

ELECTION KILLEEN MAYOR <i>Candidates were allowed 100 words per answer. Some answers that went beyond that amount were trimmed for space reasons.</i>	Patsy Bracey, 77, registered nurse, and BS, legal nurse consultant. 	James Everard, 39, mechanic and welder fabricator, and college graduate 	Debbie Nash-King, 57, Career counselor until next month, and master's degree 	Holly Teel, 51, retired, doctorate; certified dog trainer; and other certificates 
What are the top three major issues facing Killeen? What would you propose, if elected, to address them?	Crime: Develop better communication with Bell County Court System. Preventing criminals to return to the street with violent criminal records. Probation is not the answer. Human Trafficking: Establish a collation with community leaders to stop, prevent and monitor. Decimalizing Marijuana: Allow this bill to pass, so our young men and women will not be charges with a felony or taken to jail. Sign the petition.	Accountability. The city government needs to stop hiding public financial information from citizens and holding closed meetings. Killeen has big city crime in a small town. We need to address the crime issues in Killeen by having enough officers that we can retain while respecting the rights of citizens. Economic growth. Killeen has very little industry for it's population. We need to focus on attracting businesses other than retail to Killeen to reduce income inequality and stop focusing on residential development.	Crime: Crime activities are a concern for residents in Killeen. I would work with the council to ensure we have an adequate police workforce. Senior Citizens & Youth Programs: I would work with the council to find funding for increase youth programs such as summer camps, internships and educational programs. The council must also work with nonprofit agencies to create more community programs for senior citizens. Economic Development: We must continue to work with small businesses to promote economic growth by providing startup grants to locate in the downtown area and our business district. We must also have programs to assist with the future growth and development of businesses to bring in quality jobs.	Inflation, low income housing, crime Inflation causes the raise in low income housing. To address the problem the city needs to cut back on spending. This is not the time to spend on big projects of wants. Focus on needs. Crime is the product of environment, poor education, lack of responsibility and entitlement. To address this one needs to focus on changing the environment in home life, school and taking ownership of one's own behavior.
Why should Killeen voters elect you? What specific qualities do you possess that would make you a good Killeen elected leader?	I have lived in the community for 52 years, watch this city grow from a 2-lane road to an Interstate 14, the progress has been successful, however we have a lot of work to do. I have owned a Certified Medicare/Medicaid Home Health, Past Provide for Texas Board of Nursing providing course to nurse that have violated the Texas Nurse Practice act. Owned a Nurse Aide Training program, providing certified nurse aide to Home health and Nursing Homes. Past Chairman of Parks and Recreation, Co-Chairman of Community Development, Killeen police depart, KCOP, Crisis Intervention Alumni, CTOG Certified Leadership certification. Maintained a profession attitudes and personal leadership in every area I have been a part of.	I may be the youngest candidate, but I have also proposed more amendments to the city as a citizen than our current mayor had in six years on city council. I don't care about what group a person belongs to, what organization is asking for something. Every citizen has equal rights in my eyes and will be treated the same. I want to be mayor to represent the people, not special interest groups.	I have served as the Council Member for District 2 since 2017. During my last term in this position, I served as Mayor Pro Tem and currently serve as the Mayor by appointment. I am a servant leader who seeks the advancement of others and the overall well-being of our community. The years of service I have devoted to the city afforded me opportunities to establish respectful relationships with residents and organizations. I am a leader who understands the challenges that come with change, and I have the fortitude to face them for the greater good of all. I am a leader of integrity who will remain approachable, dependable, and accessible to the citizens of Killeen.	To be a good leader one must see the bigger picture, notice the details. One must be able to socialize and willing to be humble and approachable. One must remember they are not gods chosen one and are not above others. Instead one must be able to not hold grudges, and most of all one must be willing to accept their own faults and accept constructive criticism or even full blown attacks. I poses these qualities and work daily to improve myself.
If elected, what are some things you would do to lower the crime rate in Killeen?	Established better communication with Bell County court system. Monitor areas of frequent crimes. Develop District Crime Prevention committees. If you see something, say something. Staff the downtown Police station.	I have talked with officers from KPD. They have all said the same thing.... We need to fill the spots we have open, and keep the department staffed. I would also look to open up more positions on the criminal investigation team and violent crimes taskforce. Right now we only have six officers handling all of the violent offenders in Killeen. I would also look at doing more lateral hires from other departments to bring more experienced officers to KPD.	A lowered crime rate in our city requires increased involvement by our citizens. As Mayor, I will promote city programs that address the need of citizens to become more vigilant of their neighborhood and surrounding environment. I will support initiatives led by our police department that enhance their relationship with citizens. Increased lines of open communication, collaboration, and connectedness are steps towards developing those healthy relations. I will also continue to work with other agencies on ways to combat mental and emotional disorders that often trigger violent reactions. The change we want to see must first start within.	Lowering crime takes people taking responsibility for themselves, and understanding that this behavior is not acceptable for any reason. Ft. Hood needs to step up to the table and take responsibility for those they bring into Killeen area and deal with off post bad behavior. Studies have been done and no matter how you study it the answers are the same crime is the product of environment. Taking a blind eye to organize crime and government officials crime sends a message that it's okay to break the law.
If elected, what would you do to help increase business in downtown Killeen, where many buildings are vacant?	This is a big and demanding issue. Bringing jobs to the city required marketing and working with EDC to assist in bringing jobs. Educate our populations related to demand and job descriptions. Provide leadership and training to the citizens.	Many people do not want to go to downtown Killeen due to the crime and other issues we have on the north side of Killeen. We can begin to reform the area with hard work by making downtown safe, attracting more businesses people want to visit, and care more about what the people want than just making downtown easy on the eyes.	To help increase business in downtown Killeen, I will continue to work with the council to create ways to incentivize businesses and organizations to establish themselves there. The city staff is currently inventorying the vacant buildings, identifying their owners, collaborating with them on plans for their buildings, and developing a recommendation for the incentive initiative. I would continue to support the Office of Community Engagement and Downtown Events in their efforts to bring citizens to the area. The vitality of downtown Killeen depends upon our ability to restore its historical culture and highlight its potential for bringing people together for the positives.	Downtown should never have been left behind. Downtown should have been the main area for government buildings, nightlife entertainment, day time shopping and so on. I would work on building downtown a place to grow, enjoy, show and enjoy.
If elected, what would you do to bring more jobs to Killeen?	Work directly with EDC.	Focus on real jobs. Right now the number one job in Killeen is retail or food service. We need to attract companies that will provide meaningful employment to our citizens with a higher pay and benefits. We have multiple large companies in Austin that need the support of smaller companies to provide equipment and parts to them. Let us be the city that feeds those companies.	First, the infrastructure must be able to support the job market. Secondly, I will continue to work with all local businesses by providing incentives to attract future job growth. Thirdly, I will also continue to work with Killeen Economic Development to identify those companies that have the potential to locate in Killeen in order to bring more high-paying jobs.	Jobs, we need to open Killeen up to big businesses. Factories and more. It is time Killeen becomes self reliable and not depended on surrounding areas to employee out citizens. One must focus on building the city up and making the city a place big jobs want to come to.
Do you believe the city does a good job with transparency in government? Please explain.	Transparency is defined as: operates in such a way that it is easy for other to see what action are performed, implies openness, communication, and accountability. My answer: No unfortunately our City Council displays none of these characteristics. Time for a change.	Some city council members try, but unfortunately fall short due to being voted down. Killeen is not known for being transparent with it's citizens with it's budgets or decision making. Even though it has gotten better in the last two years, the city government is still held back by the holdovers from the former city government who survived the scandals and ultimate purge.	I have always been transparent with the residents and the media outlets concerning the business of the city. I will continue to update the residents on city matters through my social media platforms and community forums. I will also provide local media information when it is requested of me through the proper channels in a timely manner.	It can be better. Many members on council, boards and committees need to actually watch the videos on the attorney generals page and understand the rules and laws. Many seem to just go to the end of the video and copy the number to get their cert. I will make sure that all will sit and watch these video and understand them before they are given a cert. Any citizen can watch those videos. I have mine because I am on the senior advisory board and I am the chairwoman of the park and Rec advisory. I challenge all citizens to go watch the video and get their certificates.

