

# Questions for City of Georgetown City Council

Name: Michael Triggs

Position Seeking: Candidate for Georgetown City Council District 3

Campaign Website: No Website

Campaign Facebook Account: Triggs for Council Campaign

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

I was first attracted to run for Council over the GUS issues. I found it difficult to believe that in a free market economy the city entered into long term agreements with fixed prices. When problems arise in these types of situation it is hard to solve because it is out of the free market economy. In addition it took approximately three years for the present problem of a \$26 million burn rate to come to light. Did they not realize the problem, did they want to hide it, or did they just think it would solve itself? This is irresponsible fiduciary behavior. I'm retired from a successful 38 year career in the financial industry. The last 27 years in the Troubled Assets Department of two large Regional Banks. It was my job to handle problems. I have the skill set to address these issues.

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

The City should have a large role in future growth, to give guidelines so we have smart growth that will limit future problems. The City should help with direction to bring in jobs, and increase the tax base.

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

Quality Economic Development will create jobs, increase the tax base, and serve the needs of the community. It should add to the quality of life to the residents of the community with minimal interference.

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

The biggest infrastructure gap will be travel issues on Williams Drive, Hwy 29, and the bridges on Austin Ave. New development should be directed to the areas where the people need it to help slow down the traffic problems.

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

Better water conservation programs, sufficient electric grid with the new development, travel issues on Williams Drive.

**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 am not for a different higher minimum wage or sick leave that would not be competitive with the surrounding communities. These are entry level jobs that are not intended as life time employment. These are jobs intended to teach good work habits for people entering the job market. Instead of just increasing a minimum wage, training should be provided so workers can thrive in the economic system we now have.

**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?**

With an aging population and a large health care industry it is a higher priority for Georgetown.

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

I think it would be nice to see Georgetown be a leader and in the forefront to solve regional water problems, both the supply and cleanliness of the water. It is not just a Georgetown issue and needs regional solutions. Georgetown could start by making it a requirement that all developments need to use gray or untreated water in irrigation systems. Look into requiring more xeroscaping etc.

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

Affordable housing in our area is a problem. It is not right that our police, firefighters, and health care workers have a hard time affording to live in the area they work. Land is the first basic cost of building dwellings. I feel this is the first step in which the city could be of service, in helping cut the cost of acquiring land, and then easing development costs for new projects designated for affordable housing. I'm not at all for subsidies, or the use of present tax money. In my experience in the financial industry,

those that need to be subsidized to make it financially reasonable are the projects that tend to fail.

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

The biggest problems I have heard are moving people and goods and services. This again is a traffic issue that needs solving. Let's try to promote the bus ridership, set up park and rides and have the development be in areas that people can get to easier. More convenience locations than destination type locations. Of course higher utility costs are an issue. This will involve smart solutions to the electrical problems facing us long term.