

ELECTIONS

MEET THE CANDIDATES

SAN MARCOS MAYOR



Daniel Guerrero
INCUMBENT

Daniel Guerrero, City of San Marcos mayor, remembered when he was a Southwest Texas State University student worker in the J.C. Kellam building and his former boss-now-campaign treasurer, Richard V. Cruz, told him that he was too young to run for mayor and that he should wait until the time was right. Guerrero said he had been approached in 1999 by several community leaders about running for the position but decided instead to heed his then-boss's advice.

Now that Guerrero's a little bit older and a little bit wiser, he's on track for a third term as mayor. (He first took office in 2010, after previously serving on the city council from 2004-2008.)

Public transportation, including the much-talked-about Lone Star Rail, has been an ongoing issue for him during his tenure.

But it's not all about him. Guerrero said city accomplishments are very much the product of people's willingness to listen and collaboration.

"It's a community accomplishment; it's a council accomplishment," he said.



Jonathan Sorenson
CHALLENGER

Jonathan Sorenson, a 27-year-old business manager at San Marcos Rehabilitation and Healthcare, hopes to get the City of San Marcos back on its feet. If elected the city's mayor in November, Sorenson said he'll accomplish this through initiatives that will help balance multi-and-single family development; this is an issue he said is at the core of the city's future. If the city isn't bringing in single-family development, then new families and businesses won't move here, he said.

Sorenson has seen the city walk tall and stumble on its budgetary decisions. The Texas State alum, who moved to San Marcos in 1994 with his family, said "the small things are important," and that when city employees get these things right, then it's easier to accomplish the big picture.

"There's so much more we can do, but we definitely have to protect what we already have," Sorenson said.

He emphatically believes that council members need to work hard to get residents on their side to earn their trust.

With hand sanitizer in hand (a tip Sorenson said he recently received), he's going door-to-door and having conversations with residents to garner support for his mayoral campaign.

But even if residents don't vote for him, he wants them to "get excited, get energized" about the election and, most importantly – vote.

"You need to get in that voting booth regardless (if you vote for me)," Sorenson said.

Patrick Montgomery
CHALLENGER

San Marcos-based musician, real estate consultant and self-described "eternal student," Patrick Montgomery, AKA P-Martian, is running for mayor in an effort to help solve and prevent some of the issues facing the city.

Montgomery, a Texas State alum, promoted a petition through his campaign Facebook page that opposed the "Preferred Scenario Map" for the Alamo Street area – proposed further development "designed for university students" that may "lead to a decrease in the quality of life" for those families living here.

"The mayor's role should be to address the concerns of residents," he said during last month's San Marcos Area Board of Realtors debate.

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CITY COUNCIL PLACE 4

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Wayne Becak
INCUMBENT

Wayne Becak, a retired San Marcos banker who'll turn 66 on election night, said he decided to initially run for the City of San Marcos Place 4 council spot in 2011 because he finally had the time to devote to the position.

"The community's given me so much, I wanted to give back to the community," Becak said.

This is a community where he, his wife (the "love of his life"), grandchildren and stepdaughters live. The decisions he's made as a city council member reflect his dreams for San Marcos: to create more sustainable employment opportunities so that residents can have a high quality of life.

Balancing growth and development, as well as development and the environment, has self-admittedly been a challenge for Becak. He cited San Marcos' "shortage" of single-family houses as just one aspect of these challenges.

"I want to see a San Marcos where everyone's children and grandchildren have an opportunity to have a nice home to live in, to have a good job..." Becak said.

Jane Hughson
CHALLENGER

Jane Hughson, a Texas State University business process analyst running for the Place 4 spot on San Marcos' City Council, said although she was born in Buda, she got to San Marcos as soon as she could.

And, despite a five year stint in Dallas, Hughson hasn't left.

The Southwest Texas State University alum has spent the majority of her life playing by the numbers. Hughson has previously served as a university assistant registrar, a community college data processing coordinator and was on the 1995-1996 city master plan commission.

It was when she served as campaign manager for former mayor Billy Moore that Hughson said she decided that she would one day run for a city council seat.

"The people that get to implement (the city master plan) sit in those seven seats," she remembered.

She's ready to sit in one of those seats and help implement the city's current master plan.

John Thomaides
INCUMBENT

The natural beauty of the San Marcos River drew John Thomaides, who's seeking reelection to city council, but it's been the "welcoming nature" of its residents that has kept him here.

Thomaides' city council tenure began in 2003 and includes being selected four times by the council to serve as its mayor pro tem. Protecting the environment and defending neighborhoods by not being a "rubber stamp" for every apartment complex development is paramount, he said.

Thomaides opposed the Cape's Camp apartment development along the San Marcos River. For those residents who desire to live here, he said he has "used common sense to achieve common ground so that this housing demand" can be met.

"We must apply and enforce our environmental ordinances on new developments," said Thomaides. "However, the direction of development is ultimately up to the city council. That's why this election is so important."

Job growth, housing options, reliable, long-term sources of water and maintaining low property taxes are also important issues to him.

"Employers locate where talented people live and talented people live where there's a good quality of life," Thomaides said.

Mike Davis
CHALLENGER

A successful self-made man who started his business out of the trunk of his car in San Marcos, Mike Davis has been a part of the community and local volunteer efforts for nearly 40 years.

Now with his only daughter in college, Davis said he has time to devote to his second love: San Marcos.

"Today I have the resources, energy, knowledge, experience and common sense to give back at a crucial time," he said.

A driving force behind Davis' run for San Marcos City Council Place 3 is the belief that neighborhoods build communities.

When given the right tools and opportunities, like purchasing affordable permanent housing, "young families grow into hometown leaders," he said.

Davis has witnessed San Marcos grow and change firsthand since he initially moved to the city in 1975 to attend Texas State.

He wants to help foster this growth and change by ensuring that the voices of all San Marcos residents are heard and that there's ever-changing city council representation that will listen.



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