

Natalie McGuire, Candidate for Springfield, Missouri City Council - Vision and Goals Answers

1. *What is your short and long-term vision for the city of Springfield, Missouri?*

ANSWER: My short-term goals for the City include immersing myself with the constituents, area businesses, neighborhoods and local non-profits to develop and foster relations and learn their needs and desires and to establish bonds of transparency and availability with the people whom I am serving. I want to always remember that I am a servant to the people. Secondly, I want to improve our great City by implementing more youth-focused programming to eliminate homelessness, reduce juvenile and young adult crime rates and inspire new perspective and hope for a better economic and mentally fit future in our young population. Additionally, I am interested in eliminating our growing methamphetamine problem in our great City, as it destroys lives, increases crime rates, decreases the curb appeal and lowers property values and reduces the fitness and capacity of those in the throgs of addiction. I plan on working with schools and non-profits to repair, restore and encourage the mental health, problem-solving skills and self-efficacy of those that are suffering the throgs of addiction, low self-esteem and brokenness. Springfield, Missouri is a city that has a large tourist appeal and thus, improving infrastructure and curb appeal is a priority. We have to maintain and improve our curb-appeal to, at the very least, maintain our local economy, if not strengthen and encourage opportunities for viable employment opportunities and continuous streams

of revenue for our City. It is my responsibility as a citizen and an individual that is being given the possibility of serving our great City to make it the best City possible for all its inhabitants and businesses. I am passionate about being a hands-on representative of our great City to make all these things and more, a reality!

2. *What are the City's strengths and how will you build upon them?*

ANSWER: The City of Springfield Missouri has many strengths, such as small-town feel and congeniality and current local effective leadership. However, access to public officials is always plus, as we are truly servants of the people. As a City Council Member, I intend to exploit transparency and accessibility with our constituents. I plan to be in the neighborhoods to meet with and to forge relationships with industrial districts, business forums and neighborhoods to cultivate and maintain relationships, provide access to City Representatives and parallel departments, allow accessibility to myself, provide information on City services and to grow my knowledge of what is of concern and in need repair and restoration. I aim to implement initiatives that improve policy to bolster City services and foster opportunities to grow our local economy and to strengthen neighborhoods and communities. I am passionate about making Springfield a mecca on as many different verticals as possible and to serve as a balanced model for efficient and effective city government for our community and other municipalities throughout our great country. We are already a good community, but it is my belief that we can become one of the best cities in

the nation with the progressive leadership I intend to provide as a City Council Member!

3. *Among challenges faced by the City is the need for adequate revenue to deal with issues such as public infrastructure, sidewalks, nuisance properties, etc. What are your specific suggestions and approaches regarding those and other challenges?*

ANSWER: My methods for implementing these very viable visions for progressive economic growth and to recede our area's increasing homeless and methamphetamine problems do not call for increased burdens to taxpayers or the City. My proposal begins with reviewing our City's existing budget and revenues for reallocation of existing funds to address these pressing issues. Additionally, I plan to explore tax incentives to reduce the cost for corporations, businesses and small enterprises to locate within our community to bolster employment, increase City revenues and to encourage more consumer and constituent consumption and spending within our local economy. This is a win-win for the City, business entities, citizens of Springfield and for growing the local economy. When industry thrives, people have job opportunities and make money that is spent within the local economy, it makes for happier well-satisfied individuals that are better able to meet their needs and the needs of their families. I am positive that thinking outside of the box on these matters of public concern, would begin a right step toward positive change in our already wonderful City.

Addressing property nuisances and public infrastructure is an easy fix. For those individuals and commercial entities in violation of City code violations, citations and liens would be a fair incentive to maintain their properties to the established standards. Working closely with City departments, such as the Codes Department and similar departments to strengthen laws and enforcement of policies would surely render good results to enforce compliance without undue burden to taxpayers. Property ownership is an integral part of the American dream and along with the fruits of ownership, there lies the inherent responsibility of maintenance.

Finally, Missouri is one of the few states that offers many solutions for improving city infrastructure. I am not a fan of sales, fuel, etc., as a funding source, I am however willing to explore the possibility of, if necessary, the components of State infrastructure banks and revolving investment funds, which provide grants and low-interest loans for infrastructure projects. I-Banks are viable opportunities for cities to receive free monies and/or low-interest loans that would be little or no burden to the City or to its taxpayers. I always aim at looking at alternatives for getting necessary jobs done without raising taxes.

4. *What would you like to see accomplished by the time you leave Council?*

ANSWER: If I were to be entrusted with the noble responsibility of service to the great city of Springfield, Missouri, my goal is to leave our City better than which I found it. Under my participation of duty and service, I wish to foster better community relations, increase revenues for the City, provide job opportunities, reduce crime rates, encourage awareness and personal growth of our constituents and provide real workable solutions for those in need without increasing taxpayer burdens. However, it is my ultimate dream to restore hope, faith, trust in those that serve the public. People are thirsty to believe in their public servants again.