

1. Name and position you are running for:

Bob Starcher
City of Medina Ward 1 Councilman

2. What motivates you to run for this position?

I have lived in my house in Ward 1 since 1978; I have served Medina since 1983 when I became a Medina Police Officer, serving as Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Acting Chief of Police. Upon retirement, Mayor Hanwell asked me to serve on the MCDAC Board; I resigned when I was selected as Ward 1 Councilman. I love the City! I know its strengths and needs, and aspire to represent ALL Ward 1 residents. There is a need for residents who live north and west of the downtown area to be heard. I believe too often these areas are neglected in representation.

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

The biggest immediate issue is the combined City/County courthouse. It is early in the planning stage, and many details need to be resolved before any final decisions are made. Prior to my arrival on council, the City committed a specified dollar amount to the project, using both City and Medina Municipal Court funds. I appreciate being a part of this task, understand the importance of it, and plan to do what's best for Medina in the future.

4. What will be your top priorities in office?

My long-range priority is to maintain the tax rate the lowest of any city in Medina County, while continuing city services at the elite level to which residents are accustomed. To do this Medina must maintain a strong business

and industrial base. The city has an outstanding business environment for new growth, with Ravago an example of international industry and High Voltage/The Foundry as a first class entertainment complex that's making Medina Ward 1 their home. We need to continue to keep businesses strong so we can keep income tax rates low.

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

City Council adopted its 5-year budget process years ago after going through rough financial times. With this in place, we can plan for development and capital projects years in advance, while keeping city departments responsible for working within their budgets. This is a hands-on process that results in being good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

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

Not everyone is the smartest person in the room; in this position of great responsibility I need to rely on ‘What’s in the best interest of Medina and Ward 1?’ With 7 members of council, citizen input, and administrative heads debating a topic the cream will rise to the top and differences will be worked out for the good of the city.

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

I talk to a lot of residents of Ward 1 and their response to that question usually ends with “. . . but overall Medina is a great place to live.” And that’s absolutely true! If there is a common complaint it usually involves traffic, but traffic means visitors and residents supporting local businesses! So I would have the same or more amount of people with less traffic.

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

The challenge is manifested in Yorktown (my residential development) and Patriot’s Way – we both have industrial zoning in our back yards. I go back to Medina having that low income tax rate; the reality is that there is a cost for the quality of life Medina provides our citizens. When we look at those factors, the balance is outstanding for both residents and business, but we can always improve.