Voter Guide: 2020 Elections for the City of Bandera

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City of Bandera - Mayor Election: term of office is 2 years.

Bandera is a general law (Type A) city with a charter and a city council/manager form of government. Duties: presides over the meetings of the city council; recognized as the head of city government for all ceremonial purposes; acts as the chief executive officer of the city; ensures that the laws and ordinances of the city are properly carried out; monitors the conduct of each subordinate municipal officer; informs the city council and recommends any measure that relates to improving the finances, police, health, security, cleanliness, comfort, ornament, or good government of the city; charged with emergency powers to preserve the peace and good order of the city.

Cindy Lou Coffey		Suzanne Schauman	
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1. What experience and knowledge qualifies you to serve as the Mayor of Bandera?

Coffey: I have worked behind the scenes servingin both elected and appointed positions. I prefer small-town governments as they are typically underserved from a lack of experience in special areas such as water treatment plants, infrastructure, marketing and business partnerships. The advantage of small-town living is that there is a sense of community when cultivated. Bandera is blessed with a designated identity as the "Cowboy Capital of the World". This brand has so much opportunity. Having participated in the development of the "Legendary Napa Valley" brand, my experience will show how effective leadership can stabilize our city's business economy.

Schauman: I was elected to City Council in 2013 and was appointed Mayor Pro Tem in 2014. I have been a hands-on Mayor since being elected to the position in 2016. At two points since my election I have been City Administrator and Public Works Director because of resignations in those positions and have a better understanding of the mechanism that makes the City function. One of the jobs of the Mayor is Budget Officer and the past three audits have been unqualified under my direction meaning that the handling of the City's finances are in great shap

2. What is the most pressing issue facing the Bandera City Council and what do you hope/plan to do about it?

Coffey: Although the town is small, it concerns me that more people are not becoming involved with local commissions, council and mayor elections. It is important for me to restore faith in government. This is accomplished through transparency, disclosure, professionalism from council, mayor and city staff while serving the residents. As Bandera changes with new residents and businesses we are the face of the city and we must project confidence in our actions. Experienced leadership will restore respect that has been lacking for awhile. It is important that we all recognize that we work for you our community and not ourselves.

Schauman: Coming into office the City's streets and aging infrastructure were major concerns. There is a strong staff and network of professionals that have gone into action to work on these issues. A Street Capital Improvement Project has been approved and is moving forward. We secured a low interest loan through the TWDB to update our drinking water system. Also, with the TWDB we are currently working on a grant/loan to address drainage throughout the city and erosion at the City Park. In addition to this funding the city is working with the General Land Office to relocate the wastewater plant.

3. What are the citizens of Bandera telling you about city problems?

Coffey: Obviously, the city has no contingency plan for emergency situations. Many local businesses feel left out when it comes to local issues especially nonresident owners. Instead our businesses need to rely on our leadership to protect their investments by offering opportunities for input and participation. During this past economic hardship, businesses felt there was no cooperation with the city, but instead preference. At no time did the city develop partnerships to engage all businesses and allow them to continue earning in some capacity for employees who were displaced. This is unacceptable. Instead let us work together for a unified Bandera.

Schauman: The citizen concerns that I hear most frequently are the dilapidated streets, which we should be solving soon with the new street project. We also have a critical feral cat problem. Then there is the major traffic issue on our Main Street. These are problems that every citizen encounters every day. As well as our outdated ordinances and enforcement of them.

Voting Information

Sample ballots and other information from the Bandera County Election Department posted online: https://www.banderacounty.org/departments/ElectionAdministrator.htm

Compare other candidates online: www.VOTE411.org



Bandera City Council Election: term of office is 2 years.

Bandera is a general law city (Type A) with a charter and a city council/manager form of government. Duties: appoints the city manager; oversees the city manager and the direction of the city; approves the city budget and the tax rate; sets salaries and benefits of city employees; passes ordinances and resolutions; appoints members to advisory boards.

The election is for two at large positions on the Bandera City Council. The two candidates with the highest number of votes will be declared as elected.

Darcy Hasty	Andrea Jankoski	Toni Kunz
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1. What in your background qualifies you to serve on the Bandera City Council?

Hasty: I have served my community for the last 21 years as either an employee of the State of Texas or the county. I am now running a department where I complete and am responsible for a sizable budget and must stay within that budget and must stay within that budget each year. This includes running a 2 million dollar building and keeping it operational. I also have experience with procuring grants and keeping them in order to save money. I briefly served on the EDC and was able to effectively work with the different personalities on that board and will be able to do the same on the council. I volunteer on average a hundred-plus hours right here in Bandera County every single month, I'm in tune with what the people of Bandera need.

Jankoski: I have served on the Bandera Economic Development Corporation for over 2 years where I gained valuable knowledge and experience to serve on City Council. Plus.....I just love Bandera and want it to continue to be a place that it's citizens can enjoy and be proud of.

Kunz: Aside from my upbringing here in Bandera, what qualifies me best for the Bandera City Council is my 20+ career working world-wide to standardize and implement procedures that increase efficiency, which included US government agencies, as well as my active role for the last 10+ years in Bandera and surrounding areas. These opportunities to gain unique community and citizen perspective will help us as we continue to face budgetary pressures and changing demographics. I want to make sure Bandera remains rural, sustainable, and affordable for all of our citizens, property owners and businesses. We are what makes Bandera unique

2. What is the most pressing issue facing the Bandera City Council and what do you hope/plan to do about it?

Hasty: The most pressing issue seems to be the council vacating their seats before their terms are up. I am no quitter. Should the voters elect me, they can rest assured that I will finish out my term and work hard for them each and every day. I will stand up for what's right and just and I will not just vote with the crowd. I will do my homework before I show up to the meetings and make sure that I know what I am voting on beforehand because votes count.

Jankoski:
Infrastructure and water are ongoing concerns and obviously of great importance, but the most pressing issue, I believe, is continuity. Without that, it is challenging to get anything accomplished.

Kunz: Fiscal responsibility is not only our most pressing issue but it is essential to long-term success. Finding the best use of our budget, which is generated from approximately one square mile, will continue to be our biggest constraint and therefore it extremely important to use our time and money wisely and deliberately. Acquiring grants and other funding opportunities to repair/ rebuild our neglected infrastructure should be our primary focus as well as creating a long-term roadmap to maintain it. If we are able to plan the work and work to the plan, to achieve long-term success through fiscal responsibility

3. What are the citizens of Bandera telling you about city problems?

Hasty: The citizens are telling me that they aren't being listened to. They say that they feel left out of the conversation when it comes to the City Park and how it's utilized and how the mandates have come down in the city during COVID. The citizens want to know when things are going to be fixed and why their tax dollars aren't being spent more wisely. As their next city councilwoman, I will listen to the citizens and business owners of Bandera and work in their best interest, not to push my own personal agenda!

Jankoski: Infrastructure seems to be on the forefront, followed closely by an overall transparency and accountability of the City Council to it's citizens. It is time to roll up our sleeves, set aside personal agendas and get things done!

Kunz: Citizens of Bandera are telling me their costs are increasing but they do not feel their quality of service(s) are proportionately increasing, specifically in areas of utilities and street maintenance, the codes and ordinances are out of date and not fairly enforced, and they live in Bandera because it has less crime, is a slower paced life with less traffic and pollution, and it is a close-knit community but that they see these things adversely changing.

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