

# WHERE THEY STAND

## SECTION B

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On Tuesday, voters in Greenwood's Republican primary will pick two at-large candidates to represent them in the general election. Assistant managing editor Michele Holtkamp-Frye and reporter Annie Goeller interviewed the candidates on a wide range of issues. Use these pages as a guide to help you make your voting decision.



### Greenwood City Council, at-large

Election Day: May 8 ■ Voting hours: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
At-large (pick two)



**If legislators give local government the option to adopt new taxes, what taxes would you support? How much additional money should be generated? What city services should increase spending? Would you raise any tax, including property, sales or income taxes?**



**Which candidate for mayor do you support and why? Have you accepted campaign donations, given campaign donations or attended campaign events for either candidate?**



**Is revitalization of downtown Greenwood a top priority? Why? Should taxpayer dollars be used? What do you propose be done?**



**Should the city's ordinances be changed to require more of developers in terms of building sidewalks and trails as land is developed? What do you propose?**



**The park board has been planning a new park to include softball fields, trails, a dog park and a pool. A similar pool in Kokomo cost \$6.5 million. The board has not discussed the park since February. Will you push to get details about the proposal before the election? Why or why not? Do you support the park? Including a pool? And the cost?**

**Corey**



**BRENT COREY**

City will only be able to get taxes they give us. If city gets a sales tax, need to evaluate it. Projecting revenue for tax that doesn't exist yet is hard to do. Would be beneficial especially if helps lower property taxes. If it's just another funding source and property taxes were same as now, it is pointless. Have to keep property taxes low. City doesn't have the option of raising the sales tax. Property tax, absolutely not. Maximum levy always goes up. That is controlled by state. Need to use all tools available to ensure Greenwood has the lowest tax rate possible.

**Corey**

Supports the candidate that wins. Has not attended private campaign functions.

**Corey**

Yes, he belongs to Old Towne Greenwood Association. Seen first-hand opportunities and challenges that face Old Towne. Doesn't believe downtown is a menace or a slum; it's a destination point. Greenwood is fortunate having a downtown and not being a county seat. Already have historic downtown. Could do more to help that area in sense of having overlay zone, architectural standards. Goes back to transportation with east-west corridor. Main Street is not built to have capacity it has now. Need to work with merchants and property owners.

**Corey**

They have changed residential zoning and are moving in right direction. Developers have to build sidewalks now. What he doesn't understand is why we have trails running into new sidewalks. For example, along Sheek Road, Stout's RV expanded and put in sidewalks. Master plan calls for a trail, they put in sidewalks. We wanted trails, but the ordinance didn't regulate that. Have to have a master plan of where trails are going to be. Goes back to strategic plan of what Greenwood will be like in 20 years. Have to have pedestrian-friendly city. Constituency has spoken on this.

**Corey**

Guessing there won't be any details before Tuesday's election. Would rather have open discussion and community input than push for a certain date. Possible to get information before November election. That gives more time. City looking into doing a survey to examine what needs are in area. Would be a huge asset to community. Can use park to set us apart. City doesn't have cost. Need final numbers before making a decision. Would support pool, but depends on what studies and constituency say, and it needs to go with the long-term strategic plan.

**Daniel**



**DOUG DANIEL**

If the state legislature cuts property taxes and gives the city options to make up that revenue, he would be more in favor of an income tax on a graduated scale that would exempt those on the lower end of the wage scale. City draws people regionally, and a sales tax on food and beverage also could be considered. Property taxpayers have shouldered the burden long enough. Wants new taxes only to make up for property tax relief. Wants city to consider reducing taxes and spending. Would like to see more police officers. Since streets are in better shape, some money that's been spent on that could be used in public safety to buy vehicles or equipment.

**Daniel**

Supports Mike Campbell. Said there should be term limits, and it is time for new ideas and a fresh voice to help the city do better. "We have the opportunity to change." Politicians become mired in the way they've been working. Campbell is smart and would make a good mayor. Mayor Charles Henderson has evolved for political self-survival. The voice of the people got his attention four years ago. Said he is not supporting Campbell just because it is someone other than Henderson. "I'm supporting Mike because it's time for a change in Greenwood. Why not?"

**Daniel**

Downtown should be a drawing point for shoppers and people. The city does not do enough to search for certain types of grants. City should hire someone whose job is to write grant proposals. The city should have bought property by the bridge on Main Street and put in a fork, routed traffic around and made a connector. That could make the Old Towne area a shopping draw. Said downtown could become a Little Nashville or downtown Noblesville. Cannot achieve that now because of a lack of parking. Part of problem is perception of problem. Crossing streets also is a problem. Area has to become quaint and be a cultural area.

**Daniel**

Not only that, but city should require more of developers in terms of widening roads. That is the norm in other parts of the country. First developers put in roads, then development comes. That's not the way it works here. That would give developers a better opportunity to sell their product in an area that is more desirable. On trails, we have to evolve in a way for people to get around in a different manner. Wouldn't mind a trail that would go all the way from Franklin to the Monon. That is the duty of government, to provide accessibility.

**Daniel**

Has no power to get information before election. Supports the park's construction. Said the city doesn't need a Taj Mahal pool in the middle or a pool that would be a regional attraction. City should develop the park and pay as it is built rather than borrow money. Would favor diverting money from elsewhere in the city to pay for it and save interest costs. Favors building a new pool in downtown Greenwood and a new pool in the park on Averitt Road. Is important that kids who live in downtown area can still ride their bikes downtown, pay \$2, swim all day and stay out of trouble.

**Hord**



**THOM HORD**

Taxes are a tough subject. Each one has to be looked at individually. If increasing taxes, need to see benefit. Can't choose without knowing these. Need to get the facts, see how it affects citizens, what city is trying to set tax for. A lot of roads need to be taken care of. Need to do things to make city attractive. Some areas that could increase. Some could really cut back, probably need to look at some areas. Would need to see pros and cons for tax increase.

**Hord**

Supports Charles Henderson. Thinks he has taken city to another level, has said things that he wanted to get done and he went out and did them. Think that with Henderson in charge, city has experienced great growth. His track record is proven. Has not accepted donations from either. Was at the mayor's ribbon-cutting ceremony on Main Street for political office.

**Hord**

Has been a top priority for years for a lot of people. Downtown Greenwood can be a beautiful place. Sees a lot of potential. Should take good hard look and see what council can do. Should work to make downtown a better place, where people can do shopping. If appropriate, could use tax dollars. Are some areas city could make more attractive, whether cleaning up buildings, putting up awnings or making streets more friendly to drive and walk on. Need to be creative in types of shops downtown. Need to draw people there.

**Hord**

Should make sure developers are taking steps, not only to build nice houses but also to enhance city itself. Need to prepare master plan for types of houses in community, seek out reputable builders. Low-cost housing needs to be studied to determine need. Owners of rundown homes and businesses are encouraged to fix that. People who drive through will want to be a part of the city and developers need to be a part of that plan.

**Hord**

Doesn't know if he will push for details before election. Parks are vital part of the community. The more parks city can have, the more that attracts families and businesses. If he is elected, would be forefront of council and city. It's time to resolve this issue and move one way or another. Would include pool. Has not seen all details of proposed cost. Can't make clear judgment of whether plan is right. Has not seen proposals or plans. In other communities, know it adds a lot to their community.

**Johnson**



**CHARLES L. JOHNSON**

Would not support any tax unless it was an absolute necessity for city to propose that tax to function properly. Would need to do deep study to make sure the money is needed to decide what areas should increase spending. Believes city is running very smoothly right now. Hasn't seen budget and can't answer if added taxes are needed at this time. Should increase spending on road repairs and equipment for the fire and police departments. Yes, would increase tax to pay for needs; would personally prefer a sales tax.

**Johnson**

Supports Mayor Charles Henderson. Looks back over years and sees what he has accomplished. Budget wise, thinks he's done a great job. Has not accepted or given campaign contributions or attended campaign events for either candidate for mayor.

**Johnson**

Revitalization of Old Towne Greenwood is a priority, but not a top priority. Would like to see it brought up to a beautiful city and like to see this done without spending a great amount of money. Doesn't believe city can properly do that project without spending money and only place city has to obtain the funds is from the taxpayers or bonds which have to be paid by taxpayers. Thinks city has to contact the property owners and have them bring up property to standards of revitalization. City has to do its part with streets, sidewalks and trails.

**Johnson**

Propose that the developers pour sidewalks and streets to standards which Greenwood city set for them. Streets should be constructed so that they would not fall apart within first five years of development and then city would have to tear them all out and repair them.

**Johnson**

Will not push to get details before the election. Believes this park is a little too expensive right now until the parks department does further studies on it and comes up with a little better budget. Doesn't know what that budget would have to be. Would support construction because city needs a new pool. Pool is in great need of repair. Supports cost of pool but not cost of entire park as has been planned until further studies are done.

**McLaughlin**



**TIM W. McLAUGHLIN**

Would like to see some tax enacted, like a wheel tax. People who use facilities should help pay for them. Have a great community center, where people pay a user fee if they belong. Would like to see money generated from people who use the roads. Public service has to increase to keep up with calls. Street and parks departments are the fastest-growing departments. Greenwood offers things other cities would love to have, such as leaf and limb pickup, roads second to none, sidewalks. Public service has to grow to keep up with calls for service. Would have to study. Would not raise a tax, but maybe support wheel tax.

**McLaughlin**

Both of them are fine gentleman, would have to tip his hat to Mayor Charles Henderson. Has known him for more than 30 years. Done a great job in Greenwood, made a lot of progress. Has not contributed or accepted donations or attended a campaign function for either mayoral candidate.

**McLaughlin**

Is a priority, but not top priority. Is something that needs to be done. Have said for 20 years that it needs to be studied. A lot of places downtown are destinations people want to go, not drive through. Studies need to be done. Adds to quality of life in city and has significance to a lot of people. Younger kids think it is a cool place because they've heard people talking about it. Serves purpose to use tax dollars. If city could reroute traffic so traffic flow isn't terrible, downtown is a great place. But it is not great if traffic everywhere, is unsafe for people and their children.

**McLaughlin**

They should be good citizens and stewards. Since they are using land from Greenwood to develop, it would be right to build sidewalks and anything the city asks within reason. Many of the things the city asks are minute compared to the money they will make from the development. Never seen the city ask more than it should. In the past five years, developers have been great about that.

**McLaughlin**

No, would not ask for information before election. His understanding parks department is now putting together facts and figures of what they would like to have, prioritizing what should be first. Got a firm to come in and help put priorities in place. Is not something that will get done overnight. City needs a nice pool. It is a quality-of-life issue. Wants to know size, whether it will be built in sections. City has outgrown its pool. Costs more to maintain than city can make. Would rather make money than lose money every year.

**Pohlar**



**TRENTON L. POHLAR**

No. No one wants new taxes. But if revenue, such as property taxes, is taken away, then city has to add revenue back in. If property taxes are diminished, have to find a supplement. First thought is sales tax, but that puts a burden on sales. Would have to look at each individual tax. No one wants to raise taxes.

**Pohlar**

Has been busy with own campaign. Charles Henderson has been mayor for some time. Has worked with Mike Campbell on the plan commission. Has had the opportunity to work with both of them. At this point, hasn't decided. Has not accepted donations from them, donated to them or attended their events.

**Pohlar**

A committee is working on that now. There is a need to revitalize downtown. With retail immediately north, the Madison Avenue corridor to Old Towne could have increased retail and even bring in upscale retail to that area. Supports improvements to bring development to that area. City could make it a tax-increment financing district or provide incentives for improvements to businesses and homes. Could be similar to what is done in Fall Creek area in Indianapolis, where tax incentives have been offered to rebuild or remodel. Can be done with Old Towne Greenwood. Some ordinance may need to be changed to allow retail areas below with apartments above.

**Pohlar**

Yes. Some of that has been done. We are furthering that in the transportation and thoroughfare plans. Developers know what the city wants before bringing it to the plan commissions. City is connecting trails and sidewalks as subdivisions are built. Would continue to work with developers to add trails and green spaces as needed on the borders of developments.

**Pohlar**

Needs to see overall cost. Supports a new park and a new pool. Said current pool probably isn't big enough and is an issue as far as maintenance needs. It has served the city well for a long time, but is time to replace it to serve residents of Greenwood and friends outside of the city. Would give them a place to go to swim, have a picnic, etc. Is part of the quality-of-life improvements he would like to see. If details are available, would review before the election, but doesn't need them.

**Tapp**



**MIKE TAPP**

The issue comes back to improving the quality of life. "If elected officials feel there is no other way around to fund items of necessity, and have the opportunity to get those funded by an increase in a certain type of tax, then by golly it becomes a viable option." There is no other way around it. Doesn't have a specific tax to recommend. Would look at all of them and all the choices. It all has to do with improving the quality of life and taking care of what you have.

**Tapp**

During previous 16 years on council, served under three mayors: two Democratic female mayors and one Republican male mayor. "I have the ability to work with any mayor. At the end of the day, when the last ballot is cast, whoever is the successful candidate, we are going to go forward." Hasn't given or received money from either candidate and not gone to any of their events.

**Tapp**

Taxpayer dollars shouldn't be used. Doesn't think that Old Towne is dying on the vine. "Therefore I don't think it's a top priority, but it cannot be forgotten. That is an issue where there are no clear-cut answers. That one may not fit my explanation of problem-solving. You may lay out all the facts and still won't be clear cut." Means to determine what it would be to revitalize. Reflects on revitalization of Beech Grove, where mayor improved entrance. That is a start.

**Tapp**

Doesn't have a problem with asking the developers to help with trails and walkways and so forth. "It's a shame that it wasn't a requirement 20 or 30 years ago." It is a quality of life issue and is a luxury to have. Doesn't have a problem asking developers to help, but doesn't know what the details would be.

**Tapp**

"No. Why would I want to have details on that? It won't influence the election one way or the other." City needs something like this. Supports the project as planned which includes a pool. Bad business decision to continue with existing pool. Doesn't want his tax money to go to it any longer. "To have those details is not necessary now." The cost is only going up. "So to talk about a \$6 million project now is irrelevant." City should talk about what the cost is when the project is built. "Procrastination is the worst thing one can do when it comes to a construction project."



**WEB EXTRA:** Go to the election section at thejournalnet.com for more questions and expanded answers.