

## Armon Bosse Responses

I am a lifelong resident of this county. I have ranched here since I started my own cattle business as a twelve-year-old boy with bucket calves. I built and grew my ranch from nothing to a successful feeder calf backgrounding operation. My wife, Rosie, and I have been married nearly forty-five years. We have four grown children, all graduates of Kansas State University. Our youngest son is a priest and the other three children have given us fourteen grandchildren. Our ranching operation is still primarily livestock and feed production. However, we are now mostly cow/calf.

My leadership training began in high school as class treasurer all four years—probably because of my reputation of being “tight!” I was also very involved in FFA where I was an officer every year and competed in numerous contests. That participation continued after high school through our local, state, and national Young Farmers Organization.

Presently, I am an active member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church here in Onaga where I assist at Mass. I have held various church council offices as well. I am in my third year as Finance Chairman for our church council. In addition, I have belonged to many agricultural organizations and served on multiple boards over my many years as a Kansas rancher.

I understand the importance of agriculture and stay informed on issues that affect its viability. As a rancher who has borrowed millions of dollars over his lifetime, I understand budgets, cash flow projections, and the necessity to operate within parameters.

My interest in county operations increased with my seven years on the Pottawatomie County Planning Commission. While in that volunteer capacity, we researched many issues. Those results were then presented to the county commissioners with our recommendations. I resigned from the planning board last year so I could run for county commissioner for District #5.

I believe our county’s growth is both an asset and a detriment. Industry brings people, but a growing population also means more roads, schools, and utilities. Those all require more tax revenue, i.e., additional or higher taxes. Pottawatomie County is the fastest growing county in Kansas, so these issues are not going away.

Manhattan cannot expand to the west due to Fort Riley. In addition, the college owns much land in Manhattan and Tuttle Creek prevents expansion to the north.

Because of both tax-free Fort Riley and Kansas State University, Manhattan is short on tax revenue. It is annexing as many businesses as possible on its east side—some in Pottawatomie County—since those businesses will generate needed tax dollars. However, Manhattan wants no new residential locales because those areas *require* tax revenue. This ratio needs to be addressed in a way that is beneficial to both our sister city and our county.

District #5 represents 74% of the land mass in Pottawatomie county. However, most of the population and the rest of our county commissioners are clustered on Highway 24. The residents in our 74% need representation from someone who understands agriculture and small towns.

Pottawatomie County is my home. I want to keep the Flint Hills pristine and productive. To do that, District #5 needs informed and vested representation. I know this won't be an easy job, but I am willing to put forth the time and effort it will take to represent the people who live here.

Thank you,  
Armon Bosse, Jr.