



Voters Guide with information from VOTE11.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 a two-year term.

Candidates for Place 2

Kim Clarkson	Mario Garcia
Email: kim4kerrville@gmail.com	Email: mario@votemariogarcia.com
Telephone: 210-913-2626	Telephone: 830-339-2191
Website: kim4kerrville.com	Website: votemariogarcia.com

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

Kim Clarkson: I have a strong record of community service and small business leadership experience. I served on the Kerrville 2050 Comprehensive Plan Sub-Committee and now serve on the Code Review Committee. I was a board member for Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Kerrville Public School Foundation; and currently serve on the United Way Board. I was Board President for the Rotary Club of Kerrville and 2017 Chamber of Commerce Board Chairperson. I am currently Board President for Executive Women’s Club. My service and business management skills have taught me to understand community needs, to be an effective leader, and to empower others.

Mario Garcia: One experience that has prepared me to serve on council was joining the US Navy. It was necessary to deal with different types of individuals in order to accomplish a common goal. Schooling could provide knowledge to serve our city, yet none could surpass the living history of being raised and living here. Being a native of Kerrville, I have one foot firmly planted in the past and one into the future that my children will inherit. Knowing the history of Kerrville provides me with a perspective that will aid in making decisions proposed by the City Council.

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

Kim Clarkson: I am a Kerrville native. I care deeply about the community and feel strongly about playing a positive role in Kerrville’s future. I want to continue to put my skills and training to work by serving on council. I believe our 2050 Comprehensive Plan is a roadmap for the future. We now have a direct path and a clear set of directions—determined by our citizens—that will guide us for many years. I feel that it is the responsibility of council to follow the directions that have been set out in our Comprehensive Plan.

Mario Garcia: I want to serve as a city council member because it is time to give back to the community that raised me. Kerrville has educated me, brought me friendships, provided my first employment, and revealed God to me. I want to be an example of the citizens that molded our city while I was a youth. They have passed the torch on to us so that we may do the same. I pray that the decisions I make are in the vein of leaving Kerrville better for the next generations that follow.



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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?

Kim Clarkson: Success is a natural result when people work together for the greater good. As a business and community leader, I have experienced the positive impact that occurs when respectful working relationships are built and people are empowered to do their jobs effectively. Council members should support city staff and citizens who volunteer to serve on city boards and commissions. Unfortunately, this is not a shared belief by all council members. I do not always agree with others, but I understand the need to respect personal differences in order to get work done for the good of the city.

Mario Garcia: One pressing issue is not providing citizens a voice when applying debt upon them. It has been 34 years since the citizens have had an opportunity to vote on a bond. However, we have gone into debt by passing certified obligations, which only requires a majority council vote. Three members of the city can place debt upon 23,400 citizens. My plan is to involve the community by informing them of the proposed debt. Once informed, the council would allow the citizens to vote on whether we should or should not take on new debt.

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

Kim Clarkson: The need for obtainable housing, a skilled workforce, and jobs are common challenges. We need to search for economic development opportunities that will assist with these issues. Businesses and citizens sometimes find it difficult to understand and follow permitting and code requirements. As a member of the city's code review committee, I enjoy offering ideas about how we can improve these processes in order to make Kerrville a more welcoming community in which to live and do business. I am ready to address our city's challenges and to make decisions that will keep us moving in a positive direction.

Mario Garcia: The citizens I have heard from are concerned about the expenditures on new projects while basic services are being neglected. The streets are in needs of attention and our water quality is poor. Almost all can point out a pothole or two in their neighborhood that they avoid to further damage it. Many citizens are concerned about the result of putting a great amount of funding, energy, and focus on revitalizing downtown. They worry the rest of the city will be neglected when funding is flat-lined.

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.

Email: presidentlwvhc@gmail.com

Website: lwvhillcountrytexas.org