

Candidate Responses to Community Questions – Simeon White

Why do you wish to serve in the government of Poetry?

1. Primarily, because I believe God has called me to do so. I never make any major decisions without praying, and this is no exception.
2. I enjoy volunteering. I was in Boy Scouts for 8 years, first as a Boy Scout, then an Eagle Scout, and finally as an Assistant Scout Master. Now I'm simply itching to help out the community in another way!
3. As you may know, my family had our business unfairly shutdown in Terrell (More info in my Bio). Ever since then, I've had a passion for defending the private property rights that my family and I were denied!
4. I come from a long line of military veterans, 7 consecutive generations to be exact, and I'm ready to jump at any opportunity to defend the Freedom and Liberty my family has been protecting since the Revolutionary War!

What three things do you hope to accomplish most?

1. Maintain our roads
 - a. Utilize volunteers and donations
 - b. Strike a co-pay deal with the County to minimize costs
 - c. Fair distribution of the road budget for those in Poetry, and it's ETJ
2. Limit the power and expansion of development companies
 - a. Instituting Platting (land splitting) regulations
 - b. Keep a Town Engineer on retainer to verify developers can't cause safety issues (i.e. over developing locations causing flash flooding for neighbors due to loss of ground water retention)
 - c. Work with my friends at Hunt/Kaufman County to limit platting
(More information in question 5)
3. Keep taxes low
 - a. Using the amazing volunteer help of the people of Poetry when possible!
 - b. Obtaining all non-taxable revenue (Utilities, Dallas water supply, speeding tickets, etc.)
 - c. Keep employment expenses low by utilizing contract and retainer options

When you were first considering the possibility of Poetry incorporation, what did you see as the biggest positive from the Incorporation, and what was your biggest concern?

Like most in beginning, I had far more “cons” than “pros” but after some research and discussions, these were the reasons I assisted in the incorporation effect with letter stuffing, canvassing, donation, and more.

1. Avoiding Terrell. Although Rockwall, Royse City, and others were also threats, I saw Terrell as the biggest one. I had the opportunity to work with the Mayor, Fire Marshal, and Councilmen of Terrell for a time, and knew they had been eyeing Poetry for a good while. As mentioned before, my family business was kicked out of Terrell and I didn't want that non-sense happening to my neighbors, although my property wasn't in Terrell's annexation plan.
2. Community. I've always loved our country community. Our neighbors are the most down to earth, friendly, and trustworthy people you could ever know. And just look at the fantastic road work that we've done already! Done without city taxes or big government might I point out. I've been so grateful the town has acted as a center point for our community.
3. Better Roads. Let's be honest, we could hardly do worse. Like I just said, we've already been able to help with this problem! Perhaps it serves us well to remember who has already helping out the town without the fancy titles of “councilmen” or “mayor”. I can personally vouch for all my fellow volunteers and say they did it with pure motives and a generous heart.

Here are some of the “cons”. All of these I still worry about, in fact, it's partly why I'm running

1. Becoming Terrell. We were able to stop Terrell from taking over our Town from without, but can we keep “Terrell” from taking over from within? It's amazing how fast we can lose our rights/freedoms to the very governments we set up to protect them.
2. Taxes. Let's not forget The United States of America was formed as a rebellion against unjust taxes. And with good cause! Do you think our cattle ranchers can afford a city sized tax burden? I sure don't. This single issue could make or break our town. If we don't keep taxes low, the only people that can afford to live here will be those with less than 1 acre. We'll lose our cattle ranchers, large land owners, and many older residents who simply can't afford another large expense.
3. Infringement of private property rights. Not to belabor the point, but Towns can hold an unjust amount of power over what you can use, build, or even just do on your property. That can cause no end of trouble, I would know.

What makes you stand out from other candidates?

We have 11 candidates who all cry “small town!” and everyone sounds pretty much the same. But here’s the most important question, sure you can talk the talk, but can you walk the walk?

1. I already have a proven track record with volunteering in general, but more specifically with the town. Every candidate says they care for our Town but how many have shown so with time or money? As my father always says, *actions speak louder than words*. I’ve done letter stuffing, meetings, donations, canvassing, and many hours of work on the Town Hall, and I’m just getting started!
2. Energy. I’m always ready to tackle problems! Back when our family company was still young, it wasn’t uncommon for us to work 15-18 hour days. And there was a couple time we worked 40 straight days! Our towns going to need that kind of endurance!
3. Small business owner. I’m familiar with creating something from nothing. We’re not starting with much as a Town, but that’s never stopped me before!

Poetry is currently a very rural area with a “country” lifestyle. How much do you think that lifestyle should be allowed to change, and how would you ensure the town stay within the bounds you would set?

Not to a large extent without the say so of the people, after all, I’m only here to represent you. But from what I’ve seen, most people would like at least 5 acre lots, I do too. Texas is a rather pro-development State, but thankfully there are some things we can do to keep ourselves country.

- Prevent developers from splitter land into lots small than 2 acres (or 1 acre if we prefer)
- Protect agriculture with AG zoning. But I suggest we do this in moderation. Zoning can easily go wrong, trust me.
- Not pass any developer friendly projects such as a Town funded sewage system.
- Work with my friends in the County to protect us from aggressive platting (land splitting) proposals.

Unfortunately, we can’t fight development alone. Although we can make laws for “Poetry proper”, both the ETJ and the area surrounding it is partially within the county’s jurisdiction. We’ll need a smart, informed, and energized team to tackle these problems for us, and it would

be my greatest honor to serve you in that way! Keep Poetry country, and protect private property rights!