

# Questions for City of Georgetown City Council

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Position Seeking: City Council-District 3

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## 1. Why do you want to serve on Georgetown City Council?

The City is experiencing an unprecedented growth period. I have participated in the planning over the last 6 years for the future of our beautiful City. This will be my final term in office and I see this term as finishing projects which I have started.

## 2. What should the City of Georgetown's role be in Economic Development?

Growth has produced more children in our schools and we now have 850 children graduating each year. We are charged with having jobs available for those children who would consider living in their home town when they graduate. We need to provide jobs with salaries they can live on and a variety of opportunities for all skill levels.

## 3. What is your vision for quality Economic Development in Georgetown?

We need to be working with local businesses to bring in companies that are compatible with our current businesses. The current economic development effort also needs to be more focused and aggressive toward small industrial and technical businesses that have growth potential. Currently, growth has produced jobs in retail, food industry and health care. Focusing on industrial and tech business will produce a healthier economic future for our city.

## 4. What is the biggest infrastructure gap facing Georgetown over the next three years?

The growth the city is experiencing can produce gaps in many areas of the city. Security remains my first priority and there is risk that crime can increase. Council has stayed in front of the needs of the police department. There are 2 new fire stations under construction which will keep response time reasonable during the growth. Fire and police cost are 49% of the current budget. The next highest priority is roads and transportation. The city has completed 44% of the projects from the last road bond program and staff is in the process of identifying the next projects for highway and road construction. The city needs more north / south roads to reduce congestion.

**5. What is the biggest infrastructure gap facing your district in Georgetown?**

Growth will continue to produce gaps in our infrastructure, but the largest gap is mobility, because of the cost and time required to catch up with growth.

**6. Across the country, cities have passed regulations requiring small businesses to pay a higher minimum wage and/or require businesses to offer paid sick leave. What is your view on the City of Georgetown adopting similar ordinances that could impact the daily operations of businesses?**

I believe in the free market. Businesses cannot be viable and remain successful having a third party controlling their business plan without any interest in the company. When a businessman offers a job to a potential employee and makes an offer of compensation, the candidate can accept or reject the terms. That is a contract that both parties have agreed to. The employee can always change jobs or renegotiate.

**7. The public input of the 2030 plans identified the city taking a larger role in health and human services. Where does this fit as a priority?**

What is a larger role? If we are being asked to pay health care expenses, that would not be a good solution. With a better definition, I would be able to provide a better answer.

**8. What opportunities do you see for Georgetown to work with other cities in Williamson County for regional solutions?**

I encourage staff to dialog with near-by cities on issues that impact all of Williamson County.

**9. How can Georgetown monitor land use to ensure housing meets the needs of the workforce?**

I have suggested the city begin tracking and maintaining the inventory numbers of all housing units at each economic level. The role of construction is a market function and the city partners with business to target areas of need. The city could contribute by reducing fees to meet cost objectives on projects where there are shortages.

**10. What is the biggest concern you have heard from businesses and how do you plan to address these concerns?**

The most frequent business complaint I hear from businessmen and I do not hear many, is the length of time it takes to get responses on items in planning and permits. I believe it is not a big problem but some of the recent UDC changes will be helpful. I do suggest staff continue with the UDC review to make changes where needed.