

Candidate Background:

1. 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. 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

2. Why are you running?

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.

Scope and Role of Government:

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

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

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 extend to the family and community. We have been under assault in our families, communities by a government which is burdened with debt, told how to raise of and educate our children, and how we 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 individual liberty.

3. What is the primary role of government?

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.

Franklin Governance:

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

2. 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? 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.

City Finances:

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

Growth and Infrastructure:

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

2. For new development, how do you think the additional infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, police, ambulances, fire, etc.) should be funded? This should be at the cost of the developer/development that adheres to the Franklin codes and ordinances.

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

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

Public Issues:

1. 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? 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.

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

3. What are your thoughts about the "Middle Eight" development project? 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 looking out for our city?

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

5. 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? 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.

6. How should the City of Franklin make decisions regarding the placement of historical markers? 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 makers. This impacts and highlights the importance of our heritage.