

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

*Please tell us about you and your family. What are your qualifications, skills, and experience?*

*Tell us about your faith, your civic involvement, and about any character traits that will help you be an effective alderman or mayor.*

### **Greg Caesar**

Tennessee native, living in Franklin since 2007, married to Darci Caesar from Columbia, TN. Darci and Greg have 4 children. I currently serve as the Vice-Chair for Franklin's Board of Zoning Appeals, having served on this board for 10+ years. I'm a mentor for the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center, a volunteer for the Brett Boyer Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, My Friend's House, and a Graduate of Leadership and Citizen's Government Academy. My family and I attend St. Philip Catholic Church in downtown Franklin. As a business leader, having run healthcare businesses domestically and abroad, I have a heart for helping people. I also have been known to be very cost-conscious, saving countless dollars of overspending in the private sector and will introduce these same conservative principles when making decisions with the people of Franklin's money.

### **Patrick George**

I am a devoted Christian, husband of 18 years, father of one daughter, chaplain, businessman and Conservative Constitutionalist all of which shapes my values, character, and commitment to successful leadership. My faith, servant leadership, and 25 years as a businessman structuring contracts, P&L responsibility, and operations uniquely qualifies me to serve the people of Franklin. I am chaplain leading men and woman serving our country and have led organizations to successful IPO's, privately and family-owned enterprises understanding responsible for organizational and operational needs including finance, budgets, and personnel. What sets me apart from others is my unwavering commitment to the people and civic duties is acknowledging that my decisions affect the individual, family, and their livelihoods. You can learn more on my website [patrickgeorge4alderman.com](http://patrickgeorge4alderman.com)

### **BK Muvvala**

BK Muvvala is a dedicated family man with a vision for a brighter Franklin future based on Franklin City Citizens. As a happily married man, I cherish the unwavering support of my beautiful wife, Raji Muvvala, who excels as an IT QA Engineer at BMI. Together, we take pride in nurturing our two sons, each pursuing their dreams. The elder son, Dr. Mohan Muvvala, stands as a testament to BK's commitment to education and entrepreneurship. As a doctor and entrepreneur, Dr. Mohan exemplifies the values instilled in him by his father. The younger son, Madhav BK, currently in the tenth grade, aspires to become a doctor, inspired by the compassion and determination shown by his family. Member of Christ United Methodist Church, at Franklin. BK Muvvala is a passionate and dedicated leader who has a vision for the future of Franklin City. He wants to make Franklin City a more inclusive, clean, and prosperous community for everyone. He has experience in public service, business, and education, and He knows how to work with people from different backgrounds

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

### Why are you running?

#### Greg Caesar

I returned to the US after 3 years successfully re-launching a business in western Europe to a community that I loved (I chose Franklin to return to over ALL other US Cities). I chose to run to introduce wise policy, re-engage the people (old and new) in our city, and maintain the character of Franklin which brought all of us here. Franklin is a conservative community, based on principles of hard work and the success derived from those efforts. We are built on a strong history and I feel compelled to help pull us through this recent divide to ensure, like we've done in the past, that we will continue to be a shining star in our nation.

#### Patrick George

To serve the people because we are at a tipping point in Franklin and it is a call to remember what made Franklin a place to call home and a time to stand to ensure traditional values and responsible growth and development to preserve our historic downtown. After much prayer and at the request of many members of the community and support of my family I accepted the call to run. One can only be successful if it is a calling to serve because it is only then do we realize that that it is not about one individual but all the people who are seeking the values, freedom and protection to thrive in Franklin as a community of one rather than being subjected to cultural influences and poor decisions. This requires strong leadership built on a strong foundation of faith, family and service.

#### BK Muvvala

BK Muvvala is a successful entrepreneur, a compassionate leader, a dedicated servant, a candidate who has experience in running businesses, nonprofits, and volunteer organizations. BK Muvvala is the most eligible candidate that Franklin City deserve as a leader and a visionary who listens to the people, works for people's best interests and is capable of bringing a positive difference in Franklin City community.

### What is your view about the U.S. Constitution and how it should be interpreted?

#### Greg Caesar

The constitution is a foundational document and provides legitimacy and form to our democracy while protecting national rights of our citizens as well as the rights of states in the USA. The constitution uniquely unifies our country and provides direction, vision, and guidance to all who live in the United States— including the division of power across 3 branches of government. I believe the U.S. Constitution should be interpreted as it was written and amended.

#### Patrick George

Thomas Paine wrote, "A constitution is not the act of a government, but of a people constituting a government, and a government without a constitution is power without right." As a Christian, Constitutional Conservator I believe the basic canons of the Constitution were established by divine intent to rule people and their conscience, established that there is no privileged class of people, property and freedom are inseparably connected, and limited government is achieved through separation of powers through the checks and balances system. Lastly preservation that will endure reform requires time, thoughtful consideration, and the establishment of a general consensus.

#### BK Muvvala

"originalism" or "textualism" protecting individual rights as enumerated in the Constitution, including the rights to free speech, freedom of religion, and the right to bear arms. Limited government intervention in the lives of citizens and the economy, reflecting the principles of federalism and separation of powers outlined in the Constitution.

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

### What does liberty mean to you? How does government influence liberty?

#### Greg Caesar

Liberty is fundamental for American society in that it allows you to pursue freedom and have a voice in a society without unnecessary or overbearing restrictions imposed. I believe governments can influence liberty by protecting the rights of all in pursuit of freedom from undue or unnecessary hinderance or burdens. These burdens could be in the form of overcomplicated paperwork to receive government services, quelling free speech or the inability of persons to vote because of their race, religion or sex.

#### Patrick George

Ronald Reagan stated, "'Because (Americans) know that liberty, just as life itself, is not earned but a gift from God," he said, "they seek to share that gift with the world." Liberty therefore is the individual liberty is the moral and physical strength of one's community, Franklin, Williamson County, Tennessee and United States. We accomplish this by ensuring liberties enjoyed by our Constitution extentd to the family and community. We have been under assault in our families, communitesy by a government which is burdened with debt, told how to raise of and educate our children, and how we interact interact with one another witnessed by Covid mask mandates, shut down of businesses and churches, all of which affects our liberties and prosperity. We must adhere to upholding the rule of law, freedom of contract, and freedom of association and indivual liberty.

#### BK Muvvala

Liberty as the freedom to live one's life without undue interference from the government. This includes the freedom to make decisions about one's personal life, economic choices, and property without unnecessary regulations or restrictions. I often prioritize individual rights and personal responsibility, believing that liberty involves the freedom to succeed or fail based on one's own actions and decisions. This perspective is often tied to the idea of "negative liberty," or freedom from external restrictions or coercion, especially those imposed by the state. Government's influence on liberty – I typically argue that government can both protect and infringe upon liberty. On one hand, government is necessary to safeguard citizens' rights and freedoms, enforce laws, and maintain social order. On the other hand, I express concern that government can also limit liberty by imposing too many regulations, infringing upon personal freedoms, or overstepping its boundaries in other ways. As a result, I advocate for a limited government that plays a minimal role in citizens' daily lives,

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

### What is the primary role of government?

#### Greg Caesar

To serve the people and provide a framework(laws) upon which we can pursue liberty and, if desired, build successful enterprises.

#### Patrick George

Abraham Lincoln stated, "The legitimate object of government, is to do for a community of people, whatever they need to have done, but can not do, at all, or can not, so well do, for themselves — in their separate, and individual capacities." Government's role is to preserve, protect and ensure the individual liberties by promoting the general welfare and to form a more perfect union. This allows individuals to pursue their potential and achieve great things that improve lives beyond their own.

#### BK Muvvala

I believe that the primary role of government should be limited and focused on a few key areas:

**Protection of Rights:** A fundamental role of government is to protect the individual rights of citizens, as outlined in the U.S. Constitution. This includes the right to life, liberty, and property, as well as the freedom of speech, religion, and assembly.

**Law and Order:** Maintaining law and order as a crucial function of government. This involves enforcing laws, preserving social order, and providing for the public's safety and security, including defense against foreign threats.

**Economic Freedom:** Free-market economic system with minimal government intervention. I believe that the government should create an environment that allows for free trade, competition, and innovation, but should not overly interfere with the market.

**Infrastructure and Public Services:** Limited government, I agree that the government has a role in providing certain public goods and services that may not be adequately provided by the private sector. This can include things like roads, public education, and emergency services.

**Preservation of Constitutional Government:** Government should adhere to the principles set forth in the Constitution, including the separation of powers and federalism, to ensure the protection of

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

### What are the three most critical issues facing Franklin today and how would you propose that Franklin address each issue?

#### Greg Caesar

**Growth:** We've built something great and our city will continue to grow. I will fight to ensure businesses and residents receive the best public services (water, waste) and best trained and equipped community protection services (by investing in our Police and Firefighters) for our taxpayer dollars. Beyond community services, we MUST work together with industry to build roads to support our growth. No-one wants to fight gridlock or failing and insufficient roads. Beyond first-responders, services and roads, I will protect the integrity of our historic town and our irreplaceable Historically significant areas. **Community:** Residents from all over the US have flocked to middle-TN and Franklin for the quaint and conservative values our city offers; a great place to raise a family, raise a business, or retire. We need to work to bring our residents together as we continue to grow together. Franklin is stronger when our city pulls together rather than in opposite directions. I will build bridges, not walls, to ensure that all have a voice and exemplify one of my favorite axioms; we are always stronger than I. **Budget:** While we all love living in Franklin, TN; if you're not new to the county, you know we just experienced a substantial county tax increase. Williamson County collects the highest property tax in TN (in real dollars – median annual payment, based on a percentage of home value). Many of our residents are still recovering from economically challenging times. Our current sales tax rate is higher than 89% of counties in the nation. While our city's property tax rate is low, our home values (and indirectly our taxes) have continued to grow, which increases our actual tax

#### Patrick George

The three most critical issues are safeguarding our children and families, strengthening economic viability while ensuring historic preservation, and infrastructure that supports sustainable growth and development. This requires a shift in mindset instituted with strong leadership and conviction that embraces the fabric of our community not reacting to cultural issues, social pressures, and shortsighted views of what makes our community a great place to live. This includes holding firm on the historic preservation not opening the door to development that changes the landscape of downtown and sets precedent for future building. Additionally, it is essential that the city is transparent in decision making processes that offers solutions to complex problems that affect the livelihood of its citizens from an economic, social, environmental, and functional perspective.

#### BK Muvvala

- 1. Growth and Development:** Franklin has experienced significant growth, which brings challenges related to infrastructure, housing affordability, and preserving local character.  
**Proposed Solutions:** I favor development policies that ensure sustainable growth while protecting property rights. I also advocate for minimal regulatory burdens on businesses and developments to encourage economic prosperity, balanced with the preservation of Franklin's historic character.
- 2. Taxes and Budgeting:** As with many locales, the fiscal health of the local government, tax rates, and how taxpayer money is spent are perennial concerns.  
**Proposed Solutions:** I favor efficient government spending, reducing waste, and avoiding tax hikes. I will advocate for periodic reviews of municipal expenses to ensure that taxpayer money is being used wisely and for essential services.
- 3. Public Safety and Law Enforcement:** Ensuring that residents feel safe and that law enforcement is supported can be a priority.  
**Proposed Solutions:** I support strong backing for police departments, with an emphasis on community policing, good training, and ensuring departments have the resources they need. I also emphasize policies that deter crime and support victims.

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

*Do you have any concerns about how city officials are appointed? What involvement, if any, should the BOMA have in recommending and/or approving appointments?*

### **Greg Caesar**

I believe BOMA should be able to affirm or appoint city officials. However, I don't think the 'application' process should be exclusive to elected officials. I would like for Citizen nominees to be considered with BOMA having the final recommendation and/or approval.

### **Patrick George**

We need a more transparent process to appointment city officials. Transparency only exists if there is accountability and willingness to build trust with the community. This requires open and honest communication internally and externally. This directly correlates to the quality of the candidates who are most suitable for the appointment. Quality candidates will provide wisdom and innovative ideas that are effective and best suited for the success of the community. Elected officials should never appoint people for selfish gain or to satisfy one's debt or favors, but rather allow for the best candidates to serve which community engagement to understand the community's needs. This empowers the citizens, attracts professionals who are qualified applicants to get involved with local government, boost the economy, and educates the citizens so they are informed about their city and future.

### **BK Muvvala**

I emphasize transparency, accountability, and limited government intervention. When it comes to the appointment of city officials:

1. Concerns: I will be concerned if the appointments are made without transparency, based on political favoritism, or without adequate consideration of qualifications and merit. I could also be worried if certain groups or perspectives are being systematically excluded from city leadership roles.
2. Role of the BOMA: In many cities, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (or its equivalent) plays a role in approving or recommending appointments. The extent of this involvement can vary based on local ordinances and traditions. I advocate for a system that ensures checks and balances, meaning that one entity or individual does not hold too much power in the appointment process. If the BOMA provides a check on mayoral appointments, I view this as a way to ensure greater accountability.

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

### What concerns do you have regarding Franklin's finances and how would you propose they be resolved?

#### Greg Caesar

We are on the precipice of committing to a \$100M government services building, City Hall. 15 years ago, similar claims of MANDATORY need and FAILING City Hall facilities were made, and a \$60MM City Hall was a primary topic of debate. Somehow, we survived and provided services from that rickety building for 15 years. Now it seems we need to spend nearly double the amount discussed 15 years ago to build a replacement building – even though we've grown external resource locations to support our civic needs. I want to re-evaluate (if they don't pass the new building before, I'm elected) the need for space; raising questions about departments which we've outsourced as our city has grown. IF we move forward with the city hall before I'm elected, I will push for prompt action to investigate lease terminations or sale-options for our properties (like CoF Streets Department).

#### Patrick George

My concern is the appropriations and the discipline of our city's finances that have and will continue to have a direct impact on the individuals and families within Franklin. The city of Franklin has approximately \$150 million in debt through bonds which means this is a cash flow expense spread over time to cover capital expenditures used to avoid raising taxes. However, the concern is that this is a short-term solution which can lead to insolvency, or a more likely result is that the city will increase taxes and utility fees if capital improvements are not managed appropriately. All of which directly impact individuals and families on a day-to-day basis.

#### BK Muvvala

1. Government Spending: Excessive government spending, which I see as wasteful and detrimental to economic growth. Unnecessary projects or programs driving up costs. 2. Debt and Deficits: Accumulating high levels of government debt and budget deficits, I believe these can lead to long-term economic instability and reduced fiscal flexibility. 3. Pension Obligations: City has pension plans for public employees, sustainability and financial stability of these plans, especially if they are underfunded. 4. Transparency and Accountability: Concerns might also center around transparency in budgeting and spending decisions. I advocate for open and accountable government practices to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently. Proposed Resolutions: 1. Fiscal Restraint: Implement measures to control spending, such as conducting regular audits of government programs, eliminating redundant services, and instituting cost-saving practices across various departments. 2. Tax Reform: Reducing tax rates or introducing tax incentives for businesses to encourage investment and job creation, while still maintaining essential city services. 3. Debt Management: Develop a plan to manage existing debt, prioritize essential projects, and avoid taking on excessive new debt. This might involve refinancing existing debt to lower interest payments. 4. Pension Reform: Address any underfunded pension obligations by exploring pension reform options that ensure the long-term sustainability of pension plans while being fiscally responsible. 5. Transparency Measures: Enhance transparency in budgeting by providing easy access to

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

*What is your commitment to the Envision Franklin document? What changes would you propose, if any, to the Envision Franklin document?*

### **Greg Caesar**

The Envision Franklin document sets a general direction for the growth and development of our community. Having served on the Board of Zoning Appeals for 10+ years, now the Vice Chair of that Board, and personally participated in NUMEROUS community listening sessions during the formation and adoption of the first document as well as the 5-year update, firstly I'm proud that our city invests in constructing these guidelines. I believe we need to increase our focus on non-motorized and alternative modes of transportation to support our community and promote our quality of life. I love what we've created with better roadways including walkability improvements downtown and how that has spilled into the Factory and Fieldstone Farms in the north, Westhaven to the west and south toward the library. As Mack Hatcher and our city grows toward the south and east, we need to provide sensible density that reflects the character and community of Franklin along with walk and bike paths for our residents who want to get from home to anywhere safely via car and/or bike or foot. We MUST continue to invest time and energy in collecting community feedback to support our vision to provide clarity, boundaries, and guidance to those who are building in our

### **Patrick George**

My concern is the urban growth boundaries, annexation, and the overall planning that has been set forth which includes high density areas and public transportation. A document such as Envision is a plan that shapes Franklin's future. However, a plan without preparation and the personnel to implement it becomes a document with no value.

### **BK Muvvala**

strongly support the Envision Franklin document as a general framework for the city's future development. However, I believe that some changes are needed to make the document more realistic and achievable. Specifically, I propose the following changes to the Envision Franklin document:



## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

*For new development, how do you think the additional infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, police, ambulances, fire, etc.) should be funded?*

### **Greg Caesar**

Infrastructure for new development should be materially funded by those building and buying in the new developments. There may have to be sharing of some sort, but it must be a small minority contribution, if at all. I believe new entrants into the city should shoulder most of the expense as those who've come before have done.

### **Patrick George**

This should be at the cost of the developer/development that adheres to the Franklin codes and ordinances.

### **BK Muvvala**

Developer impact fees: Impact fees are charged to developers to offset the cost of new infrastructure that is needed to support their development. Impact fees are typically based on the size and type of development, and they can be used to fund a variety of infrastructure projects, such as roads, water and sewer lines, parks, and schools. Tax increment financing (TIF): TIF is a financing tool that allows local governments to use the increased property tax revenue generated by new development to fund infrastructure improvements in the area. TIF can be a useful tool for funding infrastructure projects that would not be feasible to fund with traditional sources of revenue. Public-private partnerships (P3s): P3s are arrangements between the public and private sectors to finance and deliver infrastructure projects. P3s can be a cost-effective way to fund infrastructure projects, and they can also help to bring private sector expertise to the table. State and federal grants: State and federal governments often provide grants to local governments to help fund infrastructure projects. These grants can be a valuable source of funding for infrastructure projects, but they are often competitive and require a significant amount of paperwork. I believe that a combination of these sources is the best way to fund the additional infrastructure needed for new development in Franklin. Impact fees, TIF, P3s, and state and federal grants can all play a role in ensuring that Franklin has the infrastructure it needs to support continued growth. In addition to these sources of funding, I also believe that it is important to be careful about how new development is

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

*Some citizens have expressed concern that the building in which City Hall resides is no longer adequate. What are your thoughts?*

### **Greg Caesar**

As mentioned above, it was 'inadequate' and urgently needed re-development 15 years ago, yet somehow, we persevered. I know that a building has a lifespan and that the current City Hall has probably reached its golden years, but I do strongly contest us not re-thinking civic use models for a newly built City Hall. We don't do business like we did in 2009, so I would encourage us to think long and hard about mixed-use spaces to support our evolving workforce while understanding that we made strategic facility-based pivots during the past decade which resulted in a better-functioning City without tearing down and re-building the city hall and parking facilities. I'm not expressly opposed to the new building, having served in City Hall on the Board of Zoning Appeals since 2010, one can clearly see the building is in need of improvement – but I don't want us improving the facilities only burden our community and future generations unnecessarily.

### **Patrick George**

We do need a new city hall. However, the current plan to build a new city hall that is \$1000 sq ft is irresponsible and will have an impact of a debt of \$1500 per every man, woman, and child who resides in the city of Franklin. A more fiscally responsible choice is to build a new city hall that meets the needs of the city but is within a reasonable budget. Additionally, considerations on infrastructure, construction, feasibility, traffic studies, and how construction would affect downtown. We must explore all options including other sites that can make sense. Once again this comes down to leadership, not addressing the needs but focusing on the wants.

### **BK Muvvala**

I agree with the citizens who have expressed concern that the building in which City Hall resides is no longer adequate. The building was built in 1973 and is not designed to meet the needs of the modern city. It is cramped, outdated, and does not have enough space for the city's growing workforce. I support the city's efforts to find a new location for City Hall. The city has been considering several options, including renovating the existing building, building a new building on the current site, or building a new building in a different location. I believe that the best option for the city is to build a new building in a different location. This would allow the city to design a building that is specifically tailored to its needs. It would also allow the city to create a more inviting and accessible space for citizens and businesses. I understand that building a new City Hall will be a costly endeavor. However, I believe that it is a necessary investment in the future of the city. A new City Hall would be a symbol of Franklin's progress and prosperity. It would also provide the city with the space and resources it needs to continue to grow and thrive. Here are some of the specific concerns that citizens have raised about the current City Hall building: It is cramped and outdated. The building is not designed to accommodate the city's growing workforce. There is not enough space for employees to work comfortably, and there is no room for expansion. It is not accessible to people with disabilities. The building has several steps and narrow doorways, which make it difficult for people with disabilities to get around. It is not energy efficient. The building is

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

### What are your views concerning Franklin giving tax breaks to attract new businesses?

#### Greg Caesar

Tax-incentives to bring businesses to town can be a good thing. To attract top businesses and top talent, some incentives are required. If the economics make sense, I'm not opposed to granting concessions to organizations who want to truly pour into the city. Along with tax incentives, our outstanding characteristics will bring the right businesses (and people) to our community. But this CANNOT be a one-way street. I want businesses that will be productive contributors to our community, not just seeking the lowest cost of operations. Cities in TN are desirable due to the conservative taxes, but we need the liberty to provide incentives, like all cities who we 'compete' against for new businesses.

#### Patrick George

Franklin is a desirable place to live, work, and play, so I do not believe that we need to provide tax breaks to businesses. Providing a \$300K incentive to In and Out Burger does not have a significant impact on why they are moving to Franklin but does have an impact on our budget. A more impactful strategy is to provide incentives to small businesses, especially those that are downtown that make up the fabric of our community, rather than inviting corporatization of main street and Franklin.

#### BK Muvvala

There are both pros and cons to consider, and the decision will depend on a variety of factors, such as the city's budget, the local current economy, and the specific businesses that are being considered

Pros:

- Tax breaks can help to create jobs and boost the local economy.
- Tax breaks can help to offset the cost of doing business in Franklin, which is higher than in some other parts of the country.
- Tax breaks can make Franklin more attractive to businesses, which can lead to more competition and lower prices for consumers.

Cons:

- Tax breaks can be expensive for taxpayers.
- Tax breaks do not always lead to the creation of new jobs.
- Tax breaks can give an unfair advantage to certain businesses.
- Tax breaks can lead to a race to the bottom, where cities and states compete to offer the biggest tax breaks to attract

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

*"Should the City of Franklin have a code of decency for events held at publicly owned venues?  
How should the attendance by children be addressed at events which may contain adult content, including sexual content?"*

### **Greg Caesar**

I don't support indecent or unlawful activities in public events in public areas, period. There are laws that prevent this and I support us enforcing these laws. I am open to listening to community feedback and defining what a 'code of decency' for public events in public areas should look like along with the potential repercussions for violation. I don't believe explicit sexual content or explicit sexual activities should be permitted in public events in our public parks in view of children.

### **Patrick George**

To address your question more precisely I would suggest that there SHOULD BE NO ADULT OR SEXUAL CONTENT AT PUBLICLY OWNED EVENTS. To suggest otherwise contradicts the moral fabric of our community made up of hard-working decent men, woman, and families. Unfortunately, BOMA's leadership failed our community and has not instituted a code of decency, which is moral turpitude. I would make it a priority to ensure a code was issued and enforced for the safety of our community and safeguard our children and their future.

### **BK Muvvala**

I believe that the City of Franklin should have a code of decency for events held at publicly owned venues. I believe that this code should be designed to protect children from exposure to adult content, including sexual content.

I propose that the code of decency should include the following provisions:

Events held at publicly owned venues should be clearly labeled as either family-friendly or adult-only. Children under the age of 18 should not be admitted to adult-only events. Events that may contain adult content, including sexual content, should be held at a time and place that is not likely to be attended by children. Event organizers should take steps to prevent children from attending events that may contain adult content, including sexual content. I believe that these provisions would help to protect children from exposure to adult content and would ensure that publicly owned venues are safe and welcoming for all members of the community. I also believe that event organizers should take steps to address the attendance of children at events that may contain adult content, including sexual content.

Event organizers should: Make it clear on the event listing that the event may contain adult content, including sexual content. Require all attendees to be 18 years of age or older. Provide a designated area for children to wait while their parents or guardians attend the event. Provide childcare services for children who are under the age of 18. I believe that these steps would

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

### *Is it the government's role to ensure the availability of affordable housing? If so, how?*

#### **Greg Caesar**

The government can help encourage affordable housing, but I believe other organizations (non-profits) are best equipped to facilitate and manage affordable housing. Having worked with the Habitat for Humanity organization, this is a perfect example of the community (not the government) supporting private efforts to procure land and rebuild character-matching properties with a price point and framework to propel families and individuals forward. I am all for supporting the hard-working residents who help make Franklin a vibrant, multicultural community. I want the government to work with the private and non-profit sectors to offer opportunities for our workforce to find residency in Franklin. I would love to see non-profit and private sectors create opportunities for our workforce to procure a home where they can live safely while providing training and skills needed to move into a higher income bracket if they so desire. I believe it is critical that we have properties available for hard-working contributors to live our city boundaries. It is, however, unrealistic to believe that these individuals should receive huge government-subsidized homes in the prime real-estate areas. I would consider attracting development and introducing density which could provide opportunities for affordable homes to be constructed while allowing our hard-working residents to feel pride in ownership without burdening the

#### **Patrick George**

Affordable housing needs to be properly defined as it has been misused and abused. Franklin is an affluent community which is why affordable housing is needed but needs to be done responsibly. This means thoughtful and intentional decisions are made to make a commitment to support sustainable development that considers the infrastructure -roads, sewers, environmental etc. and the preservation of our community and historic sites.

#### **BK Muvvala**

There are both pros and cons to consider, and the decision will depend on a variety of factors, such as the government's budget, the housing market, and the needs of the community. I believe that the government has a role to play in ensuring the availability of affordable housing. However, I believe that the government should not be the sole provider of affordable housing. I believe that the private sector should also play a role in providing affordable housing.

I propose that the government can help to ensure the availability of affordable housing by: Building more affordable housing units. Offering rent subsidies to low-income tenants. Working with government to develop affordable housing solutions. I believe that by working together, the government and the private sector can help to ensure that everyone has access to affordable housing.

Here are some of the arguments for and against the government's role in ensuring the availability of affordable housing:

Arguments for: The government has the resources to build and subsidize affordable housing.

Arguments against: The private sector is better equipped to provide affordable housing.

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

### What are your thoughts about the "Middle Eight" development project?

#### Greg Caesar

(Abstain given this item may come before a board I currently sit on.)

#### Patrick George

This project should never have been passed and did so with a 6-2 vote from the Alderman without considering the spirit and voice of the community. Additionally, the long-term consequences for downtown and the city of Franklin are undeniable. Once again this is a failure of leadership to recognize, have the awareness of the impact of their decisions without community involvement. This project, which was R4 residential parcel and rezoned to multifamily (includes owners and renters-not stakeholders), changes the precedent of the height of the building. extremely high density, parking, flooding issues, and removal of historic designation of the Truett property that allowed for zoning. These decisions have set the precedent in Franklin for other development to take place and those in leadership are shortsighted including the zoning department and committee to hear the communities voice, because the Franklin we know and love is changing quickly so it is important to know who voted for Middle Eight and are they

#### BK Muvvala

There are both pros and cons to consider, and my decision will depend on a variety of factors, such as the impact on the environment, the community, and the economy. I have mixed views on the "Middle Eight" development project. Even though the project will bring much-needed economic development to Franklin, create jobs, boost the local economy, and attract new businesses to the city, will improve the quality of life for Franklin residents by providing new amenities, such as a hotel, restaurants, and shops. I am strongly concerned about the impact it will have on the environment and the community, the project will increase traffic congestion, contribute to air pollution, and destroy green space, also will lead to gentrification and displacement of low-income residents, and I am still leaning towards the Franklin City growth, mixed development, prosperity, job creations and community development

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

### What do you think about how Franklin handled the pandemic? What would you have done differently?

#### Greg Caesar

I think the best way to evaluate how we handled the pandemic is to look at the current state of the city... economically, we are thriving, while socially we are divided. The pandemic for Americans was a difficult period for all, Franklin included. While I wasn't living in our house in Franklin during the pandemic, I hope we never have to be tested in that way again, however I feel confident that we will do what it takes as Americans and Franklinites to get through it together. I only hope to emerge less divided than we currently are. Relative to other communities, whose residents now call Franklin home, we rebounded much more quickly, yet we all still battle with the stresses our society endured during the pandemic. Today, we know that due to several real-world factors, mask mandates in Franklin are not as effective as it once was thought to be, yet this topic still stirs great controversy among our community. With this knowledge, I would have encouraged the leaders never to have imposed the mandate on our youth population and instead educated and encouraged social distancing, hand hygiene, covering a cough or sneeze during the height of the infectious spread and to protect

#### Patrick George

There were mask mandates, closure of businesses, and the mayor wanted to extend mask mandates. As we have witnessed, this was devastating to families and locally owned businesses. True leadership would evaluate and discern fact from fiction to lead their community instead of doubling down on errors and omissions. I believe this matter will rear its ugly head again but this time the community and leadership must learn from past mistakes. Like many of these questions, BOMA and all elected officials must recognize that they work for and on behalf of their constituents and need to listen to the voice of the community.

#### BK Muvvala

I have mixed views on how Franklin, TN handled the pandemic. Even though I believe that the city did a good job of balancing public health concerns with economic needs. I believe that the city's mask mandate and other restrictions helped to slow the spread of the virus, while also allowing businesses to remain open, which helped to protect the economy and jobs. Also I would have provided more financial, medical and mental health assistance to people who were struggling financially due to the pandemic. I would have left to individual's freedom to act or not to act, and would have seen that government would not play the role in mandating the rules on what to do, how to live and what not to do, as long as it doesn't impact other individuals rights, obligations and liberty

## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

*As a citizen and a voter, do you think the county and the state have any election integrity issues? If so, what are the issues?*

### **Greg Caesar**

I am the only candidate on the ballot in our city to have requested and submitted multiple ballots while living abroad. While the process of voting from abroad was not simple, I checked regularly to ensure the vote arrived. I do not question if the document I sent in containing my votes while abroad was counted. I do appreciate TN requiring government identification to vote. I have faith in our poll-workers, redundancy of machine and hand-filled ballots, and our election commission. I do appreciate the rights and efforts of citizens who pursue and question election integrity.

### **Patrick George**

As a Constitutionalist I believe in single day voting and paper ballots for voters that accurately reflect the voters' choices, rather than anomalies that we have witnessed in recent elections.

### **BK Muvvala**

I have expressed concerns about election integrity in Williamson County and Tennessee. I have specifically pointed to the following issues:

The use of Dominion voting machines, which have been the subject of conspiracy theories and allegations of fraud.

The lack of transparency in the election process, which makes it difficult to verify the accuracy of the results.

The potential for voter fraud, which could be committed by individuals or by foreign actors.

I believe that these issues need to be addressed in order to ensure the integrity of elections in Williamson County and Tennessee. I am actively, collectively, directly and indirectly participated in calling for a number of reforms, including:

The use of paper ballots, which are more difficult to hack or manipulate.

Increased transparency in the election process, which would make it easier for voters to verify the accuracy of the results. Voter ID laws, which would make it more difficult for people to vote illegally.

It is important to have a public discussion about these issues in



## 2023 Williamson GOP Voter's Guide - City of Franklin, Alderman At-Large Position C

### How should the City of Franklin make decisions regarding the placement of historical markers?

#### Greg Caesar

Franklin is a historic town and historic tourism is a significant contributor to our balance sheet. Our residents and I take great pride in preserving and protecting the historic markers in Franklin. However, we can have too many historical markers. Rather than removing monuments of the past, I appreciate the efforts to tell the "Fuller Story" and take pride in our city making efforts to memorialize a comprehensive story of our history. The markers we place should be historically accurate, tell our story, and aid current and future generations' better understanding of the past.

#### Patrick George

Historical markers identify and inform people of the context and intent. It is imperative to tell a full and complete picture of the subject that is derived from multiple verifiable sources using well thought out research and information. Additionally, the process of decision making should include community conversations, hearings in front of decision-making bodies, and subject matter experts that have a non-biased opinion based on the facts. Historical markers, like most decisions, have long term implications on how one interprets and understands the historical relevance and the empathy of the impact of the markers. This impacts and highlights the importance of our heritage.

#### BK Muvvala

I believe that the City of Franklin should make decisions regarding the placement of historical markers based on the following criteria: Historical accuracy: The markers should be accurate and factual, and they should not be used to promote a particular agenda or viewpoint. Balance: The markers should represent a variety of perspectives, and they should not be biased towards one particular group or viewpoint. Community input: The markers should be placed in consultation with the community, and they should reflect the needs and interests of the community. Cost-effectiveness: The markers should be cost-effective, and they should not be a burden on taxpayers. I believe that these criteria are important for ensuring that historical markers are a valuable and accurate resource for the community. I also believe that these criteria will help to avoid controversy and ensure that the markers are accepted by all members of the community. In addition to these criteria, I also believe that the City of Franklin should consider the following factors when making decisions about the placement of historical markers: The location of the marker: The marker should be placed in a location where it will be seen by a lot of people and where it will not be easily vandalized. The size and design of the marker: The marker should be large enough to be easily read, but it should not be so large that it is unsightly or obstructive. The materials used to make the marker: The marker should be made from durable materials that will withstand the elements. The maintenance of the marker: The City of Franklin should have a plan for maintaining the marker and