

# Johnson County Commission Chair 2022

Response ID:6 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Shirley Allenbrand

### 2. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 26879 W Shadow Circle

City/State/Zip : Olathe

### 3. Phone Number

913-579-8206

### 4. Email Address

shirley@shirleyallenbrand.com

### 5. Campaign Website

<https://allenbrand4chair.com/>

### 6. Campaign Social Media

Shirley Allenbrand for Johnson County Chair - FB. Allenbrand4Chair - Instagram

## 2. Candidate Background

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### 7. Occupation/Work History (last 5 years - 25 words or less)

2006 – 2021 Allenbrand Interiors & Design

Health care communities, senior living communities, and consulting.

### 8. If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list which organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held.

De Soto Chamber

Gardner Chamber

NEJC Chamber - Board President, Ambassador, Leadership Northeast

Olathe Chamber - Ambassador Chair, EDC, Community Affairs Chair

Overland Park Chamber

### 9. Other recent political/community experience? (25 words or less)

6th District County Commissioner

100 Women in Giving, Olathe Schools

Shirley Fund for Cardiovascular Health,

University of Kansas Hospital

## 3. Issues and Policy

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### 10. As a candidate, what are your top three priorities for Johnson County? (30 words or less)

Provide high quality and vital county services.

Workforce development by partnering with business and education communities.

Reduce taxes by maintaining AAA bond ratings, reduce mill levy, consider savings and consolidation.

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**11. What is your philosophy and approach to managing the County budget? (100 words or less)**

Similar to my 3rd priority. Protect your tax dollars by maintaining the AAA bond ratings, rolling back the mill levy rate when possible (currently proposed to roll back 1 mill in 2023 budget), monitor opportunities for savings on large projects like the \$28 million we recently saved on the Turkey Creek Wastewater improvements, and consolidation where it brings better service and efficiencies which we did by consolidating two of the rural fire departments. For departments, such as mental health where increased funding would be beneficial, we need to look for additional community partners.

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**12. There has been much discussion about metro-area regionalism. Please explain your views on regional cooperation. (100 words or less)**

My support for regional cooperation is conditioned on Johnson County having a seat at the table and fair allocation of any benefits. We must continue to work together and as Johnson county chair I would be available for regular meetings and would interface with boards throughout the region as needed. I do not expect that we will always agree but we must work together especially through the priorities of KC Rising to promote a growing economy. The leadership of the business community is vital to our communities continued success. If we don't work together we will fall behind as region.

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**13. What do you believe the role of the County should be in economic development? (100 words or less)**

Although most economic development activity is led by cities JoCo has to be a partner in the effort to welcome businesses and jobs.

Johnson County is very engaged in economic development to bring businesses to New Century Airport and encourage current businesses to expand. The County should carefully review what cities bring to us and respect the decision of locally elected officials that know best what is good for their communities.

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**14. Describe your views on the balance between the distribution of costs and services between incorporated and unincorporated areas of Johnson County. (100 words or less)**

Like all decisions it needs to be evaluated on the needs of the people served, where the tax money comes from and what services are needed. It would be unfair to ignore the unincorporated areas of county, much of which has been annexed into cities at the same time I recognize the tax dollars raised by cities are needed for cities. The balance we have currently is working.

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**15. What do you believe the takeaways for the County Commission should be from the COVID-19 pandemic experience? (100 words or less)**

I am proud to the county's response to COVID, something that was unknown.

I supported masks when necessary and supported removing them when vaccines and number of cases came down.

We partnered to several entities to be educated about COVID and worked to get the people vaccinated. I worked to get vaccines to elderly who were home bound and mobile vaccine clinics into independent living, assisted living and 55+ communities. I also formed a round table of the health care CEO's and administrators to discuss how to distribute the vaccines and what help they needed with infection control.

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**16. What are your views on development of the renewable energy industry in the County? (100 words or less)**

I have a track record of supporting renewable energy with the solar regulations. It is necessary and it does depend on the location to be more sustainable.

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**17. What role do you believe the County can play, if any, in addressing the local worker shortage? (100 words or less)**

The county already is doing several things to be a part of the solution. Today over 2,500 certificate programs are offered by JCCC. We have convened a subcommittee that is addressing homelessness and workforce housing. All solutions will require strong partnerships with education and business for training, transportation and housing. The county should be a convenor and facilitator for this very important effort.

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**18. What would you describe as the top five functions of county government? Please list them in your order of priority.**

**(100 words or less)**

The county has several functions.  
Public safety, CSI and the judicial system  
Transportation of all levels - roads, bridges, airports and transit (especially for our seniors)  
Mental health  
Senior services and programs  
Parks and Libraries  
Wastewater

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**19. How would you describe your leadership style? (50 words or less)**

My philosophy is to get things done for you, families and community. I listen, do my homework and gather folks together to find the best possible solution. In order to leverage the taxpayer dollars we must partner with stakeholders. I trust our professional staff to provide information and make recommendations.

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**20. What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race? (50 words or less)**

My current experience as a commissioner and working with staff that I will be able to start day one leading the board. I believe in listening to all sides, doing my homework and gathering folks together to find the best possible solutions.

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