



Candidate for Mayor for the Town of Plain Dealing

James Cook

Independent

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Questionnaire returned via email to the Bossier Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

Election day is November 5, 2024. Early voting runs from October 18 – October 29.

2024 Mayoral Candidates Questionnaire

1. How do you plan to encourage responsible growth and development while maintaining or improving existing structures?

Answer: By listening to and working with citizens of the town. Getting new businesses in town. Working on getting funds to fix dilapidated properties and infrastructure.

2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, particularly the parish but also other municipalities, to address issues that affect your town but may also be outside of the town limits?

Answer: Continue working with the Bossier Parish Police Jury, Bossier Parish School Board, LRWA, our Lawyer and State Representative and Senator.

3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?

Answer: As an Alderman, in 2020 & 2024 I worked with other town officials on the yearly budget.

4. How will you forge relationships locally to gain needed funding and support from local, state and federal sources?

Answer Continue working with our State Senator Adam Bass District 36, Louisiana State Representative Wayne McMahan, LRWA, other agencies/organizations. Continue applying for grants.

5. Have you attended a town meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?

Answer: Yes. I started going to the Town Council meetings after retiring in 2017.



Candidate for Mayor for the Town of Haughton

Klay Harrison

Republican

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Questionnaire returned via email to the Bossier Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

Election day is November 5, 2024. Early voting runs from October 18 – October 29.

Klay Harrison's responses:

1. How do you plan to encourage responsible growth and development while maintaining or improving existing structures?

As the only candidate for Mayor with a Construction Engineering Technology degree, I have an understanding of Haughton's infrastructure and what goes into creating commercial and residential developments. As Haughton prepares for more growth, the town's infrastructure will need to be able to handle the new developments. Unfortunately, no long term infrastructure plan for Haughton has been communicated. We do have major challenges like properties that are flooding due to poor planning, deferred maintenance, and watershed management. Also, we have a sewage infrastructure with infiltration issues that aren't being addressed. To move Haughton forward, we must develop a long term infrastructure plan that includes future growth. Beyond an infrastructure plan, we need to adequately market Haughton. We need to centralize the town's website to include advertising the available properties for development and the new business opportunities in our town. We've got to market our town, continue to work with realtors and land owners, and make sure Haughton is an attractive location to live, work, and play. Lastly, we need to make sure our policies aren't restricting our growth and be willing to work as a Town Council to alleviate any red tape issues.

2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, particularly the parish but also other municipalities, to address issues that affect your town but may also be outside of the town limits?

This has been a major issue for me since last year with the March 2023 vote when the good ol' boys decided to lie to the citizens of Haughton in an attempt to more than double our local property taxes. I am the only candidate for Mayor that opposed and fought that unnecessary tax increase built upon lies and deceit. But the tax was only a symptom of Haughton's root problem, that our elected and appointed officials in Haughton have refused to work with other certain elected officials for the betterment of the town. Unlike them, I have already begun the work of moving past political grudges. During my campaign, I scheduled a meeting with Representative Horton, the DOTD, and landowners who have been flooding for years. All it took was a phone call and caring about people to start solving those flooding issues. Also, I've already discussed with Representative Horton the need for Haughton to have districts so that we have better representation across our town and our five Aldermen aren't all "at large." I want to move Haughton past its days of political grudges and work to better Haughton for its citizens. In terms of working with the parish or outside of town limits, I look forward to working with them and making sure Haughton's growth goals are part of a comprehensive plan for our parish and region of Louisiana.

3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?

As discussed in the “Bossier Watch Haughton Mayoral Debate,” I am the only candidate for mayor who has actual fund accounting experience. As an ordained clergy in the United Methodist Church, I’ve been accustomed to fund accounting, creating budgets, and working within the confines of those budgets for 17 years. As a board member of 8 years and now Chairman of AMIKids Caddo, I’ve been able to apply my budgeting experience alongside my other board members to help our school continue to succeed and grow. Responsible budgeting is not just numbers on paper or something to be flippant about. In December 2023, Haughton’s Town Council passed a deficit budget for 2024, which is easy to do when people do not understand fund accounting. This is another example of where actual experience matters.

4. How will you forge relationships locally to gain needed funding and support from local, state and federal sources?

As mentioned above, I’ve already begun those efforts by helping some of our citizens with their flooding and taking an initiative to create districts in Haughton. I won’t play political games with different groups or politicians in the area. I will be an honest mayor who will clearly and articulately convey the needs of Haughton. I will then put in the leg work—not just lip service—to help get those projects over the finish line. As someone with multiple family members involved in politics of various capacities, I have learned that it is of the utmost importance to have a good working relationship with elected officials and their staff. You have to trust each other and give credit where credit is due instead of trying to take the credit for yourself.

5. Have you attended a town meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body’s jurisdiction?

I am the only candidate for mayor who routinely attended town hall meetings prior to even thinking about running for elected office. Since moving to Haughton, I have always been involved in the issues affecting our citizens and have made an effort to be fully informed by attending town workshops and council meetings.



Candidate for Mayor for the Town of Benton

James Friday

Republican

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Questionnaire returned by hand to the Bossier Chamber of Commerce office on Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

Election day is November 5, 2024. Early voting runs from October 18 – October 29.

MAYORAL CANDIDATES

November 5, 2024 | December 7, 2024

*JAMES FRIDAY
FOR Mayor
Town of Benton LA*

QUESTIONS:

1. How do you plan to encourage responsible growth and development while maintaining or improving existing structures?

Our maintenance Dept. do a daily check on all existing water & sewer systems, The garage maintenance vehicles

2. How will you collaborate with other government agencies, particularly the parish but also other municipalities, to address issues that affect your town but may also be outside of the town limits?

Our clerk files for grants & capital outlay. For any and all town repairs.

3. What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?

very little on this scale. However our chief file expedient for his Budget, and our clerk files from old & new

4. How will you forge relationships locally to gain needed funding and support from local, state and federal sources?

we will have money to match grants.

5. Have you attended a town meeting before you qualified for office, when you were not on the agenda for an issue related to the body's jurisdiction?

I have been on Council for 16 years.