

**PLACE 3: KELLER CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
FROM HIDDEN LAKES RESIDENTS**

Responses left to right based on order received.

Bob Kirk (incumbent)	Tom Cawthra	Bob Welch
<p>1. Basis of Decisions: Do you think your job as a member of the city council is to do what <u>you</u> think is best for Keller OR do you think your job as member of the city council is to determine and implement the wishes of the Keller citizens?</p>		
<p>The job of a city councilman is to ensure the city is managed and operated in a responsible manner, to see that citizens receive the highest return for their tax dollar, to abide by and rule on variances to the established code of ordinances, to enact ordinances that protect the lives and property of Keller residents, and to plan for growth that will maximize the quality of life in Keller.</p>	<p>I believe that any elected official should uphold the trust vested by the citizens who put him in that office. Doing this means there are no selfish interests to be tolerated on the Council or anywhere in Town Hall. City council members must be accountable for the voice of the city, and to that end, every effort must be taken to expand knowledge, encourage dialogue and influence behavior for the good of the order, not the isolated individual. Check egos at the door and hear the people with a balanced and objective sense of respect and dignity. Always listen so you can hear the wishes of the citizens, then make good decisions using intelligent thought and an inclusive attitude. This is good management in its simplest form. It's what I will do for Keller.</p>	<p>Without question, determine the wishes of the majority of Keller citizens and implement the same. The council should represent the citizens not dictate a minority vision to the citizens.</p>
<p>2. Vision: What is your long-range <u>vision</u> for Keller? How will you work toward that vision, involve the community to reflect the voice of the majority of Keller citizens, involve fellow Council members, and communicate it to all citizens?</p>		
<p>I see Keller as a mix of those who value country living with accessible city services and those who prefer the convenience of a robust, but sustainable retail environment. My vision is a Keller where those are complementary, not competing goals. While we do not walk in lockstep and we sometimes disagree on individual decisions, I believe the mayor and my fellow council members share my vision for Keller, and we, of course, have an established process through which we communicate our individual viewpoints publicly. I listen to the viewpoints of citizens via council meetings, face to face meetings, email and phone. I incorporate the viewpoints of citizens in every decision where I may legally do so. Mayor McGrail has instituted the Mayor's Update, available by email to anyone who would like it, and I encourage you to subscribe. The update summarizes both progress made and upcoming issues to be resolved in building toward the ultimate vision that I think most Keller residents share and which has resulted in our being named one of the best 50 small towns in America.</p>	<p>Vision is critical for a city in growth mode, and Keller's vision must be revisited. We earned a spot on America's top 50 cities, but why stop there? Why not top ten, or even better, first place? My long-range vision for Keller is that we get there sooner rather than later. I believe we can be better if we develop smartly and create an environment of healthy living and extraordinary quality of life. We should encourage growth that doesn't jeopardize our good taste and we should protect the good air and land we have left for highest and best use. By involving the community with more development planning, more citizen participation in advisory roles and increasing awareness campaigns, we will undoubtedly reflect more of the majority than we do now.</p>	<p>Create a totally open and transparent government that represents the citizens of Keller and doesn't attempt to dictate a minority vision upon the same; promote quality development; enforce the Town Center UDC (no more apartments); stop any attempt to rezone any additional land in Keller for multi-family development; change the notification and time line for major development approval to ensure that the will of the Keller citizens is heard and adhered to.</p>

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<p>3. Principles/Strategies: What principles or strategies do you think should guide city government and how would that be put into practice?</p>		
<p>The city should prepare for development well in advance of buildout. Hundreds of homes have been built in the part of Fort Worth that abuts Keller on the west. That building frenzy overtook planning, and the lag in roadway improvements and city services have adversely affected KISD. I do not want to see that happen to Keller. Fort Worth currently has more road work than money, and prior to this council's doubling money for street improvements, Keller was headed in that same direction. If you let your roads decay to focus solely on development, as has happened in the recent past, you will pay a heavy price. Likewise in the past, there was a lack of planning for proper drainage, and developers were permitted to adversely affect drainage without any recourse for the city. The city has now engaged a robust plan to maintain our roads, sewers, and storm drainage system. In addition I have and will continue to hold developers responsible for presenting adequate drainage planning with their projects, and accountable for their failure to follow through with them.</p>	<p>I believe we have a collective responsibility to recommit ourselves to positive growth in Keller. The strategy is simple: to strengthen what we do like and improve what we don't. In doing this, we protect the value of our homes, endear the quality of life we expect and stand up for a community that welcomes others and admires what is right. The only right way to put this into practice is to believe in it and to involve more people to get things done.</p>	<p>a. Principals – determine the will of the majority of Keller citizens and within the parameters of law, vote accordingly. b. Totally open city government, no secrets, no deals behind the scenes.</p>
<p>4. Long Range Planning: How do you view the importance of long range planning for Keller, such as economic development? How would you improve long range planning?</p>		
<p>Long range planning is critical to maintaining the enviable status Keller enjoys, and I will continue to engage in long range planning. For example, this council is following through with the Storm Water Master Plan that was shelved by previous councils for lack of funding, while they diverted that funding in an attempt to build a decidedly unpopular multi-million dollar library in Town Center. I will continue to insist that development take place in a manner consistent with what the citizens of Keller expect in order to maintain the way of life they chose when they moved to Keller. The make-up of Town Center is a good case in point. Despite the fact that it was planned to be primarily non-residential, previous councils</p>	<p>Careful city planning and development make our quality of life a matter of choice. Keller is at a point in its growth where city leaders must now choose: Do we grow gracefully or do we splinter into a cluttered hodge-podge of mundane pad sites built without any standard of excellence? Long range planning will help the city redefine who we are. Based on Keller's profile, "the current proposed land use mix of Keller at build-out, single-family residential property will comprise approximately 76% of the total land area of Keller." Our rapid growth over the last ten years has been challenging, and our demographics have changed dramatically. We have a new city manager who has been tasked to bring a fresh</p>	<p>Long range planning is extremely important. Make a plan and follow it! The plan should include 3, 5, 10, and thereafter increments. It must based on the state of the city today (not the state of the city in 1998/99). The long range plan should follow the wishes of the citizens currently residing in Keller. Develop and implement a better master plan for development and hold to the standards of the same. Do not give in to every developer that presents a project if the project does not comply with the wishes of the majority of citizens. In many cases the developers/owners have certain rights, however, the TC UDC allows the council to</p>

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<p>permitted so much multi-family housing in Town Center that it is now primarily residential, and high density residential at that, to the point that there is inadequate parking for businesses who might locate there, as well as a dramatic increase in auto traffic in an area which was designed to be easily accessible. I will resist any attempt to further upset the balance between retail and residential, and I will seek changes in the master plan in order to do so, if necessary.</p>	<p>perspective to our plan. I've met with him several times in preparation for this election and we share a common belief that more citizens should be involved in visionary development meetings with the city management team, the city council, city staff and area leaders so that the new voice of Keller is heard and redrawn into our city plan.</p>	<p>approve or disapprove every proposed development in the same. The council furthermore does not have to approve requests for SUPs, final plats with variances, etc. This is precisely why this council election is so important. The council will decide if your voice or theirs is to be heard and implemented.</p>
<p>5. Retail/Business Master Plan: What is your position on a detailed retail/business office master plan? How would you incorporate citizen input and communicate that input to the citizens and potential businesses? What specific experience do you have in this area?</p>		
<p>I support efforts to follow existing master plans for our business corridors before developing new ones. I believe all stakeholders should drive master planning, as was the case when we looked at rewriting the Old Town Master Plan. After meeting with the public it was determined that previous councils had not followed the existing master plan and it was decided to give the current plan an opportunity to succeed before starting over. If you did not attend the recent Krawfish Krawl in Old Town, you missed an astonishingly successful event that brought people from all over the metroplex to Keller. This event alone proves how vibrant an area can be when the stakeholders are consulted.</p>	<p>Keller's Master Land Use Plan is what guides our retail and business progress. Land is expensive here in Keller, and there isn't much of it left. So it's vital now to guarantee that the city brings the best and brightest to the table when the master plan is being considered for updates. As Vice Chairman of the Keller Economic Development Board, I recently recommended we consider creating an inclusive "guide" for any developer hoping to bring a new business or retail project to Keller. In that guide would be recommendations on what steps to consider for public involvement while developing the project. For example, provide an accessible group of city business leaders or a committee within the Chamber of Commerce and a list of neighborhood Homeowner Associations might be helpful for developers so they might meet with local businesses, neighbors and important groups. It's that type of helpful and welcoming attitude from within Town Hall that will attract the finest investors and visionary contributors to Keller's family friendly economy.</p>	<p>This is hand in hand with the previous answers. A retail/business master plan would be very beneficial. Again, it should be developed and adhered to. Was one of the organizers of the citizen petition against the Keller Station apartments. Citizen guidance is paramount and is one of the main reasons that I and Kevin Jerome decided to run for Keller city council.</p>

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<p>6. UDC: What is your opinion of the current Keller Uniform Development Code? What, if any, changes would you advocate?</p>		
<p>The UDC is currently being revised to adapt to the changing environment in the city as we approach build out. I believe many of the decisions on certain outbuildings that constantly come before the council would not be needed if the UDC adequately addressed routine issues. Otherwise, the UDC has served Keller well, although its application has at times been unnecessarily bureaucratic, threatening our ability to broaden the tax base with development appropriate to the surroundings. For example, the Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise on 377 is so far away from central Keller that you have to look for the city limits to determine if it is actually in Keller or Watauga. It is surrounded by tire stores and similar restaurants, and is set well back from the street. However, KFC almost didn't come to Keller because of a stubborn adherence to the UDC. KFC's standard sign was a few inches too large. The company ultimately spent \$10,000 redesigning it to produce a change that is literally unnoticeable from the busy highway on which it is located. In other words while the UDC is a valuable tool, you cut off your nose to spite your face when you allow it to take the place of common sense.</p>	<p>The UDC is what defines our standards for development. It is an organized set of guidelines put in place to protect our city from sub-standard building. It sets minimum expectations for growth and improvements. There are some parts of the UDC worthy of review by the city when neighborhoods and businesses face growing pains and require more stringent (or more flexible) parameters in changing time. Ideally, the UDC protects or even increases property values for all parties involved.</p>	<p>The UDC as currently written has some very important issues to address. With much citizen input we have already approached the city manager/staff to address some of the perceived deficiencies in the current UDC. Much more work can and should be done.</p>
<p>7. Davis Blvd Master Plan: Is there a specific master plan for the development of the Davis Blvd corridor in Keller? If not, what would you like to see happen there?</p>		
<p>At this time the section of Davis Blvd. in Keller's city limits is not master planned. The same situation existed north of Johnson rd on HWY 377. I supported the funding of the master plan for the area north of Johnson rd on 377 once it was separated from the Old Town Master Plan and would support planning of Davis Blvd as well. The area is one of few commercial zones left to develop and while there are many permitted uses in that zone, we currently must rely on the Economic Development Board, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and existing city ordinances and the UDC for developing Davis Blvd.</p>	<p>On Davis Blvd, we will most likely see a steady increase in activity over the next ten years. And although Keller's border only includes a small portion of Davis, we will need to keep pace with the rapid residential growth that will result from the extension of Davis/Randol Mill north to HWY 114. Infrastructure improvements will be a high priority and residents in Hidden Lakes will need to be included at the earliest possible time period before ANY decisions—phased or final—are considered. For the sake of any future business plan in that area, input from Hidden Lakes and other interested parties should be a top priority for city planners and the City Council.</p>	<p>I have never seen a specific master plan for the Davis Blvd. corridor. I feel as stated in the previous answers that a master plan based upon the desires of the current citizens of Keller should be developed, implemented and adhered to.</p>

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<p>8. Citizen Input: What role should citizen input have on proposed and existing projects? For new development proposals, how would you weigh the developer's plans versus significant expression of citizen concerns? Would you try to increase resident involvement and if so, how?</p>		
<p>I have and will continue to get citizens involved to the best of my ability. I encouraged Mayor Tandy to hold informal town halls where citizens could speak openly to their elected officials outside the intimidating surroundings of the city council meetings; she did not, however, honor my request. I applaud Mayor Mcgrail for asking the council to go out and sit with the citizens when we held the Library town halls last year to receive input from the consultant. I reached out to Harmonson Farms residents after their explosive P&Z meeting and guided them through the process helping to achieve a positive outcome.</p>	<p>We should be selective about any proposed projects and we should keep a close eye on any existing ones to make sure we are investing properly in our city's future. Citizens should know what is coming, when it is legally appropriate to know. Likewise, developers who are excited about a potential new project will want others to be excited too. It's in the developer's best interest to get buy-in from all groups involved with the approval including the citizens who will live with the project long after the original commitment is complete. Most opposition is usually caused by uncertainty, misinformation and lack of background knowledge. The best way to do solve that problem before it ever happens is to bring all parties to the table with intelligent and targeted communication.</p>	<p>a. Citizen input is paramount. Again, the council should determine the will of the majority of citizens and implement the same.</p> <p>b. The city needs to do a much better job of informing citizens of major proposed developments/issues. Several recent major proposed projects were not brought to the attention of the majority of citizens until the same were either approved or nearing approval. The city could/should utilize their web site better, water bills, newsletters, etc. The citizens should not have to rely on outside web logs to stay informed of pertinent issues. If outside web logs can get the information out in mass then the city should be able to as well.</p>
<p>9. New Developments & Citizen Input: Please explain your opinion on projects that elicited a large citizen response such as the Quiktrip that was recently built at Bear Creek and Davis, or the Keller Station proposal last year. What are your views on Council decisions in opposition to an overwhelming citizen turnout concerning a particular project?</p>		
<p>It is clear from recent elections that the Council should not make decisions in the vacuum of the council chambers but should get input from all the citizen groups through out the city; otherwise the silent majority will take action. While there was a strong Hidden Lakes HOA showing regarding Quiktrip, it was made up almost exclusively of Hidden Lake residents, rather than the electorate as a whole. Even though I will accede to the wishes of nearby residents whenever it is in the best interest of the city as a whole, I could not in this case, simply because Quiktrip had met and exceeded every requirement that the city can legally impose on a project, and I could not in good conscience subject the city as a whole to the expense of a lawsuit that I feel certain we would have lost, with the chief witnesses being our own ordinances. On the other hand the recent attempt by Greenway to further increase</p>	<p>Hidden Lakes residents spoke loud and clear (and in powerful numbers) on August 15, 2006 at a public hearing to consider the Specific Use Permit for Quick Trip on Davis and Bear Creek Pkwy. Despite unprecedented attendance, a petition from citizens and acknowledged emails, two city councilmen--Bob Kirk and Jim Carson--voted against those Hidden Lakes residents. In fact, Carson moved to approve the convenience store with gas pumps in front of it and Kirk seconded that motion. Both Kirk and Carson are still in office and both are up for re-election. I know Hidden Lakes made a statement that day and I know many in Hidden Lakes have not forgotten. Enough said.</p>	<p>a. The answers to the previous questions fall in line here as well. Major proposed developments (requiring review/approval by P&Z and/or City Council) should be brought to the attention of the Keller citizens as stated in previous answers. And, again the will of the majority of all Keller citizens should be determined and implemented by the council.</p> <p>b. The caveat to the aforementioned is that property owners have certain rights and protections under the law. However, when an applicant requests approval of SUPs, variances, etc., the approval of the same is at the discretion of the council. The will of the majority should then be applied to the approval/disapproval of the request in question.</p>

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residential in Town Center with 400 apartments is a good example of the citizens, not just those immediately affected, but from every sector of the city, making it clear which direction the council should proceed.		
10. Housing: How do you feel about multi-family housing and low cost housing projects in Keller in the foreseeable future?		
I believe Keller has provided adequate multi-family housing opportunities and I have personally asked the city attorney for advice on how we can vote for a moratorium on apartments and/or establish restrictions that are legally enforceable.	Multi-family housing in Keller is limited to very specific zones within the city's master land use plan. So as far as multi-family housing (including expensive brownstone-style homes) in the foreseeable future, there isn't much more to foresee. We do, however, have a variety of housing options currently available in Keller including our mixed-use developments. This is something very attractive to executives relocating or building new homes, single working moms and single working dads who desire consistency and safety for their children, empty-nesters and young, bright teachers who want to be close to KISD—one of the largest employers in Keller and among the best school districts in Texas.	We already have too many! The majority of Keller Citizens overwhelmingly oppose the same as evidenced by the response to the Keller Station apartments.
11. Apartments: What is your understanding on how the majority of residents of Keller feel about additional apartments in Keller? What is your source of information?		
It is clear to me that citizens all across the city are opposed to additional apartments in Keller. I received over 400 emails on the topic and spoke with business owners and long time citizens of Keller. From those communications I learned that there was a petition signed by over 1500 residents who opposed the project. Only a handful of citizens supported it. I find it interesting that the handful of citizens who asked me to support Greenway's project are listed as supporters on the website of the political action committee supporting my opponent in this election. That should raise a red flag in the face of anyone who opposes huge apartment developments in Keller.	I think there are a lot of people in Keller who, like me, are concerned about the viability of adding more apartments to what we already have here on the ground. In a slowing economy, we need to be cautious about our land use and even more cautious about occupancy rates and management and upkeep of what is already open for business. We do have some very unique living arrangements in the area if you consider the Conservatory adult living center, the Arthouse with it's own green space for community gatherings, and the Grand Estates near churches, retail and schools. But we need to listen to the community on this issue and make the right choices going forward.	We already have enough apartments throughout the city. The vast majority of Keller citizens contacted, polled, canvassed were/are opposed to any more apartments or any other types of structures which are apartments by another name. I am personally 100% against more of them and have spent several months working on the issue. This is a major plank of the council campaign platform that I and Kevin Jerome are running on.

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<p>12. Apartments: How would you vote concerning new apartments in Keller? What factors would you consider? Would you consider a moratorium for future apartments?</p>		
<p>I believe the citizens are firmly behind me in denying any further apartment applications and as pointed out earlier I have asked for the council to seek a moratorium or legislation that would legally close that chapter in Keller's development.</p>	<p>Voting on new apartments would need to be carefully considered because of the way the current city council members have approved the Unified Development Code. In the current code, Article Eight specifies permitted uses in the Town Center district. One of those permitted uses is "Single Family dwelling (attached)" which is how apartments are defined. It's my understanding that these permitted uses could have been eliminated or modified on a line-item basis by your current elected officials if they proposed a rewrite. But the current council apparently has not done that, nor have they changed the item to a special use permit, which would require more detailed accountability and dialogue before council could approve the request. Amending the current code or considering a moratorium should be considered at this time while the city adjusts to our current economic conditions.</p>	<p>I am against any more apartments or multi-family developments in the city of Keller. I would vote against any more apartments in Town Center. I would oppose any attempt to rezone additional lands in Keller for apartments. According to legal opinion, under current law a moratorium would probably not be feasible. To implement a moratorium Keller would have to fund a study and show that any additional apartments would place an undue burden on the city that the city could not reasonably overcome. The Town Center UDC currently allows for the disapproval of any more apartments and any applicable requests should be denied.</p> <p>According to city staff there is currently only two additional tracts in the city that current zoning would allow for the construction of apartments. Although I am opposed to any additional apartments, according to counsel and staff it may be an insurmountable obstacle to stop the construction of the same without extreme costs to the city.</p> <p>However, the city can look at changing the master plan and zoning applicable thereto. The city council could and should vote against any future requests to rezone any additional lands to multi-family thereby stopping the spread of apartments.</p>
<p>13. Keller Station: How would you have voted for the Keller Station development as presented last year? Why?</p>		
<p>Keller Station was never formally presented to the City Council. To announce how I would vote prior to hearing Greenway's presentation – which may or may not be as presented to the P&Z – I would be denying a petitioner due process, and, I believe, unnecessarily subjecting the city to possible legal action. However, I can say that I believe Keller Station as presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission does not comply with either the spirit or intent of the Town Center Zoning district, as residential is to be limited to the</p>	<p>Last year when the economic development board was asked to review the Keller Station development proposal, I immediately recommended that the city return to the developer of Keller Station to reconsider the apartment portion of the proposal. My recommendation to the Interim City Manager at that time was to investigate, along with the developer, the potential of going back to the drawing board and modifying the apartment portion of their \$70million proposal. My recommendation was voiced for many</p>	<p>a. Based upon the apartment component of the same I would have voted against the project. The project contained a large apartment component which was in violation of the Town Center UDC and was opposed by the overwhelming majority of current Keller citizens, throughout the entire city, which were contacted and polled.</p> <p>b. The citizens voiced their opinion that they would like to see more quality development in the form of quality</p>

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central area, i.e., the original footprint, and residential cannot be the predominant makeup of Town Center. So, unless Greenway drops the apartment component – and they very well may - before it makes its presentation to the council, I do not see how it can meet the requirements that presently exist.	reasons, one being because so many citizens were--and still are--concerned about the potential saturation of the apartment market in Keller. At that time, some questions about confirmed occupancy rates of the existing Keller apartment developments and some other background data were not immediately available to our board. But the developers put their proposal on hold, including the retail concept and three proposed restaurants. Losing a \$70million dollar development is never a good thing and hopefully the developers will consider returning to Keller to complete the three awesome restaurants, the retail and the business property that were part of the original proposal without the apartments.	restaurants, retail, etc. with no more apartments or multi-family.
14. Town Center Plan: Briefly, what is your understanding of the existing Town Center Plan and do you plan to vote to stay with the retail to residential ratio?		
I have voted against projects that had too high a residential to retail component. My understanding of the existing plan is that development is to be mostly retail, with some residential component, but not one that dominates the non-residential component.	The general purpose and description of the Town Center District is “a concentrated center of business activity creating a focal point in the City of Keller.” The design guidelines were adopted April 17, 1990 and then amended on October 20, 1998. So the plan has been set for quite some time. It is primarily non-residential but can include residential uses “allowed as part of the overall mixed use nature of the area.” The current retail/residential ratio, meaning the projects currently approved and in process, supports the original concept of “a pedestrian friendly central community gathering place that is developing into a mix of shops, professional offices, and luxury residential developments, anchored by municipal facilities and an expansive parks and trail system.”	I am against any more residential in Town Center. All we have seen so far from the “live, work, play” concept is the “live” portion. We need more “work, play” and the TC UDC needs to be followed!
15. Communications: If you are elected, what are your plans for ongoing communications with the citizens of Keller?		
I still favor small town hall meetings outside the council chambers to be the most effective, as some find the formality and public nature of the council meetings to be intimidating. Town halls held on a regular basis are effective, with or without a quorum. I believe face to face is still the best	I’ve created communication plans for some of the world’s largest companies and there is always one element that carries through them all: consistency. Regular, frequent communications and a good plan behind them are proven to be the best choice for good leaders. That would be my	Answer to previous questions as well as maintain and expand citizen and HOA contact base plus personal availability to any citizen.

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method, but I recognize with the reality of the internet age, email and web forms are very good communication tools as well. As significant issues arise I will continue to reach out to individual groups as I have recently with Harmonson Farms and Daryl Lane. I fully support Mayor McGrail's email update project, which is being enhanced with more information and better formats to deliver it. I still believe face to face meetings are the best, and I offered to meet face to face with the representatives of your HOA who contacted me, but they preferred email. That is not a problem, as I will communicate in whatever manner a particular resident prefers.	choice.	
16. Public Art: How do you feel about using taxpayer dollars to support public art activities/projects in Keller?		
I believe the art that is in place is a definite asset to the city, and I supported the Veterans Memorial piece from the beginning. However, as more critical issues like our storm water drainage system, old clay sewer pipes, and our annexation responsibilities to north Keller demand attention, more of the art program funding may need to be funded "outside the box." For example, I would like to see the opportunity for individual residents to make voluntary donations to the art program on their water bill. I have had citizens tell me they would be eager to donate to the program. I think too little has been done to encourage donations. The city should provide support to the arts, but I have to be perfectly honest with you - when choosing a drainage ditch over a statue I have an obligation to fix the drainage ditch as it affects citizens who may or may not support the arts. Just about everyone who supports the arts, on the other hand, expects to be protected from flooding.	I think public art is an asset. Cities that manage art funds responsibly (and in Keller's case, modestly) can truly add value to the community by investing in aesthetic appeal. I know we've gotten great value from our public art program in Keller when I can see it during a morning run near Town Hall. It was an innovative program using public and private funds, it was high quality and it adds value to our property collectively. When art is public, it symbolizes community and involvement and collaboration—all things companies look for when they are selecting communities on behalf of their employees or even when relocating their corporate facilities. The most prominent communities support a public arts program, and Keller's is among the best around.	I am the proud father of three great daughters, one of which is an award winning artist. I understand and appreciate the importance of art. However, there are ways to support art without purchasing individual art pieces with taxpayer money. Unless the majority of citizens specifically wish to do so I don't think the city should spend tax dollars on the same. We have much larger issues facing us as a city. However, the city can and should support the arts via allowing access to public buildings for art shows, etc. The city could also sponsor additional public art events. These would benefit a larger number of artists than merely purchasing one or two pieces of art. The private sector should be tapped to pay for individual art pieces if so desired. On these controversial issues the citizens voice should be determined and respected by the council.
17. Infrastructure Maintenance: What exactly are your plans to provide for ongoing maintenance and improvements for the city infrastructure (potholes, streets, sidewalks, curbing, drainage issues)?		
During the last 2 years we have more than doubled funding for street maintenance over what was provided by previous councils – and we did this without raising the property tax rate.	I support the recent realignment of existing taxes to commit to more infrastructure improvements and maintenance. In order to keep pace with residential and commercial growth,	Basic city services: streets, water, sewer, and public safety (police and fire protection) are paramount. The aforementioned should always take precedence over other

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<p>You have only just begun to see the results of this funding shift. You may have noticed that you are far less likely than before to break a tie rod on Elm Street. This council has set up a Drainage System Task Force, and we are aggressively addressing the issue to avoid the disastrous damage suffered as a result of the massive flooding in 2007 – flooding which might have been prevented had previous councils not shelved the pursuit of drainage system plans. I intend to support these initiatives until both issues are manageable with ordinary funding; then I support returning the crime tax to its approved funding level to ensure Chief Hafner has all the resources he needs to carry out his plan for crime control.</p>	<p>major improvements on Rufe Snow, North Tarrant Parkway and HWY 377 will make way for improved access and increased traffic counts for businesses and resident transportation efficiencies.</p>	<p>tax payer funded expenditures.</p>
<p>18. Crime: What plans do you have to maintain the low crime rate in the City of Keller?</p>		
<p>I am a strong supporter of our police force and I believe giving them the tools they need and maintaining high standards all contribute to our low crime rate.</p>	<p>One of my top priorities is family safety. We enjoy a very low crime rate and have two of the finest leaders in public safety in our police and fire departments. I support funding all aspects of public safety including the recent ordinance amendment requiring criminal background checks and finger printing of all solicitors (door-to-door sales) in Keller while limiting the days and hours for this activity. I've also met with Chief Hafner to learn more about his police department's goals and how the city council could work with him to increase visibility of his bicycle officers on the public trail system. Ultimately I want to give our police and fire departments what they need to shorten response times and plan for facility expansion to reflect our population growth.</p>	<p>a. Maintenance of the low crime rate is the responsibility of the police department. However, with experience in both police and fire service I know that the way to maintain a low crime rate is to constantly be proactive. I am very pro-police/fire, and would work to ensure that both have the resources they need to perform their jobs.</p> <p>b. As a council member I will elicit input from citizens and work through the city managers office to ensure that the police department responds to the needs and concerns of all of Keller's citizens.</p>
<p>19. Keller HOAs/City Synergy: Since a significant number of Keller citizens reside in HOAs, what are your views how Keller HOAs can work more closely and effectively with the City Council to better understand citizen concerns before making decisions? If so, how?</p>		
<p>HOA's should continue to reach out to the council by inviting them to their meetings and communicating face to face, as most do now. While email campaigns are easy, they provide little opportunity for a robust exchange of ideas and are easily</p>	<p>I believe the Keller City Council should appoint an HOA advisory board. The board, with representatives from neighborhood associations, would regularly advise the council on issues important to their neighborhoods and</p>	<p>Since HOAs are a great way to reach large numbers of citizens through a central contact, I would work to increase our contact list of HOAs and utilize the same for the flow of pertinent information back and forth.</p>

**PLACE 3: KELLER CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
FROM HIDDEN LAKES RESIDENTS**

Responses left to right based on order received.

Bob Kirk (incumbent)	Tom Cawthra	Bob Welch
misunderstood, as email does not come with facial expression or tone. Readers tend to insert those on behalf of the writer, sometimes with unfortunate and unintended results. In short I prefer face to face meetings.	would review proposals and development issues at appropriate stages of the development process.	
20. Bear Creek Parkway Safety: What plans do you have to ensure safety along Bear Creek Parkway between Keller Smithfield and Davis Blvd?		
There has been much discussion about crosswalk signalization and we have patrolled the area to control speed. I am in favor of a crosswalk signal similar to what is on Main Street in Grapevine. I think, because of the juxtaposition of children and relatively high speeds for a neighborhood setting, we should consider one of the new strobe light signals that grab the attention of people who all too often are absorbed in a cell phone conversation. I also think the rumble strips are too close to the intersection. By the time you realize you have run over them, you are in the crosswalk. I favor adding additional rumble strips further from the crosswalk. I believe an education program sponsored by the HOA would be most effective in ensuring residents understand the dangers that speeding presents in that area.	In addition to increased officer patrol visibility, I support signage improvements and pedestrian safety precautions. It is my understanding that traffic counts do not merit full traffic signals within the Hidden Lakes neighborhood, however, I do support the school zone improvements and traffic monitoring during peak activity levels along Bear Creek Parkway.	It is the responsibility of the police department to ensure the safety of the public along Bear Creek Parkway and every other street in the city of Keller through enforcement of traffic laws and via recommendations concerning vehicle and pedestrian traffic flows. Because I have experience as a police officer, in patrol and traffic, and am also an accident reconstructionist, I have a unique ability to understand the issues concerning Bear Creek Parkway and other traffic issues throughout the city. As a city council member I would work to ensure that those issues are addressed appropriately.
21. Priorities: What will your priorities be if elected?		
My priorities are listed on my web site WWW.BOBKIRK.ORG	My first priority is getting more community members involved with city decisions and public planning with a unified city council and an approachable set of leaders. This can only help our quality of life and make Keller's master plan more inclusive. The City needs to revisit long-term plans for Keller. We need creative economic development that exemplifies our tasteful interests and doesn't compromise our respectable property values. We should make sure our police and fire departments have everything they need to respond when we call for help. We need to boost the city's income in a slow economy without jeopardizing our neighborhoods, polluting our environment or risking our very limited commercial land. I'd like to step	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establish a totally open relationship with the citizens, determine the wishes of the majority and represent the same fully. 2) Enforce the Town Center UDC. No more apartments. 3) Help to promote quality development desired by the majority of current Keller citizens. 4) Work to ensure that the city notification process is completely revamped to ensure that all citizens who want to be informed are.

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	up and help recruit a few more popular restaurants, look into adding parks with more trails to entice people outdoors longer, and work closer with KISD so we can better define our family-friendly economy. Keller has regional, state and federal level projects in the future that will demand tactful involvement from our city officials. Keller is one of the top 50 cities in the USA, but why stop there?	
22. Contributions: Which contributions to Keller over the past two years are you most proud of?		
<p>Funding for long-neglected street maintenance has more than doubled.</p> <p>Fire station number 4, after being neglected for years by previous councils, is a reality, with groundbreaking this spring and completion expected winter 2008.</p> <p>Gas companies are being held to the highest safety standards enforceable.</p> <p>Previous councils ignored drainage problems. This council has already implemented some measures and has a drainage system task force in place to engineer a comprehensive solution that will prevent occurrences like the property damage caused by the flood of 2007. The results of our efforts were confirmed with the April 2008 storm that caused significant damage in our sister cities while damage in Keller was limited.</p> <p>Although voters rejected the Town Center Library twice, they did want the opportunity to vote on modest improvements to the current library. The council put a reasonable expansion of the library on the ballot and it passed by a wide margin.</p> <p>The Town Center Concept Plan says TC is supposed to be primarily NON-residential. The previous council is responsible for adding so many high-density developments that TC is now primarily residential. The present council has denied</p>	<p>My proudest contributions to Keller are my family and my faith. My children play little league sports with KYA and KSA. Together as a family, we are in the Keller Sports Park nearly every weekend and many weeknights. We swim in the Hidden Lakes pools and walk to school with our neighbors. We chose Hidden Lakes because of where it was and what it would one day become. My wife and I are unconditionally committed to teaching our kids that dignity and respect must not be compromised and that others come first. I want my children to see that if I believe there is something I can do to make things better, I will step up and try. As longstanding members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Keller, we have strong ties to a faithful and peaceful way of life. That's the strength of family and that's what I am most proud of. I believe it's time to step up and serve Keller in an official capacity. I would be honored to earn your vote on election day.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Working with citizens throughout the entire city on the Keller Station apartment issue. b. Working with citizens and city staff to address issues with the current UDC. c. Working with various HOAs and citizen groups to form a city wide coalition. Working to develop the atmosphere that most issues effect us all and that we should approach the same as a city not neighborhood by neighborhood only.

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<p>applications for high density housing next to lower density neighborhoods.</p> <p>The Police Department is enjoying economies of scale due to the joint jail/dispatch agreement with Southlake that is benefiting both communities.</p> <p>The council has hired a city manager with an outstanding track record, and he has in turn hired some outstanding individuals for key positions of leadership.</p> <p>Even while a large backlog of important projects have been and are being addressed, the council has managed to keep the property tax low.</p> <p>Our selection of a new municipal Judge has been extremely successful with little or no complaints from citizens or law enforcement. In fact Chief Hafner shared that his officers use words such as friendly, helpful, qualified, and experienced to describe him.</p>		