

County Candidates Questionnaire – 2018

Washington County (Brenham), Texas

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce is asking the questions below of candidates for election. Please return your responses to the following questions by January 31, 2018, to news@brenhamtexas.com. (Email us to request this blank form so that you can complete it on screen.) All candidate responses will be publicized to the members of the Washington County Chamber and on www.BrenhamTexas.com. (Any candidate that chooses not to respond will have that indicated next to his/her name on the website.) Your response document will be viewed by local citizens and media outlets. It will be published as you provide it. Please double-check that it is free of typos and include the question above each response. *Thank you for sharing your views with Washington County citizens!*

Your Name CANDICE KOCIAN BULLOCK

Position you're seeking COUNTY COMMISSIONER - PCT. 2

1. Why have you decided to run for election at this time?

I have a vested interest in the prosperity of this community – as a 37-year-old businesswoman, wife and mother raising my family here I want a voice in the development of our community. I believe that what this county needs are not leaders in the general sense, but rather "servant leaders." I will be your servant leader. As coined by Robert K. Greenleaf, the servant-leader is a servant first...then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead...a servant-leader focuses primarily on the growth and well-being of the people and/or the communities to which they belong. Take my current role as a project manager at Hi-Line Industries; it is to the benefit of our company and the customer's we service to respect co-workers, provide autonomy to our employees and facilitate and encourage open communication. In return, we yield improved performance which translates to better quality and service and as a result repeat business.

Additionally, I know that I can bring new energy, enthusiasm and fresh perspective to this seat. I find it to be personally rewarding to work collaboratively with others to problem solve. We need to be pro-active in managing the growth of our county. If we get behind this curve, we will have more of a challenge than the one we currently have before us. I know that I am the right individual to help move these strategies forward and also someone who will listen and promote collaboration within the community.

2. What key competencies do you feel you possess to be an elected official? Briefly describe your background in financial management, leadership, communications, understanding of labor/HR issues, understanding of local economic issues, ability to contribute to strategic planning and initiatives, etc.

My early career in retail management and the last ten years as an industrial project manager have required a high level of effective communication, collaboration and organization. Additionally, it has prepared me to evaluate complex issues, make sound and equitable decisions, and to be held accountable for the results of those decisions. I consider myself to be objective, open-minded and fair – with a good balance of vision and pragmatism. All the above will serve the community well if I am elected.

My first role in the workplace, post-college graduation, was in retail management and merchandising. This position required me to fulfill the day to day operations of the brick and mortar store, set and accomplish sales quotas, lead and train a group of sales associates, promote and implement marketing strategies, strategically merchandise the store to drive sales and cater to our customers.

The last ten years I have been employed with Hi-Line Industries, a local industrial fabricator. My first two years were spent as a drafter and assistant to project managers. The last eight years I have been a full-time project manager which requires me to estimate potential projects, review approval and fabrication drawings, review industry-standard specifications and codes, procure materials, coordinate outside services, balance large budgets, lead meetings both internally and with clients, keep projects on schedule and engage in outside sales amongst various other duties. I have managed multi-million dollar customer projects for large corporate clients as well as small projects for numerous small business owners.

3. If you are elected, what do you consider to be the top priorities to work on?

It is inevitable that we will see a growth surge as the Houston population continues to move closer to Washington County. With this in mind, it is essential that we continue to take a proactive role in both identifying and implementing smart growth strategies. Some of these approaches are utilizing land for mix uses, provide a range of housing opportunities, to foster distinctive and attractive communities, preserve open space and farmland and centralize residential and commercial growth. These smart growth strategies not only help to manage future growth but can increase socioeconomic conditions as well as supplement any efforts to fortify financial gains through tourism objectives.

Again, with county growth in mind, it is imperative that we find creative ways to allocate more resources in support of our Volunteer Fire Departments and the Sheriff's Office. These departments and office service the welfare of our community and being that Washington County is already a dispersed community it will only continue to become more difficult to uphold their obligations if they are not adequately staffed, supplied and compensated. We should do everything within our means to support our first responders.

Continue to innovate and evaluate different approaches geared towards minimizing our tax rates and improving upon the services the county provides.

4. What do you consider to be the top issue affecting our local economic growth?

Our current economic growth is affected by the contracting economic environment. This current climate is highly competitive, especially in the industrial sector.

Looking ahead, we can continue diversifying our local economy with the help of our local Chambers of Commerce and the Economic Development Foundation. The government-sector currently plays a significant role in job creation in our region; which can lead to economic imbalance.

5. What could you do as an elected official to help small businesses in the community?

The creation of the A.W. Hodde, Jr., Technical Education Center provided a tremendous service to the community. We should continue to build upon those services.

Additionally, I would like to see an extension of the Technical Education Center that is for life skills training of our youngest adults.

6. What is your opinion of offering economic development incentives to lure capital investment and jobs to the community?

Economic development should continue to be a priority for this county. Due to inflation and the further disparity between net productivity and wages, it is harder for society to make a dollar stretch as it once did. With this in mind – if our ad valorem and/or assessed values increase it will make it that much harder for our community to make ends meet. We need to promote

economic development initiatives that will attract new businesses and investments into the community. In doing so, can not only widen our tax base which can help ease the tax burden on constituents but will drive more sales tax revenue into local government and create jobs amongst other benefits. Again, back to smart growth strategies and this is part of that equation. We must be proactive and smart about how we move forward so that we can continue to foster the lifestyle we have all become accustomed to in Washington County.

7. How important do you feel the relationship is between Washington County government officials and City of Brenham officials, City of Burton officials and the unincorporated communities? How could these relationships be improved?

All of these relationships are of utmost importance to the community. It is critical that each entity endeavor to collaborate as much as possible; this alone will be an excellent service to this community. Decisions made by any entity or community can affect another, whether it be directly or in-directly so I cannot stress enough the importance of cultivating good rapport with one another.

8. Do you support the Washington County Chamber's "Government Advocacy Policy Statements"? (The 2017 version is attached.) This will be a key document for our community's advocacy activities at the state level. Does it include any policy statements you do not agree with? Is there anything you would suggest adding to bring to the attention of state leaders during the upcoming legislative session?

I fully support WC Chamber's "Government Advocacy Policy Statements." The only thing I would like to see under Public Education is an emphasis on exposing our young people to life skills training (potentially through the A.W. Hodde Jr. Center). It is documented that early intervention with our youth can yield many benefits...so why not provide them with the life skills prior to entering the real world so they can become more productive and informed contributors to society?

Life Skills Training examples are but not limited to the following:

Credit Scores – How, Why and What affects them

Money Management - Personal finance, budgeting, balancing a checkbook

Personal Communication and Inter-personal Skills

Government – Not the history of it but instead how our rights apply to us in a day-to-day sense. Emphasis on politics and being aware of our federal and local politicians and promote involvement in voting

Insurance – Automobile, health, home, life, etc.

Loans – Automobile, home, education, etc.

The Law – General introduction and law that could affect their lives in high-school and college

Time Management

**Return by January 31, 2018 to:
news@brenhamtexas.com**

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