

# Columbia City Council

## Second Ward

## Sixth Ward

The three candidates for two three-year terms on the Columbia City Council recently responded to a questionnaire from the Missourian. Here are their answers.



**MIKE TRAPP**



**PAUL LOVE**



**BETSY PETERS**

<b>Council candidates</b>	Trapp, 49, is co-owner of AAAAChange, which contracts with the Downtown Community Improvement District to do outreach work with the homeless. He is former director of Phoenix Health Programs and is seeking his third term as Second Ward councilman.	Love, 47, is a network analyst for Carfax and president of the Columbia Elks Lodge. He is challenging Trapp for the second time and made a bid for mayor of Columbia in 2010.	Peters, 61, is a retired MU physician and the owner of 23 rental properties, mostly in East Campus. She is president of the East Campus Neighborhood Association and is seeking her second term as Sixth Ward councilwoman. She is unopposed in the election.
<b>Online/social media presence</b>	Trapp's campaign website can be found at <a href="http://trappforcolumbia.com">trappforcolumbia.com</a> . His Facebook URL is <a href="https://facebook.com/trappmike">facebook.com/trappmike</a> .	Love's campaign website can be found at <a href="http://Loveforcolumbia.org">Loveforcolumbia.org</a> . His Facebook URL is <a href="https://facebook.com/paul.love">facebook.com/paul.love</a> .	Peters campaign website can be found at <a href="http://betsypetersforcouncil.com">betsypetersforcouncil.com</a> .
<b>Potential partnership with Boone County and Mid-Missouri Sports Park on redevelopment of the former fairground property</b>	Believes the idea is worth pursuing but that the city cannot assume all the risk. Supported the council decision to first move forward on a sports fieldhouse at A. Perry Philips Park.	Says public-private partnerships work well, but money promised to other projects should be the priority. Wonders if it's possible to sell part of the property to fund the project.	Says she would welcome such a partnership, but a revenue stream and a plan for how to develop the entire parcel is necessary before fundraising and community building can begin.
<b>Best uses for 47-acre property on Strawn Road donated to the city by Larry and Brenda Potterfield</b>	Wants to put a fire station on the land and lease part of it to the Central Missouri Humane Society, which he says would allow the fire training facility to expand and improve runoff into Bear Creek. Says the city could sell some acreage as a way to create jobs.	Says that without a sewer line, the uses are limited, but a fire station might be OK if the property is annexed. Says the city could lease part of the land to the Humane Society at a low cost.	Says the city should annex the land then ask for input from citizens before determining the best use of the property.
<b>How to boost morale among police, and thoughts on Fifth Ward Councilman Matt Pitzer's proposal to provide officers with housing assistance</b>	Wants to move from 12-hour to 10-hour shifts, enact a take-home car program and build support for new revenue to address pay compression and to fund additional officers. Likes Pitzer's idea as an extra benefit and an incentive for officers to live in town.	Cites an employee survey calling for a new police chief and/or city manager. Calls for consistent enforcement of rules and for officer raises. Says Pitzer's plan would be a low-cost way to retain officers and tie them to the communities they serve.	Believes the city must keep listening to officers' concerns and address funding issues for public safety. Finds Pitzer's idea interesting, but says the city needs to focus on retaining seasoned officers as well as attracting new ones.
<b>Assessment of city efforts to ensure fair and affordable housing opportunities</b>	Praises the city for the Affordable Housing Summit and the creation of the Community Land Trust. Wants more incentives for development of affordable, energy-efficient housing, and says the costs of new development should be borne by that development.	Says the city should not be in the business of picking winners and losers and that the council instead should focus on reducing Columbia's cost of living, which he says is the highest of any city in the state.	Says she's impressed with the city's robust housing program and that the council should continue to support these efforts as well as the social equity efforts to improve the lives of citizens.
<b>Whether an increase in electric utility rates will be appropriate as part of the fiscal 2019 budget, given council vote against it for fiscal 2018</b>	Says the council should have approved a rate increase for fiscal 2018 and that the city should follow through on projects it promised and has already spent millions on. Says all proposed increases should be thoroughly reviewed.	Says he would not support a rate increase unless there was significant information indicating the need.	Says the Water and Light Department will have to justify a rate increase with appropriate information but can't say whether it would be appropriate until the information is presented.
<b>How to increase public confidence and accountability for City Council decisions about budgets and spending</b>	Says the council must demonstrate that financial challenges are structural and not a result of mismanagement. Notes the city's low property tax rate and says the city must educate citizens.	Says council members should avoid conflicts of interest and use taxes for the projects that are promised to voters. Believes the city should be able to explain why it has a \$300-million-plus "reserve" fund.	Says the council must continue to be careful, prudent and transparent in spending tax dollars and take citizen priorities into account.
<b>What the city can do to address the erosion of sales tax revenue due to the rise of online purchasing</b>	Believes the city should continue lobbying for a use tax on online purchases and recruiting new businesses to town. Says existing businesses should realize Columbia is still a good place to invest. Praises efforts to attract statewide events.	Believes there's little the city can do without changes in state and federal law. Thinks the cost of collecting local taxes on online purchases would exceed the value of the collection. Says that even the city spends thousands shopping online.	Says the council can work with county, state and federal government to recommend that sales taxes be assessed when people buy goods online. Also wants to educate the public on the inadequacy of sales tax for funding public safety.
<b>The greatest needs in the ward you seek to represent</b>	Says the city must close the gap between average wages and actual cost of living, continue pushing for more jobs and for affordable housing and make critical investments in infrastructure.	Calls public safety the top priority and cites survey results saying most people expect to hear gunshots and feel unsafe going out at night. Notes that the mayor asked for a special report on the number of murders and rapes in the city.	Wants the council to continue focusing on infrastructure and public safety as the Sixth Ward continues to develop.