







Race Name: **Johnson County Council At Large. Democrat. Choose three (3) candidates.**

The Johnson County Council consists of seven members, four elected from districts and three elected at-large. The Council is responsible for setting salaries, the annual budget, and special spending. It also has limited authority to impose local taxes, usually in the form of an income tax subject to state level approval, excise taxes, or service taxes, such as those on dining or lodging. Each member serves a four-year term. Adapted from <https://co.johnson.in.us/council/>.

 <p>Michael Chiappetta- Democrat</p> <p>http://www.facebook.com/mike.c.f.or.council</p>	 <p>Blythe E. Potter - Democrat Campaign Website http://blythepotter.com Campaign X @potterblythe Instagram http://www.instagram.com/friendsofblythepotter/ Facebook http://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfBlythePotter/ Campaign YouTube Video</p>	 <p>Charrie Stambaugh – Democrat Website http://blythepotter.com Campaign X @potterblythe Instagram http://www.instagram.com/friendsofblythepotter/ Facebook http://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfBlythePotter/ Campaign YouTube Video</p>	 <p>Saad Tawfeeq - Democrat Website http://secure.actblue.com/donate/committee-to-elect-saad-tawfeeq-1 Campaign X @SaadForJohnson http://www.instagram.com/saadforjohnsoncountycou Facebook http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=6155628576</p>
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What are the most important challenges facing Johnson County in the next four years?

<p>The most important challenge for Johnson County is to retain and improve on the excellent quality of life we enjoy during this period of rapid growth. Challenges in this category will be building and improving the infrastructure to support our growing population as well as creating a healthy environment for our residents. Excellent roads and a safe environment via top tier law enforcement and fire protection are high priorities and compose over 40% of the Johnson county budget. We must keep our eyes on those balls.</p>	<p>Affordable housing, connectivity, and infrastructure; each of these I believe to be public safety issues. The ability for people to afford to buy or rent in Johnson County is decreasing. Out-of-state investors are driving up the cost of rent and increasing property values which affects what we spend on housing. Johnson County historically has major delays in road repairs. Poor road conditions affect everyday commuters, emergency workers, and bus drivers, especially when the weather is bad. Increasing connectivity and safety for pedestrians and bikers will make foot traffic safer. This will also help the</p>	<p>(1) Access to mental health services / para-medicine / public health programming for the most underserved populations. (2) Support for public safety professionals to reduce turnover and ensure their safety (3) Recidivism and substance use among recurring inmates in our jail system (4) Lack of affordable housing for middle and low-income families and those in financial situations that prevent them from securing permanent, quality housing (5) Pedestrian access, walkable spaces, and connected routes on our local roads.</p>	<p>Keeping pace with the growth in the county particularly in the northern parts of the county we need to work to keep up our infrastructure and our public safety resources. This means that we need to be able to keep roads paved our fire departments with the right amounts of personnel and equipment and the Johnson County Sheriff's office properly staffed to match the growth. We also need to continue funding the work that the current sheriff has started with the focus on and creation of a special team to respond to mental health. Mental health and addiction issues will continue to be big concerns for our</p>
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One overlooked priority for assuring quality of life in Johnson County is to establish and implement a master plan for parks, trails and recreational facilities that our residents can all enjoy.	population of our community that do not have access to/the ability to drive. Also, all commercial buildings should be ADA-compliant.		citizens and we have a responsibility to provide the right resources to help them.
How do you propose to address those issues?			
The County Council reviews and approves the county budget. We must partner with the county departments responsible for our infrastructure to implement a balanced budget that assures their services supply us with the quality of life we desire. It will be a balancing act, however I will strive to hear the needs and desires of the residents of Johnson County and work with those supplying the services to meet these needs as best as possible. With that being said, if the residents of this county desire more parks, trails and recreational facilities I will be their proponent for making this a higher priority. Our land is filling up fast: If we don't set these spaces aside now, they will disappear under the inevitable march of development.	Limit tax abatements/TIF districts in the county, limit the ability for non-residents to purchase investment properties, allow more apartments/condos to be built, and get creative with abandoned homes, schools, and commercial properties. We can transform existing structures into affordable housing options. We also need to increase the budget allotted for trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes, and find ways to offset the costs of landscaping maintenance to increase the amount we can budget for road repairs. I would love to see all grassy spaces being mowed and maintained by the county turned into native perennial plants/trees that help our farmers and pollinators, decrease the need for fuel and maintenance, and add more color to our landscape.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify deficiencies in public/mental health programming; Apply for available funding! 2. Each fire district & police dept. is adequately funded for staffing, equipment, pay/benefits, & training to reduce turnover & staff safety 3. Institute recidivism reduction programming for those recently released from incarceration. 4. Team who can liaise with housing specialists & MIBOR to ensure affordable housing options are available, corporate buy-outs are rare, & discount/assistance programs are promoted. 5. Ensure local road construction & new buildout has walkability, pedestrian access points, & connected routes. 6. Elect a democrat; particularly, one with a public health background, knowledge of grants, and who brings diversity. 	We need to continue with funding these areas through the taxes we have currently. The area that has the greatest need but the least available funding are the county's roads. One way to bring additional revenue in and also get road improvements is to adopt road improvement fees for new development. This will help generate road revenue.
Are county taxes at the right level?			
Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree



What one area of county services do you feel most needs additional resources?			
<p>If elected I will strive to gain a greater understanding of which county services need additional resources by polling the residents of Johnson County as well as those who supply those services. Nevertheless, my personal impression as a county resident is that two areas that would benefit greatly from additional resources and improve our quality of life are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) County health services, and in particular mental health services. 2) Parks, trails and recreation. 	<p>Infrastructure. When towns/cities/counties build something, especially public amenities, they need to build it for how it would be used or accessed immediately and not wait for other businesses/construction to come in and complete the job. For example, building amphitheaters, shopping centers, or parks without also immediately implementing safe ways to access these public spaces via bike lanes, trails, appropriate speed limits (50mph is not appropriate for a park entrance), appropriate vehicular lanes, or crosswalks. Yes, it costs more upfront, but these amenities are meant for people to use safely so let's get them there safely, too.</p>	<p>County Health (which only has \$1.5mil appropriated); this is a very low budget for public health needs for an entire county — one of my goals it to identify if we're short in areas and how to meet those needs through public health grant programs either state or federal based. I do think our County is lacking in programs that prevent recidivism and additional offenses for jailtime. Our correctional rehab, adult community corrections and probation, and juvenile detention costs our county millions. We need to do more to prevent new & repeat crime.</p>	<p>The county roads and highways. Particularly in White River Township. the roads are starting to get to be in bad shape. It leaves an impression in the minds of citizens in that area that we aren't doing enough.</p>
What role should the county government have in support the development of quality, affordable housing?			
<p>The county government should play a very strong role in supporting quality affordable housing. Today, many home buyers and renters are boxed out of the market by absentee investors and corporations from outside our county that are buying up housing at inflated pricing, only to charge high rents. We need local ordinances in place now to stop that practice. Affordable quality housing should be available to our residents of</p>	<p>A major role! If our neighbors cannot afford to live in our county, we are doing a major disservice to our taxpayers. We need to work with all towns/cities within the county to ensure we aren't eliminating and omitting the ability for people to stay in their current homes or within their school district should they need to move. For example, I would make nearly \$100,000 more than I spent on the sale of my home if I were to sell it, however, I would no longer be able to afford to live in the town unless I</p>	<p>I don't really see anything in 2024 budget for programming related this, and I'm sure where it would sit, other than community liaison programming. But, being on the Greenwood Plan Commission, I've been made aware of just how bad our housing shortage is in Johnson County. I also understand there are pockets that are just out of reach, financially, for many of our working class, mid-income families. It's awful that families are being outbid on homes by corporations. We have to curb this—we need more support for</p>	<p>The county shares an equal burden of developing quality. affordable housing as do the incorporated cities and towns within the county. As a county. we need to set standards that make housing be affordable but also doesn't lower the quality that people have come to expect in Johnson County.</p>



Johnson county. It should not be a vehicle to realize profits for absentee corporations.	moved our family into a significantly smaller home that would no longer fit our family members. Furthermore, should one of us become unemployed or unable to work, we likely couldn't afford to stay in the county.	low-income and first-time homebuyers. There MUST be a solution for affordable housing. I'd like to work more closely with MIBOR and other education entities to ensure that available programming is accessed.	
What three personal/professional skills or strengths make you the best candidate to serve on the County Council?			
I had the privilege of spending 23 years as an employee of Eli Lilly. During that time I was responsible for substantial budgets for development and technical support teams that delivered on their promises. I understand the balancing act needed to deliver services, whilst always staying true to the needs of our staff and customers. Personally, Johnson County has been very good to me over the last 30 years. I am very motivated to give back to a county that has been so good to me. Finally, I believe the quality of life for our residents should be our primary focus. When one speaks of investing in our county we must always ask this question first: Is this investment good for our residents? Is this a good investment in human capital ?	I run a small business, Bargersville Wellness, I have an MBA in conscious capitalism, and I feel confident that I can objectively make logical budgetary and policy decisions that will be for the greater good of the bulk of the community. I am a good communicator and I believe that the people who are most affected by decisions should be considered and heard before decisions are made. All too often, politicians seem to make decisions for us that aren't in our best interest or approve things that don't function well because they aren't the ones using them. For example, Independence Park. It is a beautiful space, but there is no sunshade or protection on the playground for kids or caretakers and there are zero ways to safely go without a car!	Budgets - I spent nearly 2 decades in nonprofit management including serving as the State Women's Health Director. I oversaw, reported, requested, & disseminated millions in funding. I know how to assess budgets and how to ask the right questions. Passion for People over Politics - I bring a moderate perspective to the table that benefits ALL people. I come with a multi-faceted world view. I care about our County and want to be sure everyone is heard, concerns are noted, and that common-sense drives policies, ordinances, & budgetary allocations. I'm not here to benefit any one party or interest. Transparency & Diversity - it's time for diversity & inclusion.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effectively Work In Highly Pressurized Situations. 2. Strong work and determination to succeed. 3. 3. Public speaking and presentation skills