



## GREENE COUNTY MU EXTENSION COUNCIL NOMINEE BIOS ELECTION YEAR 2026 - 7 CANDIDATES

### 1. William Boehne, Republic, MO:

*I have lived in Southwest Missouri for all 29 years of my life. I currently work as a Financial Advisor for Boehne Financial Group. We work primarily with K-12 Public Educators, managing their Retirement Assets, and assisting them in creating and achieving their lifelong financial goals.*

*I have been working as a Financial Advisor for the last 7 Years since my graduation from the University of Missouri. I graduated in May of 2019 with a degree in Business Management and a Personal Financial Planning Minor. While attending the University, I was involved in AASB, and Delta Sigma Phi. I have been a lifelong Mizzou Tiger fan, as both my parents attended the University and have been taking me to Columbia for as long as I can remember. Outside of work and my family, I am not currently involved in any organizations or causes.*

*I want to serve on the Extension County Council to further develop my professional network, while dedicating my time to a University and cause that I love! A positive and personal 1-sentence quote I would share is as follows: "Strong communities are built when neighbors invest their time, skills, and care in one another."*

**Explain your interests in serving on the council and program or partnership you would like to accomplish or create.** *My interests in serving the council mainly center around my desire to expand my professional network while serving a cause that is important to me. I want to create meaningful relationships with other professionals and community members that will benefit both parties!*

**Name three organizations, associations or community groups that get the majority of your time and treasure:** *I do not participate in too many organizations outside work, but do enjoy walking through the Nathanael Greene/Close Park with my family and interacting with as much of the plants, flowers, and nature as possible. I love the Master Gardener Program, I have interacted with some of them at the Community Gardens located at Nathanael Greene/Close park and have had some wonderful, insightful conversations!*

**What are your top three areas of interest as they relate to MU Extension work in the county?** *Business and Community Development, Education and Lifelong Learning, and Health and Wellness.*

**If elected to a seat, are you willing to serve on the Greene County Extension Council? Yes**

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Morgan Ash  
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Lisa Bakerink  
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Tammy Lowrey  
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Vacant  
*City of Republic*

Vacant  
*4-H Youth member*

*Members at large*  
Cara Harris  
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### 2. Shelby Butler, Springfield MO:

*I have lived in our community since 1996 and care about ensuring everyone has access to the resources and opportunities that help them thrive. I want to serve on the Extension County Council because I believe MU Extension plays a vital role in educating, supporting, and strengthening our counties and state and accessibility should be woven into every part of that work. I hope to bring my passion for inclusion and my experience removing barriers to help the council model best practices for all involved. I currently serve as the Advocacy and Policy Director at empower: abilities, a Center for Independent Living that supports people with disabilities, seniors, veterans, and families seeking services. I am currently active with the League of Women Voters and Housing Authority of Springfield Board, where I work to engage with efforts to remove barriers for housing and other areas of civic engagement. I am a graduate of Missouri State University and have collaborated with partners across Missouri, including those connected to MU Extension, to advance accessibility and community education. My past work includes supporting children, seniors, and individuals experiencing domestic violence, which shaped my commitment to inclusion and meeting people where they are. "Little by little becomes a lot", Shelby Butler.*

**Explain your interests in serving on the council and program or partnership you would like to accomplish or create.** *I want to serve on the council because I care about helping people feel welcome, included, and able to participate in everything our community has to offer. I hope to help Extension strengthen its outreach by making programs easier to access, especially for people with disabilities, seniors, and families who may not know where to start. I would love to help create partnerships between Extension and local disability organizations so we can offer workshops on accessibility, inclusive communication, and best practices for community engagement.*

**Name three organizations, associations or community groups that get the majority of your time and treasure.** *empower: abilities, MOCIL (Missouri Centers for Independent Living), Housing Authority of Springfield and other statewide housing groups.*

**What are your top three areas of interest as they relate to MU Extension work in the county?**

1. Independent Living Skills and Resources - Supporting programs that teach budgeting, daily living skills, and other tools that help people maintain their independence and improve their quality of life.

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## **Shelby Butler – continued:**

*2. Community Access - Advocating for safe, accessible sidewalks, parks, and public buildings to ensure everyone can enjoy community spaces, which is vital for health equity and overall well-being.*

*3. Housing - Promoting education about tenant rights and responsibilities, as well as encouraging accessible housing through accommodations and universal design principles to remove barriers and create inclusive living environments.*

**If elected to a seat, are you willing to serve on the Greene County Extension Council? yes**

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### 3. Mary Chalender, Springfield:

*I graduated from Mizzou in 1983. I met my husband at MU...and our two sons graduated from Mizzou! I grew up in St. Louis but moved to Springfield in 1984 after spending time in New York City and Houston, Texas. I had a forty-year career in television advertising sales and sales management. I retired from KY3 four years ago. Currently, I work at the station two days a month helping the sales department.*

*I enjoyed my first two years on the Extension Council and would like to stay for a second term. I think it is important to give back to the community, the council allows me to do this. I am starting a second 3-year term on the Jefferson Club board at Mizzou. We meet two times a year in Columbia. This position allows me to work with donors and stay informed about what is going on at MU.*

*Recently, I found this quote...I loved the message it sent. "I asked God for flowers and he gave me rain." When you understand this, everything starts to make sense.*

**Explain your interests in serving on the council and program or partnership you would like to accomplish or create.**

*I enjoyed learning about the council during my first term. I would like to continue to help them achieve their goals and fill the needs of the community.*

**Name three organizations, associations or community groups that get the majority of your time and treasure.**

*KY3. University of Missouri-Columbia (Jefferson Club Board).*

**What are your top three areas of interest as they relate to MU Extension work in the county?**

*Education, nutrition and 4-H.*

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### 4. Joseph Hoffman, Springfield, MO:

*I've lived at my current address since 2017 and own it. I want to serve on Council because I have so enjoyed serving these past many years representing the City of Springfield. I currently work for Stepping Stones helping those with special needs. While I have no ties to Mizzou, I have a BA in history as well as a logistics and supply certification through the Armed Forces Training Center, Fort Lee, VA. After 17 years of Army service I now work with folks with special needs.*

*Two quotes from my great grandfather have helped me through life. First – "If you don't ask or try the answer is no and you fail automatically." Second – "Everyone goes through fire in their life, it's their choice to let it melt them or turn them to steel".*

**Explain your interests in serving on the council and program or partnership you would like to accomplish or create.** *I've enjoyed serving in the past, seeing the budget remain in the black, and want to continue contributing.*

**Name three organizations, associations or community groups that get the majority of your time and treasure.** *Stepping Stones*

**What are your top three areas of interest as they relate to MU Extension work in the county?** *The budget, 4-H, Urban 4-H opportunities.*

**If elected to a seat, are you willing to serve on the Greene County Extension Council?** *Yes*

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### 5. Ray Meyer, Springfield, MO:

*I have lived in Greene County since March of 1981. I believe the Extension county council provides services in a variety of areas that are beneficial for the entire community and would like to help further the work. Currently I belong to the Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast and serve on the Springfield Area Sports Hall of Fame Board. I don't have to agree with everything someone says or believes to still be their friend or acquaintance and to work together to things accomplished. My educational background includes Orchard Farm High School, (St. Charles County, MO) Bachelor of Journalism, University of Missouri, Columbia. Currently retired. Most recently worked in commercial real estate as a broker/manager involved in sales, leasing and property management. Prior to that involved in media in a number of areas including announcer, anchor, department head and sales.*

### **Explain your interests in serving on the council and program or partnership you would like to accomplish or create.**

*The Greene County Extension Council provides help and information for agriculture and to the community at large and to be involved with this group is very worthwhile.*

**Name three organizations, associations or community groups that get the majority of your time and treasure.** *I'm involved with the Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast and serve as the Chair of the house committee, Springfield Area Sports Hall of Fame Board and serve as secretary, Springfield Exchange Club (past). Campfire Boad (past). Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.*

**What are your top three areas of interest as they relate to MU Extension work in the county.** *Century Farms, Good Neighbor Project and Health Information*

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### 6. Casey Pyle, Willard, MO:

*I am a lifelong SW Missouri resident with an agricultural family history. I have lived in rural Willard for 16 years where I have raised beef, port and poultry, and dabbled with equine. My family has farmed in Barton, Jasper and Lawrence Counties. In 2019, my mother-in-law, Linda Madison/Barton Couty) was inducted into the Missouri 4-H Hall for Fame. My wife and my children have been 4-H members, my wife and are certified 4-H volunteers. I earned may personal FFA awards in HS including four gold medals for teams competitions (crops, soils, mechanics, agribusiness), State swine production proficiency and the National Farmer Degree. I have a BS in agribusiness finance and management from MSU, an MBA from Webster University, and I am a graduate of the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana Sate University. I have worked in the banking industry in SW Missouri for 28 years. I am currently the market executive for Phelps County Bank in Springfield where I oversee all aspects of the community bank's expansion into SW Missouri.*

*Current Community organizations: MSU Darr College of Agriculture Alumni Committee, Springfield Sunrise Rotary (current board member, club admin chair), Downtown Springfield CID board (parking committee), Downtown Council of Champions board (nominating committee).*

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### 7. Javier Romero, Republic, MO:

*Javier Romer's journey into real estate began with a simple but powerful dream; to build a better future for his family and to help others in the community do the same. Guided by his faith, hard work, and gratitude, Javier believes that true success is measured not only by personal achievement but by the lives you touch and the legacy you leave behind. As a Realtor serving Republic, Springfield, and the surrounding Ozarks, Javier is known for listening deeply, treating others with respect, and helping families make informed decisions that strengthen their long-term stability. He is passionate about building generational wealth, community involvement, and empowering others through education and opportunity. Javier has lived in the area for many yeas and proudly calls Greene County home. His work in real estate has allowed him to build strong relationships across the community and inspired him to serve in a greater capacity through the Extension Council.*

*A positive quote Javier lives by: "Serve people well, honor God in the process, and build a legacy that blesses future generations."*

### **Explain your interests in serving on the council and program or partnership you would like to accomplish or create.**

*I want to serve on the Extension Council because I care deeply about strengthening our community through education, leadership, and access to resources. My goal is to help families thrive by supporting programs focused on youth development, agriculture, community education and financial empowerment. I would like to help create partnerships that connect local organizations, families, and small businesses to valuable MU Extension opportunities that promote growth and long-term stability.*

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**Javier Romero, Continued:**

**Name three organizations, associations or community groups that get the majority of your time and treasure.**

1. Murney Associates REALTORS.®
2. Local schools/sports in Republic & Springfield.
3. Faith-based and community service events.

**What are your top three areas of interest as they relate to MU Extension work in the county?**

1. Community and youth development
2. Small business and financial education
3. Agriculture, land stewardship, and rural community support.

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