



Council Member Joseph Shepard

Joseph Shepard was elected to the Wichita City Council in November 2025 with a demonstrated commitment to public service, community advocacy, and advancing opportunity for all residents. Since taking office, he has focused on transparent governance, strategic neighborhood investment, and policies that support families, small businesses, and workforce development across the City of Wichita.



A longtime Wichita resident, Shepard made the city his permanent home nearly sixteen years ago. His connection to Wichita is rooted in service and leadership, with more than a decade dedicated to strengthening communities through education, civic engagement, and nonprofit leadership.

Shepard holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in public administration and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Wichita State University. He previously served two terms as Student Body President at Wichita State University, where he advocated for inclusive campus policies, and later worked at Newman University supporting student well-being and institutional equity.

Prior to his election, Shepard served as the inaugural Director of Lead For Kansas, helping guide its statewide development and merger with Lead For America. He later served as Chief of Staff to the CEO of Lead For America and concluded his tenure as Director of Alumni and Community Partnerships.

Shepard is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and an active member of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Wichita's oldest Black church.