



Jefferson County Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information

Full Name: Doug Sayers

Office Sought: 5th District County Commissioner

Website / Campaign Page: **on facebook at:** *DOUG SAYERS FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER-5TH DISTRICT*

1. Why are you running for this office?

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

MOTIVATION: I have had many issues over the last several years about how things are happening in the county. I had to be silent which means I agree with these issues OR I had to make recommendations to move the county in a positive direction the next 4 years. In order to implement my recommendations I decided to put my name out there for consideration as a public servant and run for a County Commissioner position.

What qualifications do I have:

1. Leadership
2. Bachelor of Science and Masters in Business Administration
3. Traveled into over 135 countries and all 50 states; want to implement "Best Practices" seen versus "recreating the wheel" and have the county budget be more efficient.
4. Jobs performed: Program Management, Project Management, Aviation Industry 25 years (Commercial Pilot, Army Helicopter Pilot, Air Force Pilot), Government Contracting Officer Representative
5. Defense Strategic Planner: measured readiness and aligned units to War Plans
6. Currently: Director of Quality for a Aerospace and Nuclear part company in Knoxville, TN

2. Military Service

Are you a Veteran? **XX** Yes No

If yes, please provide:

- Branch of Service:

Army and Air Force

- Dates of Service:

1991-1999 Army (E-1 to E-6 then commissioned via Army OCS then 0-1 & 0-2 in Army)

1999-2018 Air Force (0-2 to 0-5)

- Areas Served:

Traveled into 135 countries in support of GWOT, OEF, OIF

- Highest Rank / Position Held:

Lt Col Air Force, Director of Strategic Planning and Exercises

- Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) or Equivalent:

Army: 11B (Infantry), 88M (Heavy Truck Driver), 15A (Scout Helicopter Pilot)

Air Force: 11M (Mobility Pilot), 3N (Public Affairs)

- Awards or Decorations (optional):

FEDERAL AWARDS

Meritorious Service Medal-4 Device, Aerial Achievement Medal-1 Device, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal-2 Device, Army Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award-6 Device, Army Superior Unit Award, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short, Air Force Longevity Service-3 Devices, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon

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?

NA

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.

I 100% understand Veteran Affairs and I use the VA Services as Sevier CBOC, Knox CBOC, Morristown CBOC and VA Center in Johnson City, TN. This is one of the main reasons I moved to East TN to set up long term health care in a beautiful part of America with mountains and nice lakes.

1. Ensure the VSO and assistant VSO are fully funded.
2. Communicate to our Veterans that these VSO resources to assist them
3. Be an advocate for Veterans on the County Commission and be a Voice as I am 27 year Veteran and be someone that is available to "listen" to the VFW leaders if they need to collaborate on an issue.

5. Veteran Services and Resources

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

1. Signed the Petition advocating for a VSO Assistant to be funded that was presented to the County Commissioner about 2 months ago.

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?

1. The VSO should be reporting to the County Mayor
2. The ISSUE is the County lacks a "Human Resources Department" as 21 commissioners are acting like HR and it is damaging employee relations. There needs to be a simple chain of command to the County Mayor and the County Mayor needs to have the funding line for the VSO Office in the County Mayor's budget.

What would you do to strengthen and support the VSO to ensure Veterans receive timely and effective assistance?

1. First, work to realign the VSO under the County Mayor.
2. Second, we may need to look at a larger office space as two VSO office workers in the last 30 days. One option is the old County Mayor's office in Dandridge as it could be a VSO office as the building is paid and has parking spaces. The county built just one office room for the VSO at the Justice Center and we have two VSO positions now. This would be something to look at as likely an issue.

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.

1. There is an opportunity for more Veteran Owned Small Businesses in Jefferson County. This is a lot of energy to gain certification thru the VA (beyond scope of the VSO) yet this would open potential for sole source bidding on Contracts. I would like to see more VOSB(s) winning local contracts and keeping their own tax dollars locally and cycle that dollar back to a Veteran Business. We should host a VA VOSB workshop yearly and advertise the workshop a lot and use a public taxpayer venue (library).

8. Closing Statement or short biography

(Optional)

Asking for your Vote (VOTE SAYERS) in the 15 to 30 APRIL Early Voting and 5 MAY Election Day

Veteran/Leader with a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) with over 27 years as an Army Officer and Air Force Officer (retired LtCol). Skills in program management, process improvement, project management, investigations, operational readiness, government contract officer representative, manager of expenditures using annual spend plans and skills using Microsoft Office suite applications. Comprehensive experience on communicating vision, setting strategy/vision, supervisory experience, managed DOD Human Resources 23+ years, built coalitions internally and externally with key stakeholders to improve operations with knowledge in gap/trend analysis and taught seminars with new information. Extensive abilities leading teams and operations through complex, high-stress rapidly changing situations, the ability to complete multiple tasks in limited time, customer facing skills on building and maintaining customer rapport, ability to identify pros/cons on issues, current Secret clearance is active

Doug Sayers

7 MAR 2026

Signature: _____ Date: _____