

Name and position you are running for: Jess Hazeltine, Medina City Council Ward 1

1. What motivates you to run for this position?

I have been, and continue to be, deeply involved with numerous issues and events in Medina. I believe Medina Council and our city need the energy and unique voice I would bring to our community as a council representative. Change is the only constant in our world. I believe our citizens deserve a council person who actively reaches out to them and interacts with them.

2. What will be the biggest issue facing the city in 2020, and how do you plan to address it?

Economic development and superior services to our citizens are always the two most important issues for any council person. We must always provide the very best services to our citizens and do everything within our power to make sure those are delivered cost-effectively.

3. What will be your top priorities in office?

Ward One residents deserve a council representative who is active, interactive and engaged. They deserve a representative they know by name and one who doesn't only reach out during elections. Having a councilperson who is accessible is key to addressing ongoing concerns of residents and also to inform them of activities and decisions at city hall. We live in a time of increasing economic pressure and I will fight to keep Medina affordable and to maintain our historical integrity as we forge the future of our city together.

4. What is one thing that the city council is currently doing that you think is good, and why do you support it?

Medina City Council is doing a great job supporting diversity, inclusion and equality in Medina. I support these efforts because I believe every person has the right to a fair and equal future.

In general, the City of Medina does a good job providing services to its residents. However, I believe Ward 1 is oftentimes overlooked. We need a positive, upbeat and energetic councilperson to ensure Ward 1 residents receive as high a level of service as other areas of Medina.

5. How do you work with others when differing opinions are involved?

The key to a well-balanced group of decision makers is to have differing opinions. This is what keeps the conversation well rounded and allows each party to educate the other. When all facts are looked at objectively, parties can reach a compromise that works well for both the city and our constituents.

6. With your magic wand, what is the first thing that you would change in the City?

I would have such great economic development that the entire tax burden for city services would be borne by an extensive and diversified business sector – providing tremendous tax relief to all of our city residents.

7. How do you balance the needs of your business constituents against the needs of residents? Do you see any challenges there?

There are many areas of Ward 1 that are zoned multi-use, industrial, residential, etc. Economic growth is important to maintaining all the things we love about Medina. However, residents and industry must sometimes co-exist. As an elected official, I would have an obligation to represent the citizens whom elected me, while still maintaining the economic interests of our city. Open dialogue, transparency and crucial conversations between the two parties can go a long way toward reaching our common goal- to keep Medina the prosperous and welcoming city that it is.