

Lyon County Commission – 3rd District

Jarom Joseph Smith, Republican

Occupation: I'm the Owner of Justice Painting, my wife Melanie owns Raise Your Paws in Emporia.

Number of Years in Lyon County: I was born in Olpe in 1984. Attended Emporia Schools from first grade through 12th. Moved to Dodge City in 2008 for work and returned to Lyon County in 2014, we have remained here ever since. So, a total of about 32 of my 39 years I've lived in Lyon County.

What prompted you to run as a candidate for Lyon County Commission?

I ran in 2020 for the same position I am running for now. I ran then for the same reason I am running now: because I believe I am the best person for the job, and that I can use my business experience to help Lyon County run more efficiently.

What do you see as the County commission's role regarding / ensuring the quality of life in Lyon County?

The county government takes care of a lot of things in the background that most people don't give another thought to during their daily life. Roads, emergency communications, law enforcement, transportation, trash and hazardous waste, among other things. These basic services are essential to the function of the county. To fund these services, the county taxes property and sales. If taxes are low, we will have less short-term revenue but experience greater growth. If taxes are high, we will receive greater revenue but slower (or no) growth. The commission needs to strike that budget balance to ensure sustainable growth.

What are your 3 top priorities?

1. Growth! Lyon county as stagnated for decades even though we are situated in a prime location. We have rail, an interstate, the turnpike, as well as state and US highways passing through. I will seek grow Lyon County to grow by bringing the mill levy down.
2. Transparency! Everybody wants what George Washington called, "the benign influence of the good laws of a free government", or in other words, a government that is unobtrusive yet protects our freedoms and our rights. One of the ways to do that is to ensure greater transparency in the county. I would like to see commission meetings livestreamed and archived again. I would like to see a more open bidding process for contracted work, including publishing all bidders and their amounts, and no single bidder contracts when possible.
3. Cutting the Mill Levy! Lyon county is in a fantastic location. We have the interstate, Turnpike, US 50, 99, and a very busy rail line that pass through us. We also have l nearly 3 million people living within a 100 mile radius, making our location prime real estate for growth. Yet our population has stagnated for over 20 years. I believe the main reason for that is because our property taxes are significantly higher than similarly

sized counties. I will work to see the county mill Levy lowered from almost 58 to under 50 to help encourage growth and relieve existing property owners.

What do you think sets you apart from the other candidates?

I am 39 years old, so by far the youngest candidate for commissioner. I am an energetic person. I work out, and I work a blue-collar job, and I love to work! I've got 3 small boys at home, and 5 boys in total! They are wonderful. My wife and I own two businesses, Raise Your Paws and Justice Painting. We have never won the lottery, inherited wealth of any kind, or made it big on stocks or other means. Our success has simply been because of our hard work and great customers! We run our businesses completely debt free. We make Emporia and Lyon County a better place both through our work at improving the buildings in the county, and with Melanie's work to improve the lives of dogs.

I take my candidacy seriously, and want to be up to date on the issues so when I am elected, I will be able to hit the ground running. To do this I've been attending most commission meetings, having town hall meetings to meet voters and hear their feedback, and using every means possible to reach potential voters.

If people would like more information, can they find you on social media, and if so, how?

Yes, I am active on Facebook. I have a personal account which is publicly viewable, as well as a campaign page, "Jarom Smith for Lyon County Commission 3rd District".

If you have any trouble finding me or if you have any other questions, feel free to reach me on my cell phone at 620-757-2343 or by email at jaromsmithforlyoncounty@gmail.com. I am accessible, and happy to talk.

Anything else you would like the citizens of Lyon County to know about you?

I care about this place that I was born. I have at least another 25 years in my working life and want to see our local economy grow so businesses can flourish. I want my children to have more opportunities when they are grown. I believe that I am the best, most capable pick for the job or I wouldn't have filed. I hope to have your vote on August 6th and November 5th!