



## Jefferson County Candidate Questionnaire

### Candidate Information

Full Name: Mike Parker

Office Sought: County Commissioner District 6

Website / Campaign Page: Mike Parker for County Commission on Facebook

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

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

I have been praying for a while about running for commission. I have served in ministry as a pastor, youth pastor, missionary, and created a nonprofit to serve the people of Guatemala. I have over 30 years experience in ministry and feel that nonprofit management can help our county. I have a Bachelors in Bible and a Masters in Nonprofit Administration. When asked to describe myself it is easy for me, I am a Christ follower, husband to one wife Carla, Dad to 8 and Papaw to 4. I grew up in Strawberry Plains and have a deep love for my community. I grew up in a gun shop where my dad taught me a great work ethic at a early age. The greatest advice I have received from him was to always leave things better than I found them. As I am turning 55 this year, I want my legacy to be simply this, that I loved the Lord with all my heart, that I helped others, and that my life impacted the next generation. I want to leave our community better than I found it. My family is my motivation, I feel my life experiences qualify me, and I am excited to see what God does in my life in this journey.

### 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**

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? I have never served in an elected position but I since growing up I have had full respect for all veterans. I remember working election polls when I was 8 years old and watching WW2 veterans being wheeled to the voting machines. They fought for the right for all of us and I am forever grateful for that freedom that have blessed us with. Any time I see active military while traveling I stop and ask them if I can pray with them, I have bought many meals for soldiers traveling, and when working in radio I would work to celebrate veterans.

### **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 believe that we must make taking care of our veterans is a top priority. I first would pledge my full support to the veterans office that our county has. I also would fight for tax breaks for all veterans. I would also work to make sure that our veterans are recognized for their great service to our nation.

### **5. Veteran Services and Resources**

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

I am still learning what our office does, but I would fully support everything they do to help the veterans of our county. I would fully support the local office to make sure that veterans are helped to receive all the benefits they deserve.

### **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?

At the February Commission meeting I was able to learn about the new Policies and procedures manual to help ensure the office runs smoothly even in leadership changes. I fully support the direction and the way the office is being setup to help veterans for future years.

What would you do to strengthen and support the VSO to ensure Veterans receive timely and effective assistance? I know the county just hired a second person. It is imperative that the office consistent hours to help veterans that come in.

### **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.

At this time I do not know of other issues. I would support more recognition for veterans on National holidays and within the social media platform of the office.

### **8. Closing Statement or short biography**

I love our community and I am grateful for our military veterans for fighting for the freedoms to enjoy our towns, to worship freely, and raise or families to follow Christ. Growing up in the Boy Scouts, I learned a deep respect for all who serve. I can not imagine leaving my family for foreign lands at 18 years old to fight for our Nation. It is a special calling that should be celebrated. The other aspect is making sure our veterans are aware of all of their

benefits. My father died and had served in the Air Force National guard for 13 years. He had no idea what benefits he had. We learned so much after he passed away. One of my greatest accomplishments was the honor of playing Taps at his funeral with the trumpet that he had bought me a middle school student. Thank you for the opportunity to share my life with you.

Signature: Mike Parker\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3-14-2026\_\_\_\_\_