

**Age:** 44

**Home/Residency:** Shawnee

**Occupation:** Cerner Corporation, Senior Situation Manager (since 1990)

**Family:** Cynthia my wife and Fiona my daughter

**Previous Political Offices Held:** Shawnee City Council, 3-terms 1997-04 and Johnson County Commissioner, 1-term 2005-09

**Other Work Experience:**

**What do you consider to be the most important issues in your upcoming Commission Chair race? How do you see these issues affecting your constituency?**

1. Saving taxpayers' money, financial accountability starts at the top therefore County Commission salaries will be reduced by over 50% to save over \$210,000 annually. Presently we pay district commissioners \$50,000 each and the chairman \$87,000, these folks spend 4 hours a week meeting. All commissioners should be paid similarly to large city Johnson County Mayors or \$25,000 each, which saves taxpayers over \$210,000 a year.
2. Making county government accessible by moving meetings to evenings from Thursday mornings so regular working folks can attend and high paid staff don't have disrupt their work day.
3. Saving taxpayers' money by eliminating duplication and waste between county and city government. We spend almost \$2 billion annually for local government, which is more than enough. I will convene a meeting of county and city elected and professional staff to examine county services to eliminate unnecessary services or combine them with city services to save taxpayers money. We will issue a report to the community outlining our findings and actions to save taxpayers' money.
4. Bringing the community together to create countywide positions on regional and state issues. The chairman position was created to speak for the community, after eight years that has not happened.

Each of these issues impact the people of Johnson County directly because they affect their pocketbook and quality of life. We must have accountability at the top, financially that starts with cutting the obscenely wasteful salaries of the commissioners. In the quality of life area, we must have a chair who builds consensus within the community to help protect us from foolish schemes and enable us to achieve our potential.

**What are your plans for addressing these issues? Do you have a plan or a timeline for making improvements? What is it about your plan that you feel makes it the best**

**solution?** (the numbers in these answers match the numbers in the important issues)

1. Cutting the commissioner salaries will be done within the first month by a vote of the commission, until the vote occurs I will only accept the \$25,000 salary. My election will be a county wide referendum on the issue.

These cuts will save over \$210,000 annually and demonstrate the commission is serious about making other cuts that may be necessary.

2. Moving the meetings to evenings will also occur within the first month by a vote of the commission, if that does not occur I will call special meetings in the evening.

If working folks cannot attend meetings during the day it is hard to imagine how we can make county government more accessible.

3. Calling the meeting of county and city elected and professional staff to discuss duplication and waste will be done within the first two months in office. I will place the item on the commission agenda to be discussed and voted on by the whole commission. The first meeting is likely to occur in the spring of 2011 and the report will be issued by December of 2011. We can begin implementing changes to service delivery in 2012 thru 13 to be reflected in taxes and budgets.

The alternative to saving money is just making uninformed cuts that may hurt folks and set our community back.

4. Bringing the community together to create countywide positions on regional and state issues will start with the collaborative discussions on eliminating local government duplication and waste.

I will also reactivate the Transportation Cooperation Council (TCC) which was created by our city and county government's to define a transportation future that meets our needs and we can afford. The TCC was the product of 3-years of work by citizens, business people and city and county elected officials and staff under my guidance as a County Commissioner. The present commission has let the TCC become inactive.

The TCC model of collaboration and cooperation will help our community grapple with the issues of school funding, environment, public health and solid waste management.

In a democracy, there is no other way to build consensus on region and state issues except through direct engagement with our citizens and local government partners.

Do you feel your opponents are addressing the same issues? How do you feel your plans for the office and for the commission set you apart from your opponents?

No, two of my opponents have been lining up special interest money for over a year. They are hoping no one is paying attention so that they can win on the name recognition bought with special interest money. While the other candidates are talking about financial accountability they are failing to address the issue starting with their own bloated taxpayer supported paychecks. In the financial area they just speak in vague generalities about financial management and try to take credit for the county budget or blame the other for its condition. The reality is that the chairman has one vote on the commission, all commissioners have equal voting power, so neither credit nor blame can go to any one of them as the budget is a collaborative effort. The incumbent has failed to speak for the community on regional issues and even on internal issues such as the soccer vote in 2006. The other candidates have demonstrated no ability to bring local governments together to cooperate on any issue so it appears that they just want to maintain bureaucratic silos.

My plans are about taking responsibility for the collaborative success of the commission in helping save taxpayers money. I will always focus on the issues that are important to the community and getting the best value for taxpayers instead of my own political success.