

# WHERE THEY STAND

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## Greenwood mayor

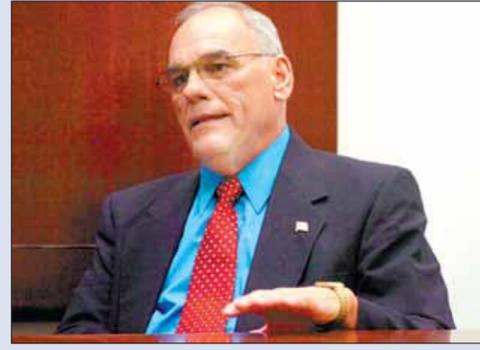
Republican primary candidates

**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](http://www.thejournalnet.com)



MIKE CAMPBELL

On May 8, voters in Greenwood will pick a Republican mayoral candidate to run in the 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

Character is what a person is or does when they think no one is looking. Qualities of character he possesses are honesty, putting others first and having a servant's attitude. "We are called public servants." Has the desire to serve others, help, be honest and straightforward and admit when he is wrong and seek to make those things right.



**How do you define character as it relates to being a public official? What qualities of character do you possess that would make you an effective mayor?**

### Henderson

Character is a person's personality in how he deals with every issue. "You need that character that you are going to do what you think is right for the majority of people and be willing to stand by that decision."

### Campbell

The role of the mayor is leadership. The council passes the budget and ordinances. The mayor should implement what he is given. "To get anything done, the mayor has to be able to lead." Leadership is the key factor. If the mayor wants the council to get something done or move in a certain direction, the only course he has is to lead.



**What is the role of a mayor? What is the role of the city council, and how do the two work together?**

### Henderson

The mayor is the administrative arm and the city council is the legislative and fiscal arm of city government. The council appropriates money and says yes or no to requests. It is his job as mayor to take what the council approves and make it work, to deal with employees day-to-day through department managers. The council approves the budget, speed limits and stop signs and funds the services that residents want.

### Campbell

No. "I know the mayor says he doesn't have time to do hands-on day-to-day stuff, but that's why he's elected. It is his responsibility. I don't think Greenwood is so large at this point that he can't handle those things." It is the mayor's job to be out handling the day-to-day issues. Mayor can coordinate with department heads, so there isn't a need for a director of operations.



**Does Greenwood need a director of operations? Why or why not?**

### Henderson

Yes. The city is at a size that to manage all the day-to-day operations plus deal with trying to grow the city's economy, it is more than a full-time job. Mayor needs one person to go to directly to find out what is happening, or why something isn't happening. And when mayor isn't available, the director is there watching over some things.

### Campbell

Mayor's main responsibility is leadership. A top priority would be to repair relationships with the city council and salvage a better working relationship and build some trust. Would not be an enemy to those on the council who did not agree with him. Would be respectful. Damage has also been done to the average resident's attitude toward local government. Work needs to be done with the police department. Population has grown drastically, but the number of police officers has remained the same. The department was either overstaffed previously or is understaffed now. Third priority would be to do more of what the citizens want done and not have his own personal agenda. Other initiatives include redeveloping Old Towne and planning. City needs a priority list for parks and trails. The city hasn't done anything with the \$1 million grant for Tracy Trail. Would like to see work happen, not talk. Wants the city to plan infrastructure improvements and have a schedule for road maintenance. More planning for annexation and approved developments.



**If elected, what would be your top three priorities? How would you address them? Beyond your top priorities, what are other initiatives that need examined?**

### Henderson

Priorities are the same as they have been. To continue to develop and maintain a quality of life to make Greenwood a place people want to live. Would do that by providing a high level of services but holding down the cost, or taxes. That can be accomplished by increasing quality businesses. The city has a diverse economic base and has had good growth in commercial and has some manufacturing and warehouse jobs. That keeps the level of services high, and maintaining them at a reasonable cost all tie together. Other initiatives are to continue rebuilding neighborhoods with streets, curbs and sidewalks. Once completed, wants to have in place a good maintenance system to keep them from deteriorating. Would continue to examine every department and make sure it is efficient as it can be. Has done that with public safety and public works and is now focusing on zoning and planning more. That must be a continual, revolving process.

### Campbell

Hard for the average citizen to know what has been missed. City has continued to alienate residents and could have done things better. One example is how the parks board handled the advisory groups. Doesn't know about what businesses considered coming to Greenwood and decided not to, and why.



**What is the most significant missed opportunity for Greenwood? What went wrong? How can you make sure it doesn't happen again?**

### Henderson

Doesn't know that the city has had any significant missed opportunities. Some companies have considered Greenwood but located elsewhere. In one example, that was because the company's identity was released. In another example, it was because improvements to Graham Road weren't complete. To make sure that doesn't happen again, would try to keep a company's identity private and be as diligent as possible to get infrastructure done ahead of time. It can be difficult when that depends on grants and federal money.

### Campbell

Everyone will say it's our people. Agrees, but that's lip service. City needs to get residents re-involved in local government. "I think we've alienated them. When we say we want to hear from them, even if we don't like what they say, we have to listen. They need to know you're listening." Will have regular city hall meetings where residents can come in and have roundtable discussions and talk with the mayor and department heads. "First of all, we have to care. Second of all, we have to let them know we care." Greatest asset is involved residents.



**What is Greenwood's greatest asset and how will you leverage it to better the community?**

### Henderson

Assets are the people, particularly youth and seniors. Has a Mayor's Youth Council. Seniors track their volunteer hours and have celebration events. "We have a tremendous amount of knowledge in the senior community that we need to tap, we have a tremendous amount of energy in the youth community that we need to tap, and I'm working on trying to tap both of those."

### Campbell

Location is great; but also can be a liability. Since city is so close to Indianapolis the distinction between borders is nil. "Proximity can be a problem if we don't take steps to separate ourselves to make a distinction." City can talk about gateways and beautification, but has to do more than that. Crime can be an issue. Location can be a great asset for businesses and industrial parks, but traffic needs to be able to get from Greenwood east or west or to State Road 37.



**What is Greenwood's greatest liability and what will you do to correct it?**

### Henderson

Proximity to Indianapolis, but it is also a great asset. Greenwood gets a spillover of crime, but benefits from all the cultural events being conducted close to the community. The police department has done a great job in the past two years.