

KRSL Russell Radio Election 2022 Candidate Questionnaire

1. What is your name and what position are you running for?

My name is Steve Reinhardt, and I am running for re-election for Russell County Commission, District #1.

2. Talk briefly about your work experience; public service and private sector.

I was instrumental in leading the charge against our present administration's push to enact two new Federal programs, National Heritage Areas and 30x30 Conservation push. These proposals are very unfriendly towards production agriculture and family farms and ranches. Our county was among the very first to pass resolutions against these new, all-encompassing levels of federal bureaucracy.

I worked to the fullest extent possible to help all who were affected by the 4-County Fire windstorm in December. I attended meetings and met with state officials. I, as did many others, donated and delivered emergency relief loads of bales to those in need at that time. All three Russell County Commissioners continue to work to offer assistance to those who lost so much.

I have also kept our local oil and gas producers in mind when issues affecting their businesses occur. I am also mindful of our county residents living on fixed incomes. I voted to reduce the size of the county's motor grader fleet at the Road and Bridge Department as I felt that two graders were vastly underused. Very few, if any, new major equipment purchases have been made during the last four years, keeping the Road and Bridge Department on budget.

My wife and I attended meetings in Washington, D.C. shortly after being elected. These were designed to help county commissioners from across the country with concerns/problems/issues that they had or will encounter. This trip was very informative and helpful for me as a new commissioner in District #1. No county funds were used for this trip, and it was all completely paid from my personal account. Thank you to all District #1 residents who voted for me previously. I would be honored to serve for another term.

3. Why are you running for this position?

I have enjoyed serving as Russell County District #1 Commissioner and look forward to serving another term.

4. What goals or ideas do you have that you would work toward if elected?

If re-elected, I pledge to continue to work for the best interests of all citizens of Russell County. I have developed a good working relationship with all heads of each county department.

5. Anything else about yourself you would like to mention?

I'm a life-long farmer-rancher in Russell County. My wife, Raeleen, and I have been married for 41 years and have three daughters.

Jill is married to Nate Stoughton, and they have three kids, Kinley, Layne, and Walker. She teaches 2nd grade at Bickerdyke Elementary while Nate farms and ranches as well as owning a fence construction business.

Afton Brown, who is married to Derreck, is a busy mom to Hadlee, Rush, and Kennedy. Afton owns and operates the local Farm Bureau crop insurance agency. Derreck farms and ranches and serves on the Great Bend Co-op Board of Directors.

Kyla is married to Talbot Driscoll with a son, Merit, and another expected in the fall. She is employed by Russell Regional Hospital. Talbot farms and ranches and is involved in his family's oil production and related business.

In my younger days, I worked for a local oil field service company as a diesel mechanic/welder. Later, I worked road construction projects hauling asphalt as an owner/operator for about seven years all the while maintaining our growing cattle operation. I also helped my father-in-law with his auction service for about 15 years.

I have attended all regularly scheduled and numerous special commission meetings since being elected. 100% attendance record.

I was elected to the Russell County Commission, District #1, four years ago. In addition, I currently serve on the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, based in Hill City. I also serve on a solid waste disposal committee.

I hold two different positions in our church, Trinity United Methodist Church, in Russell. Besides being an active member of the Bunker Hill Lions Club, I am well aware of USD #407 School activities due to my wife being on the #407 Board of Education.