

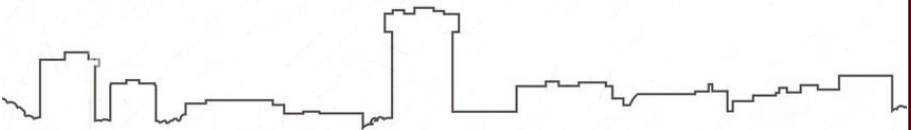


What's on Your Ballot?

**Nonpartisan Guide to the Greene
County Municipal Election**

April 4, 2023

Focus on Springfield



Who are We?

Paws to the Polls is a nonpartisan grassroots campus initiative formed to increase voter engagement and voting knowledge at Missouri State University.

Want to get involved? Email us at pawstothepolls@missouristate.edu. 

Voter Guide for April 4th Local Election, Springfield, MO

All candidates for Mayor, Springfield City Council, and Springfield Public Schools Board of Education were contacted by email with a request to submit answers to our questions (with two follow-up emails). The candidate responses are printed exactly as submitted. Candidates for each race are listed in alphabetical order.

Why Vote Local?

Local elections make the most direct impact on the lives of voters. Local elections can impact a variety of issues, including public health, infrastructure, education and more, so participating in local elections helps shape your community. With turnout often below 20%, *it has never been more important to have your voice heard!*

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Are You Registered to Vote?

Last day to register for Apr 4 election: Mar 8, 2023

[Check here](#) to see if you're registered:



Registering to Vote

Paper Registration on Campus

- Office of Public Affairs Support, Meyer Library Rm 202-J: (2nd floor, NW corner) 417-836-8832
- Email pawstothepolls@missouristate.edu or stop by Strong Hall 472

Online Registration

[Missouri Secretary of State](#); when registering **online**, check option for “using a tablet, phone, or other mobile device”



Your residence hall can be used as your address; use actual street address (not hall name) & **add your room number!** See MSU [hall addresses](#).

Registered Elsewhere?

Consider Changing Your Registration to Vote Here

- If you have a current MO Driver's/Non-Driver's license, passport or military ID, you can register to vote here in Greene County – the MSU Welcome Center is a polling location!
- Can use residence hall as your address – see above
- If you register here while you're at school, just re-register when/if you move back to your home community



Registering Outside of Missouri?



[U.S. Vote Foundation](#): Assists citizens to register and request absentee ballots; voter information

Voting in Missouri

Voter ID

- Current Missouri Driver's license or Non-Driver License
- Passport or Military ID
- **Note: University IDs are no longer accepted as valid for voting!**

Absentee voting

Absentee Voting for the April 4, 2023 election began on February 21, 2023.

If you are registered elsewhere in MO and can go home before the election, you can vote **in-person absentee** at the election authority (usually the county clerk).

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/howtovote#absentee>

Getting Your Voting Questions Answered

On Campus:

- Public Affairs Support Office, Meyer Library 202-J, 417-836-8832
publicaffairssupport@missouristate.edu
- Paws to the Polls: pawstothepolls@missouristate.edu
<https://www.missouristate.edu/ADP/paws-to-the-polls.htm>

Off Campus:

- Greene County Clerk, countyclerk@greenecountymmo.gov, 417-868-4055
- Missouri Secretary of State, <https://www.sos.mo.gov>
- League of Women Voters of SWMO, lwvsouthwestmo@gmail.com

Voting FAQs

How do I know if I'm registered to vote?

- Check MO Secretary of State's website or call your local county clerk

Where do I vote?

- At the polling location listed on your Voter ID card or on the MO Secretary of State's website -- OR vote at the campus Central Polling Location if registered to vote here in Greene County

Do I have to vote for everything on the ballot?

- No! Vote only for what you're sure about – your ballot will still count!

Can I take my notes in with me to vote?

- Sure! Take your notes or a pre-marked sample ballot into the polling place

Do I need a photo ID to vote?

- Yes: a Missouri Driver's or Non-Driver's license, passport, or military ID.

Mayor of Springfield

What does a Mayor Do?

As the head of a municipal (local) government, mayoral duties vary based upon the local government charter. Primary duties include setting the agenda for the city council and overseeing their meetings, recommending or sometimes vetoing legislation, attending significant city ceremonies, and providing leadership for emergent situations that may arise (such as a pandemic). Mayors often work closely with the city council to secure the welfare and functionality of the city. The mayor is the main spokesperson for a city, and mayoral decisions can affect all Springfield citizens.

Hear from your mayoral candidates:

Our Springfield mayoral candidates were asked these questions; their answers are below.

1. What do you consider as one or two of the main challenges that a mayor of Springfield would face for the upcoming term, and how would you go about dealing with them?
2. The youngest demographic represented a large portion of participants in the November 2022 midterm election. Do you have a sense of what issues might be important to this age group, and how might you address them?
3. If you could convey to the campus community one main strength you bring as mayor of Springfield, what would it be?

Printed are the candidates' unedited responses as submitted.

Melanie Bach

1. The number one challenge facing Springfield is public safety. We have been consistently named as one of the most dangerous cities in the nation for the past several years, and need to take proactive measures to address crime. We not only need to continue to offer the highest levels of pay and training to our officers in order to ensure the Springfield Police Department can become and remain fully staffed, but also increase community engagement strategies that have been underutilized in recent years. Since Officer Priebe's tragic attack, neighborhood watch programs have been stagnant, resulting in a disconnect between citizens and law enforcement. We need to revitalize neighborhood and apartment watch programs and promote increased communication between neighbors and police. Ultimately, closer knit communities will be able to provide better resources and information to law enforcement, and help clear more cases and hopefully reduce calls for service.



With costs rising on virtually everything, knowing how our tax dollars are being spent is vital to confidence in government. Springfield will receive about \$40 million in American Rescue Plan funds that must be spent by 2026. Transparency in our city's financial affairs should be prioritized. To accomplish this, we need to fill the internal Investigator/Auditor position provided for in our City Charter and task that individual with creating a mechanism for citizens to easily access how their tax dollars are being spent. This position has been vacant since 2013, which is far too long, and needs to be filled.

2. As a parent of three between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one, I am acutely aware of the challenges facing young adults today. Inflation is hurting this demographic especially hard because they are often in school and working low paying jobs to make ends meet. As the highest percent of renters in our community, this demographic is also suffering increased rental rates. Springfield needs to address the housing shortage that is causing high rent by taking measures to ensure as much of our housing stock is available for rental or ownership as possible. This could involve incentives for making vacant housing livable or penalizing absentee ownership or anything in between. A detailed housing stock assessment would determine how many vacant properties in Springfield are not available for rent or purchase, and working with those property owners to get those residences added to our available housing stock should be a priority.

3. My experience as the president of my neighborhood association has fostered a community-first focus that will help ensure all Springfield's challenges are viewed through the lens of the average citizen, not a special interest group. Quality of life issues like crime, housing, and poverty affect everyone living in or doing business in Springfield and would be addressed most effectively by enlisting the help, ideas and opinions of our community's strongest asset—our citizens.

Mayor Ken McClure (Incumbent)

1. Fighting and reducing crime: This is my top priority. We must have a fully-staffed, well-trained police department to ensure people feel and are safe in their homes, neighborhoods and businesses. We have taken steps in that direction such as retention pay and other policy changes, but there is more work to do.



Economic vitality and growth: Attracting and retaining talent, fueling economic growth and strategic investments that make this a great place to live and work, and opening up opportunities for entrepreneurs and start-ups. Our decisions today will have an impact for years to come and we cannot solve any of the challenges we have without a growing economy and putting the city in a position of financial strength.

2. Members of City Council meet regularly throughout the year in small groups with members of The Network for Springfield's Young Professionals. This is one very

intentional way we create opportunities for input and learn about what is important to these stakeholders in their 20's and 30's. One of the things they say is most important to them is having a seat at the table in decision making for the future. We have to think generationally as we make decisions on Council and we cannot do that effectively if we are not routinely finding ways to engage this demographic.

City leaders and staff also worked very hard to ensure we had input from college students and young professionals as we went through the process of creating our Forward SGF plan that will guide our growth and investments over the next 20 years. That was a priority because we know we have to retain and attract this talent to thrive—and the plan will most impact their future here. Our Economic Vitality priority is still being shaped by this input—that includes investment in projects such as the Grant Avenue Parkway, Renew Jordan Creek, Hammons Field, our trails and parks. We must also have abundant housing options and quality jobs to retain younger individuals and families here. The city has a role to play in facilitating all of that.

I am also proud that we have several young professionals serving on City Council. That representation is important and, anecdotally, I believe it inspires younger people to engage and serve on more city boards and commissions and to run for office.

3. I believe one of my greatest strengths is that I do not have a single-issue or narrow agenda that controls my approach to governing. We do not have the luxury of only thinking about the immediate impact of our decisions—we also have to think about a trajectory of impact on future generations. I believe Economic Vitality is an important element of that kind of thoughtful long-term consideration. It helps us see the bigger picture and ask ourselves if we are contributing to making this a more desirable place to live that will grow and thrive over time.

Springfield City Council

What does City Council Do?

The City of Springfield is governed by a nine-member, non-partisan City Council. The council chooses the policy vision for the community, and council members act as legislators. Council members serve four-year terms. Responsibilities of the council include investing in city infrastructure, promoting clean and safe neighborhoods, taking advantage of state and federal funding opportunities, reviewing and updating the City Charter when necessary, hiring the city manager, approving the annual budget, establishing tax rates, passing ordinances and resolutions, regulating land use through zoning laws, appointing members to city boards and commissions, and responding to constituent needs and complaints. They meet twice a month, and meetings are open to the public.

Hear from your city council candidates:

Our Springfield City Council candidates were asked these questions and their answers are below.

1. What qualifications do you possess that would make you an effective member of City Council?
2. The youngest voting demographic represented a large portion of participants in the November 2022 midterm election. How do you plan to address issues important to this age group?
3. What are three main issues you would like to address as a Springfield City Council member?

Printed are the candidates' unedited responses as submitted.

Bruce Adib-Yazdi, General Seat D

1. I have been a resident of Springfield since 1990. The practice of architecture and real estate development both require a holistic view of an objective, team building as well as nuts and bolts organizational skills. Developing projects in other municipalities and state has provides me perspective on how other community are balancing growth and preserving character. *Those skills and experience translate directly to role on City Council.*



2. Springfield is at another tipping point in its growth and development. In the 90's we saw a splurge of growth for growths sake, and the resurgence of downtown. Then, once Vision 2020 was adopted, there was focused effort on downtown - including Jordan Valley park, the baseball stadium, ice rink, expo center, the Jordan Valley Innovation Center, and well as many other community initiatives.

The newly adopted Forward SGF is a great baseline for the next phase of growth. Now we need to take a holistic view of the city and develop a shared vision for *what it will look and feel like*. That vision needs to be attractive to the next generation of leaders. *In order to do that we need to listen to what they want.*

3.

1 - The next 20 years of growth will be based on how we implement Forward SGF, the new comprehensive plan adopted by City Council late last year. Adopting a new zoning code to align with the plan will be the first key step in that process. *My experience as an architect and developer, along with my perspective from working in other municipalities across the country, will help inform that effort.*

2 - The city has a role in working with neighborhoods to help them generate their individual long range plans, *and* with developers to invest creating projects that

build a stronger overall community. We need to be facilitating conversations between developers and neighborhoods to achieve growth in business as well as stronger neighborhoods. *I want to help shape that collaboration.*

3 - The Forward SGF plan identifies 'catalyst' sites in the downtown area as well as redevelopment of Lake Springfield, and other specific 'subareas' of the city. There are dozens of other such catalyst sites that are currently underutilized properties (think big parking lots) across the city. *I want to help generate a vision, a vibe, a brand for Springfield that can be used to promote those opportunities, reimagine our built environment and uniquely position our city as THE Springfield.*

In summary - I believe that retention and attraction of new and younger residents, creating stronger neighborhoods and re-imagining our built environment will lead to a community with higher percentage of home ownership, more and better jobs, a lower poverty rate and less crime.

Callie Carroll, General Seat C

1. I have a diverse background with strong skillsets both in communication and relationship building. Both skills will be helpful in increasing trust and transparency within the city. I have served on several nonprofit boards that have given me a wide viewpoint of the different needs in Springfield. I'm very engaged with other young professionals, and I understand what it takes to make Springfield continue to grow and be a vibrant place for people to want to live.



2. I am able to address issues important to this age group because I have been in their shoes. I was a college student in Springfield for both undergrad and graduate school. I then was a young voter in Springfield and now I'm a young professional wanting to get married and raise a family in Springfield. I want to make Springfield a place that young professionals and families want to live and start their careers. I want to make sure there are plenty of opportunities for young professionals to thrive and find success. I know in order to build a life here young residents have to feel safe in their homes, neighborhoods and businesses. I love Springfield because young professionals, like myself, are able to have a seat at the table and make positive change in the community.

3. Public safety is my top priority. In order to fight crime we have to have a fully staffed police force. We need transparency in how we plan to recruit and train the best officers. I went on a police ride along and it was very apparent that we need to make sure resources are focused on ensuring our police have the right technology and training to support them in their jobs. We also need to engage neighborhoods and have open communication when it comes to neighborhood watch programs. My second main issue I

would like to address on city council is continued economic growth. As Springfield continues to grow, we need to ensure we are investing in quality-of-life assets that help make our city a great place to live, work and play. This also is key for talent retention. The third issue I would like to address on city council is building trust within the community. Trust is built through communication and transparency. I would like to bring stakeholders together to help build relationships and address issues causing problems for our city. I would also like to make data about city operations, processes, and finances more accessible to our citizens.

Jeremy Dean, General Seat C

1. Through my work in the non-profit healthcare sector, I have heard many of the problems and concerns that our neighbors face everyday. Many people in our city have urgent needs, and they require someone to meet them where they are. The people who know what is best for Springfield are our neighbors, they just need someone to listen, and I have the knowledge and understanding to sit down with them and find solutions that work.



2. As a member of the youngest voting demographic myself, I have direct knowledge of what it is like to be a young person in Springfield today. We are the largest portion of Springfield's population, and we deserve to have representation. I am dedicated to representing the needs of the younger demographic to ensure we are meeting the demands of our growing population. The decisions being made on the City Council today will affect our city for decades to come, and we should have someone on our council who makes decisions with that in mind.

3. **Neighbors First:** We need to protect and revitalize existing homes and neighborhoods while creating more affordable housing options that fit within our city's recently approved comprehensive plan. Springfield has plenty of under/non-developed commercially zoned land that is not utilized. To achieve our common goals, developers and city leaders need to listen to residents and not silence our voices. By advancing and following the *Restore Springfield* plan, we can bring neighbors and developers together to achieve true quality of place for our city.

Invest Local: Invest into programs to encourage use of local resources, services, and businesses. Favoring Springfield businesses when forming commercial contracts will allow us to keep our tax dollars local. Local preference increases job opportunities, gets development done faster and more efficiently, and allows us to have the pride of knowing that WE built this city.

Young Voices: I believe in the power of investing in our next generation. By implementing policy that attracts development for affordable housing, working with local

law enforcement to reduce crime, and by creating a fare-free public transportation system, we can increase retention, spur community involvement, and ensure we are creating a community we can be proud of. We deserve to have a council-person that understands what it is like to be a young person in Springfield today and has their needs in mind.

Monica Horton (Incumbent), Zone 1, Unopposed

1. My involvement in influencing local decision makers spans 10 years. I've co-produced and presented policy recommendations to leaders addressing poverty, homelessness, the achievement gap, the School-to-Prison Pipeline, and equity & inclusion efforts in our city. My orientation for public service has been guided by our Community Focus Report. And because of my extensive involvement, I was appointed to city council in April 2022 as the Zone 1 representative.



2. Our city is dealing with a housing shortage of at least 14,000 units in a city where population growth is increasing. **The housing shortage increases the cost of rent and home sales prices and we are advised to diversify our housing stock.** Therefore, I plan to attend affordable and attainable housing council workshops on Tuesdays to hear how to implement housing recommendations consistent with the 20-year comprehensive growth plan called Forward SGF that city council adopted last year. I plan to vote for low-interest loans and city staff recommendations for developers to build diverse, attainable and affordable housing options particularly in our heritage neighborhoods.

Our youngest voters also care about **employment options that pay well, livability, multi-modal transportation, and diverse cultural experiences.** That's why I support free mass transit, pedestrian/cyclist-friendly infrastructural improvements, "third places," solutions that address underemployment, livable wages/salaries, and the inclusion of diverse cultures, perspectives, and backgrounds particularly in positions of power.

3. I would like to see is an ordinance mandating the use of **sales taxes to assist crisis cold weather shelters with operating expenses.** This can be achieved by using a fixed percentage of carryover funds from the city's annual budget for crisis cold weather shelter assistance. We have few local sales tax dollars supporting individuals without shelter and this is practical way we can provide support for people without shelter in our city. We are disproportionately reliant upon federal funding.

Secondly, chronic nuisance properties are a huge problem in Springfield, particularly in my Zone. I support a city/county-initiated versus a citizen-complaint policy approach to **addressing chronic nuisance properties and land owners who are delinquent on property taxes.** Both scenarios are tanking property values for residents and limiting the

amount of tax revenue collected and allocated for our public schools, and our senior citizen and disability fund boards.

Finally, our city charter (constitution) needs to be updated. I support the **establishment of a Charter Review Commission** to conduct a comprehensive review of the charter and make recommendations to city council and we will send proposed revisions to Springfieldians for a vote. Our city government relies advisory boards and commissions in our decision-making processes. Therefore, establishing a Charter Review Commission would serve in a similar way.

Brandon Jenson, Zone 3

1. My degree from Missouri State in Community and Regional Planning focused on how local government operates. Through my professional experience in local, county, regional, and state government, I have managed projects and people to achieve community-driven outcomes. I am civically engaged, as Chair of CPO's Housing Collaborative, President of the West Central Neighborhood Alliance, and a former Garden Leader for Springfield Community Gardens. I have the experience and passion to get the job done.



2. The best way to address issues important to a group of people is to talk with them. If we want to be a city that is inviting and encourages young adults to stay long-term, it is equally important to get input from them as more established residents. As a city councilman, I would work to establish stronger connections with the student body of local higher education institutions in a way that their needs are heard and acted upon.

As a young adult myself, having graduated from Missouri State University in 2017, I believe that I have the ability to interact with individuals my age in a way that will make local government seem more accessible. Strengthening relationships between city council and student body governments would begin to open those doors and ensure that the future of Springfield represents everyone who lives here, either for now or for good.

3. Everyone wants to live in a community where they feel safe, can access the services and amenities they need, and have opportunities for their future. Reducing crime, and especially violent crime, is a top priority. We should feel equally as safe in our homes as visiting restaurants or shops. Our community also needs to support a rich diversity of businesses, parks, and other amenities that are accessible by car, bike, or transit. Once those two items have been established, we can begin to see economic opportunities that are available in our community, whether it's a start-up or entering into one of our well-established professions and trades.

Housing is also a critical component of our city's future. Not everyone envisions living in a single-family home or renting an apartment, but those are the two main housing options. Supporting a diversity of housing types and ownership opportunities means that more people can find a place to live that matches their lifestyle, whether it's a traditional home, townhouse, condo, or apartment. This also means ensuring that everyone in our community has a home or somewhere they can feel secure, which is essential for them to achieve anything else.

Finally, I believe local government needs to be made more accessible and transparent, primarily through civic education and process changes. By helping people understand the way government works, it can begin to be more responsive to individual needs and function more efficiently. In doing so, elected officials and city staff can make a government that anyone can understand to make the best Springfield possible.

Derek Lee, General Seat D

Candidate did not submit answers to questions.

Abe McGull (Incumbent), Zone 2, Unopposed

1. I have been a mayor of Pleasant Valley, Missouri and currently city councilman of Springfield, Missouri. As a retired U.S. Navy Officer, Assistant United States Attorney and now a private practice lawyer, I am uniquely trained to solve complex problems on the battlefield and the homeland. I have worked as resident legal advisor for the United States State Department in Kirkuk, Iraq and Doha, Qatar. The positions I have held required me to be a good listener, problem solver, decision maker and a good negotiator.



2. We have numerous committees and boards positions that need to be filled with citizens passionate about our city. I would like to fill those positions with as many members of our community from a diverse pool of leadership. My military training has taught me to train my replacement. I intend to do the same as a local official.

3. I wish there were 3 issues to address as an elected official. A city is a complex ecosystem that involves a myriad of issues which are significant to the city's equilibrium. My basic philosophy has been consistent in the various public roles I have been privileged to hold. That is keeping our taxes low, growing our local economy and improving the quality of living for all residents.

David Nokes, Zone 3

1. B.S. Criminal Justice. Graduate F.B.I. National Academy #213 Quantico, VA. 30 years fulltime police officer, retiring at of Major for Springfield Police Department. 7 years serving as Probation & Parole Officer in Springfield retiring at rank of Unit Supervisor. I have proven leadership experience and a heart for public service. Springfield community identifies crime as top priority and I have the skills necessary to address that issue.



2. To address issues important to younger voters, the problem has to be understood prior to attempting to solve it. Understanding problems involves intentional relationships with younger voters. Intentional relationships take time. Time to reach out and listen. Reaching out looks like what this candidate forum is all about and what PAWS to the Polls is all about. Reaching out may also look like creating a Young Adult Advisory Board for Springfield community.

3. #1 issue is the trending increase in violent crime. Creating a community where residents and visitors feel safe AND are safe. #2 issue is homelessness. There are many factors that contribute to homelessness, and they are unique to everyone. Applying the concept of Radical Candor to this issue would help. #3 issue is neighborhoods bordering transitional commercial properties and the resulting tension between residents and developers.

Springfield Public School Board of Education

What does a School Board Do?

The Board of Education is elected by the registered voters of the Springfield School District. The school board establishes policies and regulations by which their schools are governed, in compliance with state and federal laws. The school board also develops the annual budget to run the school system and its facilities, and hires and evaluates the superintendent.

Hear from your school board candidates:

Our Springfield Public School Board candidates were asked these questions and their answers are below.

1. What do you consider to be the main role of a Springfield Public Schools Board of Education member, and what are some steps you will take to successfully fill that role?

2. In addressing the campus community, and particularly the student body, what would you tell them is the importance of voting in school board elections – how do school board actions affect the college and university students of Springfield?
3. What qualifications do you possess that would make you an effective member of the Springfield Public Schools Board of Education?

Printed are the candidates' unedited responses as submitted.

In this election, you will vote for **two of the four** School Board candidates:

Judy Brunner

1. School boards should focus on setting policy, approving budgets, and evaluating the superintendent. We should be fiscally conservative and must insist upon fiscal responsibility from staff. The board should support efforts to recruit, retain, and recognize staff with a salary and benefit package that attracts the very best.

Additionally, the board should connect with the community while being non-partisan. We must be collaborative and demonstrate how to work collegially. The board should monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan as it focuses on successful students, organization efficiency, collaborative culture, and quality learning environments. Finally, the board must listen carefully to concerns and recommendations from the business and education communities.



My steps are as follows:

- The board must be accessible to the public. I will make it a regular practice to attend community meetings such as Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Sertoma, the Northside Betterment Association, and individual school events.
 - I will encourage the public to use the Let's Talk tool on the district website. This is a relatively simple way for the public to engage with questions, concerns, and answers.
 - I will monitor district expenditures and related budget items. As a public entity, the board must be cognizant of the need to be observant and vigilant.
 - I will closely review implementation of the district's strategic plan.
2. Students and adults form habits that remain for a lifetime, and this is particularly true when a someone is at a college or university. One important habit is voting in each election. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to vote, and no one should take it for granted. It would be rare to go into local businesses without encountering a SPS graduate as an employee. Our local quality of life is largely dependent on the educational opportunities provided.

School board actions directly impact college and university students. As boards focus on academic achievement, they are helping to ensure students are prepared for college or a career. In Springfield, our Strategic Plan emphasizes 'success ready students'. This phrase may mean different things at different grade levels. However, SPS graduates should leave the district prepared to succeed in a career or in a classroom of higher education.

3. I am uniquely qualified. I have been an educator for many years, and I am a small business owner. I have served in several school communities, and my experience as an education consultant has provided the opportunity to work in schools across the country. I am a published author on topics of school safety, literacy, and study skills. I understand the challenges facing the district related to teacher recruitment, facility improvements, and academic achievement.

Landon McCarter

1. The role of board members is laid out for us with 6 major areas:

1. Hire and evaluate the superintendent
2. Adopt the mission vision values, goals and strategic plan
3. Monitor performance of the strategic plan
4. Recommend implement and monitor policy
5. Represent public interest and serve as community liaison
6. Offer Fiduciary Oversight



I believe each of these items will come into and out of the purview of me as a board member. I believe one of the most important roles of the board is the fiduciary oversight. I have a strong ability to understand budgets, and more importantly, the people behind the budgets. I have this expertise because of my business background and success. I currently own a 40 employee company and have extensive knowledge of this area of the duties. I plan to work together with my peers to give SPS stakeholders the most bang for their buck with a \$340,000,000 per year budget.

2. I first want to say that I am a proud alumni of Missouri State University. My mother and father both graduated from MSU as well. Go bears! The SPS public school system is the feeder of students to the college student body. We need these k-12 students to be as prepared as possible to be ready to enter the workforce in Springfield, or choose to continue higher education. It is important who sits on the school board because they are the elected representation of the community that MSU is in, and the future leaders on campus.

3. Legacy. I was raised by teachers. I know how important they are to our school system because I saw it first hand growing up. My father was a teacher in SPS for 30 years. My mother was a teacher's aide and teacher for 14 years.

I currently have 3 kids of my own in SPS. They are ages 13,10,and 8. I have a dog in the fight.

Life Experience. I have a proven track record of winning with a team in business. I understand how to unify voices and march towards a common goal... to serve the stakeholders of the Springfield Public Schools.

Chad Rollins

1. The role of the Board of Education is to set policies to be executed by administration, to establish the vision and goals for the district, and to set standards for performance of the schools and the superintendent. I will fulfill this duty by representing the values, views, and desires of the parents, teachers and community of Springfield R12. I have a high expectation of myself and set high standards for personal excellence and my hope is for this to be shared and embraced by the district and all involved in the education of our youth.



2. The school board represents the community's voice in public education, providing citizen governance and knowledge of the community's resources and needs, and the board members are the policy-makers closest to the students. It's important to vote for this reason and because effective boards are associated with higher academic and financial performance. I feel I can be a positive contributing member of the Board of Education for the simple fact that I am passionate about helping other especially our youth in reaching their potential in life.

3. For the past 5 years I have made it a priority to reach for personal excellence in all aspects of my life including mindset, fitness, health, and leadership. I have participated in several events through fitness to really make a huge impact on the youth of America across the nation and abroad. In the last year I have decided to expand this yearning to serve and give back to the community by running for the Board of Education in Springfield. I have 7 kids and 14 years as a parent in the district with 14 more to come as well as graduating in 1994 from Glendale High School. I received a BS in Chemistry from Missouri State where I also served on executive council for Sigma Pi and later served as the Chapter Director as they re-charted on campus. I then went on to receive a Pharm D degree from UMKC School of Pharmacy where I also served on the board of admissions for pharmacy school. To show my level of setting high standards in the last year I became an ambassador for Spartan, Tough Mudder, Athletic Brewing Company, Iceshaker, Mudgear, completed the Live Hard program and was chosen to compete on American Ninja Warrior season 14. My intention is to take my pursuit of personal excellence and instill that same standard in the district.

Shurita Thomas-Tate, Incumbent

1. The role of the Springfield Public Schools Board of Education is to provide fiduciary and policy oversight that allows for a physically and psychologically safe educational environment for all students, teachers, and staff to help optimize academic success. I believe public education is for the public good and that public schools have the power to transform lives. Of SPS students, 1,631 qualify for gifted education, 3,024 qualify for special education, 1,000 are in foster care, 6,960 are a race or ethnicity other than white, 11,184 qualify for free or reduced lunch, 1,128 are English Language Learners. These students along with many others have daily challenges that may hinder their ability to learn. I will always be a vocal supporter of each and every child because they deserve it, and our community is counting on them being productive and engaged citizens in the years to come. As a board member I must think of these goals, while weighing the needs of parents and the community at large. My number one priority is to continue representing the needs and interests of all students in the district, with additional goals to:



- Provide stability and consistency to the board;
- Continue to increase opportunities for meaningful engagement with stakeholders;
- Highlight and celebrate the good in SPS;
- Critically examine the challenges in SPS and explore ways to address challenges; and
- Collaborate with the community to develop a vision for what a successful SPS student looks like.

2. Healthy communities need healthy schools. The success of Springfield Public Schools directly affects the economic success of our community in the near term and future, which is intrinsically tied to the ability of Springfield's higher education institutions to thrive. Every voice matters. Every vote matters. Whether the community we live in is lifelong or temporary we have the ability and responsibility to help shape it for the better. I can think of no more direct way of affecting the future of a community than voting for those individuals who determine the policies of our public schools especially at this time when academic freedom, book access in school libraries, personal expression, and thoughtful exchange are being threatened.

3. I am an educator who understands and values educators, having committed my life to education as a student, foster parent, speech therapist, supervisor, professor/teacher, researcher, advocate, and expert consultant. I have academically served students from birth to adults, with and without disabilities, students from various socioeconomic backgrounds, non-English speaking, limited English speaking and bilingual/multilingual students. I have trained and mentored university students preparing for careers in K-12 settings.

Ballot Measures

Ballot measures vary depending upon one's voting jurisdiction, but those who live in Springfield as well as in the Springfield Public School district will have these four measures on the April 4 ballot:

Proposition S asks voters to issue general obligation bonds to fund high-priority school improvements prioritized by a citizen task force that will impact all SPS schools. These projects include safety and security upgrades at all schools, new construction for two middle schools, renovation for one, and construction of storm shelters at six elementary schools. There is no estimated increase to the debt service property tax levy.

Questions 1 and 2 call for amendments to Springfield's City Charter:

Question 1: Human resources and hiring: This measure would make wording updates and substitutions to the City Charter, including hiring preferences, addresses protocols for reinstating former employees and allows for change to the testing requirement.

Question 2: Contracts and bidding: This measure proposes an amendment that would allow City Council to approve acceptance of bid and entry into a contract with the successful bidder in the same City Council meeting at which it was introduced.

Question 3: Hotel/motel tax: This measure asks Springfield voters whether to repeal the existing 5% hotel/motel/tourist court tax and replace it with a licensing tax at the same 5% rate for hotels, motels and tourist courts and add short-term rentals (Airbnbs, Vrbos). The city anticipates no additional associated taxes.

The exact ballot language for these measures is found in the two sample ballots shown for parts of [Zone 2](#) and [Zone 3](#), which cover the area where Missouri State University is located. (There are actually 39 different ballots for the various districts – all sample ballots can be found on the [Greene County Clerk website](#).)

Part of Zone 2



Part of Zone 3



All 39 Greene County ballots



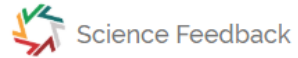
***You do not have to vote for everything on the ballot –
if unsure, you can leave some items blank – your ballot will still count!***

My Voting Plan – April 4, 2023

Polling location	What time will I go?	Who's my voting buddy?

Be Informed by Nonpartisan Sources

Fact-Checking websites:



Unbiased sources of political information:



Vote Smart www.votesmart.org: Provides unbiased information on candidates via various categories of information



ActiVote www.activate.net: App that's the one-stop shop for all things political: elected officials, candidates, current legislation, plus daily surveys and results

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## To the Polls

Questions? Contact us: [pawstothepolls@missouristate.edu](mailto:pawstothepolls@missouristate.edu)



<https://www.missouristate.edu/ADP/paws-to-the-polls.htm>



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