

WHERE THEY STAND

SECTION B

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Greenwood mayor

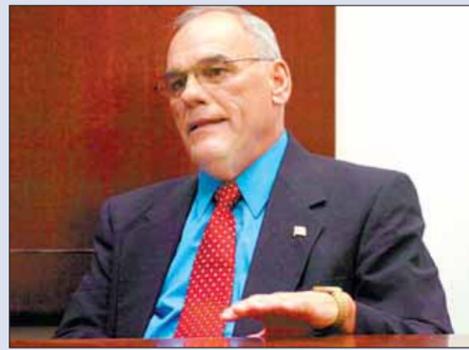
Republican primary candidates

Primary election day: May 8 ■ **Voting hours:** 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. ■ **Web extra:** Expanded answers and more questions at www.thejournalnet.com



MIKE CAMPBELL

On May 8, voters in Greenwood will pick the Republican nominee for mayor to run in the fall general election. Assistant managing editor Michele Holtkamp-Frye interviewed the candidates on a wide range of issues. Voters have a right to know where the candidates stand on the issues. Use these pages as a guide to help you make your voting decision.



CHARLES HENDERSON, INCUMBENT

Campbell

Only way he would be in favor of accepting new taxes is if they replaced or eliminated a current tax of some sort. If the city begins some sort of a consumption tax, such as a sales tax, then it ought to eliminate property tax or replace a portion of it. If the state allows the city another form of taxation, would be opposed to just tacking it on to existing taxes. Right now the property tax burden is carried by fewer people than a consumption tax would be.



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

Henderson

City shouldn't raise property taxes because that burden is truly not fair. Property is a stable tax, and that's why local governments like it. It creates a burden, and people never truly own their home. A 1999 study showed with 1 percent food and beverage tax and all proceeds going to property tax relief, property tax bills could have been lowered 11 percent. If the city had a 1 percent sales tax as well, property tax bills could go down another 54 percent for a total of a 65 percent reduction in city property taxes. User taxes are fair and equitable. If bill passes, we could have local option income tax. Isn't sure about local option income tax. A user tax is more fair, but income tax does protect elderly. New taxes should go for property tax relief. City does need some flexibility in funding salaries, utilities and insurance. Beyond that, it comes to whether the public wants something.

Campbell

At this point, is not supporting any of them publicly because his own race takes time and effort. Is not passing out anyone's campaign material. Has not accepted donations, given donations or attended events conducted by another candidate.



Which candidates for city council do you support and why? Have you accepted campaign donations, given campaign donations or attended campaign events for any candidates?

Henderson

"All of them and none of them. I'm running an election for me and I think I've proven I can get along with anyone." Will work well with whoever is elected. Has not accepted campaign donations or given campaign dollars or attended events. Has done that in years past but doesn't intend to this year.

Campbell

Yes. The mayor described in his state of the city speech what his responsibilities are. "If that's all he does, I see why we are in the position we are in now." The mayor can propose budgets, but not pass them. So the mayor's real strength has to be the ability to lead and convince others to follow. "We haven't done that." Taking care of roads, trash and snow removal is simply maintenance, and the mayor's job is more than maintenance. City must look down the road and at what the city wants and what will attract future businesses and residents. Basic services and public safety are the top priority, but trails, parks and a vibrant downtown are important to a resident who wants to move to this area. Is concerned about top executives of Greenwood businesses who live in White River Township or Carmel instead of Greenwood. Improving quality of life is vital part of mayor's job. "Inspire others and work to get it done. You don't drive others to do it. You inspire others to do it."



Is it city government's job to do more than just provide roads and police and fire protection? Is it government's job to improve the quality of life so that the city can attract new residents and businesses and become home to the top managers from those businesses? How does city government do this? What is your role?

Henderson

City government has to be involved in the quality of life in the community. Has to be involved in making the community attractive to achieve economic growth. City does this by revitalizing neighborhoods with streets, curbs and sidewalks. Potential businesses come to town and drive around and notice the condition of the city. Also notes the miles of trails that have been built. People notice that. "They see mothers pushing carriages, they see joggers, they see people walking their dogs. These companies like to see that."

Campbell

The city seems to have a growing life-sciences area. City also has a lot of warehouses that don't seem to be filling up very quickly. Greenwood can use some more manufacturing and industrial. Warehousing and distribution are good, but city needs a variety. As mayor would work to show support and a concerned interest and would provide amenities and make the city a nice place to live. City might need some greater and stricter requirements on tax abatements because they can hurt the schools and the city to some degree. Impression is the businesses are doing the city a favor when they locate in Greenwood. Wants guidelines based on what the businesses are bringing, if they keep their commitments and how long the abatements should last. The data businesses provide is serious and will be under examination. Is possibly somewhat opposed to abatements to existing businesses that want to expand. Sees abatements more as a tool to attract new businesses. Or those incentives should be more strict and limited.



What types of industries and businesses are missing in Greenwood? Does Greenwood need more warehouse jobs? What is the mayor's role in recruiting new business? What types of businesses should get tax abatement? Which should not?

Henderson

Greenwood is fairly diversified and needs to stay that way. Likes that the city has warehouses. "Those jobs are good jobs and are going to stay here." City is being looked at for small manufacturing companies of 15 to 25 employees that pay a good wage. City is growing in medical field and new office buildings for medical jobs. One employer does research on protein. "Those are the kinds of jobs I like to see come. They are small in number, but pay good wages." To get a tax abatement, jobs should be paid at wage level that is at or above the county average or with the opportunity to increase to that level. Has changed thought that abatement is based on size of building or number of employees. Would consider if jobs pay a salary that a person can make a living on and if the company will stay around. His job is to show interested businesses what the city can offer.

Campbell

Greenwood will definitely grow, but the question is how. Growth needs to be managed. Likes some of the latest zoning changes and would like to square off the city's boundaries a little more. Growth of recent years has been indiscriminate. "Developers seem to be controlling everything. That needs to change." Developers should know up front what the city will expect. City council has tried to do some of that, but struggled without the mayor's help. Architectural standards are a priority and have been in progress for three years. Developers ought to know up front what is expected of them and that it is going to be enforced. That will stop some of the growth initially, but eventually that would change. When development started again, it would be of higher standard and quality. Believes in managed growth. Wants to know what a development will add to the tax base and what it will cost the city to service it.



Should Greenwood grow? What is appropriate annexation, population and subdivision growth? Why?

Henderson

Yes, the city should grow. Has always said when growth stops, death begins. Taxes will go up if growth stops. City is doing better at managing growth. Commercial, retail and industrial growth should continue. City has done more than its share of affordable housing. Years ago wanted to raise level of housing, and city has been doing that.

Campbell

The city has very good officers, but wants a more proactive police department. The officers have been put in a situation where the population has grown greatly but the number of police officers hasn't, or else the city wasted money before. Which is it? "We need more police officers." The police department can add three officers according to the budget, but they don't, for whatever reasons. "What they do with that money, I don't know either." The police department is understaffed. "That's what I hear from people I talk to." Has been told that the department is understaffed and too busy and officers react to problems instead of being out in the neighborhood watch and in the community making people feel safe. Criminals need to know that the police presence on this side of County Line Road is greater than what they faced on the other side of the boundary. Officers he has talked with feel the same way.



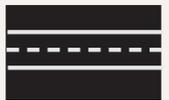
Some say the city's crime rate, especially violent crime, will increase because of proximity to Indianapolis. How will you combat that?

Henderson

Crime is going down, and city must continue to train officers to be proactive. The city has to grow the police department and has added 10 officers in his years as mayor. The answer is not always more people, more money, but sometimes is better management.

Campbell

The city needs to work with the county, and that's where local government needs improvement. "We are not an island." Would work with the county on it. The city may carry some load in the portions of the road that are already in city limits. They would need to figure out what planning needs to be done and what funds are available. It starts with communication. Greenwood needs to develop Worthsville Road anyway. Yes, an interchange is needed because it would eliminate traffic problems on Sheek Road at Main Street exit. Since there are a lot of homes in that area, he would be in favor of keeping that area residential and not having other development there. It is a state issue, but the city should let them know how we feel. The city's role may simply be to express ourselves, let them know what we think.



County officials are considering an east-west thoroughfare linking Interstate 65 to State Road 37. The routes would involve Worthsville Road. What is Greenwood's role in building that road? Should I-65 have an interchange at Worthsville Road? If yes, what would you do to make that happen?

Henderson

The city has a big role in building that. Has made developers dedicate right of way to expand roads so the land is there when they are ready to upgrade or expand roads. Must continue to chase federal dollars. Yes, wants an interchange at Worthsville. Has met with state department of transportation in past six months at least once or twice. County commissioners grant will include the interchange, and state is appreciative of that and waiting on that study and results.