



## Jefferson County Candidate Questionnaire

### Candidate Information

Full Name: **Austin Daniel Brooks**

Office Sought: **County Mayor**

Website / Campaign Page:

**Austin Brooks for Jefferson County, TN Mayor - link included below**

[https://www.facebook.com/share/186fWkfuV7/?mibextid=wwXlfr\\_!!NI2rKV\\_i!40CoKQ5qOiyF\\_5qc4wUH6eVBC5G4TXx43jEwqV4sGndkv\\_HN4eF39Bm\\_RcOWu01iwIj9nEw4vyKbKkR9RA1RAxDzqMY4eXE\\$](https://www.facebook.com/share/186fWkfuV7/?mibextid=wwXlfr_!!NI2rKV_i!40CoKQ5qOiyF_5qc4wUH6eVBC5G4TXx43jEwqV4sGndkv_HN4eF39Bm_RcOWu01iwIj9nEw4vyKbKkR9RA1RAxDzqMY4eXE$)

### 1. Why are you running for this office?

Please describe your motivation and what qualifies you for this position.

**I am running for Jefferson County Mayor to address the zoning issues and the budget shortfalls within the county. I want to be a present and proactive leader for Jefferson County. I feel that my experience running and operating a small business and farm, as well as my service as a county commissioner and regional planning commissioner for Jefferson County, has equipped me to be the next mayor of Jefferson County.**

### 2. Military Service

Are you a Veteran? **No**

If yes, please provide:

- Branch of Service:

- Dates of Service:

- Areas Served:

- Highest Rank / Position Held:

- Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) or Equivalent:

- Awards or Decorations (optional):

### 3. Previous Support of Veterans

If you have served in an elected position in this Jefferson County or any other political offices in the past, what have you done to support Veterans? **During my time serving on county commission, I made the original motion to allocate funds for additional personnel for the Veterans Service Office. Even though my first attempt failed due to lack of commissioner support, I was able to mobilize local veterans to attend and instruct their commissioners to fund the position. After funding was secured, some commissioners chose to drag the hiring process out. I continued to keep veterans informed until the position was funded and filled.**

**I have always been very supportive of veteran causes and events.**

### 4. Priorities to Support Veterans

Jefferson County has a growing veteran population of more than 4,000 veterans. Please outline your top 3 priorities to support veterans and their families.

- 1. Maintain adequate staff and funding for the Veterans Service Office.**
- 2. Continue to raise awareness and show support to veteran causes in Jefferson County.**
- 3. Have dedicated space for veterans to meet and hold events.**

### 5. Veteran Services and Resources

What specific actions would you take to improve access to veteran services at the county level?

- 1. Ensure adequate funding and staff for the Veterans Service Office.**
- 2. Seek out and apply for state and federal grants for veteran causes.**
- 3. Make an intentional effort to raise awareness of opportunities and resources available to veterans through the Veterans Service Office.**

### 6. Veterans Service Officer (VSO)

What do you know about the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) program in Jefferson County and do you have a stance on reporting structure or if this should be a Director position?

**It is my understanding that the VSO is an advocate for veterans, working with the Department of Veterans Affairs on their behalf. I feel that this should be a director position that coordinates with the county mayor for day-to-day operations, but ultimately is accountable to the full county commission, who hires this position. Any additional staff for this office should be accountable to the director of the department (VSO) and answer directly to the director of the department (VSO).**

What would you do to strengthen and support the VSO to ensure Veterans receive timely and effective assistance?  
**I would ensure adequate staff and funding.**

### 7. Additional Veteran-Related Issues

Please identify any other veteran-related issues you believe need attention in Jefferson County and how you would address them.

**Awareness of services and resources available to veterans. - I would address this using the county website and social media.**

## 8. Closing Statement or short biography

The people of Jefferson County have great love and admiration for our nation's veterans. If elected county mayor, I will ensure that this sentiment is shown through my administration.

Signature: Austin Brooks Date: 3/11/26