

Candidates for Parkersburg Mayor and City Council

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Office Parkersburg Mayor

Name Sherry Dugan

Party Democrat

Biography

Lifelong resident of Parkersburg. Graduated PHS 1974, Graduated King College 1877 with a degree in History/Political Science, minored in Accounting. Owner Das Rookhaus. Past city councilman, National VP US Jaycees, Exalted ruler Elks 198. President Junior League, member First Lutheran Church. Served on city Facade, sign. Finance, and personnel committees. Currently serving on Parkersburg Municipal Committee

1. What is the biggest issue facing Parkersburg and how would you address it?

There is not one issue but several. The opioid opioid issue probably is the root of most issues. Lack of jobs dilapidated homes homelessness and economic development are all affected by drugs. To address this I propose working with Habitat for Humanity to restore homes Police Department to crack down on suppliers actively pursuing new businesses being financially responsible to

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Parkersburg?

Encouraging our development department to solicit new businesses to fill empty buildings. Attracts specialty shops to fill downtown structures. Encourage "work from home" employees from other states to reside in Parkersburg. Promote tourism. Expand our parks and provide free entertainment.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

Working with utility company to ensure underground repairs are complete prior to re-paving. Scheduling street re-pavement in a manner not to hinder travel. Working with the Parkersburg Utility Board to replace and repair outdated water sewer lines.

4. What do you want to accomplish as mayor?

Giving Parkersburg back to its citizens which is done through financial responsibility, timely and efficient infrastructure repairs, listening to our rank-and-file employees, and strongly combating the drug problem. If done correctly, we will Unite Parkersburg!

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective mayor?

As a small business owner, I understand fiduciary responsibility. We must provide the best psoriasis for the least cost. Also being an employer, gives me experience with employees. Involvement with various volunteer organizations allows alternate approach.

Office Parkersburg Mayor

Name Tom Joyce

Party Republican

Biography

Education:

1992 Graduate of Parkersburg Catholic High School
Bachelor of Business Administration Marshall University
Master of Science; Safety & Environmental Management WVU
Master of Science; Industrial Relations WVU

Professional Experience:

1996-2011 St. Joseph's Hospital: Human Resources Specialist; Director of Safety and Compliance
2011-2016 Camden Clark Medical Center: Director of Environmental Safety and Compliance

1. What is the biggest issue facing Parkersburg and how would you address it?

There are numerous issues facing our community. Some of the most important issues to address include: infrastructure, homelessness, dilapidated buildings and economic development and job creation. If reelected I would continue cooperative efforts with City Council to support and encourage consistent and steady funding and applicable legislation and enforcement for improvements in all areas challenging the community.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Parkersburg?

As Mayor I have worked with City Council on legislation which freezes city property tax rates when improvements are made or new construction is completed. I will continue to support broad range incentive programs and work with our county and state leaders to improve the overall business climate for all of WV.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

Since the start of my term as Mayor in 2017, we have invested in excess of \$6,000,000 in our streets, \$1,000,000 in stormwater management, \$400,000 in floodwall recertification and repairs and \$2,400,000 in our parks. These would remain as focused priorities if I am afforded the privilege of serving another term as Mayor of Parkersburg

4. What do you want to accomplish as mayor?

I would work to continue the infrastructure and parks improvements, impacting the quality of life in our community. I place emphasis on expanded support of youth programming, particularly those programs that focus on drug aversion, accountability, positive role models and life choices to better prepare the future generation and mitigate the impact of addiction, apathy and lack of motivation.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective mayor?

As Mayor, I have demonstrated an ability to cooperate with city council, to place the city on our most secure financial footing in decades, to cut off a growing pension liability, and to improve our parks and infrastructure. Being Mayor of your hometown is a great privilege and responsibility and I will continue the dedicated service Parkersburg's residents deserve.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 1

Name Jessica Cottrille

Party Republican

No Reply

Office Parkersburg City Council District 1

Name Dave McCrady

Party Democrat

Biography

Born and raised in district 1, graduated 1969 PSHS ,50 year member local 565 Plumbers & Pipefitters. Currently I am the Councilman for District 1 and serve as Chairman of Public Works and Storm Water committees, along with serving on the Finance committee. Married with 3 children and 4 grandchildren living in Parkersburg. Very active in building of Erickson ASF

1. What is the biggest issue facing Parkersburg and how would you address it?

The loss of revenue do to Covid-19 and the revising of the 2020-2021 budget will be number one. We must continue to be aggressive in cleaning up the eyesore properties that are in our neighborhoods. our storm water system must be continually upgraded. Continue the funding of a fully staffed Police and Fire Dept.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Parkersburg?

We have in place a plan that exempts the first \$500 in B&O taxes that has been well received by the local buisnesses". We need to aide where we can in property tax and also with the utilities provided by the City. I feel we need to

be aggressive in trying to incorporate the growing buisness area in South Parkersburg

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

Storm water management is an area that we are looking at and had a great plan for the 2020-2021 budget year and hopefully we can bring it back to life when we come out of the Covid-19 era. As always our streets must be continually upgraded and stay with our paving and slab replacement schedules.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

I would like to continue with the improvements to our City Parks. The splash pad and the new Jackson Fountain are examples of upgrading our Parks for the future. Southwood Park has not been forgotten and plans are on hold for upgrades there. We are still waiting for the approved grant for a sidewalk on Rayon Drive.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

With 50+ years experience in construction I understand our infrastructure, and street problems. I have experience in planning and budgeting. With three years on the Public Works committees I have learned the inner workings of each Department and their capabilities. I understand the need to continue our aggressive plan that is now in place to remedy our overburdened storm water

Office Parkersburg City Council District 2

Name Sharon A. Kuhl

Party Republican

No Reply

Office Parkersburg City Council District 3

Name Robert Mercer

Party Republican

No Reply

Office Parkersburg City Council District 4

Name Eric Barber

Party Republican

No Reply

Office Parkersburg City Council Districtt 4

Name Wendy R. Tuck

Party Democrat

Biography

MA in Special Education, married to Steve Tuck for 43 years, mother, foster parent, homeowner in District 4 since 1982; member of the Local Emergency Planning Council, founder of Neighbor Helping Neighbor, grant writer, teacher, Executive Director of EVE, Inc and the Volunteer Action Center, Certified Child and Adolescent Trauma Professional, Child Development Specialist for Birth to Three.

Website: <https://www.wcwwdems.com/wendy-tuck>

1. What is the biggest issue facing Parkersburg and how would you address it?

St. Joseph Hospital, GE, and other industries closed. People lost good paying jobs. To

revitalize our economy, Parkersburg would invest capital equity in small, local businesses to make them more profitable. They'd hire more people at livable wages. The City invests in infrastructure, broadband, mini-business centers, creating a continuous link between investing in local businesses and more, higher paying jobs.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Parkersburg?

Provide children with high quality public education, recreation and arts programs. Promote a pipeline from technical schools to trade unions. Harness federal investment programs (Community Development Corporations and Community Development Funding Initiatives.) Market vacant houses to people in urban areas who could work from home where the costs of living are less. Simplify building permits. Make broadband available to residents.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

Parkersburg has an ancient lead pipes water system; we need funding to replace the whole system with bigger, safer pipes instead of replacing them only when they break. We should reduce the amount of storm-water run-off before it gets into our sewer system and causes major flooding. Better transportation systems, including having good sidewalks for pedestrians. Maintaining the flood wall

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

Establish neighborhood associations to plan and prioritize community improvement and development goals (Neighborhood Watch, Neighbor Helping Neighbor), incorporate them into the City's long-term plans, and implement accountability procedures. Increase opportunities for police officers and residents to get to know and respect each other. Use empty lots for "urban agriculture", growing food for consumption and marketing. Build a self-sustaining dog park.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

Lived in District 4 for thirty-eight years with my husband and 3 three kids. Know the challenges and opportunities in this area. Teacher, experienced in research, leadership, and effective task forces. Executive Director of two non-profit organizations, writing grants, maintaining facilities, budgeting and financial management, organizing volunteers to serve in disasters, and working with community coalitions to improve our city.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 5

Name J.R. Carpenter

Party Democrat

Biography

Owner of the Crystal Café, 402 Market st for 18 years. Marshall University graduate with Management/Finance. Eight years experience with our budget and operation in Parkersburg. I enjoy working with my district residents and watching improvements thru community involvement. I listen and tackle problems my residents inquire about, seek solutions, while communicating the administrations answers as I get them.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Parkersburg and how would you address it?

Our drug, homelessness, theft, employment, and maintenance issues are all closely related. The best way to address these would be have a charter change. Our present Strong Mayor charter has had no results in addressing any of the above issues nor has it in the past. A management style charter would place accountability, results , and progress on elected council.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Parkersburg?

We need to encourage new businesses to want to locate here. We have available space, a willing work force, and a hunger to grow. Our tax base and living wage employment has declined steadily over the past 15 years plus. We must be aggressive to attract new businesses by offering a clean , maintained , safe city that people want. Whatever it takes.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

Part of my district is continuously flooded with nominal rain in the city streets. The administration has been making progress with our storm water maintenance in some areas. Its an ongoing process because of past

neglect. Our city needs to focus on maintaining our resources and not fall behind , playing catch-up. Prudent outsourcing plus available manpower reviewed daily with accountability.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

Councils primary function now is a check and balance with our tax monies. My only focus since I first ran for office hasn't changed. I want to see a city where my grandchildren either want to stay or move back to thru employment opportunities, available activities , higher quality of life we can accomplish that goal. Make Parkersburg shine again.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

I believe in listening and understanding what's being said by the citizens, the administration , and the legislature . I dig deeper into issues to understand what these decisions will do 10-15 years later. Not just the immediate impact or purpose. Having a charter change voted on by the citizens would make it possible for council to accomplish more.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 5

Name Dell O Pomeroy

Party Republican

No Reply

Office Parkersburg City Council District 5

Name Brett Sullins

Party Libertarian

Biography

My name is Brett, and I am running for Parkersburg City Council District 5. I have been a Libertarian for over 10 years. As a Libertarian, we advocate for many needs, voters who feel disenfranchised, fight for. A small list would include cannabis legalization, LGBT rights, limiting government spending, and much more. You may ask further questions at fb.com/ALibertarianHero.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Parkersburg and how would you address it?

I see many issues and prefer not to label any more prioritized than another. The pot holes we are taxed for, are left untreated, while we are requested to get our vehicles inspected for the roads, is an issue. The racketeering I see getting passed, like Motor Bike Bans, are an issue. We need opposition to address it.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Parkersburg?

I'm for getting rid of the City Tax/User Fee. I'm also for privatization of many unneeded government programs, which in retrospect is a form of job creation, while sponsoring innovation. Extra taxes and fines on businesses hurts small businesses. Its time we stand up for our small businesses, when the elected, like Jim Justice, will not.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

I'd start by wanting to push repairs for all potholes within the city. I'd want to repair sidewalks that not only help pedestrians, but storefront appeal for small businesses. I would also push to read spending budgets more thoroughly and have them more thought out. Privatizing wasteful spending habits that cost your tax dollars, as needed.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

Honestly, to bring opposition in representation with an unapologetic message for the disenfranchised members in our society that just don't happen to think their voice matters. It does, and I'll do my part to represent them all, not just a collective of my supporters, as seen by others in office locally.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

I run the Wood Co LP. I have also been heavily involved in many political campaigns such as my previous role as Spike Cohen's Assistant Campaign Manager (LP VPOTUS Nominee), Social Media for Ian Peak (IL State Rep Nominee), Marketing for Erika Kolenich(WV Gov Nominee). I have also been an elected LPWV Delegate for the LNC.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 6

Name Mike Reynolds
Party Republican

No Reply

Office Parkersburg City Council District 7
Name Tom Rafferty
Party Democrat

Biography

I am a lifelong resident of Parkersburg, a husband, father of three and grandfather of two and two thirds. I worked thirty-six years in our area's chemical industry until the plant closed in 2015. I returned to school at WVUP and earned an RBA degree in Psychology. I want Parkersburg to be here for my grandchildren.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Parkersburg and how would you address it?

I believe that the biggest issue facing Parkersburg today is a lack of high paying business and industry in our area. I personally had a career that should have lasted a lifetime, and watched it dwindle and disappear. Our children need high paying jobs with great benefits, if they are going to be able to raise their families here.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Parkersburg?

I would be willing to consider favorable zoning or tax policies in an effort to draw high paying businesses to our area. Just as importantly though, would be supporting a nondiscrimination ordinance. Businesses today are sensitive to inclusiveness and diversity. Major cities have seen businesses leave their areas because of Draconian policies. We don't want that for Parkersburg.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

My priorities for infrastructure in general would include storm drainage, aged sewer piping and road conditions. Specifically, for District 7, I would like to alleviate the dangerous traffic congestion caused by cars entering or exiting the East 7th street McDonald's. I would also be willing to work with fellow Council members to find and fix other such problems.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

My only reason for running for City Council is to make Parkersburg as good as it can be. I want Parkersburg to be a place where companies want to locate. Where our children and grandchildren can live their lives with comfort, safety and security. I love this city and I want future generations to feel the exact same way.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

Throughout my life I have chaired, led or served on multiple committees. I am honest and interested in the advancement of Parkersburg. I am willing to compromise, but would rather seek consensus or win/win situations. I can work with almost anyone and would work with everyone in a civil and polite manner, regardless of party affiliation.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 7
Name Chris Rexroad
Party Republican

Biography

I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education specializing in Social Studies grades 5-9 and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. I teach 6th grade Social Studies, including government. Nine years of teaching has taught me how to work with children and adults. Collaboration with co-workers, administrators, and parents has taught me to establish viable solutions for all.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Parkersburg and how would you address it?

The biggest issue in Parkersburg is the growing homeless population. Programs to find adequate housing should be instituted. This could include designating land and building adequate living quarters for the homeless in which responsibility for upkeep can be

shared by the residents and the city. This community can provide job opportunities and help improve the lives of the residents.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Parkersburg?

Incentives and grants like job creation tax credits and job training grants could be used to entice businesses to hire local labor and help fund on-the-job training while improving city infrastructure to support an increase in business. Parkersburg should partner with other municipalities, promoting the region. Finally, partnerships with local colleges and technical centers can build a viable workforce.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

Infrastructure needs should be focused on based on safety first. After immediate safety issues are addressed, priority would then fall to areas of the most public use. A safe water resource management plan is key for both citizens' health and for the environment as well as a reliable power grid. Clean and safe streets in good repair are essential.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

I want to help create jobs, improve the local economy, and raise the quality of life for all Parkersburg residents. Parkersburg is already a great place to live, but I want to improve it both physically and economically to bring in new job opportunities and to keep residents from moving elsewhere for better opportunities.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

My education and work experiences have taught me how to collaborate with others, compromise, and create solutions that benefit all stakeholders. My teaching background in government gives me insight on how government should operate and the laws that bind us. I feel my ability to work with people of differing opinions makes me a good candidate for this position.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 8

Name Zachary T. Stanley

Party Republican

No Reply

Office Parkersburg City Council District 9

Name Jeff Fox

Party Democrat

Biography

Born and raised in my district, I attended Emerson, Hamilton and PHS. I have degrees from WV Tech and WVUP. I'm a 30+ year member of IBEW 968, working as a wireman and serving as recording secretary, president and financial secretary/business manager. I volunteer with multiple groups throughout our community. Parkersburg is home.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Parkersburg and how would you address it?

Parkersburg has lost over 30-plus% of its population in my lifetime. Infrastructure, housing and more that once served a larger city must be maintained. We must grow our population, jobs and revenues to maintain our city needs. Rethink development strategy and find innovative usage for our fading districts. Increase home ownership. Baby steps cannot climb the mountain of challenges.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Parkersburg?

For one idea, I have legislation ready to incentivize recent college grads in starting new businesses in Parkersburg. The incentive would be student loan payment relief for the owner(s) and qualifying employees. The recipients would have to live in Parkersburg, paying into our economy. Growing worker and community prosperity from the ground up with new business start-ups.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

Continue strategic paving, but we have many other streets that are concrete slabs and get a lesser amount of attention. Diligent spending of funds for safe sidewalks, some with public/private partnerships. Continue repairs to storm sewers and expand the system. Clean up overgrown areas and remove dangerous large trees. Continue parks improvement.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

Help to formulate an efficient budget which addresses the needs of my District and all city tax payers. Continue to listen to and survey community needs by visiting constituents, and then presenting information to the Administration and Council. Blight, crime, infrastructure, parks, energy efficiency and city growth are some of the issues.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

Being a lifelong resident of Parkersburg provides insight. As a business manager or wireman, I've dealt with budgets, contracts, healthcare, pensions, training, safety, logistics of getting a job done and more. Volunteering with organizations allows me to listen and learn. I've not missed a council or assigned committee meeting in my term. I listen, learn and work hard.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 9

Name Austin Richards

Party Republican

Biography

I've been a resident of Parkersburg for the entirety of my life, I've lived in various neighborhoods in the city. I am currently a Nissan Master Technician with Wharton Auto Group. This will be my first running for any political office.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Parkersburg and how would you address it?

One of the biggest issues affecting Parkersburg today is the declining condition of our infrastructure. Our aging power grid, for example, has antiquated hardware that is cause for frequent power outages and brownouts. I would push to lever our utility providers to invest more into our city infrastructure.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Parkersburg?

To attract businesses to our area I would support policies that would encourage small business owners to sell and hire local, to keep our earned money and tax dollars within our city. I would also support policies that protect our small businesses and their interests to keep them operating securely within Parkersburg.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

My priority to meet the infrastructure needs of Parkersburg primarily is to see our antiquated systems updated or replaced. Many of our utility transmission devices, such as telephone poles, are performing tasks that are well beyond their initial intended purpose.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

As a member of the City Council I would hope to bring a positive, fresh, forward thinking mindset. I would like to work with the other council members to achieve results instead of arguments. I want to see Parkersburg return to the city our residents feel safe and secure growing their families in.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

One of my qualities that would benefit City Council is my ability to keep emotion from a logical discussion. So many times we see personal beliefs come before rationality and action. These partisan gridlocks are what keep our city from moving forward. It's time to work together to get results.