

2023 City Commission Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Dustin Stumblingbear

1. How long have you lived in Lawrence and what do you do for a living?

I have lived in Lawrence for 20 years. As a disabled veteran of the Iraq War I volunteer at a wide range of organizations across Lawrence and Douglas County such as Independence Inc., CERT, etc.

2. What experience do you have that you believe qualifies you to be a strong city commissioner?

My military experience as a truck commander in Iraq, along with being a supervisor for 5 years at the University of North Dakota, and my time as a team leader and trainer during my work at American Woods, Inc. have allowed me to develop and cultivate the skills to listen effectively, communicate intelligently, and make decisions based on data available in the moment.

3. What do you believe is the City's role in supporting the development of high paying jobs and economic development in general?

City governments work alongside local entities to encourage economic development. Focusing just on high-paying jobs is tunnel vision in action and I work to not engage in such behavior. As the Lawrence economy is diversified for low, middle, and high income jobs this will ensure long term stability for the city's coffers.

4. In your opinion, what are the three most important issues facing the City right now and how would you propose to address them? If your solutions require additional funding, how would you propose to fund them?

A) Affordable Housing-Put more money behind the entities in Lawrence and Douglas County who are providing homes for all people of our community at all price points.

B) Unhoused Population-Work with existing non-governmental organizations to connect more unhoused individuals with services to ensure successful long term housing and employment gain for the benefit of our community.

C) Expanding our infrastructure without a plan for long term maintenance costs- Every annexation should be investigated for the 20 and 50 year impacts such expansions will cost taxpayers alongside the expected tax revenue for said annexation area per annexation discussion.

5. What is your experience with organizational budgets?

I have experience with organizational budgets during my time as a supervisor at the University of North Dakota and 6 years as a member of the board of directors for Independence Inc. I have also been following the Lawrence City Commission, Douglas County Commission, and USD 497 budgets since 2016.

6. (Two part) On a scale of 1-10, how important is creating new residential home ownership opportunities (not rental)? What resources should the City of Lawrence deploy to assist with housing creation?

A) It is vital that home ownership opportunities be created for all residents of Lawrence to create the financial stability needed for families to grow and move into Lawrence.

B) The city of Lawrence should focus more dollars into the programs that are creating actual housing stock at affordable levels, that being Tenants to Homeowners.

7. What are your thoughts on the City's response to the homelessness issue and/or the current version of the *Community Plan to End Homelessness*? Does anything stand out that you would change, add, or delete?

I'm a firm proponent of the Community Plan to End Homelessness. The city of Lawrence is doing something undone before for cities of our size so I support the efforts being made by the city staff of Lawrence, even the missteps are teachable moments that intelligent people are embracing.