



Voters Guide with information from VOTE411.org

2019 Kerrville City Council Election - Saturday, May 4

The Kerrville City Council has five members: a mayor and four council members. Council members are elected at large for two-year terms.

Candidates for Place 1

Gary Cochrane	George Baroody
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1. What experience and knowledge qualifies you to serve on the Kerrville City Council?

Gary Cochrane: I have served on the Parks and Recreation Board, Habitat for Humanity, the Kerrville Board of Realtors, KEDC, and most recently the EIC. In addition, I have spent my entire adult life as a business person in the Kerrville area and have a strong relationship with the business community. As a Realtor for the past eighteen years I have worked with and gotten to know hundreds of our citizens and have had the opportunity to listen to what they like and dislike about Kerrville. I am a good listener and enjoy working in a team environment to solve problems.

George Baroody: As a computer consultant in finance/budgeting office of governmental agencies for the past 25 years, I am familiar with the financial issues facing agencies the size of Kerrville as well as potential tools to address these issues. Extensive volunteer work (1000 hours/year) with the local Little League the past 15 years has given me the opportunity to work alongside the people working, living and breathing in our community. These two experiences have provided me the ability to discern the needs and wishes of the people as well as the ability to provide fiscally conservative solutions to address the people's issues.

2. Why do you want to serve on the Kerrville City Council?

Gary Cochrane: My desire to serve on Council stems from a deep-seated appreciation for this community. I love the history, the people and the opportunity that comes with being a citizen of Kerrville. As a lifelong resident, I have watched Kerrville grow and change, and while I have been a part of some of those changes, I feel that I now have an opportunity to help facilitate even more positive growth in the coming years. I believe I have the leadership and relational skills to work with the other Council members to make Kerrville even better than it is today.

George Baroody: As in many other communities, there exists a great divide between the power elite leadership and the everyday working people of Kerrville. I remain unwavering on my original goal of advocacy for the people. Advocacy begins with educating the general public on the issues facing the people as well as educating the government leadership on how the citizenry would like the issues specifically addressed. As a councilmember for the people, I will promote policies that will enact the wishes of the masses, not the wishes of the few.



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3. What is the most pressing issue facing the Kerrville City Council and what do you hope/plan to do about it?

Gary Cochrane: The most pressing issue facing the Council today in my opinion is the lack of civility and willingness to treat the City Staff and other Council members with respect. I believe this lack of relational skills hampers the effectiveness of the Council in making good decisions. Looking at important issues in a longer term I believe that we must continue to protect and maximize our water resources, develop more affordable housing, continue to resurface city streets, and execute the Kerrville 2050 plan to prepare for future growth.

George Baroody: Economic opportunity is the central issue that would ease many other issues facing Kerrville. Housing becomes more affordable when household incomes are improved. Services are historically more efficiently provided via the private sector and many governmental services become less necessary when citizens are free to make personal choices provided them from more personal wealth. More personal wealth incentivizes economic development. With better paying jobs comes more personal freedoms of choice. More freedom of choice provides a transparent expression of the public's wishes and desires. Clearer vision of public wishes means more transparent and responsive government.

4. What are the citizens of Kerrville telling you about City problems?

Gary Cochrane: The most common topic that comes up in my conversations with citizens is affordable housing. As a Realtor, I see on a first-hand basis everyday how challenging it is for someone to find a place to live that is safe, well built and affordable. I believe the City of Kerrville is going to have expand its infrastructure to make future development attractive. If we can find ways to bring streets, water and sewer to some of our undeveloped areas, we will see new housing and development.

George Baroody: Citizens are stating loud and clear that they not only want to be heard, but they demand to be followed. Before specific issues can be tackled we need to streamline policies and root out the notion of special treatment being provided to a select few in the community. Household income vs housing costs is widening. Residents on frozen taxes is growing. City expense budget is increasing and sustainability can only be achieved if taxes are increased or services are cut. Economic growth is stifled by low household incomes. All this and more is achievable with strong citizen centered leadership.

The Mission of the League of Women Voters: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

This publication provides voters in our community with unbiased, nonpartisan information on candidates for office. The information about candidates comes from the candidates themselves in their own words. Each candidate was given 4 questions with the following information and instructions: your responses will not be edited for spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors; do provide direct, relevant responses to the questions asked; do not refer to opponents as such a reference will result in the deletion of your entire response to the question; the word limits on the questionnaire are strictly adhered to.

The information provided on this flyer for the Kerrville City Council election is also available at the website VOTE411.org which is sponsored by this League of Women Voters.

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