



The Duncanville Chamber of Commerce &
The Duncanville Rotary Club
Presents the 36th Annual
2019 Candidates Forum



Thursday, April 18 7:00 PM
Acton Elementary School, 7095 W. Wheatland Rd. Dallas, 75249

City Candidates

School Board Candidates

At – Large

Patrick LeBlanc
Patrick Harvey, CGFO

Place1

Jacqueline Culton
Tom Kennedy

Councilmember

Place 2

Phil McNeely

DISTRICT 1

Joe Veracruz
Matthew J. Jones

Place 3

Alexander Bomgardner
Janet Veracruz
Dorothy Wolverton

DISTRICT 3

Monte Anderson

DISTRICT 5

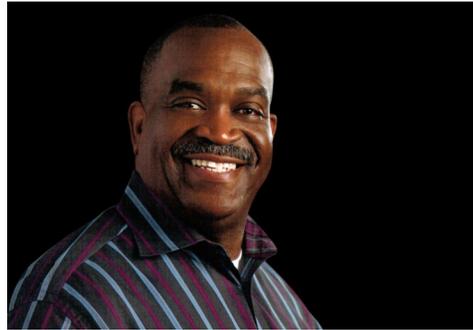
Johnette Jameson
Mike Miner

Early Voting begins April 22 — April 30 at the Duncanville Library
VOTE MAY 4, 2019 at your precinct location

On behalf of the Duncanville Chamber & Rotary Club
Thank you for your attendance at tonight's Candidate Forum.



**City of Duncanville
At - Large
Patrick LeBlanc - Biography**



Patrick LeBlanc

I am Patrick LeBlanc. I am a native of Grambling, LA (many have heard of Grambling State University well it is located in the City of Grambling). I attended Grambling State University majoring in Physics and played football for the legendary Coach Eddie G. Robinson. I have a Bachelor's degree from Dallas Baptist University and a Masters from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Dallas Theological Seminary. I served as team Chaplain for the Duncanville High School football program from 2008 - 2015 and functioned in the same role at Life School Oak Cliff for 2016 season. I really enjoy ministering to the young men and their families.

I am married to my beautiful wife Wanda and we have three daughters, three sons, four grandsons. We live in Duncanville, TX (empty nesters, thank you Lord!!) and attend the Concord Church. I enjoy cooking, mainly Cajun food (Chicken Fricassee, Crawfish Etouffee, and Gumbo) which makes my wife happy, and I enjoy gardening. I grow most of the vegetables that I cook.

I was elected Councilman At-Large for the City of Duncanville in 2017 and prior to that served as Chairman of Duncanville Multi-Cultural Commission. We love this city!

I have authored one book, *On Earth as it is in Heaven*, (2010). The book is about diversity/unity in the church. It amazes me that we can do everything legal or illegal together but for some reason we struggle to worship the one true God together?

Becoming the Associate Pastor of Duncanville's First Baptist Church brought my wife and I to Duncanville in 2008. One of the most rewarding opportunities of my ministry career was becoming the Chaplain for the Duncanville High School Football program. For seven seasons I have built phenomenal relationships with many coaches, parents and students. I have served many families in the Duncanville community, I have worked to encourage unity in the mist of diversity, and I am connected to the faith-based community. Having an uncanny ability to assist others in building and strengthening relationships, and the unconditional love of all people makes me a great candidate for Councilman At-Large for the City of Duncanville.



City of Duncanville At - Large Patrick LeBlanc - Responses



Response to questions from Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

The biggest issue I believe facing the City of Duncanville is community safety. We all want increased economic development that offers the residents quality shopping and dining opportunities but first our community must be safe for residents and business owners.

Everyone has the right to be safe in their community. Community safety is a priority for Duncanville to be a place where people can live safely—increasingly free of crime, the cause of crime and the fear of crime. From 2007 – 2015, Duncanville has the second highest drug overdose death rate among BSW cities and from 2011 – 2015 Duncanville has the second highest suicide mortality rate. The rate was 42% higher than the Dallas County-wide rate.

Everyone has the right to be safe in their community. Quoting Chief Brown, “It is a time of both challenge and opportunity within the Department, the men and women of the Duncanville Police Department will work together with our citizens to achieve the best community outcomes. We share a commitment to public safety as the high priority for our community.”

After a decrease in Part 1 Crimes in Duncanville from 2016 to 2017, there was an increase in Part 1 Crimes from 2017 to 2018. Policing a community is no easy task. Things experienced by first responders are not the subject of the average dinner conversation. Officers carry a load that most citizens cannot image. According to bluehelp.org from 2016-2018, there were more Law Enforcement Officers deaths by suicide than in the line of duty. There are huge stressors involved with the job which is why there is a need for community support.

Currently, the Duncanville Police Department is not completely staff, down 10 officers. This is not breaking news as police department across the state are experiencing a shortage of necessary officers. Adequate compensation is important in any career field and is heightened due to the severity involved in law enforcement but that alone will not get quality applicants to apply nor retain experienced officers. State Representative Lynn Stucky (Denton) has introduced House Bill 14 as a recruitment tool that will assist with student loan repayment for college graduates that choose law enforcement as a career. Initiatives such as this can be used to encourage more qualified applicants to sit for the civil services exam. Are there initiatives along this line that we should explore in Duncanville to attract more qualified officers? Let's talk about the options.

An option to consider is enhancing the Community Night Patrol (CNP) by the Citizens on Patrol (COP). Currently the number and frequency of the patrol vary with the number of volunteers.

My desire is to work in collaboration with the Chief, City Manager, and code enforcement to ensure that the necessary resources, officers and technology, are in place to respond to crime now, and in the future.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I am seeking re-election as Duncanville City Councilman At-Large because I remain passionate about our community. I care about those who learn, live, play and yes work in our community. 2017 launched my first political venture, as there is no manual that comes with being a councilman I believe as Councilman At-Large; I have been a servant and voice for all the citizens. Frankly not much in this current term has been easy and I can admit I have made mistakes which produce unfair evaluations of me by some. While serving my first term has proven challenging, I have learned a lot along the way that will assist me in serving in the future. I remain optimistic and know that my passion to serve our community runs deeper than any hurdles and obstacles we may face.

Through my current term I have made many connections with residents and have on multiple occasions worked with city staff to swiftly address citizen's needs. As a life-time, continuous learner, I continue to have the ability to effectively partner and collaborate well with others

in pursuit of a common goal. I am an individual who is goal driven and solution oriented.

I am the best candidate because of my experience serving others, integrity and commitment to strong personal values and principles that I genuinely live by on a daily basis. Leadership is not a position, leadership is a behavior. I will continue working hard for the people of Duncanville. I will continue asking the difficult, and at times the unpopular questions—always seeking to understand the situation. I believe that it is imperative to think not only of the immediate impact of a decision, but also long term implications. I humbly ask for your support and prayers as I embark on this journey to continue serving the citizens of Duncanville.



**City of Duncanville
At - Large
Patrick Harvey - Biography**



Patrick Harvey

Biography

- Duncanville resident since 1989
- Married, daughter (Dallas ISD educator) and son (2008 graduate Duncanville ISD)
- Sunday School teacher
- Member Duncanville Audit Committee
- Former member Park Board (circa 1995)



**City of Duncanville
At - Large
Patrick Harvey - Responses**



Response to questions from Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

Misunderstanding, mistrust, and misplaced trust. I would address it by being available, accessible, accepting and meeting people where they are, being transparent, accountable, and setting a good example.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

WHY I AM RUNNING

- to provide oversight on the approved \$20M bond election spending, insuring that proposed projects come in on time and under budget, bonds are fiscally managed
 - Proposition A
\$6M Parks & Recreation Facilities enhancements: upgrades to restroom facilities, Kidsville play ground, Splashpad, Parking, & Concessions
 - Proposition B
\$6.6M reconstruction of streets: North Main Street @ Camp Wisdom Rd, South Cedar Ridge Drive, East Daniieldale
 - Proposition C
\$6M for a new Fire Station and Emergency Operations Center
 - Proposition D
\$2.4M renovation and expansion of the Public Works and Parks Service Center
 - to work to assure best practices in City Operations
 - direction on the implementation of the comprehensive plan and the parks master plan
- Why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I have spent over 30 years as a key advisor to municipalities in both Texas and Louisiana, assisting them in the efficient delivery of effective community services. I have obtained a deep intimate understanding of how municipal organizations work and why they work, and personally experienced how the quality of community life is improved by the counsel and guidance I have provided. I am committed to excellence and making a lasting difference in the communities in which I have served. I have accomplished this through consensus building, communication and sharing my financial expertise.



**City of Duncanville Council
District 1
Joe Veracruz - Biography**



Joe Veracruz

Bio for Joe Veracruz

Joe Veracruz has been a resident of Duncanville for 21 years and has been married to Janet Veracruz for 28 years. After High school he joined the military and continued his post-secondary education earning an Associated degree in Applied Science in Electronic technology. Joe is a 25-year military veteran of the Texas Air National Guard and earned the highest Enlisted rank of Chief Master Sergeant. In 1990, during his military career, he deployed to Saudi Arabia for Desert Shield / Desert Storm. After September 11, 2001 he deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq in support of Iraqi freedom. Joe is currently a Lieutenant in the Dallas Fire Rescue department and has completed 26th year. He is the Duncanville School Board Trustee Secretary in Place 3 and has served 1 term for 3 years. He is a current member of Keep Duncanville Beautiful and has served for 5 years.



**City of Duncanville Council
District 1
Joe Veracruz - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

Although that answer comprises of a lot of different subtopics, it is by far the most challenging and costly for our city. As a Councilmember in Duncanville, my ultimate goal, as a single voice, is to ensure our city leaders and departments have the necessary support and funds to be proactive. I realize I do not have all of the answers, however my experience on the Duncanville school board has taught me many lessons, the first is to listen and then go into motion. I pledge do my research on the issues, reach out to citizens to determine their concerns, and vote accordingly.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

My purpose for running for the office of Duncanville Councilmember District 1 is to "just serve". My very diverse background as a 26-year Lieutenant in the Dallas Fire Rescue Department, 25 years as a Chief Master Sergeant in Texas Air National Guard, my deployments during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan, 5 years as a current Keep Duncanville Beautiful board member, Board of Directors for the Duncanville Education Foundation, and 1 Term (3 years) as a Duncanville School board trustee has taught me many professional and life lessons. What makes me most qualified is my tenure, longevity, and Integrity.



City of Duncanville Council
District 1
Matthew J. Jones - Biography



DIDN'T ATTEND



**City of Duncanville Council
District 1
Matthew J. Jones - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

DIDN'T ATTEND



City of Duncanville Council District 3 Monte Anderson - Biography



Monte Anderson

Is President of Option Real Estate a Duncanville based multi-service real estate company specializing in creating sustainable neighborhoods in Texas' southern Dallas and northern Ellis counties. Since 1984 his focus has been improve the living and working environment in these communities where he was born and raised. Monte is an outspoken and frequently recognized advocate for policies and practice to serve urban neighborhoods.

In Duncanville, Texas, Monte has been formal partner with the City to advance economic and real estate development in over a decade of activity including Main Station. He has partnered with or assisted many entrepreneurs to increase the number of owners occupied buildings on main Street. With over two dozen projects in the largely one story downtown area, his work reintroduced mixed-use building in Duncanville for the first time in several decades. He co-founded the DuncanSWITCH monthly market to create a pipeline of startup businesses to grow the economic health of the core business district. Monte was also instrumental in the conversion of an abandoned Kmart to tortilla manufacturing facility and Mexican restaurant. Main Street Revitalization Project is a North Texas Council of Governments' CLIDE Awards winner.

In Dallas, Monte repurposed Tyler Station, a blighted 1930's manufacturing plant, into a transit oriented co-working facility, reconnecting the iconic property with its adjacent neighborhoods. Prior to Taylor Station, Monte renovated the historic Belmont Hotel, in 68-rooms motor court hotel which was the recipient of Preservation Dallas and Preservation Texas awards. Both projects have been recognized with CLIDE Awards. Surrounding the Belmont, Monte helped develop a more complete neighborhood with range of projects including housing, a photography studio, animal hospital, fitness center, and restaurants.

In Midlothian, Texas, Monte is incrementally building MidTowne Midlothian, a 131-acre mixed-use, traditional neighborhood development over 25 year period. This is a multi-generational development connecting schools, parks, and small retail buildings with multigenerational housing. MidTowne is also a CLIDE Awards winner.

In DeSoto Monte has most recently completed an innovative retail concept called DeSoto Market Place, formerly a 50,000 sf retail center that had declined and was providing no real value to the surrounding neighborhoods. Working with the City of DeSoto and the DeSoto Economic Development Corporation, the center has been repurposed into a retail incubator which houses startup retails, restaurants, and office users. The exterior includes a newly created space for retail trailers with overhead café lighting to visually improve the center.

Monte is a past President of the Oak Cliff Foundation, the entity that restored the historic Texas Theatre in Dallas. He served as president and founding member and senior faculty member of the Incremental Development Alliance, a group dedicated to training small developers nationwide to strengthen their own neighborhoods thru incremental development. He is past chair of the DeSoto, Cedar Hill and Oak Cliff Chambers of Commerce and Best Southwest Partnership.

In his spare time Monte enjoys playing with his grandchildren, his cats, and listening to rap music.



City of Duncanville Council District 3 Monte Anderson - Responses



Response to questions from Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

I think the top issue for Duncanville is keeping the infrastructure (roads, parks, water & sewer, etc.), homes and commercial buildings in good repair and at the same time making sure that all investments provide a return to the taxpayers without increases in the tax.

Listed below are things we can do to make us a stronger, more attractive town. They are in no particular order. Recycling; buildings, people, waste, roads, etc. Recycled buildings make for interesting development, teaches our children and will make us popular & unique.

Build and develop from the inside out, do not depend on others or outsiders to come help us. We have local developers that own shopping centers, industrial properties and other commercial projects. They should be our first contact, they are already committed to Duncanville.

If big corporations come to town, make them behave and conform to the quality level we should demand. That does not mean we should try to be something we are not. That does not mean we have to shoot for the gold package.

Tiny House Movement is real and we have some great tiny houses in our downtown neighborhoods, fix them up! I have a house I remodeled on Merrill Street and took it from \$40,000 to \$140,000 without adding any new service needs from the City. I believe it is possible to increase the values of all properties just by making them more modern. This is taking what we already have and making it better.

Involve students in the planning and operations of the city. They will show us what to do for the future. Along with our experience, we can have great collaboration. The decisions we make are no longer about us, they are about future generations. We must consult with them and guide them to the best solutions, but we have to show them real respect. City of Champions- our parks, tight neighborhoods with retail, office and industrial surrounded by residential make us a perfect walkable/ bikable community. Along with our long history of sports excellence we should be the healthiest city in Texas! Oh by the way we have Cedar Ridge Preserve we can take credit for right on our edge. Add some bicycle races on the street. Have more running races or marathons. Cyclocross is a great event that we can do in Lakeside Park with very little expense.

Re-purposing old shopping centers and office buildings into mixed use developments.

Help finance small entrepreneurs and property owners. Help locals build the wealth.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I am running for office because I have a huge amount of experience and success in taking neighborhoods and properties that need help and making them relevant and financially sustainable. I will take those same skills and use them to serve on this council. In addition, I can provide significant experience in the major zoning changes that are before us.



City of Duncanville Council
District 5
Johnette Jameson - Biography



NO INFORMATION PROVIDED



**City of Duncanville
District 5
Johnette Jameson - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

NO INFORMATION PROVIDED



City of Duncanville Council District 5 Mike Miner - Biography



Mike Miner

Prior to moving to Duncanville, I was the Chairman of the Neurosurgery Department at The Ohio State University. There I raised our two children after my wife's death when they were in the first and fourth grades. Being a single parent is difficult, a real learning experience, at times heart breaking but also an opportunity. Fortunately, I had good friends and I could always rely on recalling "what would she want me to do." I learned about prom dresses, make up, sports and that a hug was often what they really needed. The kids did well despite my mistakes and we are very close.

They grew up and I decided I had had enough of the stress of leading a large department. The UT Southwestern Medical School's Department of Neurosurgery offered me a Professorship that I could not refuse. I retired from UT Southwestern a few years ago and have invested myself in our city since that time.

I began by volunteering at Fairmeadows Elementary School helping the kids read and with basic math. I purchased and installed a "Little Public Library" in front of the school to afford one more access point for the kids to obtain books. I took the classes to become a member of The Citizens on Patrol. This allowed me to see inside our Police Department. I have served on the Neighborhood Vitality commission since its inception. This has allowed me to be a part of the city government. I joined the Rotary Club and they elected me President four months later. I have especially enjoyed being vice-president of the Partners in Property Corporation since its inception four years ago. We are dedicated to helping home owners who are having issues maintaining their property by doing repairs on their homes: painting, trimming trees, repairing fences and general clean up of their property. We will soon be working on our 25th home. Last year I worked with the DISD librarians to bring in six children's book authors to come to our city. Each of the nine elementary schools had three authors visit each school over a two day period. They helped the children be excited about reading and the response was overwhelming. I think that to be on the City Council, candidates should be a part of the community and put in the effort to understand the needs of our city and to be active problem solvers. Identifying problems is easy, what we need to do is solve problems.



**City of Duncanville Council
District 5
Mike Miner - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

There are several issues facing our city, most of them require allocating our resources wisely and making difficult decisions. We need to use our tax money and the money raised by our recent bond election to the best interests of our city. We need to consider what makes a city attractive. We all desire safety, solid infrastructure, excellent parks, a vibrant economy and other amenities that a thriving city deserves. I think we need to extend our resources by investigating and securing outside grants from the federal government, the state government, charitable institutions and the business community writ large. I have spent a large portion of my career securing grants from all four of these areas. We need to augment our financial status by developing grants and contracts so that we can make the money we have go farther. Financial resources are available but we will need to compete for these resources and we would do well to harness a group of people who know how to multiply our financial base.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I am running for the City Council because it is a civic duty for each member of our city to serve our community. Clearly there are many ways to serve. Respecting all members of our city is part of service. Being involved in efforts to improve our neighborhoods is a way to serve. Being engaged in our neighborhoods, our city and our state is not restricted to a few but must be the responsibility of each of us. Duncanville should be on the cusp of great changes. Our school systems are being ably led but have improvements to make. Similarly, our infrastructure continues to need repair, in my district we need sidewalks and better street lighting. Our police and fire fighters need support; not just better pay but the respect and appreciation from each of us. More creative and imaginative financial resource management is vitally needed. We need to make changes in our leadership to accomplish the goal of elevating our city. My district has had the same leadership for many years but to go forward we must have new leadership with an openness to new ideas and a willingness to move forward. Duncanville is a wonderful city, but maintaining the current status is not acceptable. I have worked in other organizations with imagination, dedication and treated proposals on their merits, not on the person making the proposals. We require positive approaches to improving the future of our city and people who listen, build consensus, develop engagement and who expect compromise but demand results.



School Board Candidates Place 1 Jacqueline Culton - Biography



Jacqueline Culton

Jacqueline “Jackie” Culton, P.E., a native Dallasite, is one of three children born to a coach and a nurse who instilled in her the value of maintaining your integrity, excellence, a good education, hard work, belief in oneself, and helping your fellow man/woman. Jackie attended public schools in Dallas where she was active in the band, Reserve Officers Training Corp. (R.O.T.C.), Red Cross and a number of other school groups. She graduated summa cum laude, being ranked third in her class of almost 500 graduates. Having an analytical mind and love and fascination for science and math, she pursued an engineering degree at Prairie View A & M University where she graduated, with honors. Upon graduation, Jackie commenced work for the City of Dallas because she wanted to help and serve her community and walk in her father’s footsteps.

Ms. Culton worked in various capacities with the City of Dallas in the engineering and management field and retired as Program Manager in the Water Department after 31 years of dedicated and faithful service. During the course of her engineering duties, Jackie obtained and has maintained registration as a Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. Jackie was noticed for her diligence in executing her job and was the recipient of an Excellence in Service award from DWU and City of Dallas “Wall of Honor” recognition. She is currently employed by the City of Duncanville as the Assistant Director of Public Works responsible for Water, Wastewater, Streets, Transportation, Fleet Services and Engineering.

Jackie is active in the community, having served on the Board of Trustees and Finance and Personal Committees, Children and Youth Director, Vacation Bible School Chair, and choir member at her church, P.T.A. officer, and Band Parent. She also ministers to the homeless. Personal future plans include building water wells all over the world. She believes in helping people with everything she has – time, talent and money. Yet, her primary love is helping children be all they can be and ensuring they have what they need to be successful. This involves every thing from buying clothes to school supplies, helping to pay for school tuition to driving young adults to college.

Ms. Culton is very proud of her only child, Julian, who is a graduate of Skyline High School’s Aeronautical Magnet and also the prestigious Merchant Marine Academy with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Logistics and Intermodal Transportation. He has a successful, responsible career in the international shipping arena. He is married to the beautiful MayMarie Culton, a marine engineer. They own an up and coming travel agency, Exotic Travel. They also have two children under the age of four years old, Julian, II, and Claire. Jackie’s grandchildren are truly the “apples of her eye” which is another reason Jackie has a keen interest in ensuring current and future generations of children each receive excellent educations so they can live enriching and productive lives.

Being a devout Christian, her favorite bible verse is “He has made it clear to you, mortal man, what is good and what the LORD is requiring from you— to act with justice, to treasure the LORD’s gracious love, and to walk humbly in the company of your God. (Micah 6:8)”.



School Board Candidates Place 1 Jacqueline Culton - Responses



Response to questions from Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

I am running for the Duncanville School Board because I want to help the children and youth in my community to receive the best education possible. The school district is rated an average of a "C" by the TEA. This is unacceptable for Duncanville ISD. A good education is one of the pivotal foundations of a rewarding, contributing and great life. Each and every child should be equipped to live productive lives so they can take care of themselves, their families and reach back and help their communities. To reemphasize, every child deserves a quality education. This should be the top priority of the school district. In order to improve the rating, I would work with the Board, superintendent and district to implement the following measures to improve quality of education and students' test scores and ensure college and career readiness:

Set specific and measurable District wide goals to improve rating and hold district staff accountable for achieving goals; Provide full-time Pre-K 4 at every elementary school as every district does not have full day Pre-K 4; In the near future, add full-time Pre-K 3; Provide broadscale afterschool, summer reading, writing and math tutoring and enrichment education; Revamp bilingual education to be more effective; Ensure educators receive needed resources, training and appropriate pay and bonuses. Create a great environments for teachers and students to ensure quality learning takes place; Implement aggressive parent and community engagement strategies and enhance the Districts collaboration with non-profits, businesses, and city government. Conduct town-hall meetings to receive the parents, students and community's input regarding pressing issues; Seek mentors for students; Provide college readiness and SAT/ACT preparation classes for students entering junior and senior years of high school.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I am well equipped and qualified for the task having over 34+ years of public service experience as a civil engineer and program manager with the City of Dallas, and current service as the Assistant Director of Public Works with the City of Duncanville.

As such, I have extensive experience in budget and program development, monitoring and oversight; Setting performance expectations, monitoring and evaluating performance; Hiring and terminating staff; Setting divisional, operational and departmental goals; Developing legislative and regulatory agendas; Working with attorneys, contractors, engineering and other consultants, school district personnel, Dallas County, State and federal staffers; Contracting for legal, professional, engineering and construction services; and, Collaborating with community to ensure needs are met.

I have also provided leadership to and worked with various children and youth groups at Dallas I.S.D. and church ministries.

I have experience serving for several years on the board of trustees at my former church.

I understand students having nurtured my son through the public schools of Dallas who went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree from one of the premier service academies in the United States - the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y. He now has a successful career and family.



**School Board Candidates
Place 1
Tom Kennedy - Biography**



Tom Kennedy

I was born in Tyler, Texas and moved to Arkansas when I was 3. I attended public schools and graduated from Little Rock University with a BS in Biology. I worked in the medical manufacturing business until 1985 when I joined my wife Sherry in her business. We moved to Duncanville in 1987 and opened our business Proforma A-Z Specialties. I ran for the School Board in 1991 and served until 1997. I ran again in 2003 and have served since. I have spent the last 28 years involved with our school system in some capacity. I'm married to Sherry and have three children. We attend First United Methodist church and I am an active member of the Duncanville Rotary Club.



School Board Candidates Place 1 Tom Kennedy - Responses



Response to questions from Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

Duncanville ISD like all other districts suffer from lack of proper financial support from the state. The current legislature is in the process of giving us some relief from this problem. The state currently provides only about 35% of the revenue needed by the district. Local property tax has to make up the rest. Not much can be done at the local level to correct this problem. The district also has a problem with overcrowding at the high school and we have started conversations with the superintendent to relieve this crowding. We are looking at the possibility of building a new building on the land adjacent to the school on Camp Wisdom. This would be a fine arts center and a Career and Technology Center. It would move about 500 to 700 students out of the high school. It will require a bond election to finance the building. I am committed to doing whatever is necessary to relieve the crowded conditions at the high school. We are also looking at new and better ways to teach our students to bring our state rating up from the C we received last school year. This is not a simple fix but I am committed to making our rating as good as it can be.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

We are doing great things in our district to improve the educational outcomes of our students. I want to continue on the board to make sure that happens. We have a Collegiate Academy, a STEAM Academy and we are adding two new choice programs at two of our middle schools. These are all initiatives I have supported and want to continue my service to keep the good things happening. I have 21 years of board service and I am a Master Trustee. This is a distinction awarded by the Texas Association of School Boards. I am the only trustee to have this distinction on the current board. I have an understanding of Texas education and I have a network of other trustees around the state to use when needed. I also have a network of people in the district to draw on for support of new and needed school initiatives. No other candidate in the race has the background or experience I have.



**School Board Candidates
Place 2
Phil McNeely - Biography**



**NO INFORMATION PROVIDED
(UNCONTESTED)**



**School Board Candidates
Place 2
Phil McNeely - Responses**



Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

**NO INFORMATION PROVIDED
(UNCONTESTED)**



**School Board Candidates
Place 3
Alexander Bomgardner - Biography**



Alexander Bomgardner

Alexander Bomgardner is a 19 year old North Lake College student. He formerly served as the State President of Student Government, serving over 700,000 community college students. He has interned for State Representative Yvonne Davis, represented the 23rd Senate District Democrats on the Texas Democratic Convention Nominations Committee, and has the endorsements of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas and RunForSomething, among others.



**School Board Candidates
Place 3
Alexander Bomgardner - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

The biggest challenge facing our schools is a culture of bullying. Our students are faced daily with harassment, intimidation, and violence. The worst part is that our current system leaves parents unable to get the help they need for their children, and for many their only option is to take their child out of our district. I will offer myself as a second level of escalation for all parents who feel that they did not get a fair shake from the school counselors and administrators, and I will review the actions taken by the staff and administrators in question with our superintendent to find the best solution moving forward, whether it be training or finding new talent.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I am running for three big reasons: to ensure that the kids following me get the same high quality education I got, fight to improve the broken components of our district, and change up the business-as-usual mindset of our current board. I am the best candidate for this job for a few reasons; I have spent the last 3 years working on the student's side of the table in Student Government, so I get what our students need and where their mindset is; I have unbridled enthusiasm and energy to push for the changes that need to be made; and I have full commitment to working with our community to find the best solutions to the challenges that face us, as I have shown in my block walking efforts these last few months.



School Board Candidates Place 3 Janet Veracruz - Biography



Janet Veracruz

I am Janet Veracruz, and I would like to serve as a member of the Duncanville School Board for Place 3.

I have been a resident of Duncanville for 21 years and married for 29 years to Joe Veracruz . I have two adult children, a daughter in love and one grandson. My family supported their father Ret. Chief Joe Veracruz in all the Gulf War missions. I, along with many family members, have supported our troops and their families as a member of family readiness groups as loved ones were sent off for tours of duty. We are a Military Veteran family that proudly supports our troops and their families. By profession, I have been an educator for Trinity Christian School for 11 years. For four years, I have served as a 6th grade junior high specialist and soon will close that door to further my education, pursuing my Master's Degree in Education with a goal in mind to become an Instructional Coach. I am a first-generation graduate from University of North Texas, receiving my B.A. Arts and Sciences. I have received the honor of Teacher of the Year three times: 2011, 2014 and 2016. I have served as a STEM mentor for Perot Museum for three years. I have initiated Invention Convention and worked with students to place their inventions for Student Ideas for a Better America and received seven award winners. I initiated Homework Club, which is an after-school program that has improved student success. I initiated the idea of having a community garden on campus and developed as an extension in Science on how to master a garden.

I am an active member of Trinity Fairmeadows Church and serve as a team leader for our community. I have taught classes that feed into our community to enhance unity and peace.

I do believe in the school board leaders and what the board represents in making strides for always improving education experiences for our students of Duncanville. I also believe in my fellow educators that are the unsung heroes and at times, wear many hats in their profession to ensure success stories one student at a time.

I am prepared to roll up my sleeves to work alongside Duncanville school board members to achieve goals and set visions for our school district's future, that is ever so changing and create academic and organizational excellence.

I would be honored to serve as a school board member, and I ask for your support in early voting April 22, 2019 and on Voting Day; May 4, 2019.



**School Board Candidates
Place 3
Janet Veracruz - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

Parent/Guardian involvement. One of the most difficult issues to solve is Parent/Guardian involvement. I have experienced great gains when Parents get involved and have seen failure due to lack of engaged Parents. It is vital that the students' parents/ guardians get “plugged in” at all levels. One key avenue to obtain ways to get involved is through communication. Although this is always a challenge, there are currently many different avenues to select from such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, DISD website and the Informer newsletter via email. As a classroom teacher for 11 years, parent involvement is key to the success or failure of our students. As I began my campaigning, I was shocked on just how much our citizens did not know about our school district and the misinformation they had obtained. My goal would be to work with the Superintendent and School board trustees on better ways to disseminate information and get guardian/parent involvement. My goal would be to engage citizens, obtain their concerns or suggestions, and share these ideas with our Superintendent and fellow board members. When elected, I will make this a major priority

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

I simply just want “to serve”. My diverse background and experience as an 11-year classroom teacher, my current status as a Perot museum mentor, my experience in STEAM sciences, and having a passion for education will be a great asset to the Board. In this process I will do my best to understand how this system holds our District accountable, second collaborate with other school board members on how we can best serve our school district, and third to oversee the provided funds/services needed to help our school District. I am very excited for the opportunity to serve at this level. I understand that I am one vote and one voice; however, I do believe the current Board of Trustees has great transparency and has the Districts wellness as a central focus. I do not know what the future holds, however, I will pledge to do research, ask questions, and vote accordingly.



School Board Candidates Place 3 Dorothy Wolverton - Biography



Dorothy Wolverton

Dorothy Wolverton is a public relations administrator and owner of Wolverton Air Conditioning and Heating Co.

Ms. Wolverton has lived in many parts of the world and believes that her international background allows for a global perspective that is invaluable to our school system,. She attended several colleges and universities, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Texas at Arlington. She is a graduate of Leadership Southwest and is a past Chairman of the Duncanville Chamber of Commerce. She served as Mother Nature for the city of Duncanville for over 16 years and is past president of the Duncanville Noon Lions Club. Dorothy Wolverton has also served on the District Advisory Council PTA Board, DISD Education Board and on the District Advisory Council to the Duncanville ISD superintendent. She has also served on the school board of Duncanville ISD for 14 years and seek a position on the board again to make a difference in the community and share her experience as a parent, substitute teacher and real estate agent and community volunteer. Her involvement in many organizations demonstrates her desire to promote the success of the community.

Ms. Wolverton is looking forward to serving as a link between local school management and the public while continuing to encourage parental involvement. Her main focus is to provide the highest quality of education for all students, helping to establish a climate for change when changer is appropriate. She believes that recruiting and retaining the highest quality teacher is very important, and stresses the need for sound facilities and a safe environment to provide the proper atmosphere for learning.



**School Board Candidates
Place 3
Dorothy Wolverton - Responses**



**Response to questions from
Duncanville Chamber and Rotary Club**

Question 1: What is the biggest issue you see facing the City of Duncanville and what would you do to address it?

The state has delayed in coming up with a fair equitable formula for school districts in our state of Texas for years. Its high time we come up with a plan to fight back and demand our fair share. WE need to keep up with the comparable market on paying our teachers so we can attract the highest quality teachers and continue the success that is Duncanville. Changes in the curriculum at the high school need to be made to decrease the drop out rate....offering more trade school initiatives and certifications need to be offered.

Question 2: Why are you running for the office and why should voters consider you the most qualified Candidate?

A school trustees responsibility is to the students of Duncanville ISD and the taxpayer. My goal is fiscal responsibility while enhancing educational excellence and continuing to deal with the budget challenges. My 14 years of experience on the school board of Duncanville ISD in the past makes me the most qualified candidate. I am asking for the opportunity again to hold the position of public trust and be a partner between the school district and you.



The Duncanville Chamber of Commerce &
The Duncanville Rotary Club
Presents



Thursday, April 18th 7:00 PM
Acton Elementary School

City Candidates

At- Large

Patrick LeBlanc
Patrick Harvey, CGFO

City Council Candidates

DISTRICT 1

Joe Veracruz
Matthew J. Jones

DISTRICT 3

Monte Anderson

DISTRICT 5

Johnette Jameson
Mike Miner

School Board Candidates

Place 1

Jacqueline Culton
Tom Kennedy

Place 2

Phil McNeely

Place 3

Alexander Bomgardner
Janet Veracruz
Dorothy Wolverton

Thank you for coming.
Remember YOUR vote is important.

Early Voting begins April 22 at the Duncanville Library
VOTE MAY 4, 2019 at your precinct location

Responses to our request for biographies, responses to the 2 questions put forth and pictures came directly from the candidates and were not edited for content. We did make an effort to size photographs the same for each candidate and we may have cropped photographs to accomplish