

Nancy McCarter

General Questions/ Prompts for All Candidates:

- *Why are you running for office?*

After the voters approved a five person commission board, I felt I would be a good choice; because of my experience with county government. With the possibility of four new commissioners, my 24 years experience in the county clerks office would be beneficial to a new board. I not running because I have to, I running because I want to.

- *What do you consider the biggest challenge of the position you are running for? What areas of county government need improvement and why?*

A big challenge will be with Jeffrey Energy Center powering down in I believe 2039 but maybe 2030 and now Cat, these will cause a domino effect. The commissioners need to be considering the effect this will have on our county.

Areas of improvement would be our roads and bridges. We are a fast growing county and with that comes more traffic, asphalt roads are very expenses and I know we have bridges that need attention. We also need to take a proactive approach on repairs and maintenance of county facilities.

- *How long have you been a part of the Pottawatomie County community? To what extent have you been a part of local government in the county?*

I've lived in Pottawatomie County for 52 years, married and raised my sons here. I was in the county clerks office for 24 years, been to 100's of county commissioner meetings and retired as the County Clerk and Election Officer in 2021, prior to that I worked on the election board in Louisville.

- *Regarding your prospective position, what do you consider your greatest strengths?*

Weaknesses?

I know county government; I'm would consider myself a very organized person and I have good communication skills. I'm not afraid to research and ask questions before making decision.

Weakness; I have trouble asking for help, I like to get things done. While I have a strong work ethic and being independent are positive qualities, it is still essential to learn when to ask for help.

- *It's no secret that Pottawatomie County has broad and diverse demographics and culture.*

Please describe how you intend to strike a balance and serve everyone in the county.

Ensure that new patterns of development both residential and non-residential are compatible with their surroundings. All residential uses should be closely examined prior to being permitted near agriculture/farming areas. We have the best of both worlds ag and business. Pottawatomie County is a great place to live and I hope as a commissioner can help keep it that way.

- *What are your top priorities if you are elected?*

County Commissioners are the county's keep policymakers, evaluating and studying the County's Annual Budget before final approval, making contracts with municipalities in the county and passing resolutions. With that being said, with such a new board I would like to start reviewing all current policies. This would help inform all members of the board. Second establish an annual review of all department heads. This is something in my 24 years with the county have never seen done.

Questions for County Commissioner Candidates:

- *What is Pottawatomie County's role in spurring job creation?*

Working with other municipalities/cities within the county to help in providing new services that would stimulate economic growth. The county must continue to help add manufacturing and good producing industries, so that the tax base does not have a large impacted when Jeffrey closes, and now Caterpillar. We can do this a couple way, that come to mind:

- *Partnership with Greater Manhattan
- *Work with other counties and our cities

- *What should Pottawatomie County's relationship with other local governments (cities of Wamego, Onaga, St. George, Westmoreland, school boards) look like?*

Establishing a partnership and an open line of communication. We should work together to provide resources to our citizens. Challenges exist in any partnership. But prioritizing the needs to open communications and collaboration between township, cities, school, township and the county is the first step to establishing a partnership. However, that balance is not always easy to accomplish, competing priorities and funding sources pose challenges.

- *What are your plans for preserving farm ground while also creating development opportunities and jobs throughout the county?* Pottawatomie County is as you know one of the fastest growing. Keeping that in mind, farming is still one of our largest employers. The best way to preserve this is to work the all farmers and ranches by keeping our roads and bridges in good shape; because as equipment as grown over the years we need to serve them. One thing that has really helped to preserve farm ground is the qtr-qrt rule and the asphalt road policy. There is something called cluster zoning, this requires new houses to be sited in wooded areas or on less productive soils. Jobs: south county definitely services our job marker. We have current plans in place that our planning commissioner are working on: Green Valley Area Plan, HWY 24 Corridor Plans.

- *Given Manhattan's continued expansion eastward, what should Pottawatomie County's relationship with the City of Manhattan look like?*

With the continued growth of Green Valley and the need for Manhattan to serve our taxpayers with sewer needs. We must have a good communications with them, keeping the lines of communication open we can promote good county practices. In my personnel opinion I would like to see part of Blue Township area incorporated into a city, as the population continues to grow in this area. We do have a Green Valley Area Plan with goals such as:

1. Site new growth in appropriate locations with supportive infrastructure to financially support increased demand on services.

2. Preserve and enhance existing open and green spaces to provide recreational opportunities to existing and future residents.
3. Plan for the strategic development of locations that take advantage of existing infrastructure and limit the expansion of urban style development away from large tracts of land that should be preserved as productive agricultural property.

- *How would you approach the potential decommissioning of Jeffrey Energy Center?*

This is one thing I stated earlier that would be a challenge. As a commission board we must consider an effective way to offset the jobs and revenue received. In the the reported adopted from 2019 it states they had 275 employees. It would be worth researching nuclear energy. Nuclear power plants are considered a potential replacement for coal-fire power plants. Nuclear power can be a reliable source of energy for decades, and it uses less fuel to generate the same amount of electricity as coal. Nuclear power can also help reduce greenhouse gas. Nuclear waste disposal methods vary depending on the type of waste and the disposal site's requirements. The goal is to store and dispose of waste in a way that prevents radiation exposure to people. Depending on the waste, it may be treated using evaporation. I don't know all the detail of this but it is worth researching.

- *Please share your approach to crafting a budget for Pottawatomie County.* I know taxpayers are overwhelmed with taxes. We must do our best to help the taxpayers by not increasing the counties levy. With values continuing to raise and growth in our county I know revenue will increase without raising the levy. Departments must present a detailed and wise spending budget. Our county has done a good job keeping the levy down: 2021 28.647, 2022 29.888, 2023 29.091. A levy is a legal seizure of your property to satisfy a tax debt. One mill is one dollar per 1,000 dollars of assessed value. Also the current sales tax is trending upward this plays and important part of the budget planning. Just like any budget it needs to balance, example you can't spend more than you bring in .I'm not a fan of going into debt.

- *What are your takeaways from the Pottawatomie County 2040 Plan? What stands out to you?* Growth projected by 2040 is about 36,081 today we have 26,273. We must have a plan for roads, bridges, emergency services, security/crime and possible homelessness. 10,000 people my not sound like a lot but we need to be aware of what comes with growth. Our schools, medical services, cities and all municipalities need to keep this in mind each time they review future plans.

- *A two-day training session by the Kansas County Commissioners Association (KCCA) will take place in Topeka for newly elected county commissioners. What will you hope to accomplish at that training?*

This is a good training for all new and even current commissioners. This not only helps commissioners understand their responsibilities it helps to build relationships with other counties.

