



Jefferson County Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information

Full Name: Kristin O'Connor

Office Sought: 7th District Commissioner

Website / Campaign Page:

1. Why are you running for this office?

To better the lives of Jefferson County citizens and animals that reside in it. There has been unsteady leadership in my opinion for quite some time. Jefferson County needs present and proactive commissioners/leaders willing to communicate with the citizens and bring legitimate concerns to the table: zoning, taxes, schools, revenue, infrastructure. The list of questions the citizens have is unending. We need answers and we need a plan. Change is coming and people are moving here, it is inevitable. If one wants to protect Jefferson County from negative fiscal change, zoning must be carefully examined so we do not end up ruining the home we all love. Bringing in large subdivisions and not preparing roads and utilities with proper infrastructure is unacceptable. As a landowner, I would love to discover new points of revenue so property owners stop taking the brunt of tax increases. Our veterans and the people that help them every day need acknowledgement and support. The counties lost, abandoned, displaced and abused animals need a county facility maintained by animal control and the county government. So, with that being said, as a resident that wasn't heard, I am running to be the voice for all of New Market and Jefferson County residents.

2. Military Service

Are you a Veteran? Yes 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

4. Priorities to Support Veterans

Ensure proper funding and staffing.

5. Veteran Services and Resources

We would need to seek out grants on the state and federal level.

6. Veterans Service Officer (VSO)

The first commission meeting I ever went to had this issue on the agenda. I was unsure of the current commission's concerns when it came to hiring a second person for the VSO. I was shocked to discover that by asking the right questions, I would find out she is possibly even over qualified for the position. So why was she treated with disrespect and crude remarks? There should not have been such pushback for a common sense issue. This raised questions on an ethical standpoint in my mind saying "well if we can treat our veterans and the staff that support them with such disrespect no wonder our community/government is in shambles". Our veterans are the only reason we stand here and claim the land we call our homes. I will always stand up for what is right and our veterans need us now more than ever. They have been swept under the rug for far too long.

The current VSO has proven herself irreplaceable both with the veterans and the community. She should be given the Director title so she can run and also hire as she sees fit. As far as raises, events, funds, grants etc. they should be cycled through the commission for approval. Analytically speaking I know there is much more to this, but I do not have the current criteria.

7. Additional Veteran-Related Issues

We as a community need to stand behind our veterans. We need to raise them up and help them in any way possible by supporting events, raising funds, and bringing light to the public eye. As a person that's lived in Jefferson County for 16 years, I never asked the right questions, and I never bothered to find out. I sincerely regret not being more involved as I was unaware of how little support they actually received. Our government is so quiet about current or future concerns so you never assume our beautiful place has any issues until it's too late and everything is falling apart. Whether I am placed as a seated commissioner or not I will remain an advocate and a voice for the veterans of our County. I WILL be proactive in their future.

8. Closing Statement or short biography

Veterans should be held at the highest regard and if chosen for commission I would advocate for the veterans to my best ability.

Signature: Kristin O'Connor

Date: 3/18/2026