

City of San Marcos Councilmember Candidate Questionnaire 2025

Saul Gonzales – 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.

My expertise is 7 years in other city boards, for example planning and zoning. I have also served 9 years on the city council and have experience in this area. The director at our local hospital, I gained experience in managing employees, skills in problem solving and developing budgets.

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

The biggest challenge for local businesses is recruiting and retaining qualified employees. The city council must encourage Texas State graduates to remain in the area and make housing affordable and attractive. Currently, council staff is reaching out to the businesses and asking how the city can be of assistance to them. I would like to see this program continue and succeed.

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?

Town Hall meetings can be held with representatives from businesses and private citizens. These meetings should be well publicized and attendance encouraged and promoted. Solutions need to be presented by the council and discussed at another meeting to resolve these issues.

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

The city needs to reduce the amount of time to apply and receive permits. The ease of the permit process also needs to be revised. Incentives to businesses can be provided.

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

Meetings between city managers and officials from Texas State have been established and I feel should continue. This provides information for both the city and the university to problem solve. I can encourage a council member to attend the meetings, so the council is informed of needs and concerns.

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

The CARTS and Texas State bus system needs to be promoted and encouraged. Many citizens do not realize that they can use the Texas State buses. Both systems are free. Routes need to be publicized, user friendly and accessible. The CARTS services need to be explained to the public. Roads need to be widened where new businesses or apartments are built and appropriate stop lights installed.

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?

Decreasing the lot size necessary for building a home would provide more affordable housing. Allow apartment complexes to be more than 3 stories high, outside residential areas, would lower apartment prices. Provide grants for 1st time home owners.

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 increase funding for current programs. Examples are housing, CASA, mental illness and social services. I would increase the major city trash collection days. Replace old infrastructure of roads and water. I would increase areas of green space and parks.

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 not disagree totally with any of the principles. I do not feel that all businesses and housing projects should automatically receive tax incentives and should be decided on individual basis. Education is necessary, however, vocational skills and certificates should be increased and supported.

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 have supported environmentally friendly business growth in San Marcos. I have supported the chamber and would like to work with them in the future. I feel I bring a different outlook to the council based on my background and experiences which allows me to represent the majority of the citizens of San Marcos.

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