

Sheridan County Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate's Name: Keith Kennedy
Position you are running for: County Commissioner District #2

Do you live in Sheridan County, if not, where, and have you considered if this could be a potential issue later (why or why not)?

I have lived in Sheridan County my entire life.

Please list your occupation, and how your particular skillset, pertains to and benefits your leadership role in the position you are running for:

I have been a farmer/rancher for 45 years. Married to Patricia and we are now currently bringing our son and his family into our operation. We have plans to transition our operation in coming years.

Please list your reason you are running for the position (do not disparage former or incumbent officers as your reason):

I am running for county commissioner to represent the people of the county. Being accountable and accessible is what I want to bring to the table. I travel county roads and bridges every single day and I think we all deserve adequate and safe roads. First and foremost for our families but also for our agriculture based community.

What do you believe are Sheridan County's strengths and that made you decide to run?

Sheridan county citizens are the strength of the county. We're all here for different reasons but the fact remains we enjoy the satisfaction of having a safe community and a great place to raise a family as well as making a living with many different occupations.

What are issues that you feel the Sheridan County government needs to review, focus on, or change?

I think Covid changed a lot of things that we have to deal with now. On a county level I think we need to focus on employee retention. People are in high demand for all jobs and services that the county provides. And after we provide training it becomes clear that we need to retain them as retraining is very expensive. Having a stable and reliable workforce is key for our local economy.

What is your view of the future of Sheridan County as a whole?

I think the future is bright. Good schools, medical facilities, and the many businesses that are here makes me very proud to call this home. Rural America may not be for everyone but we don't lack many resources.

What other information, views, ideas, or plans would you like to share?

I am currently a Farm Credit director and bring that experience and knowledge with me. Also my previous term as a county commissioner is a positive experience. I will always represent and support the people in our communities.

Sheridan County Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate's Name: Dwayne Kersenbrock
Position you are running for: Count Commissioner District 3

Do you live in Sheridan County, if not, where, and have you considered if this could be a potential issue later (why or why not)?

Yes, I do.

Please list your occupation, and how your particular skillset, pertains to and benefits your leadership role in the position you are running for:

Retired from Natural Resources Conservation Service after 31 years of service. My wife and I have a dryland farm operation.

In my previous career I met with producers and worked with them to solve different challenges they had and how conservation practices could help. The benefits I gained from the NRCS positions will be able to help solve the challenges the County has with the help of the other two commissioners.

I have served on various church boards in the past. I was elected as a town mayor and served for two years. I have helped develop budgets, personnel handbooks, and other governance related aspects. The experience gained from these past positions will serve me well as a county commissioner.

Please list your reason you are running for the position (do not disparage former or incumbent officers as your reason):

I feel this is a position of community service. This position should be considered a way to try to help Sheridan County be a better place to live, work, and raise a family. It is also a way to give back to the county we all choose to live in.

What do you believe are Sheridan County's strengths and that made you decide to run?

Sheridan County has a sheriff department, fire department, EMS, county courthouse staff, landfill, recycling, and road & bridge staff, which are all strengths to the County. Having a hospital, long-term care, clinic, and health department are all services needed in the county. The county has a lot of businesses to support the needs of its residents.

What are issues that you feel the Sheridan County government needs to review, focus on, or change?

I think we need to look at how our tax dollars are spent. It is truly easy to sit in those three chairs and spend other peoples' tax money the county collects. I have been in city government and have seen the process. As I mentioned in the question before, we have many services in place. If we as a county want these to continue, we have to pay for them. Salary, benefits, and equipment are costly.

We as county commissioners need to make sure tax money collected by the county is presents in a manner that is good for all the county. An example of this is the Sheridan County Conservation District receives money from the Commission for their annual budget. In turn, the State Division of Conservation matches about 95% of what the County budgets for them. They also have cost share monies that total over \$200,000. If a dollar turns over 7 times, this investment will return lots of dollars to Sheridan County residents. This is truly value added to our tax dollars

What is your view of the future of Sheridan County as a whole?

Very positive. See how much support there in in the county for Sheridan County Foundation, Sheridan County Benefit Walk, the Lions Club Car Show, and others where the money stays in Sheridan County. Citizens are ready to help other out if needed.

What other information, views, ideas, or plans would you like to share?

VOTE! Participate in the process. It doesn't matter if it is city, county, state, or national elections. Go to meetings and see how the different governing boards operate. See how they use our resources for the betterment of the county.

Sheridan County Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate's Name: David Gould
Position you are running for: County Commissioner District #3

Do you live in Sheridan County, if not, where, and have you considered if this could be a potential issue later (why or why not)?

I live in Prairie Dog Township on my Dad's farmstead, 61 years.

Please list your occupation, and how your particular skillset, pertains to and benefits your leadership role in the position you are running for:

I have been a truck driver and small farmer most of my life and worked several years in the oil patch. Worked for several townships maintaining roads, building a few also at Red River in Colby for four years as plant manager and now run a small gun shop.

Please list your reason you are running for the position (do not disparage former or incumbent officers as your reason):

We live in a good county. I believe it can be better. Our roads need attention, as do ditches, slabs, bridges. We all drive here, to and from work. The roads need to be better.

The County employees need to be taken care of better and be able to work longer if needed. Some jobs need more hours, some don't. Some things need to be voted on by the people in the County, not just three people.

What do you believe are Sheridan County's strengths and that made you decide to run?

Sheridan County has many strengths, too many to list, but it's people are awesome. Yes, the people of this county are wonderful. They help one another in time of need without any questions why.. It doesn't matter about their dislike or not if you need help, they help. Whether it be sickness, economic reason, bad weather, they band together and help each other in hard times. But they also come together in good times.

What are issues that you feel the Sheridan County government needs to review, focus on, or change?

I don't know all the issues in running a county like ours or what all we face, but I will always listen to the people of our county and base my vote on what these concerns are and with the information I can get and whatever are voting on I'm there to help us all have a better county.

What is your view of the future of Sheridan County as a whole?

The view I have of our county is simple; it is one of the best places to live and raise a family or start a business.

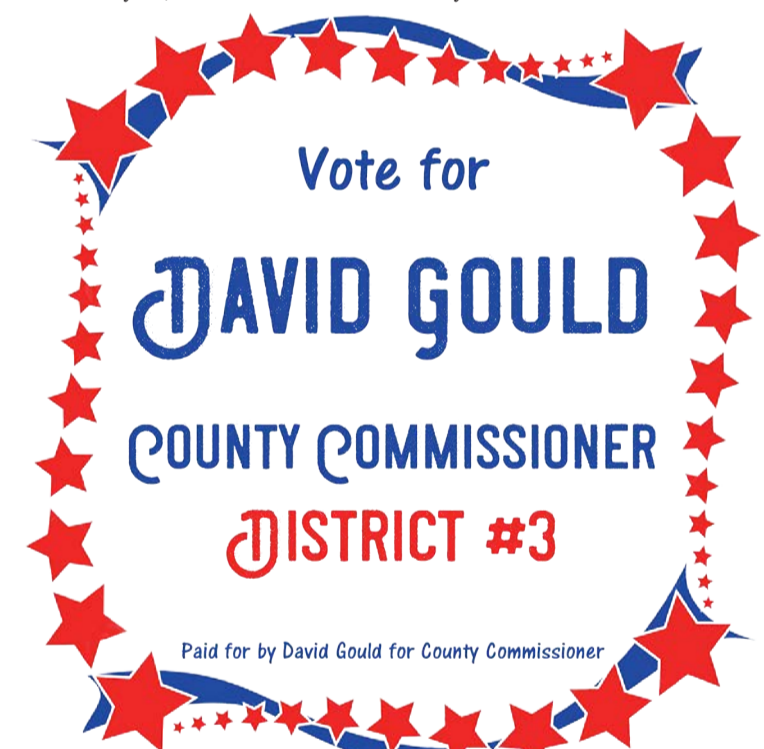
We have good schools, law enforcement, job opportunities - big & small. It is an endless and wonderful future we have in Sheridan County for all of us.

What other information, views, ideas, or plans would you like to share?

If the people chose to elect me, I will do my best to represent them. I'm not running for me. I believe there should be reposition in your county commissioners.

We have a wonderful county to live in. We need to make sure it stays this way and it's our duty to make it better for all of us.

Thank you, and God bless our county and all that live here.



Immigration

I believe that we should embrace those who wish to enter the U.S. to seek a better life for themselves and their families, or to seek protection from countries that do not respect their human rights.

To achieve this, we need borders that can be monitored and properly managed.

We need clear policies for these new neighbors to be able to work.

And we need a streamlined and sensible path for these individuals to gain citizenship.

Farm Bill

The bipartisan efforts established by Senators Bob Dole and George McGovern in 1973 must be maintained.

Security for our farmers and all ag producers along with support for all our Nutritional Food programs - domestic and international - are vital to the economy across the country, and particularly across many industries in Kansas.

Israel/Hamas/Gaza

Time for Peace. The world will forever remember the horrors committed on the Israeli people on October 7th and understand Israel's desire for retribution. But now, months and nearly 40,000 lost lives later, it is time for Peace. It is time to look forward to how these children of God - on all sides - can find ways to co-exist. Mohandas Gandhi, India's great leader said about revenge, "An eye for an eye will leave the whole world blind."

Ukraine

America's greatest moments of history were when we battled England to gain our freedom; when we fought with ourselves to keep our unity and freedom; and when we fought with our allies because we fervently believe in freedom for all.

There is every reason to believe that Russia will continue past Ukraine should it fall. Ukraine's freedom is key to Europe's freedom. America must stand by with our trusted allies once again.

LGBTQ+/Gender Identity

Human rights are at the foundation of the U.S. Constitution. As our culture continues to grow and evolve, we learn more about ourselves and others. Regardless of our sexuality and how we each choose to identify, our individual rights must be affirmed and actively protected.

National Level Candidates

Tracey Mann ~ continued

Continued from page 6

Rural Revitalization

We must do everything possible to help our rural communities to not just survive but thrive.

We must do everything possible to help our rural communities to not just survive but thrive and access to broadband throughout the district is critical.

Strong Border Security

We must secure our southern border by constructing a wall. This is a national security issue, a human trafficking issue, a drug trafficking issue and just makes common sense.

This is a national security issue, a human trafficking issue, a drug trafficking issue and just makes common sense.

Eric Bloom – Republican, Lawrence

No information available.



Paul Buskirk – Democrat, Lawrence

What I Believe

Abortion
My greatest and most passionate hope is that any woman who is considering an abortion would invest heartfelt and thought-filled consideration into available alternatives. There are so many families who are ready to adopt a child.

However, I believe that if a woman does wish to proceed with an abortion, she should have every right to do so, legally.

Reproductive rights are human rights. Such decisions are only the business of the woman, her family, her physician, and her pastor.

Gun Violence

Common sense. Our Founding Fathers established the 2nd Amendment to the new Constitution in the Bill of Rights in response to the People's conviction that this new Government must protect their Rights. I believe that these same Founders expected - and embraced - that our citizens would understand that. However, I believe that with Rights come Responsibilities.

I believe the Founders would embrace the idea that waiting periods make sense. Background checks make sense. Laws to keep guns out of the hands of those who would harm themselves or others make sense. Keeping assault rifles in the hands of those who serve to protect us makes sense. And locking up guns to keep them out of the hands of our children absolutely makes sense.