

City of San Marcos Councilmember Candidate Questionnaire 2026

Bill Miller

Candidate for City Council Place 6

- 1. Tell us about the experience, strengths and leadership style you would bring to City Council, and what you would most like to accomplish during your term?**

I am a ten plus year veteran of the United States Coast Guard. I've owned my own pest control company and been involved in farming and agriculture for the last 5 years.

I have a proven track record of working in high stress and complex situations, and leading teams by example while as an employer and in the military.

If elected, I would like to propose a bylaw that would require all HOA run neighborhoods within city limits to allow residents to grow food in their front yard, raise a few chickens in the back yard, and give San Marcos the choice to grow and raise at least a portion of their own food.

- 2. San Marcos continues to grow, but the City also faces difficult budget decisions. Where do you think the greatest opportunities are to control costs, improve efficiency, or better prioritize spending while maintaining quality city services?**

We can start to control costs by only planting native grasses and plants on city property. These plants take very little extra water. They are drought tolerant and can survive our beautiful Texas climate. This will reduce the need for irrigation throughout the city.

I think that, as a city, we need to buckle down and stop spending on things we want. Spending on what we want versus need is irresponsible. We NEED more emergency services. We need more stringent management of our resources. We NEED to only spend money if it is absolutely necessary. We NEED to stop spending on frivolous things. We are a city of artists and very capable people, but we outsource to other cities. Let us start by letting the local businesses and individuals give us quotes for work that needs to be done!

- 3. If the City received a one-time \$10 million grant with no restrictions, what would be your top priority for investing those funds and why?**

My top priority would be to better protect our natural resources. Better stewardship, more employees for the parks department to help keep our river and parks clean. More employees for enforcement of our parks and river rules. We must protect what we have. We must guard what we have and not sell it to the highest bidder because it will fix the short term. We have to think of the long term effects of our actions.

- 4. What do you see as the biggest challenges facing local businesses today? What can the City do to help existing businesses succeed and attract new employers and investment?**

I think the biggest challenge for local businesses is finding the funds to pay employees a LIVING wage. We all know that minimum wage is not a living wage. \$20 an hour isn't a living wage. This is something that the employers will need to fix though. The city council can help by offering financial incentives to compliant businesses, and using its public

platform to encourage corporate social responsibility. City council can also lead by example and vote to start paying hourly employees of the city this same living wage.

- 5. Growth continues throughout San Marcos, but infrastructure does not always keep pace. What infrastructure investment should be the City's highest priority over the next five years? How would the City pay for it?**

I think that our highest infrastructure investment should be finding ways to improve our affordable housing situation. San Marcos has very little in the way of affordable housing.

This could be paid for partially by grant funding. Between using HUD, Pro Housing Grants, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation, and Housing and Health Services Program, we can surely find some way to help offset the cost of the housing endeavors. We can also stop giving ridiculous tax breaks to developers. If they want to build here, they need to pay the taxes. If they want to make money, they NEED TO PAY TAXES!

Another significant change that we can make is to require all landscaping in the city to only have native grasses and plants. This will cut down significantly on irrigation costs. We can also take away tax breaks for the developers that are building the houses unless they agree to making more eco friendly neighborhoods. I.e.-rain water collection, solar on all houses built, native plants and grasses, native trees, wider sidewalks, more green gathering spaces to increase accessibility to nature.

- 6. Housing affordability and availability continue to be challenges in San Marcos. What actions would you support to increase housing choices while balancing infrastructure, neighborhood and community concerns?**

Voting against any more purpose built student housing is a necessity. We should instead be focused on more family friendly housing to give everyone more options instead of just students of the University.

- 7. Residents and businesses do not always agree on issues before the City Council. How would you listen to competing viewpoints, weigh the broader impact of a decision, and determine what is best for San Marcos as a whole?**

We are elected to serve. At the end of the day, we are chosen by the voters to decide what course of action to take. When we are forced to make a hard decision, the benefit to our city and its citizens should always take precedent. As a business, you are here to provide a service to the citizens. I think that as long as we are all trying to do the right thing and not take advantage of a situation, that the right answer will be apparent.

- 8. Tell us about a position you held strongly but later changed your mind about. What caused you to reconsider your viewpoint, and what did you learn from that experience?**

I once held a strong belief that technology was the answer to the world's problems. There is a place for technology in the world, but the advancement of AI has changed my mind. We, as a civilisation, have grown without an artificial intelligence telling us how to do things, and we have been forced to learn and grow on our own. I think we now need to take a step back from technology and find a better path forward. We can learn from our peers, elders, and children. We can do research instead of asking Chat GPT for answers. We have thrived, to our own detriment, without the help of AI, and I believe that we can fix the world without the help of AI.

Dealing with this current climate of AI has taught me that we all need to start paying more attention to the world around us, and not the one in our hand.

- 9. Texas State University is one of our community's greatest economic assets. What is one new or expanded partnership between the City and Texas State that you would like to see, and how would you help make it happen?**

I think that the biggest thing I would like to see is the University take responsibility for bringing so many temporary citizens to the city. They should be pitching in with emergency services. Texas A&M gives College Station up to \$1.5 million a year to help support their emergency services. I would like to see our city council and the university come to a similar agreement and I would be happy to head up this endeavor.

10. **What is one decision made by the current or a previous City Council that you believe was the right decision, and one you would have handled differently? Why?**

I think the one decision that I agree with was banning industrial high water use facilities like Data Centers. This was a huge step for our city and a great example to set for the rest of our state.

I definitely would not have agreed to let the developers build the “rent by the bed” apartments in our downtown area. I would have fought for more usable infrastructure that would have benefited the city, the local citizens, and the students. I know that university students need housing as well, but regular apartment complexes fill that role as well. Charging for each room or each bed is just selfish and greedy.

11. **If you had the authority to rewrite one City ordinance tomorrow, what would it be, why would you change it, and what unintended consequences would you anticipate?**

The first thing I would change to the city ordinance would be Article III, Sec. 3.01(c) term limits on elected officials. I think that three terms should be the limit. Once you have served those three terms, you should not be allowed to run for office again. We should not have the same people running over and over again.

12. **Please review the San Marcos Chamber’s [“Government Relations & Advocacy Guiding Principles”](#) document. Do you agree with all of these statements? Please describe any statements you do not agree with.**

Job Growth & Business Recruitment -While I do agree with this entire statement, I believe that the “market wage” and the actual wages being paid in our city for most jobs is way off the mark. We need to be striving to pay employees a **LIVING** wage.