

## Chamber of Commerce Questionnaire

My name is Lewis Houser and I'm a candidate for County Commissioner Precinct One

**Q1: Why I have decided to run for election this year?**

A1: I have decided to run for County Commissioner in precinct 1 because a large number of the constituents have indicated to me that they are not being fully represented. My second reason for running for this position is because of my experience as a Planning Commissioner, in corporate management, marketing and finance can be useful for getting things accomplished on the County Court.

**Q2: What competence do I possessed for this elected office?**

A1: I will bring a 38 year business career of experience and perspectives to the County Court in the areas of Management, leadership, and interpersonal skills in budgeting and planning.

**Q3: If I'm elected, what do I consider the top priorities to work toward the next 4 years?**

A1: My first priority will be to re-emphasize Public safety in terms of getting our county roads repaired from the torrential rain storms this last spring. My second priority is to work with the Sheriff Department to secure adequate staff requirements and commensurate salaries that will allow them to provide adequate public safety for all of the residents in Washington County. My third priority is to work with the VFDs in seeking financial resources for adequately equipment to do their jobs.

**Q4: What do I consider the top issue affecting our local economic growth?**

A4: From my perspective, I'm not sure if there exist a combined effort to attract new and developing business to our area. Maybe that could be something that the Chamber could do in a forum with representatives from the various governmental entities in the county. Based on that assumption, I feel that we need a combined approached to deal with our county's growth and development for strategic economic planning and growth over the next five and ten year intervals.

**Q5: What could I do as a local official to help small business in the community?**

A5: If elected, I can make recommendations on the County Court to develop and enhance its incentive and rebate programs; however each governmental entity must have a desire to move in that direction as a group.

**Q6: What is my opinion in offering economic assistance?**

A6: I believe economic assistance, if done appropriately, is a good thing. Here again, these kind of incentives should be a coordinated effort with local Government entities to find and explore ways to attract new businesses into Washington County that make sense to our economic structures and environment.

**Q7: How important are relationships between Washington County government officials and City of Brenham, Burton and unincorporated communities?**

A7: It is extremely important that local governmental entities work together as a team not only with governmental issues, but business, cultural and economic issues as well.

Q8: Do you support the Washington County Chamber's "Government Advocacy Policy Statements for 2017"?

A8: In my view, the current Chamber's Government Advocacy Policy is very thorough and has my support.