

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Cindy Claycomb, 316-444-0087, [claycomb4wichita@cox.net](mailto:claycomb4wichita@cox.net)

**Cindy Claycomb Announces Exploratory Committee for District 6 City Council**

March 16, 2017 (Wichita, KS) – Cindy Claycomb, longtime Wichita resident and community leader, formed an exploratory committee to investigate the possibility of running to succeed Janet Miller on the Wichita City Council. Council member Miller is finishing her second term and is not eligible for reelection.

Suzie Ahlstrand, community volunteer and former Executive Vice President of the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce, said, “Many us who have worked with Cindy in District 6 and on community-wide initiatives are urging her to run. She is a professional, a strategic thinker and a strong leader who is dedicated to vibrant neighborhoods, a thriving local economy and an outstanding quality of life for Wichita residents.”

Ahlstrand and 35 individuals have already joined Claycomb’s committee and will participate in the exploratory process, which is expected to take four to six weeks. Committee members represent a cross-section of the community with whom Claycomb has worked over the past decade. The process will include meetings with citizens, civic leaders, neighborhood advocates and the business community.

Claycomb says of the process, “Recently, many people have encouraged me to run for City Council. The time has come to confirm whether my experience in community service, business and higher education and my vision for Wichita are a good fit with the voters in District 6.” She added, “It takes significant resources – both human and financial – to run a successful campaign. It is time to gauge to what extent both are available for a successful run for City Council.”

A life-long Wichita area resident, Claycomb has lived in District 6 for the past 12 years and is involved in many community and business activities. She currently serves as President of the Wichita Board of Park Commissioners and is on the Wichita City Council District 6 Advisory Board. She is the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Wichita Downtown Development

Corporation and serves as a board member on the Greater Wichita Partnership, Botanica, Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Wichita State University Alumni Association. She is currently Assistant to the President at Wichita State University, where she works part time, dedicating the remainder of her time to community activities. She co-chaired the Clean Air Wichita campaign that resulted in smoke-free restaurants and bars in Wichita and is an ardent champion for healthy neighborhoods, a vibrant downtown, and quality of life initiatives across the City.

Claycomb has played significant roles in the development and update of the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces plan, a 20-year strategic plan for Wichita, the development of an Aquatics Master plan to ensure the viability of City-owned aquatics facilities, the development of a master plan for Crystal Prairie Lake Park, a new regional attraction park in District 6, the establishment of a Golf Advisory Committee dedicated to keeping Wichita public golf courses economically viable, and the creation of the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan to develop a guide for the City of Wichita regarding bicycle infrastructure investments, operations and policies.

Claycomb graduated from Wichita State University with both Bachelors and Masters of Business Administration, and Oklahoma State University with a Ph.D. in Marketing. Her previous professional experience includes various positions at Wichita State University, including Interim Dean of the W. Frank Barton School of Business, founding Director of WSU Ventures, and Professor of Marketing. She co-chaired the university's strategic planning process that resulted in a bold new vision and mission for Wichita State University. She spent almost 12 years in industry working at both Pizza Hut headquarters and Boeing in Wichita.

City Council District 6 boundaries are roughly: Douglas on the south; Washington/I-35 on the east; as far north as the City limit; and the Big Ditch on the west (with a one-mile appendage north of the Sedgwick County Zoo). The area includes 15+ neighborhood, homeowner and business associations.

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