



**Civic Tech Forum – KCMO City Council Candidates -
Responses by Carol "C. J." Gatlin - 3rd District At-Large (blue)**

Digital Divide

Over the last few years, we have seen an increased focus on the digital divide--the lack of access to computers, Internet connectivity and other digital tools that are increasingly necessary for full participation in civic life and the modern economy.

What do you think the city's role is in bridging the digital divide? What goals do you believe Kansas City should set in bridging the digital divide, and what strategies should we adopt to achieve those goals?

1. Digital Divide. No resident, should miss out on the benefits of internet because lack of access, knowledge, or the inability to pay for services. The city's role in bridging the digital divide would be to ensure that internet services and technology in city facilities is up-to-date and in perfect working condition. In addition, city-wide funding programs that could offer usage assistance and provide home computers by seeking partnership opportunities through the proposal bidding process by project coordinators, for the development and management of instructional programs for citizen knowledge and how-to usage skills. Spreading knowledge of the important roles and convenience technology plays in our everyday lives and would increase awareness and will invite participation into tech programs. Closing the digital divide will create tech savvy, cyber friendly communities and mend the economic and geographical gap of the poor and low-income residents.

Open Data

In the past couple years, Kansas City has established an open data policy and launched data.kcmo.org to make city data more accessible and usable. This is important because it enables citizens to do things like monitor 311 requests online, look up property records through GIS, and even create new applications to make the city work better, such as what the Code for America brigade does in its "civic hacking" meetups.

Have you ever used Kansas City's open data portal? Do you support an ongoing commitment to open access to city data? What are the biggest opportunities that a philosophy of open data offers, and what are some of the risks? What approaches do you support to manage those opportunities and risks?

2. Open Data. Yes, I have utilized the City's Open Data Portal and I support an on-going commitment to open access to city data because, the information provides transparency. The biggest opportunity that a philosophy of open data can offer is to follow the money trail of tax dollars, by a click of the finger. The possibility of risks can only occur through deception. I would continue to be supportive of the open access policy and will encourage other council members to follow suit. The GIS would be helpful tracking absentee landlords.



Economic Development

Traditionally, economic development has been defined by real estate development and the ability to attract and retain large employers. Technology is changing the nature of work and jobs in some ways that we understand and others that we don't fully grasp yet. The ability to freelance and do "project work" is increasing, large employees don't offer the long-term stability they once did, machines are able to do more jobs once done by people, and the technology skills needed to find jobs change more quickly than the educational system can adapt.

How do you think the city's economic development toolkit needs to change in order to compete in the current economic environment?

3. Economic Development. The city's Economic Development Toolkit can compete in the current economic environment by narrowing down or limiting eligibility requirements making equal access to inspiring developers and contractors more feasible. Funded through the Community Block Grant funds, the toolkit is a great resource for economic development in many areas such as new projects on small businesses and large-scale developments, and will create training opportunities, employment and retention.

Smart City

The city announced a groundbreaking "smart city" partnership with Cisco early last year, but details are still being worked out and specific information has been scarce. The idea behind "Smart Cities" is that data collected from digital devices--whether electronic sensors and cameras managed by the cities or the mobile phones and wearable devices that citizens purchase--can benefit the entire community in areas like public safety, traffic management, health care, and energy efficiency. Specific examples may range from red light cameras to street lights that dim when they can sense that no one is around.

How proactive do you think the city should be in developing these sorts of solutions? How would you balance the priority of the city to support the common good with the preferences of individuals who may not want to participate or worry about their privacy?

4. Smart City. The city should also become more proactive towards developing Smart City monitoring solutions, however, the possibility of opposition regarding privacy laws may surface. The balance of priority must lie between the service provider and their privacy policies. Their customer's privacy are protected by laws. Support of the common good may come in the form of special gadgets provided by the city for use on city property. In this case, privacy is in control of the city.



Sharing Economy

There is a phenomenon sometimes called the “sharing economy” or the “collaborative economy” that encompasses car services like Uber and Lyft (which recently caused some controversy in their entry into the KC market), lodging companies like Airbnb, coworking spaces, community gardens and other activities that blur the line between personal and commercial. Municipal regulations and tax codes often aren’t set up to deal with these sorts of services.

How should the city treat deal with these emerging business models in a way that is friendly to innovation and also respects the need to protect the public and fund city services? Which collaborative economy activities, if any, do you participate in (e.g., do you use Airbnb when you travel?)?

5. Sharing Economy. The city can treat these emerging business transportation models with open and welcoming arms. An economical means of transportation, beside public buses or taxi's is the new way to travel across town. It provides riders with a limousine-like service, comfortable seating, private setting, and an affordable means of transportation. It's similar to Share-a-Fare, KC Shuttle, and other car services. I often use the Airport Shuttle for travel to and from airport. My son from New York, advised me this past holiday season, on the availability of Uber services in Kansas City.

The Playbook

KC Digital Drive’s charter document is [the Playbook](#) that resulted from the Mayors’ Bistate Innovations Team recommendations in 2012, which has been [updated and released in digital form](#).

Have you had a chance to review the Playbook? Where do you think we’ve seen the most progress and where do you see the greatest opportunities?

6. The Playbook. I haven't been able to locate the Playbook, however, I have viewed LaunchKC's article dated January 9, 2015. Information noted in the article, the progress on launching technology in Kansas City emerged from partnerships between, the Missouri Technology Corp., the City of KCMO, the William T. Kemper Foundation, Lead Bank, UMC Bank, KC Power & Light District, Poisinelli LLC, Sprint, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Think Big Partners, and other local partners. These partners fuel the economic development engines of Kansas City's Technical and Digital Drives.

Personal Tech Adoption

We all have to find balance in how much we choose to incorporate technology into our personal lives.

How do you decide when to absorb new technology tools into your life and work? What social media channels are you most active on? What are your favorite tech tools that you’ve recently started to use?



7. Personal Tech Adoption. New technology is a step into the future and advances one's ability to compete in the tech market and era in today's society. I decide to absorb new technology tools into my life which the opportunity arises. I started off with text messaging as a form of communication; ventured off with a Facebook page; added a campaign page to Facebook; have two Twitter accounts; and on Instagram. My favorite tech tools are lap tops, and smart cellular phones. I also use Netflix for movies. I do not have cable access on my television, I access the Internet through my WiFi Network-AT&T U-verse, and my Cellular Carrier. Technology is a step into the future, and the future is here.....Smile.

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