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## **Kyle Smith Announces Campaign for Fayetteville City Council**

*Former Ward 4 council member and educator runs on fiscal accountability, economic development, and housing choice*

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Kyle Smith, a former Fayetteville City Council member who has lived in Ward 4 since 1998, announced today that he is running for City Council Ward 4, Position 1 in the November 2026 general election.

Smith taught high school geometry in Northwest Arkansas for 18 years and remains a vocal advocate for public education. He was appointed to the City Council in 2017 and represented Ward 4, Position 2 through 2020. In 2024, he went to work for a neighborhood developer and homebuilder to get hands-on experience with the region's housing challenges.

“Fayetteville is growing at 4,000 new residents a year, and our infrastructure, housing supply, and city codes haven’t kept pace,” Smith said. “We’re paying the price right now. We have \$120 million in deferred water and sewer maintenance, rising rates, and a housing market that doesn’t match what our households actually need. Seventy percent of our households are one or two people, but most of what’s available is two- and three-bedroom single-family homes. We will never meet the challenges of 2030 with policies from 1970.”

Smith describes his approach as “progressive in our values, conservative with our finances.” He is running on three issues:

- **Fiscal responsibility and infrastructure.** Voters approved \$375.5 million in bonds in March, including \$120 million to catch up on deferred water and sewer maintenance. Smith wants lifecycle cost analysis on major projects, a public dashboard so voters can track spending, and impact fees that reflect actual costs to the system. “A new home on an existing line shouldn’t pay the same as one that needs miles of new pipe,” he said.
- **Economic development.** Smith wants to shift the city’s strategy from what he calls “big-game hunting” to a more resilient approach of “economic gardening” — putting energy into local small businesses instead of chasing a single large outside employer. He wants streamlined permitting, micro-lending partnerships, and fewer barriers for local entrepreneurs.
- **Housing choice and affordability.** Smith wants to open up missing-middle housing — duplexes, townhomes, cottage courts, accessory dwelling units — in residential areas, and partner with local banks to help homeowners finance ADU construction on their own property. “The best way to prevent the massive, disruptive developments people fear is to enable small, incremental changes everywhere,” he said.

Smith also wants closer coordination between the city and school district. “Schools shape our neighborhoods, and we’re the same taxpayers and the same families,” he said. “The city and the school board need to be at each other’s table before the big decisions get made, not after.”

“I hear from neighbors every day who are frustrated that Fayetteville isn’t meeting their needs anymore,” Smith said. “Ward 4 deserves a council member with the experience to be effective from day one and the vision to move us forward.”

Before joining the Council in 2017, Smith led the For Fayetteville campaign that passed the city’s nondiscrimination ordinance, which voters approved in a 2015 special election. He is active with Fayetteville Strong, a group focused on fiscal responsibility, safe transportation, affordable housing, and government transparency. He lives in northwest Fayetteville with his rescue cats, with extended family all around Ward 4.

*The campaign tagline is “A City That Works for Everyone.”*