

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

your name: Shawn Turner
position you are seeking: Franklin County Commissioner, 3rd District
political party: Republican

Tell the voters about yourself (family/ jobs/ hobbies or interests).

I am a third generation farmer-florist, and a seventh generation resident of Franklin County. I co-own and operate Turner Flowers in downtown Ottawa. While I've been involved with the shop since 2006, I've been full time since 2012, when I "retired" as a high school agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor. In my free time, I enjoy being involved in several community organizations, spending time with family and friends, farming, antique tractors, & kayaking.

Tell the voters about your past and present community involvement, listing voluntary, social, business and professional activities, and your participation in each activity.

Franklin County Farm Bureau Board of Directors 2006-2013 - Young Farmers & Ranchers Chair & Coordinator of Franklin County Day on the Farm (2012-2023) — Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce (Events & Promotions Committee 2006-2019, Agribusiness Committee Chair 2012-2019, Board of Directors 2013-2017, Exec Committee 2014-2017, serving as Chairman 2015-2016) Ottawa Community Partnership Inc ("Onward Ottawa") Board Member 2017-2024. Agricultural Education Advisory Boards (OHS & CHHS, 2021-present), Friends of Ottawa Memorial Auditorium (Treasurer, 2021-Present), Ottawa FFA Alumni (2022-Present)

Why do you want this position?

Serving as a county commissioner has been on my mind for many years. Franklin County is at a critical point in time where we must determine not only the immediate needs of our community, but what we'd like for our community to look like and be known for in the next 10 - 20 - 50 years. Our family has lived here for a long, long time... in fact, we've been residents of Franklin County for a minimum of 5 generations on both sides of the family (and small business owners for most of those!). I'm not going anywhere, and thus I'm very passionate about our future here.

What is your biggest strength?

My ability to not only lean on my diverse leadership experience but also listening to and considering the perspectives of others is my greatest strength, and one that I believe would serve my constituents well. It is important to come to the table with an open mind and an objective view.

What is your biggest weakness?

One of my greatest StrengthsFinder themes has historically been "Achiever" - while this is seen as a strength academically, it can prove to be a weakness when encountering situations that face unavoidable challenges preventing the end goal from happening as quickly or grandly as desired...or perhaps from happening at all.

What skills do you have that differentiate you from other candidates, or what training or credentials do you have that are relevant to this role?

My leadership journey started at a young age, when I served as a local and district FFA officer in high school. At 19, I was elected Kansas FFA State President. The training, travel, and opportunities that came with this office grew me as a leader. My involvement with organizations like the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce, Franklin County Farm Bureau, Ottawa Main Street, Onward Ottawa, etc. help me keep my finger on the pulse and desires of the community.

If you had a friend who was looking to move and asked for your description of living in Franklin County, do your best to convince us why they should live here.

Many of my classmates left Ottawa following graduation, seeking greener pastures. MANY of them have opted to move back home to raise their families. Franklin County offers amenities typically only found in more metropolitan areas while maintaining the feel of a small community in rural America. Our local food and shopping scene is awesome. Our infrastructure is strong. Our proximity to most any experience one could desire in a 30-60 minute radius positions us as an INCREDIBLE place to live!

Tell us what you would change/improve about Franklin County if you had the power to do so.

Improvements to rural infrastructure are a high priority for me. The condition of rural roads and bridges, ensuring that rural emergency services have what they need to respond quickly and effectively, accessibility to consistent high speed Internet service, and weather preparedness are all places that I'd like to see reviewed and beefed up.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Franklin County.

For our county as an entity...offering a living wage to county employees (especially equipment operators and emergency services) that lets us be competitive against neighboring counties in recruiting and retaining qualified staff. For our county as a community, maintaining our identity in light of urban sprawl and changing times.

Share your thoughts on the future of Franklin County. Where do you see it in 10 years?

I can think of many things I would LIKE to see in Franklin County in the next decade...a thriving economy, a strong business community, competitive schools, ample affordable housing, additional amenities to support mental health ...but so much can happen in ten years - to our community's needs, to the economy, social climate, and more. The most important thing is to be proactive rather than reactive and prepare for multiple scenarios/opportunities to

Why should the voters elect you?

ensure that the Franklin County of 2034 is the best it can possibly be.

Franklin County needs leaders who aren't afraid to ask the tough questions, listen to the tough answers, consider the needs and wants of our residents, and - most importantly - make objective decisions with all of the data available. My past experiences and opportunities to lead leave me uniquely positioned to serve as a candidate who can communicate and connect with people from many walks of life and serve as a strong voice for their interests.