

1. Name and position you are running for:

My name is Eric Heffinger and I running to stay Medina's Ward 3 City Councilman.

2. What motivates you to run for this position?

I was appointed to fill this position in June 2018. I put my name into consideration because I love my community and I wanted to be more involved in helping Medina fulfill its full potential. I am running to keep the seat because I believe that this city has an amazing future ahead of it and that I have the passion, the ability, and the drive to help our citizens and businesses also reach their full potential.

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

The biggest issue facing the City of Medina right now is the county and municipal courthouse construction project. This project has amazing potential for the future of our city and our county, but it has to be done correctly and it has to preserve the historical integrity our beautiful square. As the city council representative, I will work to ensure that my voice is used to protect our historical feel while still making sure that our courts are cost efficient and highly functional for our judges, lawyers, and residents.

4. What will be your top priorities in office?

My top priorities are preserving Medina's history, making Medina accessible and livable for all residents, attracting new talent, businesses and families to Medina, reliably communicating the progress of the city, and building a sustainable community.

5. 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 does an outstanding job of working together and working with the city administration to get the work done. While we are all politicians and we all have our political leanings, we work together quite well to find a solution that works best for the city instead of for a political party or for an individual.

Not every city is like this. In many council chambers, the members have taken sides and plot ways to trip their fellow members up. In Medina, we treat each other with respect.

Debates are good. They are needed. Disagreements are good too. They make us challenge each other and our own thoughts. But this council understands that just because we disagree, doesn't mean we all do not want the same thing: the betterment of Medina.

This council works well because they are not afraid to work together.

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

I listen. I read. I learn. I debate. When I'm wrong, I say so. When I'm right, I stand up for it. It's as simple as that. We won't always agree, but we can always treat each other with respect and learn to better understand why someone else approaches the problem differently.

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

Our sidewalks need a lot of help, and as someone who pushes a stroller around this town quite a bit, I understand how badly they need to be fixed.

But we also have a hidden issue that needs to be addressed. There are many citizens here that are struggling to get by and uphold the American Dream. Our churches, our schools, and our library are struggling to keep up with the needs of our low income families, but they are doing their best to provide opportunities and aid to those in need. Some of these problems can be addressed by the council, but many of them can only be helped through love, advocacy and teamwork. I don't have a magic wand to fix all these problems, but I do have a public voice, so

when I see injustice or I see those that need help, it is my duty to work to find a solution to that problem, big or small. Magic won't fix anything, but with each other, we can attack any problem.

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

Most of our business constituents have the same problems as our residents, but when they come up against each other, it is my job to judge each situation on the merits at hand. Our business community is just as important as our residents and each problem should be looked at from both points of view. In the end, the goal is to make a successful city. When our residents love their community, they invest in their community, and when our businesses succeed, they add to the growth and success of our city. We can't always make everyone happy, but we can work for the betterment of our city as a whole. Yes, sometimes these groups may butt heads, but I promise to always be fair and listen to each side.