

# Brad Finkeldei

CITY COMMISSION

Brad Finkeldei, a community leader who has invested 20 years volunteering to help make Lawrence a great place to live, work and raise a family, has filed for the City Commission.

“I have had the pleasure of serving on multiple boards and committees with residents from all over Lawrence,” Finkeldei said, “and I’ve learned a great deal about the challenges and strengths of our community. I believe the lessons I’ve learned and the experiences I have had can help me bring our whole community together to create a healthier and more just Lawrence. I’m committed to putting in the hard work necessary to find the common ground on every issue, and I will respect all stakeholders as I study issues from every side and listen to the concerns of all who call Lawrence home.”

As a Commissioner, Brad’s key commitments would be:

- Effectively implementing the affordable housing sales tax
- Ensuring our city has a well-developed and well-maintained infrastructure
- Supporting smart job-creation opportunities
- Engaging with all members of our community to thoughtfully consider their opinions and suggestions

Through his countless hours of community service, Finkeldei has observed and worked on some of the most pressing needs in our community. To tackle these challenges and to help improve the quality of life for all Lawrence residents, he has developed the following clear priorities for his campaign for City Commission, and his leadership experience will bring a strong base of knowledge to the Commission to help accomplish them:

### **Effectively Implementing the Affordable Housing Sales Tax**

“The recent passage of the affordable housing sales tax measure gives our community an urgent and critically important opportunity to develop an outcomes-based, community-wide system to address the affordable housing problem. Because the issue is complex and without an easy solution, it is essential to develop buy-in and cooperation from all those that impact affordable housing including local governmental agencies, social service agencies, advocacy groups, private developers and residents,” Finkeldei said.

### **Finkeldei Knows Social Service Providers, Their Challenges and Strengths**

Lawrence Family Promise, Board Member, 2010 – present (President, 2013-2018)  
Ballard Community Services, Board Member, 2000 – present (President, 8 years)  
St. John’s Catholic Church Finance Committee, 2010 – present (Chair, 2013-present)  
Ethel & Raymond Rice Foundation, Trustee, 2017-present  
Douglas County American Red Cross, Board Member, 2001-2003 (Chair, 2003)

### **Ensuring Our City Has a Well-developed and Well-maintained Infrastructure**

“In order to have a healthy community, we must maintain and enhance our roads and sidewalks and improve traffic, bike, and pedestrian safety. Completing the Lawrence Loop is essential,” he said. “Our police and fire departments must have the tools necessary to improve safety for our entire community. And we must continue providing excellent parks and recreational opportunities; as well as proper sanitation and wastewater and water treatment for the health and wellbeing of all.”

### **Finkeldei’s community service and professional experience have provided him an understanding of the importance of infrastructure and planning.**

Lawrence/Douglas County Planning Commissioner, 2006 – 2012 (Chair, 2008)  
Joint Economic Development Council, Board Member, 2015-2016

Lawrence Alcohol Tax Fund Committee, Member, 2005-2009 (Chair, 2007, 2008)  
US News & World Report Lawyer of the Year for Land Use & Zoning Law  
for Topeka and Lawrence, 2014

### **Supporting Smart Job-creation Opportunities**

“Creating jobs should be an urgent priority within city hall because job creation is essential for Lawrence to remain a healthy and vibrant community. A growing workforce allows us to hold the line on property taxes and is vital for funding critical governmental services. As a Commissioner, I will implement policies that encourage existing Lawrence businesses to expand and will work to attract new businesses by creating a sense of urgency within the city staff to promote job growth,” Finkeldei said. "I will work to fully utilize the resources provided by USD 497, Peaslee Tech, the University of Kansas and Haskell Indian Nations University to create an accessible, well-trained, and plentiful workforce; and by expanding availability to affordable housing so everyone who wants to work in Lawrence can afford to live here.”

### **Finkeldei Has Worked to Bring Jobs to Lawrence**

Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center, Board Member, 2014 – 2016  
Lawrence Bioscience & Technology Business Center (BTBC), Board Member, 2014-2017  
Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Board Member, 2014-2016  
Kansas City Area Development Council (KCADC), Board Member, 2013- 2014  
Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, 2012-2016, Board Member (President, 2015)

### **Community Engagement: Bring More of Lawrence to the Table.**

“I want to use what is great about Lawrence---our diverse community—to better foster an atmosphere of cooperation among government, education, business, non-profit and citizen advocacy groups,” Finkeldei said. “Together, let’s create an atmosphere where every process, project or plan advances Lawrence towards its potential of being the best city in the Midwest to work and raise a family. That dream requires that we consider all opinions and sides on issues and that we bring all stakeholders to the table to solve problems and develop a greater understanding of different perspectives. Simply put, we must work together.”

### **Finkeldei Calls Lawrence Home**

“The people I’ve met and the experiences I’ve had volunteering, as well as working, raising a family, spending time in schools, neighborhoods and downtown, have all worked to broaden and deepen my understanding of and regard for the community I’ve chosen as my home,” Finkeldei said. “It is my desire to continue my service to the community by using these experiences as a community leader on the City Commission.”

*Finkeldei is a partner with the law firm of Stevens & Brand, LLP where he focuses his practice on litigation, banking, and governmental law. He is a 1999 graduate of the University of Kansas, School of Law and a 1996 graduate of Kansas State University, where he earned a degree in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Economics. Brad is married to Amy Finkeldei who is the Director of Performance and Quality Improvement at Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center. Brad and Amy have two teenaged daughters, Raegan and Chaney.*



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