



Voter Guide: 2020 Election for Mayor of Kerrville

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Kerrville City Council Election for Mayor: Term of office is 2 years.

Kerrville is a home-rule 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.

David Barker	Bill Blackburn
Email: Barkercampaign2020@gmail.com	Email: through the website
Telephone: 830-895-2966	Telephone: 830-285-6540
Website: www.barkerformayor.com	Website: www.BillBlackburnforKerrville.com

1. What experience and knowledge qualifies you to serve as the Mayor of Kerrville?

Barker: Barker has over 40 years of cumulative and progressive experience in a broad range of industries. Major companies where Barker worked are Todd Nuclear, HB Zachry, Reliant Energy, State of Texas, and Dril-Quip. During Barker's career he served on several volunteer boards including United Way and was elected 9 years to the Cypress Fairbanks ISD Board and a Schreiner University Trustee. He has a BS and MS in engineering from Texas A&M and EMBA from Penn State plus an AA in engineering from Schreiner Institute. He is a registered professional engineer and distinguished graduate from Texas A&M and Schreiner.

Blackburn: Deana and I have lived her thirty six years, and I have served Kerrville as Vice Chairman of the City's 2002 Comprehensive Plan Committee, Resource to the City/County Economic Development Strategy Plan Committee, AACOG Criminal Justice Committee, and now on the boards of KPUB and the Economic Development Corporation. Elected Mayor in 2018, we have passed and implemented the Kerrville 2050 plan, the first major revision of the zoning code in years, and have created an atmosphere of civility and productivity on the Council. Listening to citizens and walking 200 miles of the city's streets have been great learning opportunities.



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

Barker: Kerrville mayor and council needs to work with the community toward improving the city for all the people and businesses. We accomplish this by making sure we do the basic things right such as health and safety, good water, infrastructure, police, fire protection, protect the environment, support education and skill training, good growth, market our strengths and develop new opportunities. We can improve all these goals with improved management of our human resources and being fiscally responsible. Intergovernmental relationships need to be improved. We are a team.

Blackburn: The recovery of the economy. We will continue to implement Kerrville 2050 plan because it emphasizes economic development, tourism, and the revitalization of downtown. The City is in a strong financial position and has reduced its budget, cut salaries, and reduced hiring. For the eleventh year taxes are not raised. We will continue to find ways to strengthen local businesses while also seeking new businesses both in retail and manufacturing and this can raise wages. The city is committed to providing needed infrastructure. And the workforce strategy plan will be carried out given our housing crisis.

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

Barker: Citizens routinely tell me they want improved skill and technical training for young people so they will stay, support existing, and new businesses. Improve the street appeal and appearance of downtown, major thoroughfares, while improving traffic management. Better shopping from higher end stores at a new mall would be desired as well. They also want to have confidence in the city government working for the benefit of all citizens. There is a concern about special interest groups given preferential treatment. Additionally, the city and the chamber need to market the great attractions of the city.

Blackburn: COVID is the number one topic of concern. The City brought key community leaders together early in the virus outbreak to keep our community safe. Our coalition continues to meet, share information, map out plans, and inform citizens. Housing is a real issue here with the median price of a house sold in May being over \$300,000. Affordable housing for low and median income families and individuals is a priority for the city. Streets. The City has increased funding for street maintenance and repair, Growth and the fear we will lose our small town feel.

Compare other candidates online: www.VOTE411.org

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