

Hello, I'm Mike Jaffe and I'm running for Council-Person in the upcoming May 1st Poetry election.

Why am I running for this position? Because Poetry matters to me! I see Poetry as a rural, family based community with a lot of diversity, including farms and ranches, small home businesses, all types of residences, different income levels, property types and plenty of not so great roads. Some of our residents are new to Poetry while others have lived here for many generations. I moved here 22 years ago, drawn in by all of the above. One of the things I value about our community is the way that each of us has made it our own, living separately but pulling together when it matters most. That's my continuing vision for the Town of Poetry.

Who am I and what qualifies me for the role of Council-Person? I am someone who loves Poetry! My wife, Sue, and I live on our ranch here in Poetry. We have two grown sons, both raised here and educated at the Poetry Community Christian School, where we continue to volunteer. I have 2 degrees from Texas A&M University. We attend Poetry Baptist Church and also serve as co-leaders of the home-based Poetry Bible Study group. Sue and I are both retired, and traded our commute to the big city for raising hay and cattle on our ranch. I still remember the feeling I would get every evening as I was commuting from wherever I was working in Dallas, back to Poetry. It was a feeling of peace and knowing that I would soon be home where life was a little simpler and much less hectic.

My career as a telecom executive included working my way up through the ranks, eventually landing in management where I led small to large teams of people who were often located around the world. It was both challenging and rewarding to lead these diverse groups of personalities, skillsets and talents to the success of whatever business I was a part of. My professional experience includes Engineering, Operations, Customer Service, Planning and Budgeting. I would use all of this experience as your Council-Person, in addition to collaboration to develop plans and goals that remain true to our rural lifestyle here in Poetry.

To be perfectly honest I had mixed emotions when I started hearing about the possibility of Poetry becoming its own town. A part of me was happy with leaving things alone. But I also recognized that because of forces outside of our control (annexation interests of Terrell and Royce City) that was not an option, at least not for long. And so here we are, Poetry is now a town. And we have the opportunity to preserve it and keep it our little bit of paradise. My true lot in life is serving others and I have been doing that here in Poetry for 22 years. I look forward to continuing to serve you and our community in the role of Council-Person.

Now that we are officially a town, we need to figure what to do with ourselves, which is where you come in. As your Council-Person, I will listen to you and do my best to represent you. I am up to the task! I think we can all agree that the vote to get the Town of Poetry in place, shows we care about what we have. Plans are great, but if you end up making a camel when you really needed a racehorse, then the process failed. I want to promote a successful process. Let's take our new Town of Poetry one step at a time in the spirit of cooperation and teamwork. As your Council-Person, I will work for our success through brainstorming, looking at and prioritizing key concerns like our roads, always striving to partner together in the effort.

I commit to you that I will do my best to apply what I've learned through life and career experiences, to this role. I've learned that with age and experience comes wisdom, learning from mistakes, the value of prayer, and a realization that we are better together. I am excited to launch into this new endeavor. There is a lot to consider and accomplish to get our town up and running, and I believe I have the qualifications and experience to succeed for you.

Thank you in advance for your vote! Mike Jaffe for Council-Person