

# Hays County Commissioner Candidates Questionnaire 2024

## Rebecca Minnick

### Precinct 3 Candidate

1. Please describe your experience, areas of expertise and leadership style and how you feel they make/will make you an effective County Commissioner.

**I have served on Wimberley City Council since 2019 and have been elected by my fellow council members as Mayor Pro Tem every year since. During that time, I have collaborated with colleagues, citizens, non-profits, community organizations, businesses, and county and state agencies to improve the city's systems and services. My professional background includes various communications, marketing and public relations positions in a broad range of governmental, non-profits and private sector organizations. Throughout my professional and public service life, I have established a network of relationships county-wide and beyond.**

**My leadership style is focused on strong communication, stakeholder involvement and teamwork. Sharing good, accurate information is key.**

**The County Commissioner position will utilize my experience with City and County systems and jurisdictions, my understanding of the challenges facing our area and my problem-solving track record. I am ready to get to work.**

2. What do you see as the biggest challenges our local businesses face? What can you do as a County Commissioner to help overcome them?

**A significant challenge for local business is the increased cost of doing business and competing with larger businesses that are expanding in the area.**

**Workforce availability for businesses, along with the public sector employers, are also of real concern.**

**To address the issue, partnerships with our local businesses and creative recruitment could be explored.**

**All of these factors are affecting businesses across the state.**

**In Hays County, Commissioners Court should not increase the tax burden for businesses but also provide the necessary infrastructure and support to attract employees who are seeking to settle in the area.**

3. How will you balance community discussions and bridge the gap between private citizens and the business community when they are at odds on issues that impact the economic environment or other vital issues that affect San Marcos?

**Ensuring that all parties have factual information, frequent communication and full transparency in matters affecting them is critical when there are contentious issues. As a City Council person, I have experienced these conflicts and have found that face-to-face interactions are extremely valuable for all parties. When that's not possible, I make that personal call.**

**It comes down to transparency, leadership, consistency and communication.**

4. What can the County do to encourage existing business growth and new business attraction?

**County leadership can continue to deepen its partnerships with the Chamber and other economic development groups to identify needs for specific businesses in the County as well as connecting with businesses and industries who are seeking expansion.**

**Targets should be business partners who share our values and incentivizing those businesses in a coordinated way, utilizing our key stakeholders.**

5. If elected what will you do to further/strengthen the relationship between Hays County Commissioners Court and Texas State University?

**University Camp is beloved by faculty and staff at Texas State. When it was discovered that it was going to be sold last year, I was part of a group that elevated the issue to the administration and the Camp was ultimately retained by the University. I will revisit the issue and establish a stakeholder group to develop a long-term plan for UCamp that works for everyone.**

**Additionally, the County can capitalize on the growing academic and research reputation of Texas State by creating regular lines of communication between cities and county leadership and faculty and administration. These groups currently have their own perspectives on issues, and bringing them together consistently can create identify any additional concerns and solutions that affect the intersection of the campus, the community and the County at large.**

6. What improvements do you believe are needed for adequate transportation infrastructure in the San Marcos area?

**Our citizens deserve reliable and expanded public transportation, easing the impact on the environment as well as the burden on our working citizens. Furthermore, incentivized use of our existing bike lanes should be encouraged by the city and the university alike with an aggressive and creative communication plan.**

7. A major issue facing the region is housing availability, lack of workforce housing, and housing affordability and diversity. If elected what actions would you suggest to create more housing choices in San Marcos?

**Affordable housing is a major challenge throughout the county and the entire U.S. Holding our local government and developers accountable when proposing new builds will be a priority. Creative partnerships, assessment of available properties and assistance at the federal level should also be pursued.**

8. If you received a \$1 million grant to use for Hays County any way you wanted, what would you do with it and why?

**What can be accomplished with \$1 million in a sprawling county with a population of over 270,000? How do you choose the beneficiaries of this "free money?" How do you make an impact when there are so many deserving recipients?**

**\$1 million paves about 1 mile of road. \$1 million is about one quarter of the Hays County Food Bank's annual revenue. \$1 million can fund various pieces of projects here, salaries for a finite period of time and ongoing maintenance and upkeep for a period of time.**

**I would look for ways to create quality of life for EVERYONE- that means basic food and shelter for some, economic opportunities for most, quality health care for all, access to parks and nature for all. Bottom line, the money should be spent where it can benefit those the most in need.**

**I would need more context to give a real answer!**

9. Please review the San Marcos Chamber's "Government Relations & Advocacy Guiding Principles" document. Do you agree with all of these statements? Please describe below any statements you do not agree with.

**I do agree with all of your guiding principles. I am a firm believer that our values should guide the actions that we take, the money we spend and the way we treat everybody. The Chamber's guiding principles align remarkably with the vision and values that we developed in Wimberley, where I serve as a public official. As I have learned, WATER and PUBLIC SAFETY are foundational to the quality of life in our County.**

10. Any additional information you would like members of the San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce to know?

**County government is the connective tissue of all of our cities. The County fills in the gaps with services that the cities do not have and that small towns cannot afford. The County can serve to unite our communities and assist in consistency in resources throughout our area. With water as our Number One issue in Precinct 3, the County is crucial in putting all the cities and the unincorporated areas in between on the same page. The County's effective functioning is crucial to every single person who resides here, travels through here and does business here. I will be an engaged partner in Precinct 3 and will use my experience to listen to and work for all of our citizens.**