

#5

COMPLETE

Page 1

Q1

Candidate Information

Name	Soleil Lewis
Position	City of Des Moines City Council PO. 7
Address	P.O. Box 98718
City	Des Moines
State	Washington
ZIP	98198
Email Address	empowerdesmoinessoleillewis@gmail.com
Phone Number	2533307234

Q2

If you make it past the primaries, do you intend to attend the 2021 Public Officials and Candidates Night Reception from 5:00pm to 8:00pm on Wednesday, September 22, 2021?

Yes, I intend to attend the event and have blocked out the time on my calendar

Q3

Why are you running for elected office?

I am running for office because I represent a population of people not being represented at the table. My city, the City of Des Moines, is 65.6% BIPOC, Des Moines is coined as an older non-BIPOC retirement community. When the majority of the city is BIPOC it is not reflective in the current council. We have a small minority for a larger and diverse majority. Secondly, we have a younger, more vibrant age population, the highest ranking age populations are 30-32, 34-36, 18-21, 24-26 years old make up the majority of the 31, 792 people living in Des Moines. Our current council is not speaking to numbers reflective of the younger and diverse populations. The failure to do so is the main reason but the lack of transparency in regards to budgetary, capital improvement planning, transportation improvement planning and money allocation is unequally divided between certain areas of Des Moines.

Q4

What do you consider to be our community's top challenges?

My community's top challenges are concerns of inequitable infrastructure allocation. If you live on the wrong street in the city of Des Moines, do not expect equitable infrastructure allocation. I say this because it is evident in Transportation Improvement Planning street improvement allocations planned expenditures for the 2021-2026 year. If you live in Redondo, which makes up the largest portion of registered voters at 2,058. They are allocated in street improvements funds 3x LESS Than the Marina S 214th St-S 220th Street Repairs planned for 2021 year. It is examples like that, where portions of my city are unfairly represented in money given to repair roads and streets. The inequities make it safe for some and unsafe for the majority that provides the tax revenues to fund the projects that, the city purposely puts in Downtown Marina area, and omits any possible projects in Redondo, S 260th the areas with the low-income and BIPOC communities live.

Q5

How will you work with the business community to find solutions?

We also need to have incentives for constituents to shop in Des Moines. We have an updated sales tax of 3.6% that, increased due to decrease in tax revenues due to COVID. These increases have not made it more lucrative for everyone to shop local. We need to encourage with this 3.6% sales tax hike that, we support or add business in Des Moines who can bring in sales and revenue into our city. Since we only have a population, of 31, 792 people it is significantly smaller, and when polled the 4, 882 persons living per square mile in Des Moines do not shop in local Des Moines, only 12% of the 31, 792 people living in Des Moines shop local and with small business. The 3.6% and 6.5% state sales tax does not make it lucrative for the 88% majority to shop in Des Moines at all. We need to be bringing in and supporting small businesses to increase revenues for local business.

Q6

Where can your constituents find more information about you and your campaign?

Soleil Lewis for City of Des Moines City Council PO. 7; <https://www.soleillewis.com/>; <https://www.facebook.com/electsoleillewis>; <https://www.instagram.com/electsoleil/>; Twitter: electsoleil
