

Candidates responses for the Midway City Council:

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

Stacy Thurman- I have worked with the Midway community for nearly 10 years. As a librarian at the Midway Branch Library I have helped plan, promote, and implement programs and services that have engaged this community and provided opportunities for growth. As the Branch Manager for the past three years, I am proud to have collaborated with many individuals and organizations in Midway to provide services to a greater population of our residents. It is this genuine desire to serve and my experience in working with the people of Midway that I will bring to the table if elected to serve on City Council.

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

Stacy Thurman- The biggest challenge for Midway is maintaining our identity as we face progress. Change is inevitable, but the qualities that make Midway special should not be compromised as a result. A big part of this challenge is how we address housing. More affordable housing, or a wider range of housing options, will help keep our community diverse and keep young families in Midway; however we have to figure out what we mean by “affordable” and come up with options that stay true to Midway’s character and charm.

As more young families move to Midway we have an opportunity to invest in our future. We must consider that this next generation will contribute to our town, both personally and financially, and help us thrive. As a council member, I will work to keep these families in Midway by actively supporting affordable housing, quality childcare, continued development of our park, as well as initiating the creation of a youth sports league. Working together, using an intergenerational approach, will ensure that Midway’s rich history is honored as we plan for the future.

- 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 Midway Urban Service Boundary.**

Stacy Thurman- I am in favor of infill and redevelopment in Midway. The dilemma, of course, is finding viable lots within the urban service boundary and convincing landowners that this is a good option. There is only so much the city council can do as far as this is concerned, but the current council is making progress with cracking down on blighted property. In addition, I am an advocate for the development of neighborhood associations in Midway and think that working with these groups, individually, would help the city preserve the character of the neighborhood, or street, while considering redevelopment projects. This strategy also means that individual residents, who might not normally speak up, will have the opportunity to advocate for their neighborhood. Examining our city one street at a time and addressing redevelopment as a neighborhood issue is tedious, I admit; but it will preserve the characteristics we love about Midway while providing a wider range of housing options.

- 4. How would you address affordable housing needs in Midway and Woodford County?**

Stacy Thurman- People have different ideas about what “affordable” means. I believe that there is certainly a deficit in the range of housing offered in Midway. There is no easy solution to providing housing options to all socioeconomic levels, but I think continuing to pursue infill development will keep Midway from growing at an undesirable rate. I would work with individuals and neighborhood associations to find viable infill lots and develop housing that is affordable, not cheap, and that fit with the existing infrastructure and landscape. At this time, I am not in favor of expanding our urban service boundary and developing a new neighborhood in Midway.

- 5. Please share some of the ideas you have about enhancing Midway’s downtown business district. How will you help attract businesses to re-locate to Midway?**

Stacy Thurman- I think when people care about their town and feel invested in its success, they are likely, as a community, to promote and support local businesses. A big step toward a thriving downtown is community engagement. I support the efforts of the Midway Renaissance and the Business Association to plan events that not only draw in tourists, but give all of us a chance to participate and work together. Businesses want to

be located in a town with enthusiastic community involvement. This being said, it is still important to actively court businesses that fit the identity of Midway. I think, in going forward, it is important for the City and the Business Association to strengthen their relationship and keep open and effective communication.

Additionally, when businesses on Main Street remain vacant for extended periods of time it hurts all the businesses. I am in favor of a vacancy tax, or at least a fine, for landlords that sit on vacant property. Even a modest penalty would help encourage building owners to pursue leasing options, including pop-up stores that have become popular during peak tourist seasons.

- 6. Are you in favor of further annexation of surrounding land outside the [Midway urban services boundary \(USB\)](#)? If so, where and how would you change the boundary?**

[Stacy Thurman](#)- I am not in favor of further annexation at this time, but I certainly understand that circumstances can change. As that happens, I will make informed decisions regarding what is best for Midway and the people that live here.

- 7. Do you support the study of a merger of Woodford county government with Versailles, and/or with Midway city governments?**

[Stacy Thurman](#)- As a librarian, I certainly appreciate research and think, if we wanted to pursue a merger, a study would be absolutely necessary; however I don't believe that merging with the county government would be a good option for Midway. I know that combining governments is supposed to increase efficiency, but that depends on how you characterize efficiency. A larger government unit would mean that the people of Midway would have less access to elected officials and, therefore, less influence on their community. There would be a greater potential for issues in Midway to get overlooked.

- 8. In your opinion, is Midway's transportation and infrastructure adequate to support our community? If not, where would you like to see improvements made?**

[Stacy Thurman](#)- Anyone who keeps up with news in Midway knows that our aging sewer lines are in need of repair. The city is currently working on this issue but it will likely be inherited by the next elected council. The improvement of our sidewalks is

another ongoing project which will improve our infrastructure. In addition to working with homeowners to repair old sidewalks, I would like to see new sidewalks placed in certain parts of town to make foot travel easier and safer for more people in Midway. Many of the residents here live without reliable transportation and being able to safely walk around the city is extremely important.

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

[Stacy Thurman](#)- Honestly, it is overwhelming to think about all the practices we need to change in order to become more environmentally friendly in our county. The city of Midway could start by simply identifying opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint and then develop a timeline of short, medium and long-term goals. Simpler solutions, such as reducing paper waste and purchasing supplies from eco-friendly companies can be implemented quickly, while others like alternative energy sources could be budgeted and planned for over the course of time. I do think that the governing body of Midway bears responsibility in leading the community toward environmentally responsible practices.

Midway Christian Church has been working on reducing their carbon footprint for a long time. They just installed solar panels and have been recognized statewide for their environmental stewardship. They are a great example and could be an important resource to other organizations in our community as well as our city government.

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 Midway's city limits?

[Stacy Thurman](#) - We are fortunate in Midway to be surrounded by beautiful farmland and I think that many people already have a healthy appreciation for our local agricultural. I see restaurants in the area make an effort to buy and serve locally sourced food. Businesses enjoy the influx of tourism that is generated by horse farms. And I believe, for the most part, the people of Midway support the protection of agricultural land.

As I consider how to strengthen the agricultural industry within our city limits, I think of the importance of getting the produce directly into the hands and mouths of the people who live here. We have a small farmer's market that many appreciate, but it is underutilized, and for many, not worth the time it takes to transport produce and set up the stand. I would love to see a permanent indoor market in Midway with regular hours, open multiple times a week. The Farmer's Market is great because it cuts out the middleman, so money goes directly to the people who grow or make the product. Having a market that is more accessible would benefit the people of Midway as well as our local farmers.