

City of San Marcos Councilmember Candidate Questionnaire 2025

Brandon Oles– Candidate for Place 2

1. Please describe your experience, areas of expertise and leadership style and how you feel they make/will make you an effective Councilmember in San Marcos.

I'm running for city council because as a proud man of God, Disabled Marine Corps combat veteran, and TxSt Alumni, I am uniquely qualified to serve the people of San Marcos.

I served 8 years in the United States Marine Corps. Even did a tour in Afghanistan in 2011. During that time, I learned not only to lead by but I learned what it meant to serve. To use my strength to fight for the betterment of others.

As a student at Texas State University, I served as both the President of the Veterans Alliance as well as a Senator in Student Government. During that time, I created the Food Locker Program (providing free food and hygiene products to veterans), the veteran's living learning community, and several others designed to assist veterans as they transitioned into the next chapter of their lives.

And I now work as an assistant project manager overseeing the finance, scheduling, and overall management aspects of commercial construction projects.

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

Our local and small business are part of what makes this city a place we are proud to call home. It's important that we consider them and ensure their voices are heard when discussing new and larger businesses looking to move to San Marcos.

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

Communication is key. Putting in the time and effort to sit down with both the people of this city and interested developers and serving as a bridge between the two is our best path forward. During this period of growth and development it is important to remember what aspects of our city make San Marcos a place we are proud to call home.

I mean not only is the Hill Country on our doorstep and San Antonio and Austin a day trip away, but people travel from all corners of our state and country to come here and float our river and enjoy one night on the square. The amount of money that pours into this city is impressive. I think it's important that we choose to be smart about the commercial development we allow to come here. It's important that we choose the growth and development that will allow us to both embrace new opportunities and allow us to still be proud to call San Marcos home.

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

With the rapid expansion of the I-35 corridor I don't believe we have to encourage commercial development. It'll happen naturally. With San Antonio pushing north and Austin pushing south both residential and commercial growth is inevitable. We need to look to expanding and reinforcing both our electrical grid and water systems. As well as ensuring that future commercial development doesn't negatively impact our citizens. While I do support commercial development and the opportunities they bring to our community, it is important that these opportunities never come at the expense of our people.

5. If elected what will you do to further strengthen the relationship between the City of San Marcos and Texas State University?

Texas State University has a very special place in my heart. It was the place I called home after being medically discharged from the Marine Corps after 8 years of service. Thanks to the amazing tutoring services and an incredibly supportive veteran community I was able to graduate with a degree in Construction Science. And it is because of this I will be working with many of the student organizations and offices to bridge the gap and promote unity between TxSt University and the people of San Marcos.

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

As I mentioned earlier, with San Antonio pushing north and Austin pushing south both residential and commercial growth is inevitable. And if we don't want to end up like Austin it's

important that we begin planning, designing, and preparing our roadway infrastructure to successfully accommodate the inevitable increase in traffic flow coming to San Marcos. Austin waited too long to update their roadway systems to accommodate it's increasing population and look where they're at. We need to learn from their mistakes to ensure that doesn't happen here in San Marcos.

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 take to create more housing choices in San Marcos?

I don't believe there's a lack of housing availability. Every neighborhood in this city seems to have more than a few houses available for sell or rent. I do however believe that there is a lack of affordable housing availability. We have a lot of developers pushing to this area. And many of these neighborhoods are really nice and comfortable, but their expensive. Many houses are \$300k and up. That's a lot of money for most people. So I'm thinking we should make an effort to invite developers to our city that specialize in building more affordable housing. That way all of our citizens can enjoy the American Dream of being a homeowner.

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

I would use a smaller portion to support our veteran's office in providing transportation of our local disabled veterans to the San Antonio and Austin VA for medical care.

I would use the remainder to work with some of our local homeless programs to build a program designed to not just to feed and clothe, but to rehabilitate and reintroduce our homeless population back into society as contributing members of our community.

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 absolutely agree with all nine sections.

10. You may use this opportunity to provide any additional information you would like members of the San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce to know.

I'm here to serve our people. I'm not just talking about people on the left or the right, but all our citizens. I aim to be a bridge. And I believe that as a veteran I am uniquely qualified to accomplish this. Veterans are the single most diverse population in this country. And It's well-known that veterans support veterans. It doesn't matter what corner of the country you're from, what your political, personal, or religious beliefs are, or what branch of service you serve. If a veteran asks for help, another veteran will move mountains to help them. Because no one on understands the price of our service to our country other than us. So, what unites us is far more important than the things that divide us.

This is what I will bring to the city of San Marcos. This belief and understanding are what I will use to unite our people so that together we can build a better San Marcos.

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