

# Lore Walkonis

## Candidate Information

Candidacy for:	City Councilwoman
Campaign page:	<a href="http://walkonis.com">walkonis.com</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/lore.walkonis.for.g.c.city.council">www.facebook.com/lore.walkonis.for.g.c.city.council</a>
Email address:	<a href="mailto:lore.gccc@yahoo.com">lore.gccc@yahoo.com</a>
Resident of Garden City:	50+ years

All answers below are in black ink and are verbatim from the candidate's responses to the questionnaire. Edits were made to correct minor errors (e.g. a misplaced apostrophe). Bracketed words are edits where words were inadvertently left out by the candidate. Unanswered questions are left blank.

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

**Why are you running for office?** To address the issues important to the residents and find solutions, bring honesty and transparency back to government so the community is informed.

**What experience do you bring to the role for which you are running?** As a member of this community for over 50 years, attending schools here, owning a home and raising my family here along with volunteering, I have insight of the strengths and challenges we share. I am currently serving as a DDA member.

### AFFORDABLE LIVING IN GARDEN CITY

**Do you consider Garden City an affordable community for its current and prospective residents?** *Choose one: Yes, No, Undecided.* Yes

Please explain your answer to the question above. How is it proving affordable? Or if unaffordable, what changes would you advocate to make it more so? While home prices are lower than many cities, higher taxes are an issue for some residents. I am interested in keeping costs down by searching for other revenue sources to help with costs & expenses.

## **GARDEN CITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Is Garden City's vision to be a business-friendly community succeeding?

*Choose one: Yes, No, Undecided.* Undecided

How is Garden City succeeding or not succeeding to be a business-friendly community? What specifically could the City Council do, if anything, to bring more businesses into Garden City? I feel we are in a period of transition with the new position of Community Development Director installed. We are counting on his knowledge and expertise to bring new businesses to our city and are excited to work with him. It may be time to revisit our business ordinances to make sure we are current, up to date and business friendly.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY/SECURITY**

Do you believe the general safety and security in Garden City's neighborhoods are at risk? *Choose one: Yes, No, Undecided.* No

Please share your thoughts about the safety and security in the community. Garden City has always been one of the safest cities to live in and has kept many long time residents. Crime statistics support this. We benefit from quick response time from both the Police and Fire Departments.

## **FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

*In light of today's divisive cultural climate, there is debate on whether the current restriction of speech which threatens or incites direct physical violence should be expanded to include speech perceived as emotionally or spiritually harmful (or "hate speech" as it is often called).*

Do you support modifying the free speech standard to disallow speech that is perceived as emotionally or spiritually harmful? *Choose one: Yes, No, Undecided*  
No

Please explain your position regarding speech that is perceived as emotionally/spiritually harmful and how it relates to the First Amendment. The First Amendment does not protect speech that incites people to break the law or commit acts of violence. These are tangible. Perception is intangible and would rely on subjectivity.

## **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES**

Do you believe the promotion of DEI initiatives in Garden City's government and community activities is beneficial or not beneficial? *Choose one: Beneficial, Unbeneficial, Undecided* Undecided

Please share the pros and cons that you see related to DEI either in principle or implementation. All people need representation. This can be challenging without a diverse group of people sharing ideas and concerns working toward solutions. However, it is important to have qualified leaders.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Do you believe humanity's impact on climate change poses an immediate threat to the Garden City community? *Choose one: Yes, No, Undecided* Yes

Please share how Garden City should respond to this issue. While we do have recycling in Garden City, education is key to the advancement of any goal and providing the means to it.

## **PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE**

Who do you consider the most vulnerable and in need of protection in Redford? *Choose all that apply: The elderly, The unborn, The disabled, the LGBTQIA+ people, Other:\_\_\_\_\_.* The elderly, The disabled

Please share how you would like to see these vulnerable persons ensured greater protection in the Garden City community. I believe the elderly and disabled are in need of the most protection because of physical and financial limitations. Identify them and find out their needs to to better assist them.

## **ENGAGING WITH THE FAITH COMMUNITY**

*Garden City has a diverse faith community, many of whom are practicing some form of Christianity and attending one of the local churches. This questionnaire has been developed for these practicing Christians.*

Are you regularly engaged with a local church either in Garden City or in a nearby city? Choose one: Yes, No **Yes**

## **ENDORSEMENTS**

Please list any organizations or public figures who have given you their endorsement. I have not reached out for endorsements.

## **CONCLUDING WORDS**

In 10 words or less, what do you consider the most pressing need for Garden City? This brief answer will be included in the printed voter guide. Honesty, transparency, infrastructure and fiscal accountability.

Feel free to share additional comments to the question above.

We must do better communicating openly and honestly and providing our residents with information that is easily attainable and encourages participation. It concerns me that statistics show that only 20% of our community votes. I would like to work with other council members and civic leaders to engage more of our citizens in the democratic process and keep them current with information that enhances their quality of life in Garden City.