



ELECTION

KILLEEN COUNCIL

Candidates were allowed 100 words per answer. Some answers that went beyond that amount were trimmed for space reasons.

Jose L. Segarra, 57, Broker-Owner of Homevets Realty LLC, and some college.



Ken Wilkerson, 51, Killeen City Councilman-at-Large, and master's degree x 2 Management and Leadership and MBA.



Rick Williams, 54, retired fire-fighter and soldier, associate degree in fire science management



What are the top three major issues facing Killeen? What would you propose, if elected, to address them?

Public safety is a high priority and I think we need to incorporate more technology to help lower crime, like working with businesses and neighborhood camera monitoring services and other high-tech equipment to deter crime. 2. Improve our downtown area and north Killeen through encouraging more new development 3. Continue to improve our quality of life through more entertainment and improving our parks and sidewalks to connect them more to each other.

I. Continue to work on public safety in supporting our Fire and Police Departments by enhancing quality recruiting and retention, as well as bolstering the Crime Solutions Committee I proposed and championed. II. Continue to improve infrastructure and quality of life for citizens by supporting Public Works, Parks and Recreation Departments and various youth initiatives through the execution of the Comprehensive and Parks Master Plans recently developed and approved. III. Continue to focus on ways to improve economic development by re-evaluating our participation with KEDC as well as improving Killeen's image by remaining laser-focused on the first two initiatives.

The three major issues facing the city remain the same in my opinion as I campaigned on during my first term. Infrastructure, public safety, and economic development.

Why should Killeen voters elect you? What specific qualities do you possess that would make you a good Killeen elected leader?

Experience and a strong belief in the potential of our great city. Optimism is what moves things forward because it attracts the people that want to be part of something great and when you believe in your city, others will to. As a business owner for over 28 years here in Killeen, I have been through many tough times and because of my actions because of my ability to see these as opportunities, I have been able to grow even more each time.

The citizens of Killeen deserve honest, bold and pragmatic leadership that has the courage to stand up and lead our city through the many complex challenges we now face. I have demonstrated that caliber of leadership not only throughout my tenor as a councilman thus far, but also throughout the time I have lived in Killeen. I serve only to make Killeen a great place to work, play and live for my fellow citizens. One of my proudest achievements as a council member thus far was procuring funding to assist volunteer youth organizations that ensure a brighter future for Killeen.

I believe that over the past term I have delivered on the items I promised. I am a pragmatic leader who believes in doing the correct thing.

If elected, what are some things you would do to lower the crime rate in Killeen?

Use of more technologies that are available and have been effective in other cities and have been proven to reduce crime rates.

I will continue the work I have already begun by activating the citizens who are ready to fight for our right to live in a beautiful, diverse community of patriots and hard working individuals and families. I like them, realize the true answer to reducing crime lies within the accountability and vigilance of the community itself supported and by the city. The Crimes Solutions Committee as well as the recent exploration into the KPD supported effort I proposed in addressing social work and mental health issues will succeed in coordinating and energizing that effort.

Lowering crime is a community effort. From a Council perspective, we can allocate resources to support programs that help those who are at risk of falling into situations that lead to crime. As a Council member, I can advocate for better economic opportunities to help those who are struggling to gain a foothold that may lead to a lessening of crime.

If elected, what would you do to help increase business in downtown Killeen, where many buildings are vacant?

Encourage more apartment complex development or mix use buildings to help increase foot traffic that in the long term will increase business traffic. It would be a win-win for the businesses and for the owners of the buildings.

Again, I will continue the work our council has already begun over the past 18 months. I am proud to have proposed the business grant to, not only assist businesses recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, but incentivize business development downtown. The grant will assist several business startups to increase the visibility, foot-traffic and economic development of downtown as well as greater Killeen. We have also allocated resources to incentivize business and entertainment growth, as well as passed ordinances that have increased the attractiveness and interest in our downtown area.

Over the past term I have co-authored items that have brought monthly community entertainment to the downtown. We have established grants to help existing businesses and to attract new businesses. I will continue to work with staff to develop programs and opportunities to build our downtown core.

If elected, what would you do to bring more jobs to Killeen?

First, work with our small and proven businesses that are already established and help them grow and expand to a new level of growth and second, continue to work on attracting large companies to the area, which is more realistic than ever because of the tremendous growth of the Central Texas region.

Killeen possesses an under-employed, young, skilled and talented labor force. We also have a vibrant small business sector that is continuing to grow. However, it is imperative our current council continues to build on the momentum we initiated in 2020 in an effort to make Killeen the destination of choice for industrial growth within our region. I will see to it that the tough, necessary decisions in focusing on the aforementioned initiatives above are made in order to set the tone and create the positive atmosphere needed to attract major industrial employers to Killeen. We must focus on making Killeen attractive to large employers by making it safe and improving our overall standard of living.

This is a complicated issue. It starts by looking closely at our current recruiting methods and devising new efforts to attract the industry. It also requires us to make our city more attractive to a wider array of industries.

Do you believe the city does a good job with transparency in government? Please explain.

I think they do a good job and follow the legal requirement, but just like most things, they are always room for improvement. I think communication is very important and we need to make sure we are always providing our citizens with the best communication available, so they are well informed of the ongoing of the city.

I believe the city does a good job communicating through our website and social media outlets. We will continue to make strides to share in even larger ways in the near future. I believe citizens know we are working hard to provide as much correct and factual information as legally possible about what we plan and do. I also know they are more worried about the agendas of local print media more so than the transparency, honesty, and candor of the current city leadership or management.

Yes. With the exception of those things that are governed by laws that don't allow the information to be released, I think that the city does a great job of keeping citizens informed.