



Barbara Young

Oklahoma City
Ward 3 Councilmember

By Jayson Knight
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Barbara Young is the Councilmember for Oklahoma City Ward 3, which includes Western Oklahoma City.

Barbara's 3 children were raised in far west

West OKC Councilmember Barbara Young helping to make OKC the best place to live

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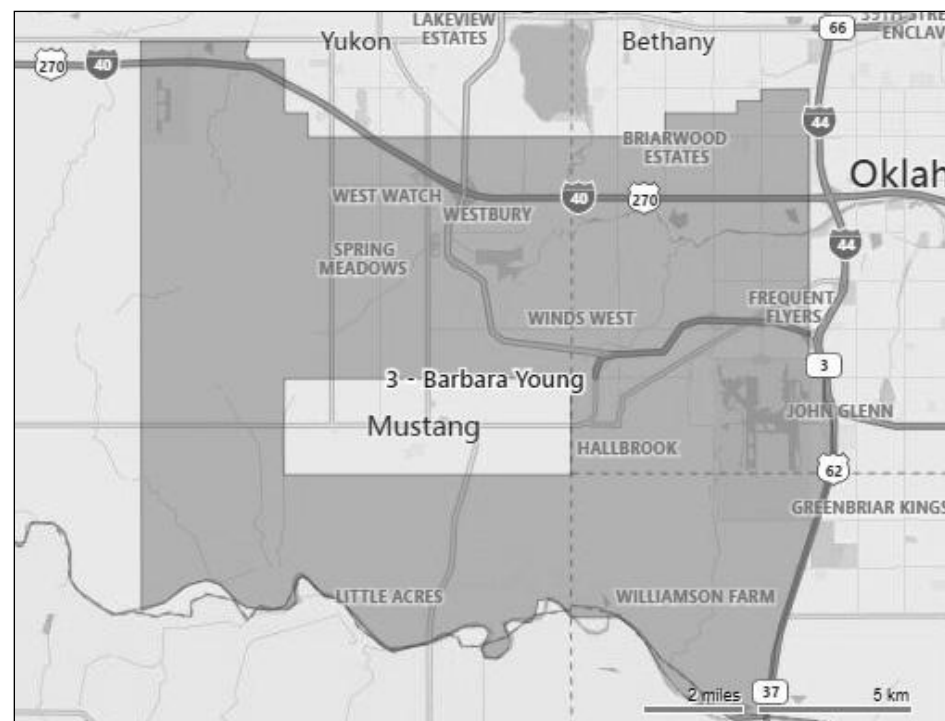
Ward 3 since 2007 where they all graduated from Mustang High School.

In addition to her employment and Council responsibilities, Councilwoman Young enjoys serving the city in quite a few additional capacities: As Trustee

with the OKC Airports Trust and the Riverfront Redevelopment Authority since 2021; As a volunteer, committee member and board member for the YWCA OKC, helping other domestic violence survivors reach safety and start new lives; And as a member of the OKC Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction, supporting and encouraging women to join the industry and to development within it.

Young spoke last week about the number of new homes in the area, which is growing expeditiously, but not quite fast enough.

"So many families and friends are moving to West OKC," Young said. "Housing is being built as quickly as materials are available, and it still hasn't satisfied the demand for housing nearby. I'm really excited about additional multifamily housing, so as our kids move out, they can stay close to home if they'd like to. The affordability of housing is tough for those start-



ing out, now more than ever."

Getting the road projects in that area off and running took a lot of time, money, growth, and Partnerships with ODOT.

"Roads we are repairing, widening or replacing today were put on a list years ago," Young said, "to be done with general obligation bond money, and as the traffic counts and road conditions reached a level to require the changes. We are already starting a list for the next general obligation bond. We have a lot of great road improvements going on now, and coming in the next few years. It's equal parts exciting (when it's done) and frustrating (while driving through construction)!"

Councilmember

Young has a message for prospective home buyers who might be considering a move to the area to be patient with road improvements and with the area's school teachers and administrators. "They are doing all they can do to manage the growth in our area all while teachers are leaving the profession," Young said. "It's going to be critically important for all residents to support school bond issues so that our schools can keep up with our growth. Be kind to one another. It's what happens every day and more people need to know that they have great neighbors."

What is it that is attracting businesses to the area?

In Mrs. Young's opinion, "The families. When you have neigh-

borhood growth like we are, you have families and friends who need and want amenities close to home. We want to have everything we need close by and we want to have great places to eat, shop and entertain ourselves without having to drive 30 minutes all the time."

While there is a lot of growth in both business and housing in Western OKC, Councilmember Young said predicting how the economy will perform over the next year is not easy.

"This one is tough," she said. "I think the overall economy is unpredictable right now. With gas prices, supply chain interruptions, wars, and unpredictable, dangerous government regulations coming from

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New home construction is ongoing in the new Scissortail Crossing housing addition in West Oklahoma City, along with dozens of other additions in the area. PHOTO BY JAYSON KNIGHT