

Other less glamorous ways to improve is our infrastructure. Things that help existing businesses and attract new ones alike: Lower crime rate (well equipped police), ease of travel & commute (roads and intersections), quality of potential employee's (education).

Q: Do you believe the mask mandate is helpful? Please expand on why or why not.

A: I believe any measure possible to reduce the spread of a potentially deadly virus is good practice for citizens. But I do not believe it justifies criminalizing it's own citizens for not complying.

Q: Are you planning to accept/have accepted campaign contributions from the Fraternal Order of Police, and if so, why?

A: The FOP is an integral part of our police department, though some may not like it, that is a fact. Better to be connected and informed than estranged. The FOB has been a part of many great community outreach events and has our Police best interests at heart. But It will be our job as Councilors to make sure that position is not abused. So yes I plan to work with the FOP.

Year in and year out, for nearly a century, the women and men of the League of Women Voters have committed themselves to providing facts and hosting public meetings to help voters make their own decisions. As one of the oldest and most respected volunteer-led, nonpartisan organizations in the nation, our goals have always been to widen democratic participation and encourage fully researched, fact-based decision-making in public policy.

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