



Alvin ★ Manvel
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

2018



BE INFORMED.
VOTE.
VOTE SMART.



INCLUDES:

- **EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS & ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES**
- **CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES**
- **CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES**

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS, TIMES AND DATES

Alvin Library, 105 S. Gordon

Personal appearance times and dates for early voting:

January 17-19 (17-19 de enero) 8 AM – 5 PM

January 20 (20 de enero) 10 AM-3 PM

January 22-26 (22-26 de enero) 8 AM – 5 PM

January 29-January 30 (29-30 de enero) 7 AM – 7 PM

IMPORTANCE OF BEING AN INFORMED VOTER



Elected Officials play a unique role in local governance and provide a venue for communities to have a democratic input into decisions that affect our students and community. To effectively execute their responsibilities, elected officials must clearly understand governance and have a strong commitment to advancing outcomes for the city, school district and college. It is up to voters to select the most informed and competent individuals to fill these roles. During elections, candidates must demonstrate their knowledge of both the conditions that allow boards to be effective and specific challenges facing their area.



CITY OF ALVIN - COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE PLACE 2

ALL BIOGRAPHY INFORMATION AND CANDIDATE RESPONSES ARE DIRECT SUBMISSIONS FROM CANDIDATES

JOHN P BURKEY

Candidate



I was born January 16, 1949 in Pennsylvania. I will be married to my wife

Donna 50 years in August. We have a daughter, Lori.

I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at 19. The first half of my 26 year career was in the communications field and the last half in Recruiting Service. Over that time I held various mid - high level management positions ranging from Program Manager and Training Branch Manager at the HQ level to Superintendent of the Recruiting School. I'm a graduate of the Air Force's NCO Academy, Senior NCO Academy, Instructor and Master Instructor courses. I retired in 1994.

I began my second career in the RV business in the parts department at Terry Vaughn RVs Gulf Freeway location. During my 16 years there I advanced to Salesman, Lot/Sales Manager of the Alvin location and General Manager for the company. I retired in 2010.

I'm the proud grandfather of three. Amanda, a fourth grade teacher in Pasadena, Ritchie Jr., graduating from UH with a Business Degree in May and Brandon a freshman in high school.

I am a member of the NRA, PSC shooting club and Masonic Lodge #1407.

JOEL CASTRO

Candidate



I am a devoted Christian and I will fight to make this city a better place for all.

I was raised in Alvin and was highly involved in high school. At high school, I found that local government is my passion and I decided to get involved. I have been on multiple campaigns and I am the community liaison for DWI court, as well as a Ambassador for Alvin Community College and so much more.

I hope to make a positive change, be a voice for the people who are not heard, and bring fresh ideas to this city.

JAMIE VAUGHN

Candidate



I am a lifelong resident of Alvin. I graduated from Alvin High School in 2006. I have served in the United States Army and have managed my own business. Currently my significant other, Rachel, and I own a home here in Alvin. We have two cats – Fitzgerald and Theon and one dog – Khloe, all of whom are rescue animals.



CITY OF ALVIN - COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE PLACE 2

QUESTION #1: WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AND WHAT TIME COMMITMENT CAN YOU MAKE TO THE POSITION?

JOHN P BURKEY

I'm constantly telling my grandchildren that it is the local level of government that has the most impact on their everyday lives and that they need to stay aware of what is happening and, when possible, to get involved.

I have always had an interest in local politics and on more than one occasion my wife has urged me to get involved.

After a casual discussion about local politics with my District Council Member coupled with Council Member Sanger's remarks in his resignation announcement, I knew it was time to take the advice I have been giving to my grandchildren and get involved.

I'm retired, so if elected I can devote as much time as needed to ensure the citizens of Alvin are fully represented.

JOEL CASTRO

I decided to run for the city council because I love the city of Alvin. That love has encouraged me to try and make positive changes while embracing the history of our great city. I will devote all the time necessary to be most effective for the position and the city.

JAMIE VAUGHN

The decision to run for city council is because I believe I can truly make a difference. I am willing to devote my time and energy to the City of Alvin and to the residents.

QUESTION #2: HOW WILL CITY GOVERNMENT IMPROVE OR BE STRENGTHENED AS A RESULT OF THE LEADERSHIP, DRIVE, ENERGY AND VISION THAT YOU BRING TO THE CITY COUNCIL?

JOHN P BURKEY

The citizens of Alvin are best served when different views are represented on the city council. Without differentiating views certain citizen groups would not be properly represented. A council member must not only be able to voice his/her views on an issue but willingly and open mindedly listen to opposing views, thereby gaining a complete perspective of the issue and better enabling him/her to make a decision that best serves the citizens of Alvin and not their own views. I have the ability to effectively express my views and a willingness to listen to and consider opposing views. I have the drive and energy to follow through with the implementation of issues adopted by city council. It's these leadership abilities that will be an asset to city council and strengthen our city government.

JOEL CASTRO

I am truly a team player and understand the importance of collective works. I think this will help strengthen our city government because I realize we need to hear various voices and opinions to better the city. When more people feel like they have a voice, they are willing to support growth and change. At the same time, I also know decisions have to be made that will not meet the needs of every single person. I can be open to various sides and use that information to promote the best choice for the city of Alvin.

JAMIE VAUGHN

I will push for more transparency.



CITY OF ALVIN - COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE PLACE 2

QUESTION #3: WHAT SPECIFIC ISSUE WILL BE YOUR AREA OF PRIMARY FOCUS?

JOHN P BURKEY

Things that affect citizens everyday lives. Two in particular.

DRAINAGE: I'm not talking about the problems incurred from rain as experience with Harvey but the problem after a normal heavy rainfall. Without proper drainage there is stagnant water. Stagnant water not only doesn't smell great but it is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

ROADS: The city just complete a paving project. I'm sure the roads completed needed to be repaved but were they the ones in most need? There is a "pothole" approximately 72"x48" and 3" deep at the intersection of Taylor and Cleveland. Now that impacts your everyday life. The roads in that entire area of our city need immediate attention.

I know the city will gladly fix these problems, they just need a reminder as to where they are. I'll remind them.

JOEL CASTRO

My two primary areas of focus will be development and beautification. Alvin is growing and we need the businesses and amenities that will keep pace with that growth. However, we do not want growth to adversely affect the hometown feel nor the space needed for families to enjoy Alvin.

JAMIE VAUGHN

Drainage — In the event of another storm, our citizens shouldn't have to pump water out of their neighborhoods in order to leave their homes. Economic development – Maintaining and building on what previous councils have done in order to bring more business to Alvin.

QUESTION #4: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE CITY (INCLUDING VOLUNTEER WORK)?

JOHN P BURKEY

As manager of Terry Vaughn RVs Alvin location I got the dealership involved and supported the Alvin-Manvel Buyers Association and the AYLA. I also started a program that donated a free one week travel trailer rental to the Alvin PD Officer of the Quarter. However, with the exception of riding in the Blue Santa Ride and joining a local church when they visited the Winchester Lodge Nursing Home at Christmas time I have not been directly involved with the city as an individual recently.

That is one reason I have gotten into this race. My wife and I have enjoyed the benefits of living in Alvin for over 20 years. Now that I'm retired I believe it's time to give something of myself back to this great community. Whether I win this election or not, I assure you I won't be sitting on the sidelines any longer.

JOEL CASTRO

Throughout my time at Alvin High School and Alvin Community College I have had the opportunity to volunteer with Meals on Wheels, the AISD Education Foundation, ACC Ambassadors and several food drives. Before my senior year of high school I was selected as the AHS representative for Texas Boys State which is a great introduction to local, regional and state politics. I have been involved on several campaigns and have regularly attended City Council meetings.

JAMIE VAUGHN

I've attended Parks Board meetings and advocated their essential work that they provide to the City. Also, I've donated my time and money to many charities and causes within the City that hold a close place in my heart.



CITY OF ALVIN - COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE PLACE 2

QUESTION #5: WHAT SINGLE PROJECT OR TASK WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT TO DATE?

JOHN P BURKEY

This is a hard one. I'm proud that my wife and I will be married 50 years in August and raised an amazing daughter. I'm proud that I served in the U.S. Air Force for over 26 years. Both of these are accomplishments were realized over a lifetime, as in my marriage, or a span of many years, as in my service with the Air Force. For this reason I have to say that going from a person making \$7.00 an hour in the Parts Department at Terry Vaughn RVs to becoming the

General Manager of the company in 6 years has been my most significant accomplishment.

JOEL CASTRO

My most significant accomplishment to date is graduating high school and attending college at ACC. I know this may demonstrate my age, however, I feel it demonstrates my ability to follow through, complete tasks and move forward for the future. In a few years, I know this answer will change because I plan to accomplish so many more things.

JAMIE VAUGHN

That would have to be the opportunity I had to serve our country in the United States Army.

QUESTION #6: WHAT SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCES DO YOU HAVE THAT SEPARATE YOU FROM YOUR OPPONENT?

JOHN P BURKEY

The ability to communicate and listen; managerial experience and the ability to lead and work with others.

As the General Manager of a civilian company I had to effectively articulate my ideas and vision for the company to the employees, mid-level managers and the owner. This wasn't always easy but I was successful. I also managed a multi-million dollar inventory. This required tough pricing and stocking negotiations with manufacturers.

As an attendee of the Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy I learned to think critically, be adaptable and become a relevant leader in varying environments.

This skill has served me well during my Air Force and civilian careers.

JOEL CASTRO

I am the definition of people-person. I can interact with all walks of life and know how to listen to their needs. I have energy, I have drive and I have the will to make Alvin great. I can bring a younger perspective that sparks discussion and decisions that will move Alvin forward.

JAMIE VAUGHN

I have years of managerial experience and am a great listener.



CITY OF ALVIN - COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE PLACE 2

QUESTION #7: WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE WITH COMPLICATED BUDGETS? WHEN YOU ARE GIVEN A 300+ PAGE BUDGET, WHAT WILL BE YOUR PROCESS TO DETERMINE IF IT IS A GOOD BUDGET FOR THE ORGANIZATION?

JOHN P BURKEY

I have worked with high dollar budgets, but none 300+ pages. The process begins by comparing the budget to the previous years. If higher, why. Then review each departmental funding request i.e. gas and water, general operating funds etc. Always looking for areas where money can be saved.

I realize a reviewing a 300+ page budget line item by line item will take time but it needs to be done. It isn't difficult, just time consuming. You accomplish it the same way you would eat an elephant--one bite at a time or in this case a page at a time. A good budget will provide adequate funding to it's departments thereby allowing them to adequately provide services to the customers and results in a year end surplus. That's as simple as I can describe my process giving the 150 word per question limit.

JOEL CASTRO

Unfortunately, I do not have a lot of experience with 300+ page budgets. But, just like the a lot of the citizens here in Alvin, I am not rich and budgeting is a lifestyle. This does not mean that I cannot apply myself, review the facts, study the material and make the best decision. As stated earlier, I will dedicate the time needed to be an effective council member. If this means spending additional hours reading and asking questions, I will do that.

To determine if it is a good budget I will consider the need against available funds and review the potential outcome.

JAMIE VAUGHN

I've had to create, modify and maintain budgets both for business and personal use. My process would be, making sure that all departments are adequately funded, while also reinvesting any surplus of funds back into the community.

QUESTION #8: REALIZING THAT YOU MAY BE SERVING THE CITY OF ALVIN IN AN ELECTED CAPACITY, IDENTIFY ONE THING YOU WANT TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED?

JOHN P BURKEY

If you have attended the city council meetings or watched them online you know the city has some major expense items coming up. The building and outfitting of a new fire station and the probable replacement of a fire truck. These are necessary but very costly expenditures. The one thing I want to see accomplished is the city meeting all of its financial and service obligations and the funding of these items without an increase in property taxes.

JOEL CASTRO

As an elected official of Alvin I want there to be economic growth; business creates jobs and jobs means people can put money back into the city.

JAMIE VAUGHN

I would like to see our City continue to grow, in both areas, new residents coming into the City and new businesses.



CITY OF ALVIN - COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE PLACE 2

QUESTION #9: ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE GROWTH OF OUR CITY & WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN REGARDS TO IT?

JOHN P BURKEY

The city has annexed a lot of developments in the previous and current fiscal year. We need to have controlled growth in this area. When we annex a development the developer typically pays to connect the properties to city services and of course the homeowners pay for the services and property taxes. We need to ensure this new revenue enough to offset the cost of services to the city? Will we need to hire additional police or city personnel to cover the annexed areas? Are the water and sewage treatment plants large enough to handle the increased capacity or will they need to be upgraded? If so will this result in another increase in these rates? What's the impact on traffic? As a council member I would need answers to these questions.

JOEL CASTRO

I think we have seen some positive areas of growth but still have room for improvement. There is a lot of potential in Alvin. We have undeveloped land that could be used to bring in different companies than what we have right now. We could create more family-friendly event centers that will encourage more families to consider Alvin for their next home.

JAMIE VAUGHN

Yes, I've been very pleased with our City's growth in the past few years. Ideally, I would like to see it grow even more; with new residential construction (single family homes but also apartments/townhomes) and additional businesses (small/local businesses and corporate/franchise business).

QUESTION #10: WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE CITY'S FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN CREATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT? HOW WOULD YOU PRIORITIZE THESE EFFORTS?

JOHN P BURKEY

Economic development, by definition, is the process by which a city improves the economic, and social well-being of its people.

With this in mind I believe the city's responsibility in creating economic, development is to entice businesses to our city that will provide jobs to its citizens, a reasonable tax base and hopefully a service or product that doesn't currently exist.

When prioritizing these efforts I would consider the cost to the city to entice the business to locate here, the impact it will have on our infrastructure, how many local jobs will be created and their pay scale and the overall economic impact the business will have on the city.

JOEL CASTRO

The city must not take a "by any means necessary" attitude regarding economic development. Although we can all see the benefits of growth, it should not be at the cost of the infrastructure of Alvin or the basic needs of our citizens. The city is the 'first line of defense' in regards to how our development deals help or hurt the city today and tomorrow. That is how we need to prioritize development deals, based upon immediate affect and long-term effect on the city.

JAMIE VAUGHN

I believe the City's fiscal responsibility is to support economic growth in such a way to increase business growth and jobs for our citizens.



CITY OF ALVIN - COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE PLACE 2

QUESTION #11: IS THERE SOMETHING THAT THE CITY IS NOT PRESENTLY DOING THAT YOU BELIEVE WILL SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL ECONOMY? WHAT IS THAT AND WHY DO YOU BELIEVE IT TO BE DESIRABLE?

JOHN P BURKEY

Overall I believe the economy and the quality of life in Alvin are good. Is there room for improvement? Of course, there always is.

Making sure we continue to bring in businesses with high paying jobs, keeping our infrastructure capacity ahead of our growth and maintaining a level of services and commitment to our citizens that is second to none are just a few of the tasks whomever you elect will have to deal with. But, with commitment and dedication to the job they can all be accomplished and in doing so strengthen our economy and improve our quality of life. We can ensure that Alvin remains the most admired city in the area and the most desirable in which to live and raise a family.

JOEL CASTRO

I think we need to do a better job of listening to the needs and wants of our citizens. Realistically a city can not provide every single request to every citizen but we must do a better job of reviewing and examining options proposed by our citizens. When citizens feel they have a voice and are part of the community, they support the community financially, socially and physically. They buy local, they promote local and they encourage local.

Secondly, social media is a great tool to connect people within the city of Alvin and those in the surrounding communities. I think a City of Alvin app would increase communication and let the council know the needs of our citizens. For example, if there is a pothole that needs to be repaired someone could take a picture of it and send it to the city through the app. The city could also send out information about events or help keep in contact during emergencies.

JAMIE VAUGHN

It is my opinion that the city is doing a good job in terms of economic growth. However, I do believe there is also greater potential to expand it even more.



BIOGRAPHY INFORMATION AND CANDIDATE RESPONSES ARE REFLECTIVE OF THE EXACT TEXT RETURNED FROM EACH CANDIDATE. THE ALVIN-MANVEL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EACH CANDIDATE FOR PARTICIPATING

This publication is brought to you by the Community Division of the Alvin-Manvel Area Chamber of Commerce.