

## Form Summary

Candidate Name	Cindy Claycomb
Campaign Committee Name	Claycomb for Wichita City Council
Address	[REDACTED]
Campaign Best Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Website	<a href="http://www.cindyclaycomb.com">http://www.cindyclaycomb.com</a>
If elected, will you be willing to meet with Local 135 leadership periodically to answer questions or address concerns?	Yes
If elected, will you request information from Local 135 from both City Administration and Local 135 to better understand and fire safety concerns?	Yes. I believe it is important to listen to all sides when researching concerns. Local 135 can certainly help me better understand fire and safety concerns.
<b>The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) sets national standards for fire service to protect the public and make fire fighters as safe as possible when they do their job. Services must be properly prioritized and maintained. Public Safety is a basic service and core function of any municipal government. The City of Wichita has grown, and the number of emergency response needs with it. Yet the Wichita Fire Department's has remained relatively static. Wichita Fire Fighters will always do everything possible to respond to the needs of anyone during an emergency. That means as national standards continue to fall behind, injuries increase. If elected, will you commit to working with us to improve our compliance with these national standards? Why or why not?</b>	Yes. I believe that national standards provide good benchmarks. I would like to work with Local 135 to understand these benchmarks and improve compliance.

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**NFPA 1710 sets staffing standards which includes at least four (4) fire fighters on every engine company and ladder company and five (5) fire fighters on ladder companies in high density areas. These staffing standards are based on studies and determined by a consortium of participants including members of the fire service, municipalities business, and industry professionals. These staffing standards are minimum standards that ensure timely, safe, effective, and appropriate service levels for communities. If elected, would you support the creation of a plan that utilizes staff to better meet the NFPA safety goals of five-person ladder companies where indicated, and preserve four-person staffing on fire engines and fire trucks in Wichita?**

Yes. Meeting safety goals is one of the reasons I support the fire department optimization study. One of the purposes of the study is to better understand staffing and equipment.

**If data collected during your term tells us that Wichita needs additional fire fighters to meet these goals, would you support the creation of a plan to address those shortages?**

Yes. I am especially interested in the outcome of the fire department optimization study. I agreed to financially support the study, as well as review and support the results related to staffing, equipment, and stations.

**The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted everyone in our community. Throughout this crisis, Wichita Fire Fighters have not wavered and continue to demonstrate their commitment to serving our city on the front line. When a Fire Fighter experiences possible COVID-19 symptoms themselves, they must rely on their own personal sick leave. If elected, would you support policy that provides leave for testing or mandated quarantine after a work-related Covid exposure? Why or why not?**

Yes. If a firefighter is exposed to COVID during work (and that can be verified), it seems fair to provide leave for testing and mandated quarantine.

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**In a council-manager government, an elected city council serves as the city's primary legislative body and appoints a chief executive officer called a city manager to oversee day-to-day municipal operations, to draft a budget, and to implement and enforce the council's policy and legislative initiatives. The city-manager, city council, and mayor work together to enact budgets, to draft and enforce legislation, to provide city services, and to oversee city departments and appoint of departmental heads. The city-manager is not an elected position. Rather, the holder of this office serves at the pleasure of the council, which retains the legal right to dismiss and replace the city-manager. Do you believe it is appropriate for a City Council member to push for changes in a proposed budget from the City Manager's office? Why or why not?**

Yes. It is a City Council member's job to review a proposed budget and make sure it aligns with the priorities of constituents. This may involve recommending changes to the City Manager's proposed budget.

**How do you see your role, if elected, in guiding budget spending?**

It is my role to ensure that budget spending aligns with the priorities of my constituents in District 6 and the City of Wichita as a whole.

**If elected, will you prioritize public safety in this process?**

Yes

**Recently, the City of Wichita adopted a minimum wage standard for all entry level employees of \$15 dollars an hour. While we applaud the city's commitment to new employees and their families, the entry level wage for an incoming Fire Fighter has not increased. Do you believe an entry level wage of \$15.54 an hour is a fair wage for a new Fire Fighter? Why or why not?**

Salary compression is a reality. When a minimum wage is increased and there is no corresponding increase in other salary ranges, this causes an issue for current employees because their pay is not adjusted for the new minimum. I understand the issue. I have dealt with this same issue at Wichita State University when I worked there. Salary compression is an issue that needs to be addressed. I am willing to work on a solution. As the IAFF members know, Fire Fighter pay is a complicated system. It may take some time to identify solutions and work through the IAFF and City contract negotiation. I would encourage IAFF Local 135 to make this part of their salary negotiations.

**We believe collective bargaining is a necessary and useful tool that helps keep our city competitive, increases fire fighter and public safety, and helps to protect all public safety employees. We also believe arbitration provides for a fair mechanism to settle disputes and is a time-tested and transparent process. If elected, will you support and respect the bargaining and arbitration rights of Wichita Fire Fighters and other City of Wichita employees, at the city and state level?**

Yes



