# 2024 SC CANDIDATES

Sheridan County Candidate Questionnaire Candidate's Name: Craig Uhrich

**Position you are running for:** Sheridan County Attorney

#### 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 Oakley, but I am connected to Sheridan County in that my mother grew up in Hoxie and her father owned a clothing store here and helped build the Catholic church in Seguin. Much of my mother's family still lives in Sheridan County. Living in Oakley will not be an issue. Attorneys in our district routinely travel throughout the district on at least a weekly basis. Spending more office hours in Hoxie will simply mean that I travel less to further parts of our district.

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

I am an attorney and have been for 22 years. I earned my JD from the University of Houston and my LLM from NYU graduating in the top 5% of my class at both schools. I spent the first 12 years of my career litigating large cases for large companies and government entities while working at large law firms in Dallas and NYC. I moved back to Oakley and started my practice here 12 years ago, after a falling out with my boss over political issues made me decide to come back to my roots.

I have been the Logan County Attorney for 8 years and was the Oakley City Prosecutor for several years before that.

Before I became the Logan County Attorney, that county was filing between 35 and 46 criminal cases (not counting traffic) in each of the three years before I started. My first year, I filed 63 criminal cases. Since then, I have filed between 87 and 106 criminal cases annually. But local prosecution must be done in conjunction with participation in the national conversation regarding criminal activity - to attempt to reduce the flow of criminal activity before it reaches our area.

To that end, I am actively involved in the National District Attorneys Association and the Protecting Americans Project. At those national prosecutor conferences, we discuss issues that have not yet arrived here.

I have experience few attorneys here have. I have represented clients all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court. I represented the Kansas Republican Party and 32 other state Republican parties on Trump's ballot access case in the U.S. Supreme Court and represented 18 state Republican parties on the presidential immunity case. In addition, I have worked on several cases before the high court to protect Second Amendment rights. This type of involvement benefits my role here because many of our drugs and financial crimes are the result of organizations acting outside of Kansas. By engaging with these issues at a national level, we can help to stem much of this crime before it ever comes to our area.

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

I am running for Sheridan County Attorney because now is a unique opportunity to serve our area and to help keep the people of Sheridan County safe. As Sheridan County Attorney, I can help do this through three main prongs. First, prosecuting local crimes. As I mentioned earlier, since assuming my current office in Logan County, I have filed more than double the number of cases as used to be filed. In part, this was because I make it a point to be accessible to law enforcement 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Though the final decision on a case lies with the County Attorney, I always seek the input of law enforcement before making a decision. Second, the County Attorney's Office can support local charities and public safety programs. For example, last year Logan County's diversion program gave \$17,000 to local programs, such as the schools' anti-drug and anti-bullying programs, as well as to the local senior center to help educate people on safety and fraud issues. In addition, we maintain a civil forfeiture program that helps purchase equipment and provide training programs for law enforcement. Finally, the County Attorney's Office should engage in the national conversation about crime.

Sheridan County Candidate Questionnaire Candidate's Name: Steve Hirsch

Position you are running for: Sheridan County Attorney

#### 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 do not live in Sheridan County but I do have an office in Hoxie and serve as City Attorney for the City of Selden. I have been active in serving the citizens of Sheridan County as Training Officer for Sheridan County Fire Department for 23 years, so I have an active presence in the community.

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

I am an attorney in private practice in Hoxie and Oberlin, with a satellite office in Selden. I have served for 35 ½ years as County Attorney in Decatur County and also served for 2 years as Sheridan County Attorney immediately after Michael Haas.

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

I believe I have served the people as a County Attorney in ways that make me proud. I believe that justice is not to be bought, but should be evenly dispensed to everyone regardless of their financial status, where they live or who they are. I have done that as a County Attorney and would do so in Sheridan County, if elected by the voters.

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

Sheridan County is a very strong community. We have a vibrant agricultural economy and that is the economic engine that drives everything in the county. Without agriculture we would not be so fortunate. We can be proud of the fact that our farmers, ranchers and ag related businesses, feed the world. I consider myself very lucky to have been raised on a farm and the work ethic that was taught to me. I started school in a one room school and got an excellent education - we are fortunate in Sheridan County to have a strong education sector. I also think we have excellent law enforcement officers who work very hard to protect us all.

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

I am running for County Attorney. I feel I can run that office very well as I have the experience to do so. The Commissioners run the county. It is the County Attorney's job to prosecute criminals and represent the county civilly. While I can provide guidance from my years of experience as a County Attorney, I can't substitute my judgment for any other county officeholders. My job is to see that the law is followed to the best of my ability.

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

Sheridan County has a bright future. It has an exciting farm and ranch economy, made stronger by all of the affiliated ag related businesses - from the implement dealers and the feedlot, to the gas stations, to the banks and to those retail businesses in our community. I will do my part to assist the community wherever I can. That's why I have dedicated nearly a quarter of century to the fire department in Sheridan County as I value the service provided by volunteers, who help their neighbors on their worst possible day. In many ways the County Attorney office is similar to that because when people are victims of crime, they can be victimized over and over again by the system. I won't let that happen.

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

## The Sheridan Sentinel

Thursday, July 25, 2024 Page 6

Sheridan County Candidate Questionnaire Candidate's Name: Mike "Buck" Mader

Position you are running for: County Commissioner District

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, Proud Lifelong Sheridan County Resident.

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

Sales; I'm a people person with a strong work ethic. Working through Problems with Solutions.

Always Approachable and Very Reachable, at my office every day.

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

Continue instilling Positive Morale, while maintaining Unity and Stability.

Growth and Development in Sheridan County. I love seeing the Changes and Improvements, Year after Year throughout the Entire County.

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

I believe all Sheridan Countians have great Pride in all they do, yet still strive to do Better.

Never Settling on Good Enough.

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

Maintaining a Lean and Balanced Budget.

Investing in our Employees, with training, for the betterment of entire County.

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

Always Being known as a Strong, Thriving, Safe, Welcoming, Family Oriented County For Generations to come.



We live in unprecedented times and cannot afford to treat this office as simply a local one, it includes representing the County's interests wherever needed. National issues have consequences here. It is important that we are able to engage issues such as drugs, financial crimes, and human trafficking, both locally and as part of a national effort to stop them at their source. National, and even state politicians, often take our area for granted - being able to engage with national issues brings attention to our area. More importantly, national elections have consequences here especially in the criminal law - because border policy, drug policy, and overall crime policy control both what we are allowed to do locally and the kinds of issues traveling through our area. My experience representing multiple state Republican parties in the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as connections I have made across the country, allow me to be a more effective advocate for our local communities.

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

Sheridan County is an example of what our communities can do when people are willing to work together. I helped found the Logan County Community Foundation and have been involved with the programs of the Hansen Foundation since they started supporting local foundations. Through that work, I saw that Hoxie and Sheridan County were able to implement programs and bring in opportunities that other communities struggled to effectively implement. Watching Sheridan County succeed in some of these programs demonstrated the effectiveness that our rural communities have when people make it a point to work together to bring in growth and opportunity. That same community cooperative spirit can be harnessed to deal with crime and safety issues.

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

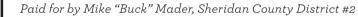
This is not specific to Sheridan County. But all of our communities need to continually strive to remain transparent and to treat all citizens with respect. Too often, government officials feel as if they are better than their constituents and treat the public's questions as a burden. Of course, there are confidential issues that cannot be discussed, but that is not most of what a County Attorney does. Most of what I do is public record. But I am always happy to take calls or appointments from the public and to help inform them of what is happening in my office. One reason I am usually at the courthouse after others leave is that I spend time during the day talking with people who have questions or issues. Elected positions are meant to be public servants - anyone who thinks input from the public is a burden is unfit for office of any kind.

Similarly, it is important to treat everyone equally. I strive in every case to treat every victim and every defendant fairly and with respect. I am currently prosecuting a former deputy for child sex crimes, but I treat him no better or no worse than any other person that I have prosecuted for the same crimes. Everyone is equal under the law - no matter their status or position.

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

For the reasons discussed above, I believe that Sheridan County has a bright future - especially if its people continue to work together and cooperate to maximize available opportunities. I look forward to the opportunity to work with the people of Sheridan County toward an even better future.

I believe strongly in the right of citizens to bear arms as being protected by our Constitution and I believe in the rights of the unborn. Our rights, once given up, are very hard to get back so we have to be ever vigilant in the protection of our Constitution and the rights granted under it. As County Attorney, at least as much as other officeholders, but perhaps more so, it is my job to preserve, protect and defend our Constitution. I was raised in Western Kansas, my wife of 37 years is a native of Oberlin, our 2 children teach in Kansas - one in Oberlin - and all five of my grandkids live in Kansas (3 in Western Kansas). I am committed to our way of life. I cannot think of anywhere else I would want to live and it is where I have raised my family.



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# National Level Candidates

### Tracey Mann, Republican – Salina

#### **Pro-Life**

I believe that life begins at conception and will fight to protect the innocent life of the unborn.

I will be unwavering in supporting pro-life legislation and will oppose taxpayer funding of abortions.

#### Pro-Gun

The right to bear arms is fundamental to our Bill of Rights and is part of the bedrock of what makes America exceptional in the world.

I am a proud NRA member and will stand up against efforts to diminish or weaken the rights of law-abiding Americans to own, carry and use firearms.

#### Fight for Agriculture

Agriculture runs in my blood and I will seek to be a voice for our farmers and ranchers in Washington.

I will seek a seat on the House Agricultural Committee and look

forward to serving on the committee as long as I am in Congress. Kansas farmers feed the world. Free and fair trade is crucial for increasing demand for our livestock products and crops around the world. I intend to serve as a champion for free trade throughout my time in Congress.

Crop insurance is critical in assisting farmers in managing risks that are unique to agriculture. I support efforts to add as much value as possible to our agricultural products grown and produced in Kansas before they leave our state.

#### Support President Trump

I support the President in his efforts to Make America Great Again.

President Trump has kept his campaign promises including nominating pro-life, conservative judges to the Supreme Court.

His efforts to secure the border, build the wall, and improve our trade deals help ensure a strong America for the next generation.

Continued on page 7