

Hello, I'm Mike Jaffe and I'm running for a second term on the Poetry Town Council in the upcoming May 6<sup>th</sup> 2023 election.

My wife Sue and I have lived in Poetry for 24 and 40+ years respectively. Poetry is our home and I pray, final resting place. It is not a stop on our way to somewhere else. We love the community and have many friends and neighbors that we enjoy doing life with.

I started life as a military kid and myself and my family moved around a lot. I think that's why I was so eager to put down deep roots many years later when I moved to Poetry. Prior to college I worked a variety of unskilled jobs that mostly served to convince me to finish college and re-enter the workforce in a different way.

I attended Texas A&M University in College Station where I completed an undergraduate and graduate degree in Computer Science. Out of college I went to work for a large defense contractor followed by a position with a large national research project. Eventually, I left the government sector and started my telecommunications career. During this time, I worked for a number of different early stage network companies, helping them to build the businesses to the point of being acquired by larger companies. My areas of specialty included Operations, Engineering and Customer Care. I retired from this as a senior level executive after growing tired of the wear and tear the 24 hour a day, 7 day a week demands the job placed on me.

My refuge during much of this time was my little piece of paradise here in Poetry. I loved leaving the high tech, traveling the world, fast paced work behind when I pulled down my then rock county road leading to my ranch. Since retirement I have dedicated myself to farming, ranching and ministry. The rewards are much different than those from my professional career and I am finding, much more sustaining.

My wife Sue and I raised our 2 now grown boys here. Both attended the Poetry Community Christian School where we volunteered in a variety of roles including general duties, construction and teaching. Many years later we continue to support the school with our time when asked.

Sue and I are both on fire in our faith journeys and attend a number of different churches and are involved in a variety of ministries. God is a huge part of our lives and we are spending our retirement years serving Him in every way we can.

I'll provide more detail about my platform as it relates to the Town of Poetry in a separate document. I will however hit on a couple of important topics in closing. First of all, I voted FOR incorporation, not because it addressed all of my going forward concerns but because I believed it was the best option for the community as a whole. Second, believe everyone who lives in and around Poetry has value and should be heard. And finally, I like many of you, want to keep Poetry Country. This includes, I believe, not destroying in the process an important facet of that, neighbors respecting and helping one another.

Thank you in advance for considering me for Poetry Town Council.