

Election 2008 Answers from Those Seeking Office

For Lyon County Commission

- 1. What are your qualifications for this office? (75 words)**
- 2. What are your views on economic development for the county? (100 words)**
- 3. As commissioner, what would you like to see the county accomplish in the next four years? (100 words)**
- 4. What are your views on City-County cooperation? (75 words)**

Answers

Teresa Walters (R) 2nd District:

1. (Qualifications) I have been active in volunteer and leadership activities since moving to Emporia in 1990. I care deeply about the health and growth of each community in Lyon County. I am an attentive listener and study all aspects of an issue before making a decision. I am forward-thinking, and am not afraid to think independently. I will question the status quo if doing so will help increase the contemplation of topics addressed and decisions made.
2. (Economic Development) Economic development is essential to meet the broad fiscal goals of a county, such as high employment, an expanded tax base and growth that is both planned and sustainable. It helps preserve the funding base to maintain the infrastructure and the level of services that can be provided to those living in the county. It must be remembered, though, that business growth does not happen in a vacuum. To be successful and comprehensive, economic development must also reflect improvements in indicators such as the literacy rates, life expectancy, and poverty rates of county residents who make up the work force.
3. (Next Four Years) Systems consolidation as a way to increase efficiency is a worthwhile consideration. A study is currently being conducted regarding consolidation of city and county law enforcement. Because merging of systems can have pros and cons, I am anxious to learn the results of the study as well as hear the viewpoints of those who will be involved if such a merger takes place.
4. (City-County Cooperation) I would be open to helping identify any potential opportunities for cooperation, collaboration, and sharing of resources between city and county that could guarantee continued delivery of quality services and could provide greater efficiency for both entities.

Philip Winter (R) 2nd District:

1. (Qualifications) I believe that my years of working closely with various commissions of Lyon County as county counselor and in other capacities in county

government for over thirty years help me see solutions to the various county government problems that might not be readily apparent.

2. (Economic Development) The county needs economic development. This must be done in an orderly manner so necessary services can be provided in an economic manner while complying with various Kansas Statutes. This is most likely to be successful in agricultural and commercial development related to local agricultural products or demands to create sustained long term development.

3. (Next Four Years) I would like to see a further integration and use of services provided by Emporia State University and Flint Hills Technical College to Lyon County Government. Assets presently owned and operated by county government on behalf of the citizens of Lyon County should be properly maintained in an economic and cost effective way, hopefully avoiding new taxes.

4. (City-County Cooperation) Lyon County and the cities within Lyon County have a long history of cooperation in areas where both must provide similar services, for example, ambulance and solid waste. Joint city-county purchases have been long discussed but have not been widely used. It would seem that joint city-county purchases, tied in with the State purchase contracts, could result in a savings of funds for all concerned.

Chris Bartel (D) 3rd District:

1. (Qualifications) My qualifications include the following; born and raised in this community, a bachelor's degree from Emporia State University in business management, over ten years experience in upper management including preparing budgets and being held accountable to them, hands on experience in human resources and purchasing, as well as owning and operating my own business. I also have a desire for public service, helping neighbors and folks in the community, and an overall caring and compassion for others.

2. (Economic Development) My view on economic development for the county is we need to do everything we can to get new jobs for more of the folks in this area. So many jobs have been lost in this community the last couple years that we are all feeling the effects. More jobs mean more people working, creating a healthier economy and raising the standard of living for all county residents. That is good for all of us financially, morally, and socially.

3. (Next Four Years) I see dispatching and purchasing as two areas that could possibly be combined to create more efficient operations of city and county governments. It boils down to economies of scale, working together to create a larger unit of government that has more muscle. I have not yet studied all the facts and effects of these two suggestions, at this point I simply see them as opportunities. If elected, I feel with my experience in this arena, I will be able to find other opportunities that would be able to save taxpayer dollars, with the input and approval of voters. After all, we need to remember, government works for the citizens, not the other way around!

4. (City-County Cooperation) I would like to see the county government accomplish the following; maintain a strong financial standing, enhance the infrastructure, strengthen the safety and health departments, and create excitement that will foster new blood into the public service arena and foster new ideas and opportunities for the county to continue services we need to have without raising taxes and placing larger financial burdens on local citizens. We can accomplish this by getting involved and working together!

Rollie Martin (R) 3rd District:

1. (Qualifications) My qualifications for commissioner are three areas: education, leadership experience and commitment. Being a farmer, math teacher, and in the Kansas Agricultural and Rural Leadership, "KARL," program have enhanced my leadership skills. Experiences gained on school boards, farmers groups, and church committees have exposed me to governmental and non-profit budgets and dealing with people. I have made a commitment to my faith, family and community service and will do the same as commissioner.

2. (Economic Development) Economic development is needed to continue the growth of Lyon County. Projects must be evaluated on an individual basis, they should be a win-win situation for all parties involved and provide high quality jobs. However, we cannot "give away the farm" in economic incentives.

Economic development also needs to include economic "re-development" of areas and businesses that are left vacant. I will be a salesman for the county and the people. The best salesmen have a positive outlook and the ability to work through all situations.

3. (Next Four Years) The county can accomplish the following:

- a. Develop Lyon County as a regional economic area using input from county commissioners, city council members, and small town leaders
- b. Use the sales tax increase to lessen dependence on property taxes.
- c. Upgrade the buildings and utilities on the fairgrounds.
- d. Enhance educational and recreational opportunities for the youth.

4. (City-County Cooperation) On the surface it would appear that there are many opportunities for county-city cooperation in security, public safety, health services, and recreation. Some counties have tried, but have not always achieved efficiencies. In Lyon County, a committee is looking at the possibilities of cooperation. It will need a lot more study.

An area that cannot be overlooked is contracting with private businesses to perform some services in order to gain efficiencies. Small towns must have input in the process.