

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. LAST NAME Skaggs FIRST NAME Bill
2. ADDRESS 3509 N Park, Kansas City, Missouri 64116
3. HOME PHONE 816-452-5328 OFFICE PHONE 816-842-3100
4. E-MAIL ADDRESS sanjosk@kc.rr.com
5. MARITAL STATUS married NAME OF SPOUSE Sandy Skaggs
NUMBER OF CHILDREN 2
6. How long of you continuously resided in:
Missouri 53 yrs Kansas City 40 yrs District 40 yrs
7. Are you a home owner? Yes Are you a registered voter? Yes
8. Have you filed all required tax returns and paid all taxes owed? Yes
9. EDUCATION

Liberty High School, earned diploma
Central Missouri State, completed 1 semester
10. OTHER TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

N/A
11. SOURCES OF INCOME:

Norbank, public relations
General Motors, retired
12. Have you ever run for public office? Yes If so, for what office? When? Where?
How long served? Why no longer serving? Elected to the Missouri House of
Representatives 10 times, serving 20 years. Term limits kept me from running again.
Elected to the Kansas City Missouri City Council for 1 term or 4 years.
13. POLITICAL BACKGROUND
See #12
14. Please indicate important legislation you have sponsored in the past or that you
propose to sponsor in the future.

I sponsored legislation to add restrictions to Kansas City's ordinances related to owning Pit Bulls.

15. Indicate Clubs, Lodges, Church or Civic Bodies, Trade or Professional Groups
I which you have been active:

New Hope Advisory Board Member, Special Care Homes Board Member, member of First Baptist Church in North Kansas City

16. List non-business Directorships and Trusteeships
None

17. If the Citizens Association endorses you, will you run? Yes

18. List anything else you feel important about yourself.

Currently, I serve as the Chairperson of the City Council Aviation Committee and I am a member of the Finance and Audit and Legislative Rules and Ethics Committees of the City Council. I am on the Mid America Regional Council's Board of Directors and serve on a National League of Cities Steering Committee.

Bill Skaggs
Citizens Association Council Questionnaire

1. Budget Process

In January, the City Manager will submit the '06-'07 budget to the Mayor for review. By February, the Mayor will have reviewed that budget and made her recommendations and budget is submitted to the City Council for review. During February, the City Council meets as a Whole with department heads and conducts at least one public hearing. In March the Budget and Audit Committee will meet to consider the budget. The Budget will be adopted by the City Council during the 4th regular meeting in March.

The only change that I would like to see is to have a more detailed budget submitted to the council, and more time with each of the department heads to discuss this detailed budget.

2. Budget Priorities

More funds should be allocated to Public Infrastructure, Neighborhood Livability, and Public Safety. Fewer funds should be allocated to new programs with high start-up costs that have not been well thought out. In addition, fewer funds should be allocated for consultants.

3. Fiscal Strategy

Formal policies for debt management and economic development incentives should be determined by a collective group including the City Manager, Finance Director, Budget Director, Mayor and City Council. These policies should allow for future growth and development of the City without compromising our bond rating.

4. Taxation Level

Citizens have approved tax and fee increases at the polls in recent years. We need to focus on making sure that the money is spent on its intended purpose. I believe we should leave the taxes and fees alone. We need to live with the amount of taxes we currently receive.

5. Employee wages

Earlier this year, we increased pay for city workers. The Fire Department revamped their pay scale creating pay steps approximately 3-4 years ago. The Police Department is asking for a pay increase in this year's budget. We need to

keep our salaries competitive within our own metropolitan area as well as nationwide.

6. Reserves

The 8% goal for unreserved fund balance is a good one. This level indicates financial stability and should maintain the city's favorable bond rating. In recent years, the City has dropped below this level and is currently at 6.08%. By working on increasing revenues and saving on expenditures, we can work back up to the 8% goal set by the Council in 1998. We should set a goal of two years with 1% per year in mind.

7. Basic Services

Basic Services that the City provides include: snow removal, trash removal, leaf & brush pick-up, bulky item pickup, street maintenance, public safety, indigent care, sewer and water service. While we do provide most of these basic services at an acceptable level, Citizens may perceive it differently. With a more caring and more responsive staff, I believe that we can improve the results of the citizen satisfaction survey.

8. Indigent Care

Part of our City's responsibility to its citizens is to ensure their health and well being. In 2005, voters approved a health and hospitals tax increase. This shows that this is a high priority for our residents. The current agencies funded do a good job of reaching populations in all areas of the city.

I support the Margaret Kemp Project that will offer coordinated social and community services to people at risk for becoming homeless. This will create an environment of opportunity for self-sufficiency.

9. Responsiveness

With the recent addition of the 311 system, I expect the citizens to feel that it is much easier to contact City Hall. They should no longer worry that they will be forwarded to various departments and they now have the opportunity to call in concerns during the weekend. I supported the addition of this system because I believe that it will greatly improve the responsiveness of City Hall.

10. Planning

As we look at rewriting our zoning ordinances that were put in place in the 1950's, we will research what other sprawled cities with similar square mileage have done. We will also work with our Planning and Development staff to see what we can do to correct some commonly encountered problems.

11. Parks and Recreation

Kansas City's Parks and Boulevards are a defining feature of our city. I believe that we do an excellent job of doing needs assessments prior to making additions or changes to our parks. We try to maximize the usage of what we have.

We should investigate privatization of some parks services such as managing community centers.

The Parks Commission should remain an independent body but should also strive to be more responsive to City Council Members.

12. Consolidation with Counties

Currently, property taxes are collected jointly with Jackson and Platte Counties. We are in the process of adding Clay County to that list.

13. Public Transit

As gas prices increase and people become more environmentally conscience, there will be an increased number of riders in our public transit system. The Northland has experienced such a huge amount of growth, yet the bus lines have decreased. Ridership increased while the Paseo Bridge was closed and after re-opening, the bus lines were decreased without monitoring usage. This was not a step in the right direction.

I would support a ballot measure for public transit and/or light rail if it included service to the Northland in its initial phase.

I will continue to support Smart Moves as long as KCATA service improves in the Northland.

14. Flood and Wastewater Control

The Wet Weather Solutions group was formed to study the City's watersheds. The flooding and combined sewer problems are widespread throughout the city and are extremely costly to fix. The projects should be rated by need considering such factors as unsanitary conditions and threat of property loss/destruction. We will investigate possible grants available and match them with PIAC city wide and in-district money.

We will push for State Revolving Funds which we are currently not receiving.

15. Deferred Maintenance

Deferred Maintenance is my highest priority. Before starting any new programs, we need to have a program in place to address the backlog of maintenance needed.

16. PIAC

Kansas City's PIAC process is one of the few instances in city government where citizens have a chance to decide what projects will be created with their tax dollars. I believe it should be kept in place.

17. Police

The Kansas City Police Department does an outstanding job and I am not in favor of creating a separate department within the City.

18. Priorities

The areas which offer the best opportunity for development are the Northland, Centralized Urban Core of our City, and we must keep Downtown moving forward.

19. Privatization

I would prefer not to privatize any areas of City government, but this may be necessary in some instances. I will consider each opportunity on a case by case basis as it is brought before the Council.

The effectiveness of CIMO will be determined after the City Auditor has reviewed it. Once the Audit is published, we can decide if the remaining Public Works Department should be absorbed in CIMO.

Again, I would prefer not to privatize any areas of the City.

20. Downtown

Taxpayers approved bond money which enabled us to build a downtown arena. This also allowed us to improve utilities to make it a more attractive relocation destination. We have also given various tax incentives to get large developments and businesses in the downtown area. To keep this momentum going, we must ensure that business such as grocery stores and pharmacies locate downtown. We want amenities essential to living downtown to be nearby. As a Council, we approved the extension of the Downtown Neighborhood Improvement District to include the River Market.

21. TIF

The current TIF process has a good system of checks and balances between the EDC and the City. The TIF Oversight Committees include Council Members from the relevant Council District therefore they are very involved in funding decisions. I am generally satisfied with how this system works.

22. Other Economic Development

Each of these economic tools plays a role in spurring development in areas that may have been otherwise overlooked. I generally support these economic tools.

23. Metropolitan competition/ cooperation

The revitalization of our Downtown has been a step in the right direction for Kansas City. So many entities including but not limited to the EDC, Downtown Council, TIF Commission, Port Authority, and the City all work together to attract new businesses and retain the ones we have. What I believe would help our City is to make it easier to do business by creating a one-stop shop for businesses and residents. If we could have one go-to person to explain available economic incentives, apply for permits and licenses, and handle rezoning rather than having to go from office to office to complete necessary paperwork, we would be a more attractive city for new development.

24. Ethics.

Yes, I would participate in an annual ethics seminar.

25. City Manager

The Council-Manager form of government creates a great system of checks and balances as long as there is good communication between the City Manager and the elected Council Members. The Manager's contract should be reviewed annually. Again, this system works well if there is good communication between the Manager and Council.

26. Your Goals

I am running for re-election so that I may continue to serve the needs of the 1st District residents. There are many projects that I have fought to fund and would like to make sure that the momentum to complete these projects continues. Some examples include: the Regional Police Academy with related infrastructure, North Brighton widening, North Oak Corridor, Kansas City Museum improvements, St. John Corridor improvements, and the Chouteau Trafficway widening. So many services were promised to our citizens when we annexed them over 50 years ago and we have yet to deliver. So many areas still do not have running City water and sanitary sewers.

I have been serving on the Finance Committee for the past 3 ½ years therefore I participated in the City's budget process. Previously, I served as a State Representative for 20 years and helped pass the state's budgets.

27. Campaign Tactics

I anticipate running a clean campaign with no negative tactics. I have made no commitments to any organizations, and I am seeking the endorsements of Citizen's Association and Forward KC.

28. Diversity

I pride myself on being able to openly communicate with all groups of people as I have been able to do for the past 3 ½ years as Councilman and 20 years as State Representative.

29. Personal Time Commitment

I will make whatever time necessary to fulfill my duties as Councilman.

30. Personal Financial Support

I will continue to finance my family the same way I have throughout my first term as Councilman.