

City of Franklin, Mayor

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.

Ken Moore

I am a retired orthopaedic surgeon and married to a Franklin original, Linda Crowell Moore. We have lived here since 2004. We have five children, six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. I have been involved with politics throughout my career working on health policy at both the state and federal level. I have helped with many elections of Republicans through the years from Lamar Alexander, Bill Frist, Bill Haslam, Bill Haggerty, Charles Sargeant, and Sam Whitson to name a few. Linda and I have had the opportunity to host many events at our home through the years and even hosted an event for Dr. Ben Carson. My qualifications are that I have experience in a broad area of skills having served as Mayor since 2011. I am involved with the Regional Transit Authority, Greater Nashville Regional Council, Chair the Mayors' Caucus of Middle Tennessee, Solid Waste Task Force, the Air Board, and the Transportation Policy Board. I have been honored to be named Mayor of the Year for Tennessee and have received several leadership awards locally and across the state. I am particularly proud of having received the Charles M. Sargent Leadership Award. My wife and I worship at Franklin First United Methodist Church and I have taught Sunday School in the past. We are supportive of many local non-profits including Friends of Franklin Parks, Heritage Foundation, Mercy Clinic, Brightstone, Graceworks, Next Gen, and the Refuge Center for Counseling. I have spent my entire career listening to people as a physician and also as Mayor. My record will show that I have led with a steady hand at the wheel of the City. The City has received numerous accolades while I have served as Mayor and it is a reflection of a great city team.

Gabrielle Hanson

I have been married to my husband Tom, for 19 years. We have a daughter, Ashton, who is 18 and an honor student at Grand Canyon University. We have a horse named Blue Belle. What are your qualifications, skills, and experience? I have been a Realtor and principal broker for 20+ year in Tennessee and Illinois. I am presently an Alderman At-Large in Franklin. I serve on the Beer Board, Stormwater and Capital Investment Committees with the City of Franklin. I have worked extensively with global companies, and individuals from all sectors of life, in the real estate industry. I have been involved in government affairs with the Realtor association, RPAC Chair, National Association of Realtors RPAC Participation Committee (won top honors for Tennessee), helped craft Tennessee legislation that saves Realtors thousands of dollars in Federal tax savings, and continue to serve on state committees. I am also an appointee on two committees with the National League of Cities. I am a Christian, a Christ follower. Faith is the driving force behind all that I do. When I think of my relationship with Christ and its correlation to serving as an elected official, I remind myself that this country is "one Nation, under God". I am presently on the board of Sister Cities, participate in toy drives every Christmas for those in need and volunteer with numerous area organizations. One of the character traits that make me an effective elected official is a relentless dedication to preserving the traditional values that has made Franklin the desirable community it is. I am not afraid to resist the divisive agendas we see plaguing cities across the United States. Each constituent of Franklin genuinely needs to be heard. I want to know what concerns and dreams they have because this is their home. Dedication to transparency in all that the city does, positivity because regardless of what it looks like, the glass is always half full, and creativity to solve challenging issues like massive infrastructure needs, or getting a police officer home from an out of state hospital at the last minute, are some of my other

City of Franklin, Mayor

Why are you running?

Ken Moore

I want to continue to lead the City to be a place where people want to live, work, and raise a family. We live in a very special place and I want to continue to work to insure that it is available for our children and future residents of our City.

Gabrielle Hanson

Franklin has reached a cultural tipping point that puts at risk the unique charm and appeal that have drawn thousands of residents and businesses to Franklin. The traditional values that are part of the tightly woven fabric of Franklin are being replaced with divisive agenda's we are seeing in other cities across America. Our taxpayer dollars are being spent at warp speed, and there is little to no transparency in city hall. I am running to ensure that our children, and grandchildren will be protected from inappropriate content and conduct. I am running to protect our constitutional rights and protect the heart of Franklin.

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

Ken Moore

It is a sacred document for our Country and should continue to be our guidance. We have the Judicial Branch that is asked to interpret it often.

Gabrielle Hanson

I believe the Constitution should be interpreted as it was written. The Founders designed the Constitution to protect a set of values that time cannot change or forget. They made it difficult to change knowing that if the rights enumerated in the Constitution and Bill of Rights were to be challenged or weakened, it would have catastrophic impacts on the strength of the United States.

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

Ken Moore

Liberty is the opportunity to be free in a society to live your life, be a productive citizen, and contributor under the laws of our land. Government's role is to provide those services that we as individuals cannot provide for ourselves.

Gabrielle Hanson

Liberty is the right to make your own decisions and live your life as you see fit. The government's role is to protect the liberty of the individual, both from itself and from other individuals.

City of Franklin, Mayor

What is the primary role of government?

Ken Moore

Support and enable an orderly and productive society.

Gabrielle Hanson

The primary role of government is to give the people the tools they need to create a community they want to live in, as well as, protecting them from outside interference, providing for their well-being and happiness, and providing parameters for the community.

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

Ken Moore

1. Housing-support of local initiatives for the Franklin Housing Authority and encourage more work force housing with walkable neighborhoods, 2. Infrastructure-Continue to do long term planning on infrastructure needs and prioritize them and match them a funding source. 3. Workforce-Continue supporting a business-friendly initiatives with the Chamber and the State Office of Economic Development. I have been and will continue to be involved in all of these areas.

Gabrielle Hanson

☒ Controlling massive infrastructure spending as Franklin expands. This is the time for Franklin to be a leader in the State of Tennessee when it comes to solving extensive utility and road expansive using means other than bonds.

☒ Preserving our traditional values. As the rest of the nation falls victim to acronyms and global agendas, we must diligently fight to protect what has made Franklin so special.

☒ Cost containment in our budget. While we live in very robust financial times as a community, it won't always be this way. We have to consider if a \$115,000,000 city hall is really what the taxpayers need, and what effect it might have on property taxes moving forward. Are we living within our taxpayers budgets when we spend money?

City of Franklin, Mayor

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?

Ken Moore

I suppose you are referring the various commission and committee appointments that are approved by the Board upon my recommendation. As Mayor, I seek to appoint citizens with skills and expertise that would help the commission or position that they are seeking. The process is advertising for a letter of interest, reviewing the applicants, and interviewing the best ones. I then suggest these to the BOMA who approves them. I seek to involve new people with their skills. I try and give a brief overview of the qualifications to the board and in the past have shared their bios. There are very few appointments that I make that do not require board approval. If you are referring to City employees in leadership positions, this is under the direction of the City Manager. The only person that the Board hires and supervises is the City Manager.

Gabrielle Hanson

I absolutely do have concerns about how they are appointed. The BOMA simply gets a name to vote for on an agenda. We have no idea who else applied. We don't know the credentials of the person who we are approving or anything else about them. Are they even from Franklin? Many times, the post for an available position says 'must be a resident of Franklin', but sometimes those appointed aren't from Franklin. I believe a more transparent way to handle committee appointments would be to publicly post all applicants information. Invite all of those applicants to come before BOMA in a public meeting, and allow each BOMA member to ask one question of the applicants. Have BOMA submit their top 3 and allow the mayor to choose from that pool. While the city charter allows the mayor to handle the appointments in the way they have been previously handled, I do not feel that it is in the best interest of the public, applicants or BOMA to have less than transparent dealings on committee appointments.

City of Franklin, Mayor

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

Ken Moore

Franklin is an Aaa credit by two rating agencies. We have financial policies and benchmarks that we follow. We are regularly recognized for expertise in budgeting by rating organizations. I am proud that we project our capital projects over a ten-year period and match it with financial modeling on how we will pay for them. I always have a concern that our finances are so dependent on sales tax and state shared tax. Property tax is the lowest in the state for a city our size.

Gabrielle Hanson

We have excellent financials, a balanced budget and a top bond rating. However, we have significant debt for a city of our size and that comes with growth (\$160 million). Although we have enjoyed a very prosperous run, it won't always be that way. We are about to embark on a new city hall that will cost each man, woman and child in Franklin approximately \$1,400 with a price that tops well over \$100,000,000. Development is down 45%, the economy is raging with inflation, are we truly addressing our finances and your taxpayer dollars as prudently as possible? We are seeing increases in every fee imaginable – water, alarm systems, etc. Are we looking to the taxpayer to pay for inflation, or are we truly being creative enough to save the taxpayer as much money as possible? I believe there is more that we can do as a city to provide the taxpayer with more value and lessen the risk of a property tax increase.

City of Franklin, Mayor

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

Ken Moore

Envision Franklin is an important document for our city. The Franklin Municipal Planning Commission (FMPC) adopted the Envision Franklin Plan on January 26, 2017. Envision Franklin articulates the long-term vision that will direct future development in a way that strengthens the city and creates exceptional places for people. It is a planning document adopted and maintained by The Franklin Municipal Planning Commission. It is a document that should be reviewed and revised about every five-years, and we are currently in that process. Changes will occur based on citizen input, staff experience, changing trends, changes in state law, and new approaches. The most recent focus has been to retain as much of a rural character in newly annexed areas and land use that is less dependent on use of our cars. A strong point for Franklin is that we link land use to a transportation plan for roads, trails, and bike routes. The enforcement of the document is through our zoning ordinance which is approved by the ROMA

Gabrielle Hanson

The Envision Franklin update is in final stages now. I have not yet seen the final document, but exhaustive work has gone in to preparing this document. No document is ever perfect, but many voices have gone in to making Envision Franklin and much improved product.

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

Ken Moore

Our policy is that the developer pays for the infrastructure needs they are creating for water, sewer, roads, and facilities. I support this approach because otherwise it would be on the taxpayers.

Gabrielle Hanson

I believe that this is Franklin's opportunity to become a leader in the State of Tennessee, with innovative opportunities to pay for this massive undertaking. There is no question that this is a necessity, but entertaining options that have worked in other states is definitely something I want to consider. It may end up that they don't work, but I don't believe we are doing our citizens justice if we don't exhaust every possible way to pay for this expenditure.

City of Franklin, Mayor

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

Ken Moore

It is an outdated structure that is not suitable for rehab or renovation. We are currently in the process of designing a new city hall to be located at the current site. Evaluation was performed at other sites which proved to be no less expensive.

Gabrielle Hanson

It is past time to replace the current city hall. We are 75% through schematics on the new design. While I am concerned about the cost, there is no denying this should have been done years ago. I also believe that more time should have been spent pursuing the other opportunity we were provided with, next to the police station, but many on the BOMA were ready to rush it through as is.

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

Ken Moore

Franklin has rarely participated in PILOTs. Our tax rate is so low that it is not really viewed as a benefit. The rare time we have offered them, it has always restricted it to 40% of the property tax rate so that the public safety portion (60%) is retained. The most recent was with In and Out Burger and had a cap on the amount and was tied to jobs production. We review it in light of the ROI.

Gabrielle Hanson

Franklin is not only a destination for new residency, but also for business. There is no reason why we should be giving away tax payer dollars (as we recently did with In-N-Out Burger) to attract business. Covid showed us that business will pack up overnight and relocate because of our quality business environment and desirable neighborhoods.

City of Franklin, Mayor

***"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?"***

Ken Moore

We have such a code. The law restricts where children can attend. The General Assembly is addressing this currently and we will follow state law.

Gabrielle Hanson

Murfreesboro has a new Ordinance, 23-O-22 regarding community decency standards that addresses all levels of sexually explicit/indecent behavior on any public property. I err on the side of caution when stipulating public behavior, as to not negate a constitutional right, however, I do believe we have to protect minors from inappropriate content, particularly on public property. I would be open to a code of decency as long as it upholds constitutional rights.

How should the attendance by children be addressed at events which may contain adult content, including sexual content?

It could be addressed through an ordinance. I realize that some adults believe that 'anything goes and it's up to the parent', however, I believe it is a community's job to set the tone for what is acceptable and not acceptable on public property. For me, it is not acceptable.

City of Franklin, Mayor

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

Ken Moore

Government already participates with the housing authorities. We have supported them through varying financial support through the years.

Gabrielle Hanson

It is not the job of the government to provide free or subsidized housing, or housing that has a multitude of Federal strings attached. I absolutely believe that is in the best interest of a community to encourage affordable housing, like the Hill Project & Hill Haven, and participate in it's development with outside entities, when it is a rare opportunity for hard working citizens to attain home ownership that can change lives. Being a Realtor, I understand the additional funding mechanisms that can be available to make these dreams a reality, without sacrificing our community to Federal bureaucracy. These 2 projects, for example, offer life changing results in Franklin. It can provide housing for city staff, teachers, your parents, kids moving back after college, or parents who are working and doing everything right, but just cannot get a break, as our median home price soars to almost 1 million dollars. These are not cheap homes, they are around the \$500,000 mark. Shocking number to be affordable!

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

Ken Moore

It is currently under consideration by the BOMA and is coming up on a vote soon. It is a project that will bring new opportunity for creatives but is not affordable housing and likely will be more workforce based. The density has been reduced and will add vibrancy to that area and downtown. It has now passed the second reading with a 6 to 2 vote of approval.

Gabrielle Hanson

This has an aesthetically lovely design plan when you see the presentation. However, the density is over 38 units per acre, far more than any other development for miles around. .87 parking spaces per unit means someone won't get a parking place and will end up parking on the tight streets. There is flooding concern even though our stormwater development is highly advanced, there is a river and a creek in an area already prone to flooding. Most of all, this is a historic district (yes part of it is not historic, but part is and the surrounding area is) and we should value and protect the historic character that defines Franklin.

City of Franklin, Mayor

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

Ken Moore

Franklin followed the lead of the Governor's COVID taskforce and gave the authority to the County Mayor. In retrospect, there are things we might change. The most important message from it is consistency in messaging and frequent communication.

Gabrielle Hanson

My person belief is that ALL businesses are essential. I believe in a person's individual preference when wearing a mask. Nothing should ever be forced for any reason. I believe that we set the tone for what happened in the public school system. The poor children were kept in masks for what seemed an eternity. I would have let individuals choose what is best for them and their families. I would have made sure we had hot lines set up for those seeking mental health counseling since this was an incredibly uncertain and scary time for many. I don't support fear tactics.

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?

Ken Moore

I have faith in our election commission and our processes.

Gabrielle Hanson

I am a supporter of paper ballots. I believe that we have seen integrity issues nationwide that aren't directly related to local election operators. It is the result of interference opportunities in software. I do believe that our local election commission does everything in their power to maintain an accessible and fair election. But I would welcome paper ballot, particularly in smaller elections. My last election created something known as the Tennessee Error that has been used nationwide in election integrity lawsuits, so it is real and it can happen anywhere. Our commission did an excellent job address the disparity that occurred.

City of Franklin, Mayor

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

Ken Moore

Most are considered by the board and are vetted by various boards, commissions, and organizations.

Gabrielle Hanson

It should be carefully validated from multiple sources and quantified based on its true historical significance within the community. I believe it is a way for citizens and tourists to learn more about the significance of the past in a community. However, am not in support of the Racial Terror Markers disguised as historical markers being supported under the moniker 'Remembering Williamson'.