

Paul Strunk Responses

Forum Questions

- Why are you running for office?
 - I am running to make sure that voters in District #4 are well represented and to bring continued improvements to our roads, schools, and the Pottawatomie County community.
- What do you consider the biggest challenge of the position you are running for? What areas of county government need improvement and why?
 - Being able to bring improvements to the county while also maintaining a fiscally responsible budget is one of the greatest challenges that the commission faces as a whole.
- How long have you been a part of the Pottawatomie County community? To what extent have you been a part of local government in the county?
 - I have been a part of the Pottawatomie County community for over 45 years. I have not held public office before.
- Regarding your prospective position, what do you consider your greatest strengths? Weaknesses?
 - I believe my greatest strength that I would have as county commissioner would be my many years of experience in agriculture and construction which could bring valuable expertise to the commission.
- It's no secret that Pottawatomie County has broad and diverse demographics and culture. Please describe how you intend to strike a balance and serve everyone in the county.

- I intend to represent everyone in District #4. I will always be willing to answer questions and hear suggestions to better our county.
- What are your top priorities if you are elected?
 - Responsible spending and road improvements are my top priorities, while also focusing on economic development and our schools.
- What is Pottawatomie County's role in spurring job creation?
 - It is the county's responsibility to explore new industries that may seek to expand into our county due the continued growth of the Manhattan area and make sure that the county supports infrastructure to support new and existing enterprises.
- What should Pottawatomie County's relationship with other local governments (cities of Wamego, Onaga, St. George, Westmoreland, school boards) look like?
 - It is important that the county and local governments stay on the same page to work towards shared goals and maintain good communication.
- What are your plans for preserving farm ground while also creating development opportunities and jobs throughout the county?
 - Preserving farm ground in the county is important and land that is being developed should be done with meaningful consideration.
- Given Manhattan's continued expansion eastward, what should Pottawatomie County's relationship with the City of Manhattan look like?
 - The county should have a good relationship with the Manhattan City Commission as we work with them to navigate growth while taking positions that benefit Pottawatomie County.

- How would you approach the potential decommissioning of Jeffrey Energy Center?
 - Decommissioning Jeffrey Energy Center would require the energy needs of Pottawatomie County to be sufficiently met by other reliable sources of power. It can't be shut down without that being solved first.
- Please share your approach to crafting a budget for Pottawatomie County.
 - Ensure that road improvements and schools are well funded while also making sure that the county is not wastefully spending.
- What are your takeaways from the Pottawatomie County 2040 Plan? What stands out to you?
 - The county has to respond to growth based on the actual growth observed in the county.
- A two-day training session by the Kansas County Commissioners Association (KCCA) will take place in Topeka for newly elected county commissioners. What will you hope to accomplish at that training?
 - I would hope to build good professional relationships with the other newly elected county commissioners in Pottawatomie County so we can work well together over our respective terms.