

[View Candidate Responses for Mayor of Versailles Race](#)

1. **What are some specific skills you can bring to improve the City of Versailles as Mayor? Please share a personal accomplishment to date. Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?**

Brian Traugott- I have proven myself very competent at managing the day-to-day operations of Versailles city government, preparing responsible budgets, and turning longstanding challenges into positive outcomes. I am proud of the progress we have made in economic development, downtown revitalization, the rewrite of our code of ethics, improved public safety operations, and much-needed investment in our water and sewer infrastructure. I am equally proud of the countless number of small problems I have solved on behalf of my constituents. I am the best candidate for this position because I have a record of accomplishments, am a lifelong resident who knows Versailles well, and have proven to make myself available around the clock to address all concerns, both large and small.

2. **What is the biggest challenge, and biggest opportunity you see facing the City of Versailles?**

Brian Traugott- The biggest challenge facing the City of Versailles is the opiate problem. We have devoted a considerable amount of energy and are certainly making gains, but like every other community have yet to find the silver bullet to eradicate it. Our police are working hard at arresting dealers, we are rolling out an Angel Program to allow those with addictions to relinquish their drug supply and have an officer coordinate and drive them to treatment, and we're working with community groups to bring increased awareness to this issue.

The biggest opportunity comes from the energy surrounding economic development opportunities. The closure of K-Mart left a large gap in our retail offerings, but we have developed a climate where investment is welcomed and there is some available space that is immediately ready for a new retail store. I am excited about the progress we've made on this and look forward to bringing retail and a place for our youth in the very near future. I have a proven record of working with new business prospects successfully and will continue those successes.

3. **The updated 2018 Comprehensive Plan [Goals & Objectives](#) prioritize infill/redevelopment as a primary strategy to accommodate urban growth needs. What specific recommendations do you have to protect the character and context of existing neighborhoods while pursuing an infill/redevelopment strategy? Please share your ideas for infill and re-development within the Versailles Urban Service Boundary.**

Brian Traugott- As the primary author of the 2011 Comprehensive Plan update, I am well aware of what is in the plan and how it can be used for both promoting and halting progress. I am proud of the infill development at Versailles Center, which came about because of the City Council and myself moving forward aggressively on demolition of the dilapidated structure that

was there for years. I am supportive of taking similar action on property that becomes a chronic eyesore. There has been a substantial amount of redevelopment during my term, and a lot of our success comes from supporting those with capital that are willing to make the investment. As we currently have potential industrial clients that want to locate to Versailles and no readily available industrial land within the city limits, I have directed our economic development director to pursue the sale of excess land from our existing industrial sites. We have identified three potential small tracts and one of them is currently under option for purchase. There are challenges that accompany infill since they are surrounded by established businesses and residential areas. It is also often difficult to find an existing building that suits an investor's needs. These challenges don't make it any less of a worthwhile endeavor.

4. Please share some of the ideas you have about enhancing Versailles' downtown business district. How will you help attract businesses to re-locate to Versailles?

Brian Traugott- Downtown Versailles has not looked this good in a long time, and there is an increasing amount of energy that has followed. The government has sole responsibility for the public spaces downtown, and we have committed resources to enhance the beauty by placing flowers, replacing benches, trash cans, light poles, banners, etc. Once we restored pride to the area, private capital followed. We recently completed a new mural on Lexington Street, and I look forward to more downtown art projects. One worthwhile step we took was directing the Economic Development Authority to enter into an option for the Methodist Church buildings on Court Street until private investors expressed interest in the proposal we had created. Our continuing work on a possible public event space and Big Spring Park improvements will only continue to make it a more attractive place to invest and take a chance on having a successful business.

5. Are you in favor of further annexation of surrounding land outside the Versailles urban services boundary (USB)? If so, where and how would you change the boundary?

Brian Traugott- I cannot envision a scenario where I would support additional annexation of undeveloped land other than the already annexed Edgewood property, which was brought into the Urban Services Boundary. I am in favor of annexing the already developed areas of the Urban Services Boundary if the residents within those neighborhoods express a strong interest in it.

6. Do you support the study of a merger of the county government with one or more of the city governments?

Brian Traugott- I do support a study of this issue and actually authored and pushed through Ordinance 2014-38 that created a Unified Local Government Study Commission. This ordinance was filed with the County Clerk as required by law and upon passage of a similar ordinance by the Fiscal Court a committee could be appointed to complete this study. I'm not convinced yet that merged government is a viable proposal, but I am certain we could find some more efficiencies and opportunities to work together with community buy-in and will keep an open mind throughout the process.

7. **In your opinion, is Versailles city transportation and infrastructure adequate to support our community? If not, where would you like to see improvements made?**

Brian Traugott- I believe we have a large gap between demand and supply in public transportation, including paid services like Uber and Lyft. That needs to be further examined. An area I have been working on with the state Transportation Cabinet is improving access and safety on the stretch of U.S. 60 between the bypass intersection and Marsailles Drive. Our water and sewer infrastructure is in much better shape than when I took the reins, as the Council has made difficult but necessary decisions to make sure we don't find ourselves in a crisis situation in the future or get in trouble for environmental violations.

8. **What are your plans for improving the environmental sustainability of our county? How would you support investments in more renewable alternative energy development?**

Brian Traugott- We are currently investing almost \$20 million to stop overflows of our wastewater treatment plant into Glenss Creek. We have also started preliminary talks about creating an EPAD (Energy Project Assessment District) ordinance in the city limits to encourage business owners to invest in energy conservation and renewable energy development. On a related note, I have been aggressive in reducing the carbon footprint of city operations, which included updating our lighting in the entire building, with much of the product manufactured in Versailles.

9. **Do you support or oppose the extension of Falling Springs Blvd. at or near U.S. 62?**

Brian Traugott- Although this appears to be a "dead" issue, I still support this road extension. The volume of tractor trailers in our downtown is unmanageable and until they are given a viable alternative route to take, it will continue to be a problem. There is a misconception that gets spread by some that the City is lax in enforcement of an ordinance banning tractor trailers in downtown Versailles. The truth, which is hardly as interesting, is that Main Street is a federally designated highway controlled by the state as a designated truck route. The City has zero power to regulate traffic or even traffic lights on this thoroughfare. The idea of this road extension has been around since 1965 and was in the very first Comprehensive Plan, although many would have you believe it is a new concept being forced into consideration. I don't believe our downtown can completely flourish until it is more pedestrian friendly. My goal is to make downtown a destination and not a pass-through. A study from 2009 by traffic engineers predicted that this road could reduce downtown traffic by 50% and would provide much needed relief to narrow residential streets such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Beech St, and Kentucky Avenue. I remain committed to supporting a route and construction that minimizes any negative impacts to the area, prevents development along the road, and includes pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

10. **Agriculture is an annual \$565 million-dollar industry that supports 1 in 3 jobs (specifically 2,783 jobs) in Woodford County. Woodford County farmland also anchors a burgeoning travel and agri-tourism industry. What are some ideas and specific policies that you have to strengthen the agriculture industry sector within the Versailles city limits?**

Brian Traugott- Three years ago we had made substantive progress towards creating an agricultural-industrial complex in the city limits on Edgewood Farm, adjacent to More Than a Bakery. This would have provided a sustainable local market for many of our farms and provided home-grown inputs to our industrial, bourbon and beer businesses. As someone who grew up in a proud farming family, I am committed to support our agricultural community. There is nothing better than an honest day of work in an agricultural pursuit, and the individuals who provide our food and fiber are vital to our collective interests. You can't be from Woodford County and not have a love for our farm community.