

Questions for Georgetown Mayoral Candidates

What was the most important factor that influenced your decision to run for mayor of Georgetown?

Georgetown is in the adolescent years of its life cycle as a city. Over the next few years, we are going to make decisions that will determine what this community looks like for decades to come. I want to play a role in making sure Georgetown maintains the small-town community charm that led so many of us to call this place our home.

What is your ideal vision for the future of economic development in Georgetown?

Economic development should be a partnership between the city, the chamber, the county, and the school district. All of these organizations play a vital role in bringing quality companies and individuals to Georgetown. I believe we are entering a period where many people and companies are looking to leave cities and high tax/regulatory environments in favor of communities like Georgetown that can offer all of the amenities of a larger city without the negatives. It won't just be incentives or tax abatements that draw people to Georgetown, but our culture and sense of community will be integral in economic development, which is why we must protect those values.

The Mayor's position serves as the leader of our community during a state of emergency. How would you best describe the role of the Mayor during a state of emergency like the current pandemic?

We need to look very closely at the charter and local ordinances to ensure that the powers granted in an emergency are appropriate because I don't believe the original drafters of these documents contemplated the length of current state of emergency. And regardless of what powers the law grants the mayor, the mayor needs to be as collaborative as possible with council and staff.

Based on what you perceive to be Georgetown's greatest challenges, describe the first 3 initiatives you would undertake as mayor to address these challenges.

Public safety – We have to continue to fund our police, fire, and emergency medical personnel as we grow.

Transportation – We have to keep people moving, and we need to take a very close look to ensure that new development pays for itself and is not a burden on the current taxpayers.

Density – We need to be careful about the amount of residential density we allow, and we need to ensure that we have an appropriate mix of commercial and residential tax base throughout the entire city.

What do you think has been our City's greatest accomplishment within the past 10 years?

Over the last decade, we have seen an unprecedented amount of investment into our downtown square and historic districts, which has led to the renovation and preservation of our community's greatest historic assets.

What makes you the ideal candidate for the Mayoral position?

I am not under the illusion that am the only person in the community who would make a good mayor, but I believe I am the right person at this time. I want to serve our community and create partnerships with the state, county, and other cities. I want to create an environment on council where we can engage in vigorous, yet civil, debate about the issues we face as a community.

If elected, how would you want the people of Georgetown to remember your time as mayor?

I want Georgetown to still be Georgetown when I am done. People can live anywhere these days, especially in Central Texas, but I want there to be a reason why people choose Georgetown.

What do you believe is the biggest threat Georgetown faces, and how would you address the issue if elected?

We have to keep local control if we are going to control our own destiny. I would work closely with our state legislators to make sure that the actions they take to moderate other larger cities don't keep Georgetown from forging our own path.

Please provide the following:

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